Summer Worship **Bumper Sticker Theology** July 30, 2023

God is my Co-pilot! I can do all things with a verse taken out of context!

God won't give you more than you can handle.

too blessed to be stressed! LET GO, LET GOD, Don't put a question mark where God put a period!

God helps those who help themselves.

It's all part of God's plan!

God doesn't make misteaks!



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We, the community of First Lutheran Church of Bothell, proclaim the message that the grace of our Lord is infinitely inclusive and that everyone is welcome. We believe that Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation and as disciples of Christ seeking justice and reconciliation among all peoples, we at First Lutheran Church welcome all into the fullness of God's love. We welcome everyone, without exception and regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, age, or station in life. We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God, and through grace, a child of God.

All are welcome at First Lutheran.

All are welcome to worship, to hear the Good News, to receive the sacraments, and to share in fellowship and service. As members of First Lutheran Church, we pledge ourselves and our congregation to exercise our faith in Christ, treasuring one another's similarities while embracing our God-given differences. We pledge that we will strive to live as a reconciling people, in our life together and in our outreach to the world.

You can scan
this QR code
to donate
online. It's easy!

WORSHIP NOTES

- + Please sign the card in the pew rack and place in the offering plate with your offering before Holy Communion.
- + The service is printed in this bulletin. Some hymns are located in the red hymn book.
- + Hearing enhancement receivers, large print bulletins are available. Feel free to ask an usher for assistance.
- + Our expectation is that children will be in worship. We understand, though, that there are times when your wiggly ones need a distraction. There is a "Pray Space" under the stairs in the inner narrhex with soft toys and books. If you desire the nursery ask an usher for directions.
- + If you would like to have a digital copy of the bulletin, go to our website and download the PDF. www.flcbothell.org
- + Public Wi-Fi: FLC Wireless Password: MartyLuther

Why Bumper Sticker Theology?

A pastor friend of mine in the Midwest put together his Summer Lectionary and he called it Bumper Sticker Theology. It grabbed my imagination and so I stole it from him (with his permission). The reason I am excited about this opportunity is that it speaks directly to our human condition and our desire to break down the complex relationships we have and events that are around us into simpler terms. Often this is not as helpful as we hope.

When we comfort someone who is grieving, for example, we are overcome often with our own emotions. Maybe it is our own grief or our own feeling of inadequacy in the situation that drives us to say something or anything. So, we blurt out something that we heard somewhere that maybe would be helpful. But, really, the person we are comforting does not need to be told that "God doesn't give us more than we can handle", or "you will feel better in time", or "buck it up", or anything else for that matter.

Bumper sticker theology takes those simple sayings and breaks them down so that we can see how sometimes these words are more harmful than they are helpful. Often these sayings have more to do with me than the person I am trying to help.

Poor theology does do real harm. In fact, it can be dangerous at times. Bad theology wants to put us in control and to smooth over anything that is uncomfortable. Too often, bad theology wants to cover up the uncomfortable instead of confronting it, or worse, to shun others because we do not want to confront the complexities of life. It is just better if there is just one way, right?

I hope this series will help us grow as theologians. And yes, you are a theologian. We all are. The more we can educate ourselves about God's word and how Jesus taught us to be in the world, the more equipped we will be when faced with difficulty. Because:

Honk if you Love God!

July 30, 2023 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 AM

God Doesn't Make Misteaks

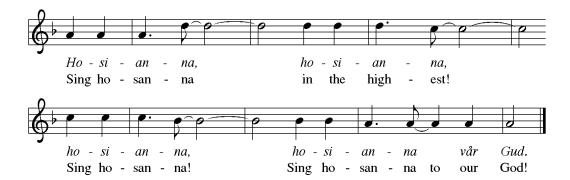
GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE: Lament for the Wild Geese (Phil Coulter)

GATHERING SONG: You Are Holy: Du är helig (ELW 525)





WELCOME

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.**

KYRIE



CANTICLE OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of the universe, you created this beautiful world out of an abundance of love. You filled it with amazing creatures and colorful fauna. We are part of this creation and you called all of it, including us, good. How can we say otherwise? Help us be curious and accepting of all you have created. Amen.

