

+ Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost +

August 31, Year of our Lord 2025 / DS3

+ Confession and Absolution +

*The sign of the cross may be made
by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*



Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

+ Service of the Word +

Introit

Psalm 75:1–2, 6, 9; antiphon: v. 7



P It is God who executes | judgment,*
putting down one and lifting up an- | other.

C We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your | name is near.*
We recount your | wondrous deeds.

At the set time that | I appoint*
I will judge with | equity.

**For not from the east or | from the west*
and not from the wilderness comes | lifting up.**

But I will declare it for- | ever;*
I will sing praises to the God of | Jacob.

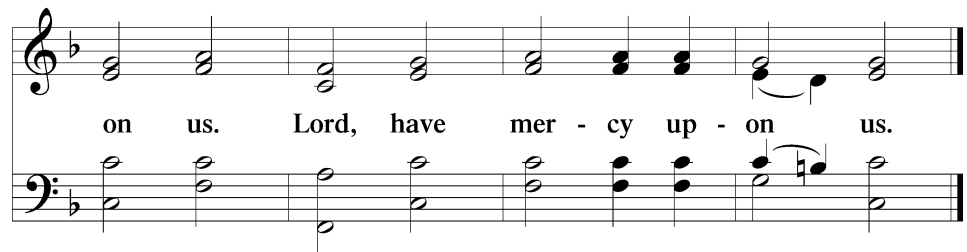
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

It is God who executes | judgment,*
putting down one and lifting up an- | other.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



Gloria in Excelsis, p. 187-189

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

P (sung) Glory be to God on high:

C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

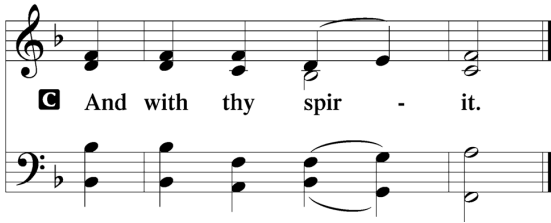
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

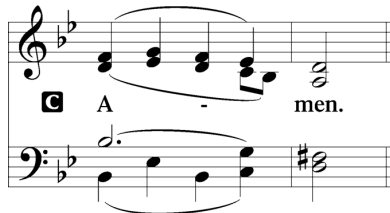
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



P Let us pray. O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 25:2-10

It is the glory of God to conceal things,
but the glory of kings is to search things out.

As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

Take away the dross from the silver,
and the smith has material for a vessel;
take away the wicked from the presence of the king,
and his throne will be established in righteousness.
Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.
What your eyes have seen
do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?
Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
and do not reveal another's secret,
lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
and your ill repute have no end.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

C **Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

Epistle

Hebrews 13:1–17

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited

those devoted to them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day

Luke 14:11

P Alleluia. Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Alleluia.

Triple Alleluia



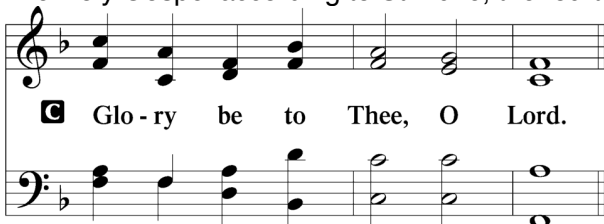
C Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The musical notation for the Triple Alleluia consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

Holy Gospel

Luke 14:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

The musical notation for the Holy Gospel consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

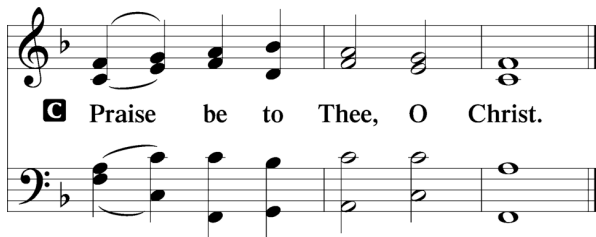
One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the

Sabbath, or not?" But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" And they could not reply to these things.

Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



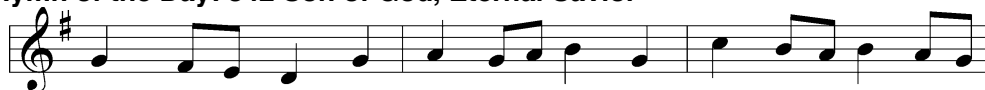
Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 842 Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
Free-ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

Offertory, p. 192-193

Psalm 51:10–12

C (sung) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

Announcement of Offering and Greetings of Peace

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Prayer of the Church - see colored insert

*Reminder for those watching at home to pray **The Lord’s Prayer**.*

Benediction for those worshipping via the livestream.

+ **Service of the Sacrament** +

A Word to Our Guests and Visitors about Communion at Praise

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death and resurrection until He comes. Scripture warns that those who come forward to eat and drink our Lord’s Body and Blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great spiritual harm. The Lord’s Supper is also a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, any who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet to desire to receive the Sacrament (Communion), are encouraged to seek guidance from the pastor.

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P (sung) The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The treble staff contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment of chords and single notes. The lyrics 'We lift them up un - to the Lord.' are written below the treble staff.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

Two staves of musical notation in G major. The treble staff contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a whole note. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment of chords and single notes. The lyrics 'It is meet and right so to do.' are written below the treble staff.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus ~ Holy, Holy, Holy, p. 195 for music

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C (sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer


Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Mt 26:26-30; Mk 14:22-26; Lk 22:14-23; 1 Cor 11:23-25.

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19

P (sung) The peace of the Lord be with you always.



Agnus Dei, p. 198

John 1:29

© (sung) O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution

Please see our pastor for details about baptism, instruction, and vow of confirmation of our church's teachings prior to taking the Lord's Supper (Communion) at Praise.

Distribution Hymn: 845 Where Charity and Love Prevail (see hymnal)

Distribution Hymn: 641 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Distribution Hymn: 685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

Distribution Hymn: 813 Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng

Nunc Dimittis, p. 199-200

Luke 2:29–32

C (sung) **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people**

Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1

A (sung) O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a whole note chord (G4, B4, D5) and then moves to a half note (G4) followed by a quarter note (F#4) and a half note (E4). The bass line (bass clef) begins with a whole note chord (G3, B2, D3) and then moves to a half note (G3) followed by a quarter note (F#3) and a half note (E3). The lyrics are placed below the vocal line.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A - men.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a whole note chord (G4, B4, D5) and then moves to a half note (G4) followed by a quarter note (F#4) and a half note (E4). The bass line (bass clef) begins with a whole note chord (G3, B2, D3) and then moves to a half note (G3) followed by a quarter note (F#3) and a half note (E3). The lyrics are placed below the vocal line.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P (sung) The Lord be with you.

And with thy spir - it.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a whole note chord (G4, B4, D5) and then moves to a half note (G4) followed by a quarter note (F#4) and a half note (E4). The bass line (bass clef) begins with a whole note chord (G3, B2, D3) and then moves to a half note (G3) followed by a quarter note (F#3) and a half note (E3). The lyrics are placed below the vocal line.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

A (sung) Bless we the Lord.

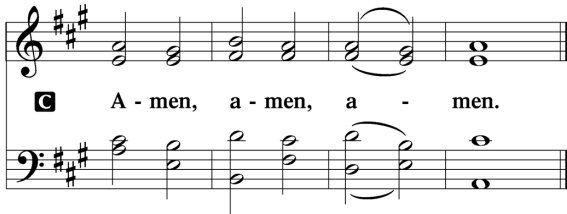
Thanks be to God.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a whole note chord (G4, B4, D5) and then moves to a half note (G4) followed by a quarter note (F#4) and a half note (E4). The bass line (bass clef) begins with a whole note chord (G3, B2, D3) and then moves to a half note (G3) followed by a quarter note (F#3) and a half note (E3). The lyrics are placed below the vocal line.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



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Praise Lutheran Church (LCMS)

