

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2021**  
**THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
467 MAIN ST., P. O. BOX 494  
CONYNGHAM, PA 18219



**REV. DEBORAH TAYLOR - PASTOR**

**Patterson Derr - Minister of Music/Treasurer**

**Cynthia Derr – Church Secretary/Congregation Council Secretary**

**Sexton – Margie Yost**

**Congregation Council – Helen Badamo, Joyce Bradbury, Donna Broadt, Louis DeAngelo, Tom DeRemer (vice-president), Jean Frye, Dave Getz, Deb Jones, Marty Kellow, Jessica Thorne, Ken Welsh (president), Mike Ziegler**

**Church Office - 788-1572**

**Fax – 570-788-2686      email - [clcony@ptd.net](mailto:clcony@ptd.net)**

**[clcpicstogo@gmail.com](mailto:clcpicstogo@gmail.com)**

**web site - [clconyngham.org](http://clconyngham.org)**

**Facebook - Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Conyngham**

**NEPA Synod web page -[nepasynod.org](http://nepasynod.org)**

**Weekly Worship:      Saturday @ 5:00pm**

**Sunday @ 9:30am**

Welcome in the name of Christ, whose church this is! If you are seeking a church home, please notify the church office. Contact information is on the front of the bulletin.

*To contact Pastor Deb, please call or text her cell @ 570-350-5115.*

**FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE:** Hearing Assistive Devices are located on the table at the entrance to the worship space. An ADA Compliant restroom and changing station are located in the entrance hallway. A first aid kit, water, juice and snacks are in the kitchenette adjacent to the Parlor (main entrance room).

**ABOUT COMMUNION:** We are observing pew communion. Please pick-up a pre-filled communion set when you enter church. During worship you will be instructed when to partake of the elements.

**FOR SECURITY:** During worship, only the upper level main entrance doors are open- all other doors are locked.

Have any questions? An usher will be glad to help you!

**Bishop Christopher DeForest of the NEPA Synod has strongly encouraged the wearing of masks at worship services (please see his statement). Our Congregation Council has decided that each of us should use our own discretion as to personal choice. Please consider wearing a mask if you are not vaccinated and everyone practice social distancing.** You may worship in the parlor (televised), courtyard (weather permitting-audio only) and from your car in the parking lot at 90.1FM on your radio.

Individual communion cups are ready for pick up for you to use at home. They are inside the front door of the parlor and may be picked up during office hours. Please help yourself. If you cannot come to the church during the hours posted, please call the church office (570-788-1572) to make other arrangements. You may also commune with what you have handy at home; bread, crackers, juice, wine, etc.

Our Sunday morning 9:30am service is on our FaceBook page “Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregation” or catch the service on the website video tab using ‘clconyngham.org’. The bulletin is on the web site using the bulletin tab

**CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2021  
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
9:30am Worship Service**

**PRELUDE**                    **“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**  
**arr. Stephen Nielson**

**GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**PLEASE STAND**

**GATHERING HYMN**            **“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”**  
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**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P**        Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God,  
          whose teaching is life,  
          whose presence is sure,  
          and whose love is endless.

**C**        **Amen.**

**P**        Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

**PLEASE KNEEL OR BE SEATED**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

*P* God our comforter:

**C** like lost sheep, we have gone astray.  
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.  
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.  
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.  
Free us from our sin, gracious God.  
Listen when we call out to you for help.  
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.  
Amen.

*P* All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.  
By the gift of grace in ✝ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.  
Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**C** Amen.

PLEASE STAND

## 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.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

## Praise the Lord! O Heavens

1 Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels, in the height;  
2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom - ise fail.

sun and moon, re - joice be - fore him; praise him, gleam - ing stars and light.  
God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.

Praise the Lord, for he has spo - ken; worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;  
Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his pow'r pro - claim;

laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance he has made.  
heav'n and earth, and all cre - a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- A* Let us pray.  
 Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

## WORD

### A READING FROM ISAIAH

#### **Isaiah 35:4-7a**

*These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

- <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
 "Be strong, do not fear!  
 Here is your God.  
 He will come with vengeance,  
 with terrible recompense.  
 He will come and save you."  
<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
 and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
 and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
 and the thirsty ground springs of water.

- L** The Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God!**

- L** Please join in reading the Psalm - Congregation responses are in **bold** type

## Psalm 146

*I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,**

**and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**

**who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**the LORD<sup>l</sup> loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall reign forever,**

**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## A READING FROM JAMES

### James 2:1-17

*Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters.

Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>11</sup>For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

PLEASE STAND

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MARK THE 7<sup>th</sup> CHAPTER



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.



## Mark 7:24-37

*In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

<sup>24</sup>Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.<sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.<sup>27</sup> He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."<sup>28</sup> But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."<sup>29</sup> Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."<sup>30</sup> So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.<sup>32</sup> They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.<sup>33</sup> He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.<sup>34</sup> Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."<sup>35</sup> And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.<sup>37</sup> They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

*p* The Gospel of the Lord.



PLEASE BE SEATED

**SERMON**

**Pastor Taylor**

PLEASE STAND

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"**

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## APOSTLES' CREED

*P* Let us join in confessing our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic Church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS

*A* Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

*A* Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

*A* You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

*A* You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. Especially as we celebrate Labor Day, unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

*A* You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Especially we pray for Betty Lou, Shirley, Jean, Wilma, Emily, Dawn, Mark, Bob, Theresa, Betsy, George, Barbara, Dina, Joanne, Rich, Deanna, Clyde, Carol, Rodney, Bonnie, Pauline, Carl, Neal, Larry, Patt, Dennis, Viola, Janice, Gail, John, Sandy, Al, Maryanne, Janet, Father Ric, Deb, Vivian, Eileen, Justin, Madelyn, Pam and Drew. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

*A* You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation, especially our Sunday School. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

*A* You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

*P* Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

*P* The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

*Please wave to each other or share the peace sign*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

*A* In thanksgiving for our offerings, let us pray.  
 God of abundance,  
 you cause streams to break forth in the desert  
 and manna to rain from the heavens.  
 Accept the gifts you have first given us.  
 Unite them with the offering of our lives  
 to nourish the world you love so dearly;  
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

MEAL**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*p* The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

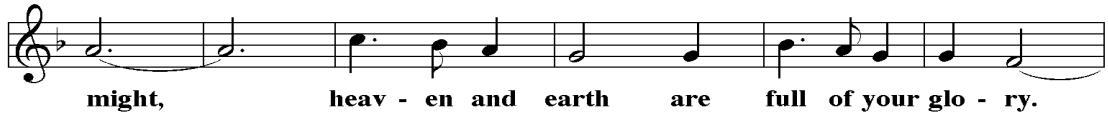
*p* Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

*p* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*p* It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

**P** Holy God,  
     our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,  
     you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.  
 You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,  
     and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.  
 You sent your Son to eat with sinners  
     and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
     our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
     broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
     Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
     and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
     This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
     shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
     his life given for us  
     and his rising from the grave,  
     we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.  
 By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:  
     strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,  
     and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.  
 Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
     Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
     in your holy Church,  
     both now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*P* All who hunger and thirst, come.  
The table is ready.

## COMMUNION

**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.

## HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

### COMMUNION BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace.

**C** Amen.

### CANTICLE

**C** Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
 one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
 Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
 Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
 lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A* Lord of life,  
in the gift of your body and blood  
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.  
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,  
bearing witness to the abundance of your love  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** Amen.

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

- P* People of God,  
you are Christ's body,  
bringing new life to a suffering world.  
The holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
bless you now and forever.
- C** Amen.

**SENDING HYMN**                      “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”                      Page 25 of bulletin

### DISMISSAL

- P* Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
- C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**                                      “Trumpet Tune”                                      Manfredini/arr. Wolff

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**Worship Helpers**

Acolyte	Christian Smith
Asst. Minister	Cindy Derr
Reader	Carol Crawford
Ushers	Diana Jessel, Elizabeth Davis

The flowers are offered to the glory of God by Sue, Lynn, Alyssa & Kayla Oliver in memory of John Oliver in honor of his birthday.

The bulletins are offered to the glory of God by Lisa & Jay Budgeon in memory of loved ones.

**Calendar for the Week of September 5, 2021**

Monday - -	Labor Day	
Tuesday - -	5:30pm	AA Meeting
Wednesday - -		
Thursday - -	9:00am	Apple Fest Prep
	9am-2pm	Red Cross Blood Mobile Bus
	5:00pm	Karate
	6:30pm	Growing Young Book Study
Friday - -		
Saturday - -		

**NEXT WEEKEND****September 11 & 12, 2021****THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST****Saturday Worship Service 5:00pm****Sunday Worship Services 8:00am & 10:30am****Sunday School 9:15am**

## WORSHIP SERVICE

Beginning **NEXT SUNDAY** we will return to our 8am & 10:30am worship services with Sunday School at 9:15am. Saturday evening will remain at 5pm.

## RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:15AM

Sunday School classes will be back in person here at the church beginning with Rally Day. Join us to kick off a great year of learning!

## SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> – 3PM

Pastor Deb has been with us for a year through the pandemic that has affected so much of our ministry here and everywhere. (Even the new Bishop of the Synod was not installed until the beginning of June). But now we will be able to have **Pastor Deb's installation service on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 3PM**. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to be with us!! More information will follow as plans come together for this special service.

## GERANIUM CARE

The geraniums are planted and now we need to care for them. Please consider checking in to deadhead and water the plants as needed, and pull any weeds that may be there. The garden hose and watering can are by the side of the church.

## **BOUNTIFUL GARDENS**

A table to share your Bountiful Gardens produce will be in the parlor. Individuals who would like to share the bounty from their gardens can leave it on the table before the Saturday or Sunday church services. The produce is available to anyone. We are asking for a free will donation which will be given to the Valley Food Pantry, along with any extra produce.

## **CANCER AWARENESS TRICKY TRAY**

Once again at our Apple Festival we will have a special Tricky Tray for cancer awareness. '*Pink*' items are needed for this. Please have donated items here at the church by **Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!!

## **AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE**

The bus will be here at Christ Church on **Thursday September 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am-2:30pm**. Scheduled appointments are strongly recommended. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter 'Conyngham' to register.

## **PLASTIC BAGS NEEDED**

i.e. from Gould's, Weiss or Giant markets for our upcoming events.  
Please place in bin at the back of the church. Please bring by **October 3<sup>rd</sup>**.  
Thanks!

**GOD'S WORK-OUR HANDS DAY**  
**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>**

Mark this date on your calendar as our church plans a day of service to fellow church members.

*If you need some yard work or simple outdoor tasks done, please sign-up on the sheet on the table in the back of the church along with your phone # and work needed done. You may also call the church office or inform Pastor Deb.*

**ALSO, if you are willing to be one of our workers for that day, please sign up on the separate sheet also on the table in the parlor, call the church office or inform Pastor Deb.**

We will share lunch, go to the homes to do the work, and return to the church for dessert and fellowship. Times to be determined as we see how much work is needed.

**APPLE PICKING TIME**

Help is needed to pick the apples for our homemade apple sauce, and other apple baked goods, to be sold at the Apple Fest. If you can help, please meet at the church on **Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> at 10am**. (Rain date Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup> after church). We will go to the Halls' orchard to pick the apples. *Many hands make light work!!*

## **APPLE FEST 2021**

*Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> from 8am-3pm.*

Volunteers are needed for our annual event. **Dates are Thursdays at 9am on September 9<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup>. And the week prior to the Fest October 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>. Also, the day of the Apple Fest the 16<sup>th</sup>.** Please see the sign-up sheets on the table in the back of the church and help wherever you can!!

## **BRANDON'S FOREVER HOME PROJECT**

On **Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup>** an ecumenical youth project is being planned for Brandon's Forever Home in Hazleton. Details are still in the making, so watch for further information. Fred Jaxheimer is coordinating this event.

## **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTS**

The women in our church have been busy sewing quilts for Lutheran World Relief this year. There will be 30 or more quilts displayed in the sanctuary on **September 19<sup>th</sup>** to be blessed before being taken to Lykens, Pa. for the "In-gathering" to be picked up there by truck and taken to Maryland to be sent worldwide. Please prayerfully consider donating to the shipping costs. Envelopes will be provided for your donations.

To continue this ministry, the following items would be gratefully welcome: sharp small scissors and large pieces of cotton fabric, **ESPECIALLY TWIN FLAT SHEETS.** (slightly used with no stains).

## **OCTOBER NEWSLETTER**

Please note the deadline for all articles, information, etc. for the October newsletter is Sunday **September 19th!!**

## **STEPHEN MINISTRY NEWS**

Deb Jones and Pastor Deb are in the process of selecting our first class of Stephen Ministers. Training will begin in October. Over the next few months these future Stephen Ministers will receive extensive training in Christian caring skills. Some of the areas they will cover include listening effectively, addressing feelings, confidentiality, using the resources of Christianity, being assertive, and a number of topics dealing with specific life crises.

Throughout, the training will emphasize the theology of caring for the whole person. We ask for your prayers as we select our Stephen Ministers and prepare them to provide one-to-one lay caring ministry to people experiencing life difficulties in our congregation and community.

