



+ Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 20, 2023



St. Andrew Lutheran Church
304 Morewood Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
St_andrewELCA@verizon.net
www.standrewpittsburgh.org



+ Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Order for Worship

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. Jesus commends her bold faith, which encourages us to ask: how might our church further extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

Welcome to St. Andrew!

- St. Andrew Lutheran congregation welcomes all who are seeking a place of healing and wholeness – a nurturing, faith-forming spiritual home. Our community embraces people of all ages, ethnicities, cultures, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and family constellations. Come and See!
- Worship Services are live streamed to multiple online platforms. By attending worship, you agree that your image and voice may be broadcast.
- Everyone is invited to make a nametag at the black bookcase in the back of the worship space if they would like. There are stickers indicating pronouns on the bookcase if you would like to include them on your name tag.
- Worship “toolkits” to help children engage with the service, along with “busy bags” for younger children, are available in the bookcase at the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to take one to use with/for your children.
- Holy Communion is served with bread (gluten-free available) and wine or grape juice. The presiding minister will distribute the bread (host). Please consume this and then pick up an empty glass from the tray. The Communion Assistant will pour wine or grape juice into your glass. Please step to the side to consume the wine or grape juice. Feel free to kneel at the altar for prayer and reflection. As you return to your pew, glasses may be returned to the empty trays on either side of the center section.
- A restroom is available on the main level of the church, through the doors to the Social Hall and to the right in the main office.

Abbreviations

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister
A: Assisting Minister
L: Lector
C: Congregation

ACS: All Creation Sings hymnal
ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal
DATH: Dancing at the Harvest hymnal

Pre-Service Music

Welcome

Prelude

Just as I Am, I Come

Elliott / Arr. McDonald

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Confession and Forgiveness

Please rise as you are able.

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at Baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.
C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,
**C: we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Righteous God,
**we confess that we have sinned.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Amen.**

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God's mercy:
you are freed and forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ.
C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table

ACS 977



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: COPELAND, Michael Corzine, b. 1947

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Music © 2000 Michael Corzine, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you.

Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy,

that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

Local Mission Focus

Lutheran Campus Ministry in Greater Pittsburgh

A representative from Lutheran Campus Ministry in Greater Pittsburgh and their student organization, PSALM (Pittsburgh Students Active in Lutheran Ministry), will share stories about their mission and work with students from several local universities.

Word

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song

First Reading – Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8

¹Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to the Lord, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be God's servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,

I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

Let All the People Praise

DATH 38

Psalm 67 will be sung using the hymn version Let All the People Praise. The congregation is invited to sing all parts of the psalm.

Refrain

Let all the peo - ple praise you, God. Let all the peo -

ple praise you, God.

1 Bless us, O God, show us your kind - ness, and
2 All the earth shall fol - low your ways, O God,
3 Let all peo - ple joy - ful - ly sing this song:
4 God has blessed us, giv - en us sun and rain.
5 May our God con - tin - ue to bless us, and

make your face to shine . . . up - on us and—
na - tions know your pow - er to save, O God.
God is bring - ing jus - tice and right - ing wrong.
Earth has yield - ed bush - els of fruit and grain.
may the whole earth sing out a loud a - men.

Text: Ray Makeever
Music: PSALM 67, Ray Makeever

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Second Reading – Romans 10: 5-15

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected God's people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected God's people whom God foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that God may be merciful to all.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood. When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil."

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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Gospel – Matthew 15: 10-28

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁰[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Brian Bennett

*A time of silence for prayer and reflection follows the sermon.
When the hymn of the day begins, please rise as you are able.*

Hymn of the Day

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

Following page





1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
 There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
 But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
 Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
 there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
 and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
 and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
 Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

Prayers of the People

A: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

After each petition

A: Hear us, O God;

C: Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation with you, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

The presiding minister and the assembly greet one another in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The people may greet those around them with a sign of Christ's peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words. Please be mindful that not everyone will be comfortable with sharing the peace, so please seek consent before shaking hands or hugging. Other possible ways to share the peace include a simple bow with the verbal greeting of peace, or simply a verbal expression of peace.