315 Southdowne Dr, Maryville, TN 37801 | (865) 977-5810 | praiselutheran.com

Office Hours | Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday Divine Services weekly at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Church Calendar: praiselutheran.com/events

Online giving: praiselutheran.com (click the blue “Give” button)

Subscribe to our newsletter at the bottom right of the homepage, and visit us at:
facebook.com/PraiseLutheranChurch/ | youtube.com/@PraiseLutheran

Office Administration: Elissa Upward, officeadmin@praiselutheran.com

Pastor Derek Roberts, pastor@praiselutheran.com, cell: (865) 421-9988 (Day off: Fridays)

Director of Worship Arts: Caleb Hesse, caleb@praiselutheran.com

Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, Vice President: Tim Nunnink

Organist/pianists: Janice Kaiser, Susan Johnson, Gary Schauerman

Choir Directors: Caleb Hesse, Laura Bisconte, Choir Pianist: Susan Johnson

For prayer requests to be added in the service, please submit by 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays. If your contact info has recently changed, please let the church office know. Large print hymnals are available (please check with an usher for availability).



+ Prayers +

World: For the families affected or who lost loved ones in **Minneapolis** from the violent act at Annunciation Catholic Church. For **protection** and **peace**. For God to cease the wars between modern-day **Israel** and the **Hamas** and the conflict between **Ukraine** and **Russia**. For **fire, flood, and hurricane** recovery.

Concern for the Lost: For family and friends who do not know or have fallen away from the truth, grace, and love of the Savior, Christ Jesus.

Vocation: For the recent **Baptism of Jack Kilbarger** (parents: Jake and Lillie Kilbarger) on 8/25. For **veterans and our military** for **Mason Burkett** (Mary Schopman grandson in-law) being deployed to Poland next week leaving behind his wife and new baby; military servants: **Carter Felt, Casey Lawson, Tyler Smith** and **William Smolter**. For our singles, parents, grandparents, and families. For our families expecting a baby: **Alex & Shelby Hicks, Luke and Blair Johnson, Elijah & Faith Miessler** (boy in Sept.), **Sam & Kate Bohnet** (boy in Aug.), and **Samual and Sarah Kropp** (girl in Sept.). For **those serving in hospitals and homeless shelters**. For **teachers** in our community schools. For our circuit's seminary students: **Aaron Wade, Sam Bohnet** (vicarage placement in Louisville, KY), and **Michael Saxton** (placed as a convertible vicar at Grace Lutheran, Knoxville). For **children and families** dealing with difficult situations due to drugs, alcohol, violence, abuse, stress, and strife.

Recent Loss and Mourning: For the family of **Cathy Vaughn** (friends of Jerrald & Debbie J) who passed away. For the family of **Emma Lu Kerekes** (founding member of Praise) who passed on 7/25 (Memorial Service will be 9/6). For family of **Shelby Williams** (granddaughter of Jeanne Lindenfelser) who died tragically in July.

Health: For **Carol Ehrens** health and good days (hospice care at home). For **Chuck Pettyjohn** for lung and heart health (hospitalized since last Sunday). For **Bob McDermott** recovering strength after hospitalized for an infection. For **Ed Hannah** good treatment of bladder cancer. For **Joel Morsch** continued good reports after healing from a brain bleed. For **Becky Hamby's brother** with a brain bleed, and another brother **Jeffrey Happel** with ongoing health issues. For **Janeen Meier** healing for physical and mental health (Maureen Roberts' sister and Pastor Roberts's Aunt). For **Fred Hansen** recovery of strength and health. For **Bob Goodrich** diabetes management and heart health. For **Linda Davis** a fib treatment. For **Rhonda Heckman** recovering from back surgery and for **Bob Heckman's** health. For **Stephanie** (Larry & Cathy Wacker's daughter) for cancer treatment and stem cell treatment for **Kevin** her husband. For **Don Hammond** heart a-fib (Joan Large's son). For **Cole Hammond** (Joan Large's grandson) comfort in dealing with epilepsy. For **Marvin Arcari** (Paul Ruble's cousin, Will Wade's brother-in-law) hospitalized and awaiting biopsy results. For **Sandy Bagley** health. For **Margaret** (Justin Gift's great grandma) in ICU. For **Pat Sweet** (friend of Ole & Mavis) fragile health condition. For **June McDonnell** recovering from falls and lung health. For **Tim Smith** heart and blood pressure health. For **Ted Frazier** headaches and blood pressure drops. For **Lee Schuck** and **Gus** taking care of her. For **Pam** (Jim Roberts's sister) heart and respiratory issues. For **Derek Bryant** (friend of Mary Schopmann) kidney reception. For **Ken Kropp** recovering from heart surgery. For **Kim Smolter** health. For **Gary Kubin** hip surgery rehab (now home). For **Ed & Barbara McGillick** health, pain and dizziness management. For **Haley Jenkins** (Ed & Sandy Bagley's niece) esophageal issues. For **Rachel Ernst** upcoming rescheduled surgery. For **Margarete** (neighbor to Jim & Maureen Roberts) dealing with advancing cancer. For **Ron Williams** (back at Foothills) and for his wife Pamela. For **Barbara Moyers**

