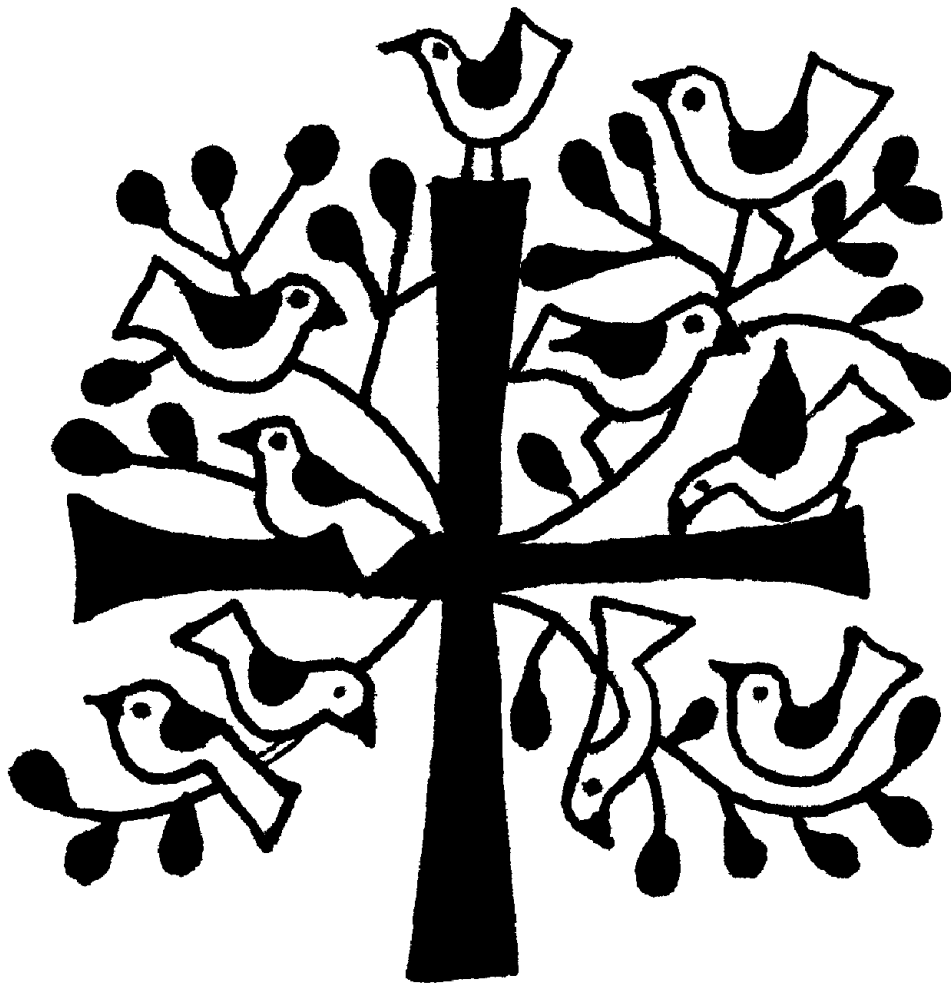


EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



JULY 26, 2020

WELCOME

We welcome you to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church!

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, WELCOME,

If you are worshipping again, WELCOME BACK.

Worship is much more joyful when we add our voices to offer praise and thanksgiving. If you need anything, just ask one of the ushers or greeters.

A nursery is provided for younger children should you want to use it at any time. If you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon,

Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!

Again welcome ...

PRE-SERVICE *Prelude and Fugue No 2 In F Minor* J.S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin.

*Please note that all congregation responses are printed in **Bold and Italics**.*

We are silent as we prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE *Be Thou My Vision* Brant Adams
 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

THE GATHERING

We stand and face the baptismal font.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,

whose steadfast love is everlasting,

whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

As broken children, we begin worship by acknowledging our sinfulness and asking for God's forgiveness.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
***we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.
We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.
We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.
We sin in thought, word, and deed.
By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.***

Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through ✝ Christ Jesus.
Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

HYMN *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* ELW 771



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

GLORIA

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray together.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We sit.

THE WORD

READING: 1 KINGS 3:5-12

A reading from Kings.

⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom

you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

***¹³⁰When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.***

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.

***¹³²Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.***

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

***¹³⁴Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.***

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

*¹³⁶My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.*

READING: Romans 8:26-35, 37-39

A reading from Romans.

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,

nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

We 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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.
We sit.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Please pray with me the prayer of preparation.