ANTHEM: When the Storms of Life Are Raging (C. Tindley)
Richard Edmonds, Tenor

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

PSALM: Psalm 139:15-18, 23-24

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,

while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book;

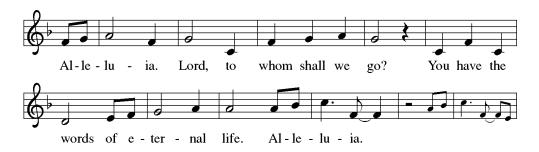
my days were fashioned before they came to be.

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God!

How great is the sum of them!

- ¹⁸If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.
- ²³Search me out, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my restless thoughts.
- ²⁴Look well whether there be any wickedness in me and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





THE WORD: Galatians 5:1-14

¹For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

²Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. ⁴You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? Such persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough. In am confident about you in the Lord that you will not think otherwise. But whoever it is that is confusing you will pay the penalty. But my friends, why am I still being persecuted if I am still preaching circumcision? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. Which were the whole who unsettle you would castrate themselves! Which were called to freedom, brothers and sisters only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Word of God, word of life.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Here I Am, Lord (ELW 574)



HOLY BAPTISM: Mina Lou and Banks Leland Knox, children of Kesley (Bannister) and Chris Knox.

PRESENTATION

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsor: I present Mina and Banks for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Mina and Banks baptized into Christ?

Parents: I do.

As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Banks and Mina grow in the Christian faith and life? *Parents:* I do.

Sponsors: Do you promise to nurture Leland and Banks in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Banks and Mina and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father? I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God? 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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

Mina/Banks, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Mina/Banks with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Mina/Banks, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form confirmands and catechumens into disciples. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For whom do the people pray?

Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.

Silence for self-reflection.

Gracious God,

we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins—those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

From the house of David, God raised up a mighty Savior.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.

Remembering the covenant, God delivered us from our enemies.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.

Before God we are holy and righteous, free to worship without fear.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.

With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us, and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace.

Amen

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

MEAL

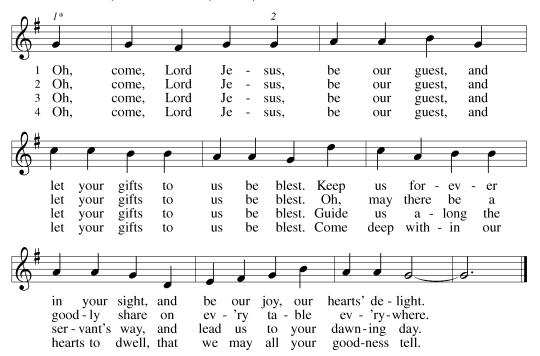
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING: The flowers today are given to the Lord in praise of all singers and musicians directed by Richard Edmonds.

The family: Judy, Jon, Joel, Sarah, Rachel, and Naomi thank the congregation for their many kindnesses.

OFFERTORY: Bist du bei mir (J.S. Bach)

OFFERING: Come, Lord Jesus (LS 97)



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, Breath of life and Fire of love: with a mighty wind you brought creation into being, and by a pillar of fire you led your people into freedom. We praise you for the gift of your Son, who poured out your Spirit on his disciples of every race and nation.

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 death, resurrection, and the sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit, we await his coming again to renew the face of the earth.

Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal: anoint us with your gifts of faith, hope, and love, that, with thankful hearts, we may be witnesses to your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

COMMUNION

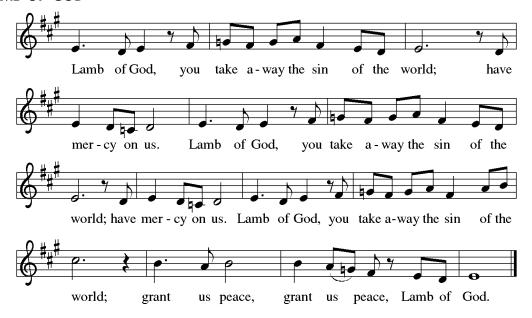
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION: We will receive the body of Christ as bread with these or similar words: The body of Christ, given for you. If you desire a gluten-free option that is available. The blood of Christ will be received as either red wine or white grape juice with these or similar words: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