health. For **Marie Guinn** (Jennifer Kropp’s mother) cancer treatment and health. For **Mary** (Ed & Sandy Bagley’s daughter) health. For **June Latham** (Phyllis Bembas’ sister) stroke and vision recovery. For **Fred Goddard** (nephew of Mary Ellen Brown) lung cancer treatment. For **Carol** (Alex Hick’s aunt) frontal lobe dementia. For **Tom Williams** maintenance chemo treatments. **Debbie Johnston** kidney health. For **Alan Stremsterfer’s mother** and **Lisa Stremsterfer’s father** health. **Aurora Stevens** back and shoulder pain treatments. For **Kathy Bigger** (friend of Donna Wall) pancreatic cancer. Andrew Hebar’s Aunt **Kara** (health).

Birthdays: Sandra W (9/1), Justin G (9/3), Pam T (9/3), Jacob W (9/4), Delaney S (9/7), Sharon F (9/8), Monica H (9/9), Mariah K (9/9), Bob H (9/10), Barbara McG (9/10), Candace P (9/10), Tom W (9/11)

Anniversaries: Bill & Diane Miller (9/7), Robbie & Leah Mohr (9/8), Gary & Carol Moehling (9/9)

Church Operations & Christian Stewardship

Building Fund	2024 Receipts	2025 Receipts	Total Receipts
Actual	\$211,037	\$38,376	\$1,216,372
Pledged	\$179,106	\$42,744	\$1,065,270
Remaining	\$31,931 [over]	\$4,368 [under]	\$151,102 [over]

Build Project total cost: \$2,973,613 (approximately 38% funded).

Visit **praiselutheran.com/build** to see our build completion video! Gifts to the Build Fund are still encouraged (the extended Capital Campaign ends on December 31, 2025). Our total monthly mortgage payments to Lutheran Church Extension Fund: \$11,413 [breakdown: \$10,309 (new building) + \$1,104 (older building)].

Online Giving is available on our website, praiselutheran.com (see the Give button). You can set up recurring gifts to select funds. “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor. 9:7

To select **Kroger Community Rewards**, log in to your account at www.kroger.com, go to “My Account,” then “Community Rewards,” and search for and enroll in Praise Lutheran Church. From the Kroger app, tap the menu (≡), go to “Rewards,” then “Community Rewards,” and follow the prompts to select and enroll your chosen organization.

There are **opportunities to connect and serve**. If you haven’t filled out the Rally Day form yet, it’s available at <https://forms.gle/nMMnDjnjQgF4NS3z7> or via the QR code. Paper sign-ups are also on the table in the narthex.



Children and Youth Ministry

Youth Group Pool, Volleyball, and BBQ Party TODAY (Sun, Aug. 31) from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Steve & Rosalyn Lee's home: 1701 Wilkinson Pike, Maryville. For drop-off instructions and additional details, check the information on the table in the Narthex.