When the greetings of peace have concluded, please be seated.



Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering

*We offer ourselves, our gifts, and our faithful service to God.
As the offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need,
the table is set for Holy Communion.*

Music during the Offering

As the gifts are brought forward for presentation, please rise as you are able.

Offertory Song

ELW 680

Aramos nuestros campos / We Plow the Fields and Scatter



A - ra - mos nues-tros cam-pos, y lue - goel sem - bra - dor
1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



en e - llos la si - mien - te es - par - ce con a - mor.
but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You paint the way-side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



Mas es de Dios la ma - no que laha - ce ger - mi - nar,
who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
No gifts have we to of - fer for what your love im - parts



ca - lor y llu - via dan - do a to - dos por i - gual.
the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
but what you most would trea - sure - our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; English tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.;

Spanish tr. Ernesto Baricio, 1866-1948

Music: Luis Olivieri, b. 1937

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Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

God of field and forest, sea and sky,

C: you are the giver of all good things.

**Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also 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 our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory; Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord ...

... to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Fraction and Invitation

Agnus Dei / Lamb of God

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Please be seated.

Holy Communion

- *All who seek God and desire a deeper and stronger life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*
- *Worshippers from the pulpit side will proceed forward first, followed by the center section, and then the lectern side.*
- *Please inform an usher if you would like the ministers to bring Communion to you.*
- *Holy Communion will be served with bread and wine/grape juice.*
- *The presiding minister will first distribute the bread (host) to each communicant. Please indicate if you require a gluten-free host.*
- *Once you have consumed the bread, please pick up an empty glass from the tray next to the presiding minister. The Communion Assistant will pour wine from the chalice or grape juice from the cruet into your glass.*
- *Please step to the side to consume the wine or grape juice.*
- *Feel free to kneel at the altar rail for prayer after receiving the sacrament.*
- *As you return to your pew, glasses may be returned to the empty trays on either side of the center section.*
- *A blessing will be provided for anyone who does not yet receive the sacrament.*

- All are invited to join in singing the hymns during Holy Communion.

Hymns during Holy Communion

Spirit, Open My Heart

ACS 1043

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's



2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my



3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and



goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and



friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.



deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.



day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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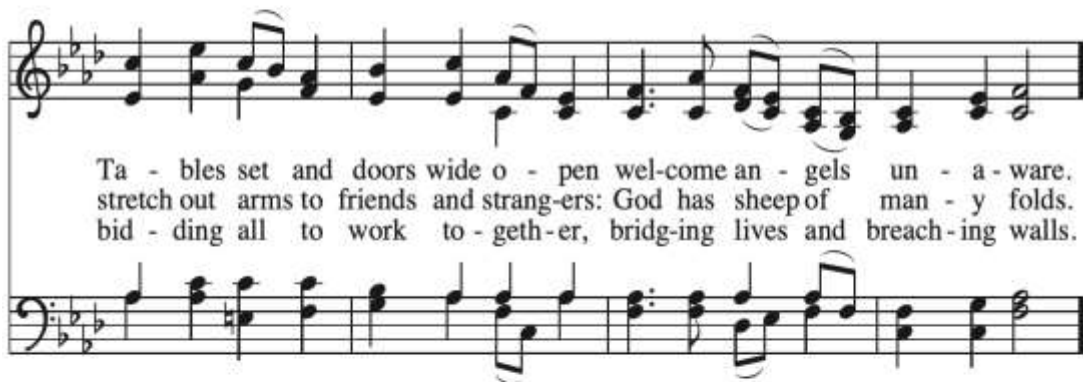
Hymns during Holy Communion