There is a cost to training our Stephen Ministers and running our Stephen Ministry. If you would like to donate to help defray these costs, you can place any donations in the offering plate and mark it for Stephen Ministry. For more information, contact Deb Jones at [msjonesncc@gmail.com](mailto:msjonesncc@gmail.com) or 570-233-7675 or Pastor Deb.

JUSTICE, PEACE

## 719 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the  
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed  
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man  
 4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the

cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
 thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the  
 grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from  
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -

self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.  
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.  
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.  
 tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

- 5 O Master, from the mountainside  
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
 among these restless throngs abide;  
 oh, tread the city's streets again;
- 6 Till all the world shall learn your love,  
 and follow where your feet have trod;  
 till glorious from your heav'n above  
 shall come the city of our God.

WORD OF GOD

## Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

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- 1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo-ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.  
 2 They who have ears to hear the mes-sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.  
 they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

*Refrain*

To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
 God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
 God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
 God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



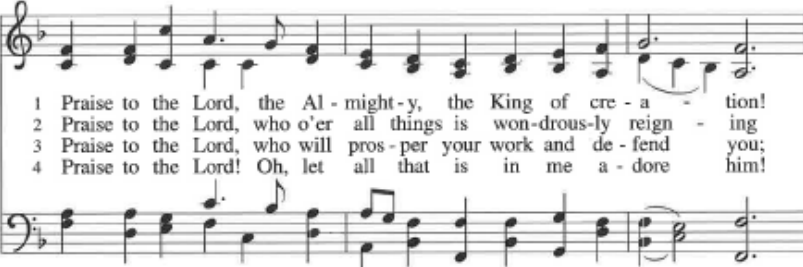
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
 God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



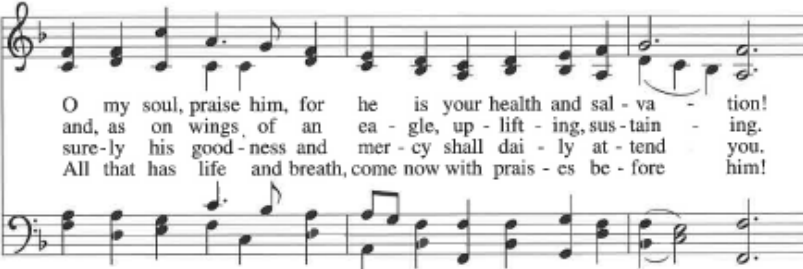
PRAISE, THANKSGIVING

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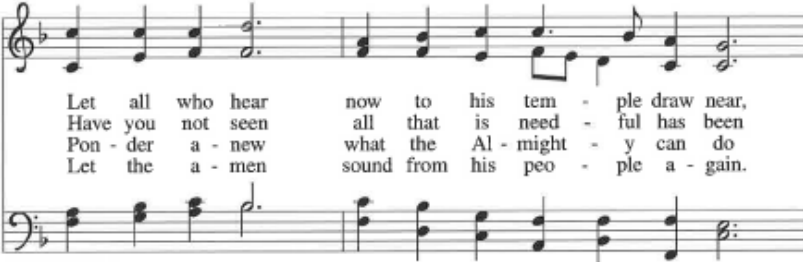
## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly reign - ing  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 if with his love he be - friend you.  
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: *Erneuerter Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

LOBE DEN HERREN  
 11 14 47 8

## LIVING NATIVITY

Yes, it is only September, but we need to think about our annual gift to the community on **December 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**.

*The folks you have been preparing for the Living Nativity these many years are now in their 'senior' years and cannot handle all the work alone.*

**MUCH HELP** is needed from younger persons for **ALL** the preparation it takes before and the days of the Living Nativity, along with folks to portray the characters in the presentation.

PLEASE, when you see the sign-up sheets in the months to come, or you receive a phone call asking for help, **SAY YES!!!!**

IF WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH HELP---THE LIVING NATIVITY CANNOT BE HELD!!!!

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!!!!!!**

When a child is baptized here at Christ Lutheran we, as a congregation are asked this question: *People of God, do you promise to support this child and pray for them in their new life in Christ?* We answer: *We do.*

To fulfill this promise we need a strong faith formation base with our Sunday School. We need teachers for the grades of PreK/K; 1-2; 3-4; 5-7. Enough helpers will allow us to ‘team teach’ in each section, so Sundays can be split according to your schedule.

All material is provided, and we have a room full of craft items if you wish to do a special project.

Please prayerfully consider and say “YES” to being a Sunday School teacher and contact Cindy or Pastor Deb for more information.

Matthew 19:1 <sup>14</sup> but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”