Sunday School for all children and students, age 2 on up; begins at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays. *Confirmed youth are encouraged to join the Congregational Bible Study with Pastor Roberts.*

Midweek Youth Group: meet this Wed, Sep 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Narthex at 7:00 p.m. before transitioning to the Social Hall. All middle and high school students are invited to attend our weekly Youth Group meeting.

Youth Catechesis begins Sun, Sept. 7 at 12:30 p.m. (with the next session on Sept. 14). We encourage you to bring or grab lunch, as well as your catechism and Bible. The full calendar will be shared at the first meeting.

Youth Group Service Project on Sat, Sept. 20 at Amy Mohr's home for picnic prep.

Worship and Music Ministry

Choir rehearsals resume THIS Wed, Sept. 3 at 6:00 p.m., where we'll explore a variety of choral music—hymns, spirituals, and arrangements—while strengthening vocal technique and growing as musicians. **Instrumentalists** are encouraged to connect with Caleb for opportunities in solo, chamber, and ensemble performances based on your availability.

Piano lessons are available at Praise! Anyone age 6 and up (with a parent/guardian for children) is welcome to join instructor Caleb Hesse and explore the joy of piano playing.

For any questions and extra information, please reach out to our Director of Worship Arts, Caleb Hesse, at caleb@praiselutheran.com.

Congregational Life & Fellowship

The **Church Directory** is currently being updated and is set for release in November. We plan to make this an annual update, available at the beginning of each church year. Updated photos will be taken during the fall picnic, between services, or emailed to Elissa Upward at officeadmin@praiselutheran.com.

Cades Cove Cycling will leave on Wed, Sept. 3 from Church at 12:00 p.m. and arrive by 1:00 p.m. to enjoy an 11-mile scenic loop at a casual pace. We'll return to the church around 4:00 PM. Friends and guests are welcome—spread the word!

Veterans Pantry Donations are being accepted in the Narthex. All items will be delivered to the Office of Veterans Affairs of Blount County.

Today

Church Council Meeting after the 11:00 a.m. service.

Issues Class meets at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays in the Social Hall with Pastor Roberts. **Today:** *The Church's Role in Government*. **Next Sun, Sept. 7:** *Life on other Planets, Regarding Life here on Earth*.

Youth Group Pool, Volleyball, and BBQ Party (see Children and Youth Ministry announcement for address and other details), TODAY, Aug. 31, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

This Week

September 3 (Wed) **Cades Cove Cycling** meets at church at Noon.
Choir rehearsals begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. *Sopranos needed!*
Men's Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. begins in the Sanctuary with Compline.
Middle and High School Youth Group at 7:00 p.m.

September 4 (Thu) **Ladies Bible Study** at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall with Barbara Morsch.

September 6 (Sat) **Memorial Service for + Emma Lu Kerekes +** Visitation at 1:00 p.m.
Service at 2:00 p.m. Refreshments to follow in the Social Hall.

Upcoming

September 14 (Sun) Holy Cross Day (choir sings for both services in church)

September 18 (Thurs) Elders Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

September 21 (Sun) Fall Picnic, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. More details to come.

September 26–28: Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) Fall Retreat in Tallassee, TN. For more details, please see the information displayed in the Narthex, to the right of the mailboxes.

September 28 (Sun) St. Michael and All Angels (observed)

September 28 (Sun) Youth Group Fun & Games Night at the Nunnink's – *Pizza & Games!*

October 24–26: Ladies Fall Retreat, A Heart After the Lord's Own Heart, will take place at the Tuckaleechee Retreat Center in Townsend, Tennessee. Guest speaker, Stella Beabout of Crossville, brings deep biblical insight and teaching experience, having studied Old Testament Exegesis in the Ph.D. program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. She has led many Bible studies and retreats across the region. Scholarships are available for those in need. To learn more, pick up a brochure in the Narthex or reach out to Kris Smith or Barbara Morsch.

October 26 (Sun) Reformation Sunday (observed)

November 1 (Sat) Oktoberfest at Praise 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

November 2 (Sun) All Saints' Day (observed)