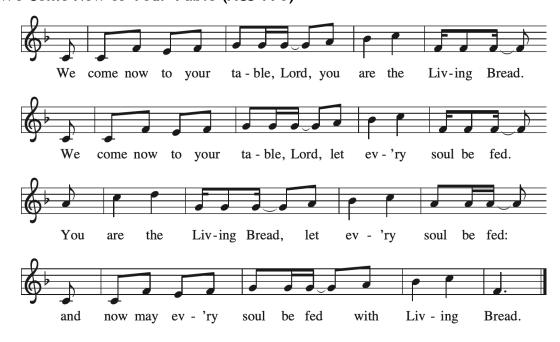
WHO MAY COMMUNE? All are welcome at the Lord's Table. It is a free gift given to all for the forgiveness of sins. The words "for you" really mean FOR YOU! Children may commune at the discretion of their parents. If you wish to receive a blessing: cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the communion assistants.

DIRECTIONS FOR COMMUNION: Please come forward by the center aisle at the direction of the ushers to receive the sacrament and return to your seat down the side aisle. Please register each person taking communion on a pew card.

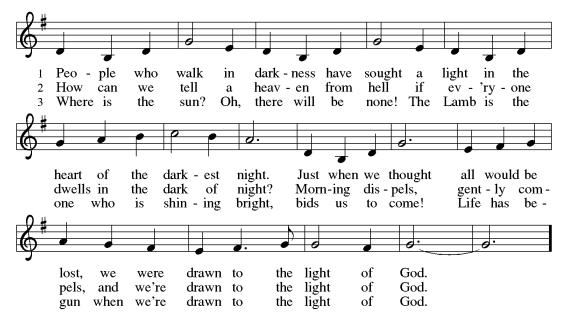
LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMNS: We Come Now to Your Table (ACS 970)



Drawn to the Light (ELW 593)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

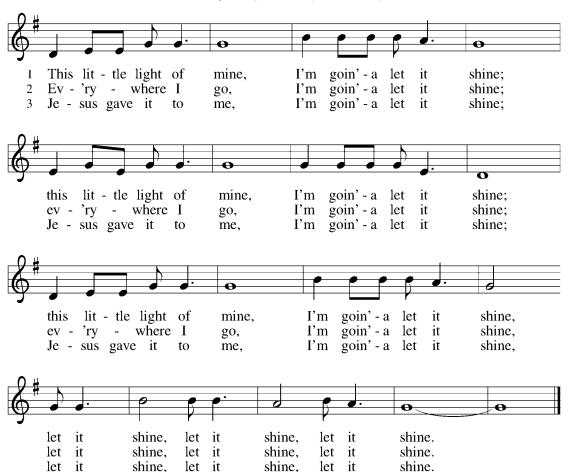
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of all, who raised \bot Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: This Little Light of Mine (ELW 677)



DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the harvest. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor Rev. Tor Kristian Berg

tberg@flcbothell.org

Director of Music Organist

Lucy Kay Osborne lkosborn@flcbothell.org

Ensemble Director Richard Edmonds redmonds@flcbothell.org

Director of **REACH Ministries** Roger Steinke rsteinke@flcbothell.org

Office Manager Kristin Smith ksmith@flcbothell.org

Preschool Director Beth Bowers flcbeth@gmail.com

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In Our Prayers

Our Ministry Partners:

Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services, Lutheran Counseling Network, Lutheran World Relief and Northwest Washington Synod.

Those living with cancer:

Juanita (Bonnie Ahlstedt's sister-in-law), Sonja (Stephanie Almeida's friend), Mark (Dick Boyce's son), Jocelyn (Ken & Kristin Smith's friend), Lisa (Steve Coble's sister), Dan (Paula Glandon's brother-in-law), Edith Holbrook (member), Jennifer (Pastor Berg's friend), Tracee (Bonnie Ahlstedt's friend), Jessica Hockstedler (member), Dana (Barb & Tim Thieme's friend), Michael (Jeff Kosman's friend), Jana (Renee & Mike Markert's friend), Richard (Ruth Neitzel's brother), Linda (Kristi & Katie Pyne's sister-in-law and aunt), Ted (Sue Toyoda's friend), Kip (Paul Desilet's uncle), Jim (Hendricks' family friend), Joanne (Carolyn Becker's sister-in-law), Diane Mackey (Del Benson's friend), Chris & family (Dan & Sandy Hendricks' friends), Karen (Nora Strothman's cousin).

