

+ Holy Cross Day +

September 14, Year of our Lord 2025 / DS2



While Good Friday is dedicated to the Passion of Christ and the Crucifixion, this day honors the Cross itself, as the instrument of salvation. It is through Christ's meritorious suffering and death on the Cross by which man is justified to God, received by faith.

+ 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

1 John 1:8–9

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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 98:1, 4, 6; antiphon: v. 2



[P] The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

[C] Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*

break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

With trumpets and the sound | of the horn*

make a joyful noise before the | King, the LORD!

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.

The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

Kyrie: 944 Kyrie — II

1 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son.
 Chris - te e - le - - - i - son.
 Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son.

Text: Traditional Tune: Russian Orthodox Text and tune: Public domain

Gloria in Excelsis, p. 170

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

[A] (sung) Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

[C] Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:

We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P (sung) The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 21:4–9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Isaiah 49:22a; John 3:14b–15

C “Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations,
and raise my signal to the peoples,” says the Lord.
So must the Son of Man be lifted up,
that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Choir Anthem (11:00 Service; 8:30 a.m. service: during communion distribution)

Lift High the Cross by Nicholson/Kitchin

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18–25

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day

Galatians 6:14

P Alleluia. Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Alleluia.

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). It contains a series of notes: a whole rest, followed by a half note G, a half note A, a whole note B, a half note C, a half note D, a whole note E, a half note F#, and a half note G. Below the staff, the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?" are written. The second staff also begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). It contains a series of notes: a half note G, a half note A, a whole note B, a half note C, a half note D, a whole note E, a half note F#, and a half note G. Below the staff, the lyrics "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia." are written. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 12:20–33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.



Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was

buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 454 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle



1 Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle; Sing the end - ing
 2 Tell how, when at length the full - ness Of the ap - point - ed
 3 Thus, with thir - ty years ac - com - plished, He went forth from
 4 Faith - ful cross, true sign of tri - umph, Be for all the
 △ 5 Un - to God be praise and glo - ry; To the Fa - ther

of the fray. Now a - bove the cross, the tro - phy,
 time was come, He, the Word, was born of wom - an,
 Naz - a - reth, Des - tined, ded - i - cat - ed, will - ing,
 no - blest tree; None in fo - liage, none in blos - som,
 and the Son, To the e - ter - nal Spir - it hon - or

Sound the loud tri - um - phant lay; Tell how Christ, the
 Left for us His Fa - ther's home, Blazed the path of
 Did His work, and met His death; Like a lamb He
 None in fruit thine e - qual be; Sym - bol of the
 Now and ev - er - more be done; Praise and glo - ry

world's re - deem - er, As a vic - tim won the day.
 true o - be - dience, Shone as light a - midst the gloom.
 hum - bly yield - ed On the cross His dy - ing breath.
 world's re - demp - tion, For the weight that hung on thee!
 in the high - est While the time - less a - ges run.

Offertory, p. 176 for music

Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19

C (sung) What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

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 al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface ~ Altar Book (appropriate to the day or season)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus, p. 178

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

p. 161 or 178

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, ...now and forever.

C Amen.

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

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.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei, p. 180

John 1:29



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the

sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
 God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

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: 427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory (see hymnal)

Distribution Hymn: 428 Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow

Distribution Hymn: 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Distribution Hymn: 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Choir Anthem (8:30 Service)

Lift High the Cross by Nicholson/Kitchin

Thank the Lord, p. 181 *[Psalm 105:1–3, 42–43]; [1 Chronicles 16:8–10]*

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
 He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -

joyce and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post Communion Collect

- L** Let us pray... now and forever.
C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C A - men.

Praise Lutheran Church (LCMS) - Acknowledgments

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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 **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. For **Flood Victims** and their families in Texas and other states with storm and flood.

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: Thanksgiving for the healthy birth of **Judah Samuel Bohnet** on 9/2 to Sam & Kate Bohnet (Judah is Pastor and Gretchen's grandson, Jim & Maureen's great grandson). For the recent **Baptism of Jack Kilbarger** (parents: Jake and Lillie Kilbarger) on 8/25. For **veterans and our military** for **Mason Burkett** (Mary Schopmann's grandson-in-law) being deployed to Poland 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: **Joshua and Adelaide Arguien, Alex & Shelby Hicks, Luke and Blair Johnson, Elijah & Faith Miessler** (boy in Sept.), 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). **Michael Saxton** was 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 **Darlene Balz** (grandmother of Elissa Upward). For a friend of John Pettyjohn whose mother (**Deb Lovins**) recently passed. For **Lisa Stremsterfer's father** who passed away 8/11. For the family of **Emma Lu Kerekes** (founding member of Praise) who passed on 7/25 (Memorial Service was 9/6). For the family of **Shelby Williams** (granddaughter of Jeanne Lindenfelser) who died tragically in July. **Shauna** (friend of Laura Bisconte) who passed away in Knoxville. **Ruth** (sister-in-law to Phil & Carol Barnett) who passed away in Wisconsin and **Ruth's grandson** who died in a car accident. **Mona** (Angela Gift's mother) who passed away in Alabama.