Holy God, you have a word for me today. Make my heart soft and plant your word in me in order that it may bear fruit in your kingdom. Amen.

SERMON *Nothing can separate you from the love of God through Christ Jesus!*

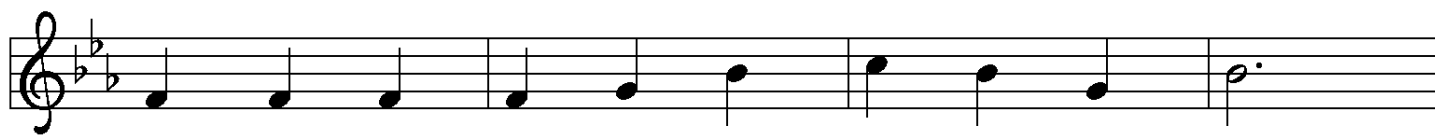
HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

***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.***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*After each petition: Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.***

The Prayers conclude:

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We sit.

OFFERING

We give our monetary offering to support Christ's mission in this place and around the world in gratitude of God's amazing grace. You may contribute any time by visiting www.WeAreMtHermon.com and click on "On-line Giving." You may also mail your check to 3011 Leaphart Road, West Columbia, SC 29169. Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship.

OFFERING

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Dawn Rogers & Eric Wyse

We stand.

OFFERTORY

I Love You, Lord

W&P 67

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at various points. The score consists of four lines of music.

Chord symbols: F², Gm/F, F, Bb, F/A, Gm⁷, F/A, C⁷_{sus}, C, Bb/D, C/E, F², Gm/F, F, F⁷, Bb, F/A, F_{sus}/G, C⁷, Bb²/F, F².

Lyrics: I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to wor - ship you; O my soul, re - joice. Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

OFFERING PRAYER

We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together.

***God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours,
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.***

Water and word, wine and bread:

these are signs of your abundant grace.

Nourish us through these gifts,

that we might proclaim your steadfast love

in our communities and in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

THE MEAL

Christ is truly present in the most ordinary and unexpected of places.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

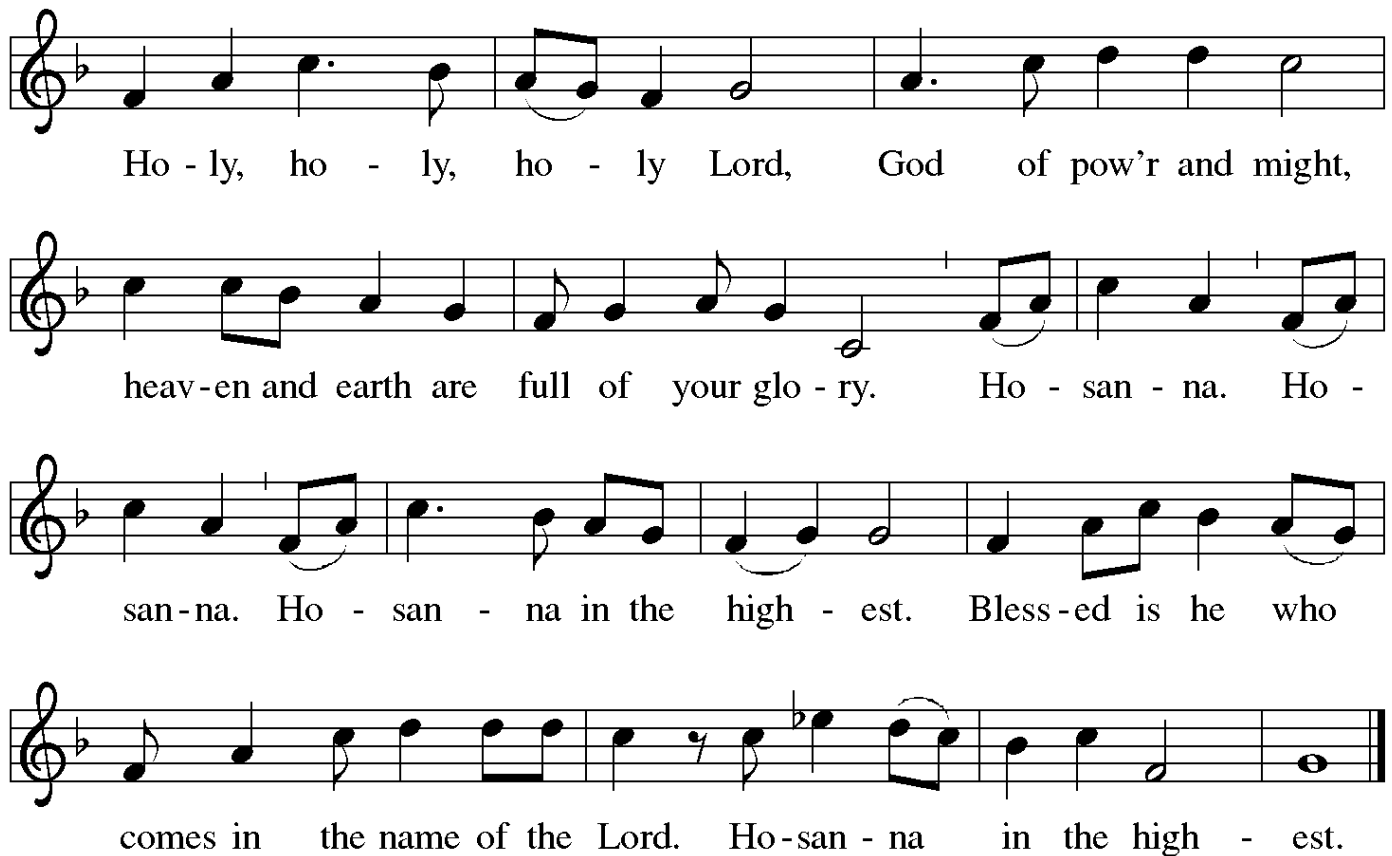
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed...