Those who are ill, have an injury or who are recovering from surgery:

Bonnie Ahlstedt (member), Jeff Almeida (member), Alice (Del Benson's friend), Rene Baker (member), Larry Baker (member), Carolyn Becker (member), Doug (Ho Brown's brother-in-law), Susan (Bob Berg's cousin), Randy (Chris Martin's friend), Leanne (Krista Daniels' sister), Elizabeth (Jane King's friend), Nancy Davis (member), Carol Jo (Joan and Carl Christian's granddaughter), Cathy (Paul Desilet's mother), Sue Ebert (member), Trudy Eichelsdoerfer (member), Jess Faubion (member), Justin (Rob & Rene Baker's nephew), Ruby (Christy Freriks' grandmother), Tracy (Rob & Rene Baker's friend), Rachael (Stephanie Almeida's friend), John Godek (member). Steve (Del Benson's friend), Mike (Sandy & Dan Hendricks' son), Tina (Marilyn Iverson's step-daughter), Marlo (Leona Keltner's friend), Amy (Nancy McGee's friend), Axton (Vicki & Kevin Kastning's grandson), Richard Keltner (member), Richard Konieczka (Kathy Konieczka's husband), Albert (Chris Martin's friend), Jeanne (Justin LaFord's mother), Anne Larsen (member), Andy (Vickie Shanks' friend), Donnabel (Derrick StaRosa's sister), Hildur O'Connor (member), Lola (Bob Berg's aunt), Ron (Beth Phelps' brother), Sandy Sailand (member),

O'Connor (member), Lola (Bob Berg's aunt), Ron (Beth Phelps' brother), Sandy Sailand (member) David Shogren (member), Walt Stoll (member), Christopher (Karen & Ray Thomas' friend), Sue Toyota (member), Sue (Aileen Miller's daughter).

Those who are homebound or in extended care facilities:

Valerie (Kendahl Adjorlolo's cousin), Mavis Carlson (member), Marge Gonyea (member), Marlys Helgeland (member), Jane King (member), Greta & Larry Nelson (members), Lawrence (Leon Romaniuk's father), Jacquie Stoll (member), Sigrid (Carsten Thode's mother).

Those Serving Our Country:

AIR FORCE: Mason Land (Debbie & Darryl Lageson's nephew) and Erin Siebert (Linda & Joe Siebert's daughter)

NAVY: Christopher Whipple (Carolyn Whipple's son)

We are honored to be able to pray for your family members in need. Our policy is to publish immediate concerns for 2 weeks, unless we hear from you that an illness or situation is ongoing.

Serving Us In Worship Today

Presiding/ Preaching	Rev. Tor Kristian Berg	Ensemble Director	Richard Edmonds
Music Director	Lucy Kay Osborne	Children's Message	Roger Steinke
Lector	Andrea Peoples	Greeter	Jerry Bannister
Ushers	Dave Berg	Communion Assistants	Tom Agnew
	Tom Larsen		Stephanie Almeida
Acolyte	Noah Berg	Camera Tech	lan Anderson
Sound Tech	Linda Chapman	Pew Angel	Clint Bastin

August 6, 2023 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 50:1-6; Ephesians 1:1-14 Worship: The Entrance Rite

Weekly Financial Report

July 23, 2023 Attendance in Person: 139 Zoom: 18

July 23, 2023 General Offerings: n/a Capital Improvement: n/a General Offerings Needed Each Week: \$10,510

INFORMATION For The Week!

Sunday, July 30 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion and Holy Baptism of Mina Lou and Banks

Leland Knox, daughter and son of Kesley (Bannister) and Chris Knox.

3:00 pm Movie Review—Atlantics

Monday, July 31

12:00 pm Staff Meeting

Tuesday, August 1

9:30 am Lectionary

3:30 pm Weekly News Submissions Deadline

6:00 pm Property Committee

7:00 pm IT/Communications Committee

Social Ministries Committee

Wednesday, August 2

4:00 pm Preschool Task Force

Thursday, August 3

9:00 am Quilters

Friday, August 4

Church Office Closed

Saturday, August 5

9:00 am Altar Guild

Garden Guild

Sunday, August 6 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion 11:00 am Executive Committee Meeting



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.