Health: For Stephanie Wacker (daughter of Larry Wacker) who has been recently moved to Hospice care. For **Carol Ehrens** health and good days (hospice care at home). For **Fran Wehmeier** (Deb Wale's mother; surgery recovery from broken leg). For **George Gorghis** (friend of Donna Wall) treatment for Lymphoma cancer, stage 4. For **Barbara Morsch** recovery after surgery for breast cancer. For **Chuck Pettyjohn** for lung and heart health (now at Knoxville Rehabilitation to regain strength). For **Bob McDermott** recovering strength after hospitalized for an infection. For **Ed Hannah** good treatment of bladder cancer. For **Joel Morsch** treatment for 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. **Bob McDermott** dealing with Parkinson's symptoms. For **Alan Stremsterfer's mother** health. **Aurora Stevens** back and shoulder pain treatments. For **Kathy Bigger** (friend of Donna Wall) pancreatic cancer. Andrew Hebar's Aunt **Kara** (health).

Birthdays: Aiden G (9/15), Carol B (9/16), Al R (9/19), Carter F (9/20), Sam N (9/20), Sydney P (9/21), Gus S (9/22), Cindy Di (9/24), Matthew F (9/24), Jennifer K (9/26), Jack N (9/26), Blakelyn U (9/27)

Anniversaries: Ole & Mavis Johnson (9/14), Tom & Nadine Wittkopp (9/17), Lou Lewis & Betty Gouley (9/19), Joshua & Adelaide Arguien (9/20), Ed & Susan Hannah (9/26)

Church Operations & Christian Stewardship

Building Fund	2024 Receipts	2025 Receipts	Total Receipts
Actual	\$211,037	\$44,573	\$1,222,569
Pledged	\$179,106	\$42,744	\$1,065,270
Remaining	\$31,931 [over]	\$1,829 [over]	\$157,299 [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

Christian Cycling Group will meet on Sun, September 28 at 3:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Rick Gift.

Children and Youth Ministry

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

Midweek Youth Group meet this Wed, September 17, at 7:00 p.m. starting in the Narthex and then (after Compline) to the Social Hall. Open to all middle and high school students.

Youth Group Service Project will take place on Sat, Sept. 20, at 10:00 a.m. at Amy Mohr's house, located at 222 Woodcrest Dr, Maryville, TN. We'll be helping with yard cleanup and setup in preparation for the next day's picnic. All helping hands are appreciated!

Youth Catechesis (Parents and Youth) will meet TODAY at 12:30 p.m. Full schedule provided at the parent and student meeting today.

Worship and Music Ministry

Choir rehearsals [SOPRANOS WANTED] take place on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. *For communications and choir announcements, text: @plcchoi to 81010.* **Instrumentalists** are encouraged to connect with Caleb for opportunities in solo, chamber, and ensemble performances based on your availability.

Piano lessons are also available at Praise. Anyone age 6 and up (with a parent/guardian for children) is welcome to join instructor Caleb Hesse.

For any questions or additional 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.

The Fall Church Picnic takes place Sun, Sep 21, from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at the Mohr residence. If you haven't already, please submit your **family's headcount** by completing the paper form in the Narthex and **sign up on the potluck sheet** to bring a dish to share - **main dishes will be provided**. Don't forget to bring your own chair for seating during the event!

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

Advent by Candlelight, hosted by our Women's Bible Study, will be held on Saturday, December 6. If you're interested in **hosting a table** for the event, please sign up in the narthex.

Today

Issues Class meets at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday in the Social Hall. **Today:** *Life on other Planets, Regarding Life here on Earth*. **Next Sun, Sep 21:** *The Pope, Ecumenism, Syncretism*

Youth and Parent Catechesis Meeting: 12:30 p.m. in the Social Hall

This Week

September 17 (Wed) Choir rehearsal at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

September 17 (Wed) Men's Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. beginning in the Sanctuary with Compline.

September 17 (Wed) Middle and High School Youth Group at 7:00 p.m. meet in the narthex, enter Sanctuary for Compline at 7:00 p.m., then will move into the Social Hall for the study.

September 18 (Thu) Ladies Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall with Barbara Morsch.

Upcoming

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

September 20 (Sat) Youth Group service project at Amy Mohr's for picnic prep.

September 21 (Sun) Fall Picnic from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. at 222 Woodcrest Dr. Maryville, TN

September 23 (Tues) Church Council Meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Social Hall

September 28 (Sun) Youth Group Fun & Games Night – *Pizza and Games at the Nunninks*

October 19 (Sun) Youth Group Fun & Games Day – *Lunch and Hike*

October 24–26 (Fri-Sun) 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.

November 1 (Sat) Oktoberfest at Praise; save the date for a fun-filled event featuring lots of activities for kids and Oktoberfest-themed fun for adults. Friends and guests are welcome, so be sure to spread the word!