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, teaching us, leading us, and guiding us. ***Come, Lord Jesus.***

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. ***Come, Holy Spirit.***

All praise and glory are yours,
 Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
 Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

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

Friends of Jesus, come to the table.

Receive nourishment for your journey.

You are invited to call the church office and schedule a time to receive communion. We will have Drive-In Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays from 10:30-1:00.

MUSIC

The Old Rugged Cross

John Carter

THE SENDING

BLESSING

God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. ***Amen.***

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hymn to Joy Michael Burkhardt

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

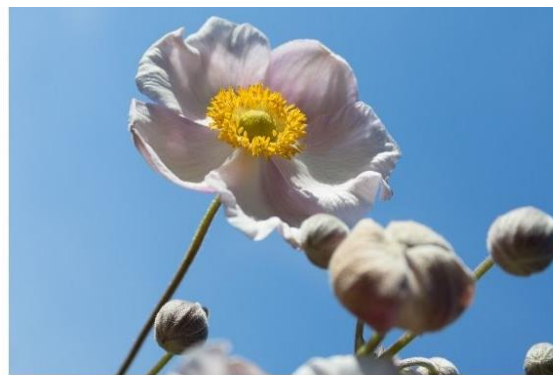
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Roddy Schofield, our son and W.A. "Bill" Hembree, Jan's Daddy and in honor of Jan H. Schofield's birthday by Gene and Jan Schofield.



Altar flowers open date: September 13th

Call the church office if you would like to sign-up!



Thank You

*For your kind expression of sympathy and
thoughtfulness. It is deeply appreciated and
will always be remembered by the
Family of Connie Catt Bucknam*

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MUSICIANS AND VOCALISTS who lead worship: Ruthie Brannen, Regan Anthony, Daryl Leigh Anthony, Wynne Price, Joel Price, Ryan Price, Belle Kneece, Noah Causey, Jeremy Rish and Cameron Blakely. Also, thanks to the **LIVE STREAM PRODUCTION CREW:** Sheila Starkey and Breanna Metze.

Thank you!



Tithes, and Offering for 07/19/2020
Live Stream Worship – 103+
Drive-In Communion – 60

Current & Benevolent	Received	\$3,799.40
Building Improvement	Received	\$75.00
Growing on Holy Ground	Received	\$885.00
Live Streaming This Week		\$171.34
Live Streaming Total Rec'd		\$4,891.23

Honorariums and Memorials (all funds)

In memory of Connie Bucknam by Dave & Debra Butts, Perry & Trudy Bouknight, Karen Nicholson, Lynn Bouknight, Jamie & Nancy Addison

In memory of Ernie Swygert by Lynn Bouknight

In memory of Iris House by Lynn Bouknight

Your continued financial support to the work of God at Mt. Hermon is needed. You may drop your check in the US Mail: 3011 Leaphart Road, West Columbia, SC 29169. You may also drop it in the locked box on Leaphart Road. Some of you have taken advantage of banks mailing a check straight to Mt. Hermon. Many of you are taking the opportunity to use online giving. Thank you for your financial and spiritual support to Mt. Hermon!