Commonwealth Is God's Commandment

ACS 1036

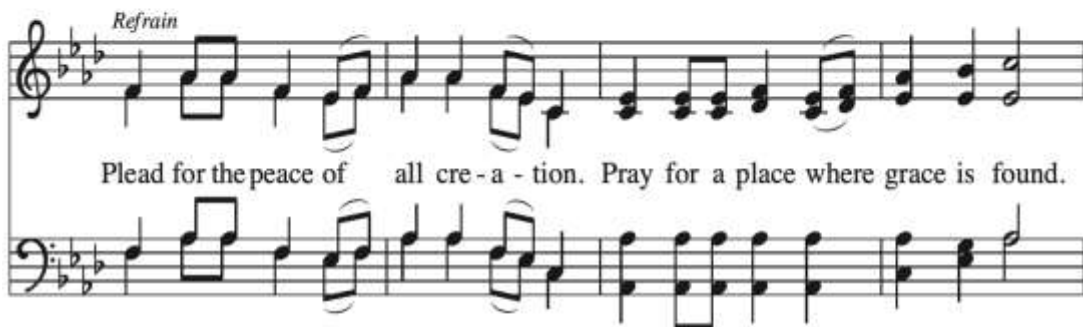


1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.

Refrain



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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Hymns during Holy Communion

Abide with Me
v. 1-3

ELW 629

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide,
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

When all have returned to their places, please rise as you are able.

Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

Prayer

A: Let us pray.
We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

Please be seated.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Announcements

Please rise as you are able.

Benediction

P: The God who calls across the cosmos
and works through the smallest seed
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you,
now and to the end of the age.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

Build a Longer Table

Following page

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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Those serving in worship today

Altar Care
Announcements
Assisting Minister
Audio-Visual Ministers

Cantor
Lector
Special Music

Minister of Music
Preaching Minister
Presiding Minister

Christy Ruhe
Colleen Cooke
Jimmi Kocher-Hillmer
Kristen Asplin
Joseph Paetz
Ian Brown
Dixie Tymitz
Timothy Kocher-Hillmer
Colten Rohleder
Laura Reynolds
The Rev. Brian Bennett
The Rev. Ross I. Carmichael

Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements

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Abide with Me – Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847. Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823-1889.

Please use the QR code below to link to St. Andrew's Announcements online!



**St. Andrew Lutheran Church Announcements
August 20th, 2023**

- **Welcome to worship at St. Andrew on the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 20th, 2023** – We are so glad you are here, and we offer a special welcome to all visitors here or online for the first time! Worship attendees are invited to make a name tag at the back of the worship space if you would like. There are worship “toolkits” to help children engage with worship and “busy bags” for younger children available in the bookcase at the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to take one to use with/for your children.
- **Welcome, Lutheran Campus Ministry in Greater Pittsburgh and PSALM (Pittsburgh Students Active in Lutheran Ministry)** – Today we welcome representative of our local partner mission organization, Lutheran Campus Ministry of Greater Pittsburgh and PSALM. Based at the Lutheran University Center on Forbes

Avenue, they serve students from Carlow University, Carnegie Mellon University, Chatham University, and the University of Pittsburgh. We thank Pastor Brian Bennett for serving as our guest preacher today. Please welcome them back to St. Andrew!