Tithe.ly Online Giving.

You may download the Tithely app and select Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church 3011 Leaphart Road

Or you may give from our website at www.mthlc.com and select *Online Giving* **<http://www.mthlc.com/online-giving.html>**

MT HERMON MUSIC WEEKEND FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM

AUGUST 8-9

SATURDAY 6:30 PM

SUNDAY 9:00 AM

SUNDAY 6:00 PM



SATURDAY 6:30 PM
MT HERMON MUSICIANS

SUNDAY 9:00 AM
WORSHIP

SUNDAY 6:00 PM
TheDulcimerGuy.com



June Roof
c/o Rapha
3959 Fish Hatchery Road
Gaston, SC 29053

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During 6:35 devotions, Pastor Gina invited listeners to a 90-day challenge of keeping a **Gratitude Journal**. The challenge is to write down 3 things which you are thankful for each day before you go to bed. These journals have arrived, and they are in the church office. Please come by and pick up a journal for each member of you family who will participate in the challenge.

We have sooo much to be thankful for! The purpose of the challenge is to be a visible reminder of our blessings. Let's deepen our discipleship together.

Come by and pick up a journal and enter into the challenge.

MT HERMON PRAYS ...

Homebound and Care Facilities

Patricia Bachman, <i>Carolina Gardens</i>	Margie Hook, <i>home</i>
Alberta Berry, <i>home</i>	Rev. Everette Price, <i>home</i>
Hazel Bockus, <i>Carolina Gardens</i>	Tom Roof, <i>home</i>
Nell Buff, <i>home</i>	June Roof, <i>Rapha</i>
Lila Catt, <i>home</i>	Lois Watson, <i>Lexington Place</i>
Lynwood Crout, <i>home</i>	Lena Wessinger, <i>Presby. Home</i>

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Gene Schofield	Kim Addy
Suzie Wattenbarger	Perry Bouknight

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers

Bob Eastwood, *brother-in-law of Marie Kleckley*
Harold & Mary Prater, *parents of Ray Prater*
Molly Kate Shealy, *friend of Jean Shealy*
Chuck Bachman, *nephew of Jean Shealy*
Floyd Fuller, *uncle of David Marsh*
Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*
Gary & Linda Hodgin, *friends of Herb Bucknam*
Lois Moore & family, *family of Dennis & Cyndi Thurman*
Bill Harrell, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Don Morris, *father of Keith Morris*
Cheryl Coureville, *friend of Herb Bucknam*
Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*
Jimmy Mills, *father of Tommy Mills*
Richie Tallent, *friend of Danny Scott*
Mandy McLemore, *co-worker of Amanda Boyd, Kim Addy, & Alyson Price*
John Catoe, *family of Ellisors*
Jenifer Gooding, *co-worker of Joel Price Jr. & Mary Price*
Sherri Crapps, *sister-in-law of Linda Waters-Hamilton*
Megan Sease, *granddaughter of Earl & Mary Frances Sease*
Jean Wooten, *friend of Linda Waters-Hamilton*
Tommy Roof, *son of Tom & June Roof*
Martha Eastwood, *sister of Marie Kleckley*
Eric Powell, *friend of Kim Fulmer*
Jason Wardlaw, *friend of congregation*
Andrew & Candice Coleman, *friends of Erica Conklin*
Carolyn Shumpert, *sister of Jan Schofield and Andrea Bowers*
David Hydrick, *cousin of Buddy Hydrick*
*Janice Head, *mother of Ronnie Head*



www.WeAreMtHermon.com

3011 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC 29169

803.794.6430

Monday – Friday

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor* 803.951.3784

Ruthie Brannen, *Director of Music*

Susan LaCons, *Parish Administrator* 803.794.6430

PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com

RuthieBrannen@gmail.com

Susan@WeAreMtHermon.com

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Ronnie Fulmer, *President*

Robin Ellisor, *Secretary*

Annette Price, *Financial Secretary*

Marion Leaphart, *Vice President*

Parker Boulware, *Treasurer*

Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert, *Sextons*

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, July 26th 8th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Worship – Live Stream

10:30am Sunday School via Zoom

Wednesday, July 29th

9:00 – 12:00 Food Pantry (Diane Boulware & Annette Price)

Friday, July 31st

9:00 – 12:00 Food Pantry (Allison Swygert & Lynn Bouknight)

12:00 pm Sunday's Bulletins will be in the mailboxes

Sunday, August 2nd

9:00 am Worship – Live Stream

10:30 am-1:00 pm Drive-In Communion