- **Macedonia Family and Community Enrichment Center (FACE) Seeking Donations of Household Items** – Macedonia Family and Community Enrichment Center (FACE) which serves families experiencing hardship in our community, has seen an increase in requests for household items that people are not able to afford. Many necessities cannot be purchased with supplemental food benefits (SNAP). Macedonia FACE is seeking donations of **household items** such as **toilet paper and paper towels, shampoo/conditioner (Black haircare), soap, feminine hygiene products, and cleaning products (laundry soap, dish soap, disinfecting wipes)**. Items can be left on the table next to the pantry shelves in St. Andrew's Social Hall.
- **September Produce Distribution – Tuesday, September 5th, 5:30-7:00 p.m.** – St. Andrew's monthly produce distribution in partnership with Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is coming up Tuesday, September 5th, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We invite people from the congregation to come and help in the evening (greeting our neighbors, assisting with the distribution, registration, and cleanup) and earlier in the day to set up tables and bring in the delivery, usually between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. For anyone who signs up for the setup, we will notify you the day before when we are given the delivery truck's estimated arrival time. If you would like to sign up, please do so here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F45AFAF2BA75-produce7>.
- **Little Church; Big Faith Resumes during Worship Sunday, September 10th** – St. Andrew will resume offering Little Church; Big Faith, a time of Bible stories and activities for children, during worship on Sunday, September 10th. After the prayer of the day, we will invite children to gather with their leader at the door at the left of the worship space – the group will then proceed to the activity room off the Social Hall. We ask that one additional parent remain with the group each week in order to fulfill the requirements of St. Andrew's child protection policy.
- **Cross-Generational Activity for Children, Youth, Parents / Guardians, and All Who are Interested – after Worship on Sundays, September 17th, October 1st, October 15th, and October 29th** – In the past, children and youth of St. Andrew have helped created art for banners that adorn the worship space in the season of Advent, and we would like to create banners for a new church year. We invite children, youth, parents / guardians to gather after worship on the Sundays listed above to hear an Advent reading, talk about its imagery, and work together on an artistic representation of the text, which will be used to make four new banners, one for each week of the Advent season. While we hope for primary input from children and youth, we encourage everyone in the congregation to stay to support them and share in the St. Andrew community on these Sundays! Please speak with Christian Education liaison Colten Rohleder or Jimmi Kocher-Hillmer if you have questions.
- **Lutheran Campus Ministry in Greater Pittsburgh (LCMGP) 75th Anniversary Dinner – Friday, September 15th, 2023 7:30 p.m. at Le Mont** – Join the LCMGP for its inaugural fundraising banquet as they celebrate the ministry's work in Greater Pittsburgh and among the universities of Pitt, Carnegie Mellon, Chatham, and Carlow for over the past 75+ years. Learn more about LCMGP, purchase tickets, or make a donation [here](#).

[Stand Up for Fairness for All Pennsylvanians](#)

This month, the nation's largest organization devoted to the rights of LGBTQ+ Americans [declared a "state of emergency"](#) in the U.S. amidst a growing number of dangerous and discriminatory policies. In Pennsylvania, more than half a million LGBTQ+ residents are vulnerable to discrimination every day because of a lack of express and enduring statutory protections at the state level. Tell your lawmakers it's time to make our Commonwealth a safe place for everyone to live, love and work as their authentic selves without fear of discrimination.



Pennsylvania remains the only state in the Northeast without an inclusive statewide nondiscrimination law. Passage of protections in Pennsylvania is a critical step to ensure LGBTQ people are treated with dignity in employment, housing, and public spaces.

[Contact your lawmakers here.](#)

[Sign up here to join fellow Lutherans working for protections for LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians and receive alerts about rallies and other opportunities to act. Please include FAIRNESS in the subject line.](#)

The seven Pennsylvania bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America released a letter in support of legislation that would prohibit such discrimination.

"At this moment there is an opportunity for us to add our voices in support of legislation that could provide continuing legal protection for one particularly vulnerable group of our people," the bishops state in their letter "Fairness for All Pennsylvanians."

[Read the full letter.](#)

The letter points to the imagery of the "peaceable kingdom," described in Isaiah 11: 6, in which "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." The words anticipate a renewal of all creation in which the identity of each creature remains but none experiences any harm from the others. "It is the fulfillment of this vision for which people of faith yearn, and toward which they call their neighbors," the bishops say in the letter. "The work of public advocacy, at its best, replaces the timid silence of resignation to what is, with a bold voice giving expression to what could be."

*We recognize that the links above are not accessible on the printed page but we wanted to be sure to publish the information. Please see your "This Week at St. Andrew" email or scan the QR code above to access the clickable links. **Thank you for your Advocacy!***