

Pentecost 6

July 5, 2026



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
Lancaster, PA

The Holy Eucharist

If you are visiting with us, a special welcome. We invite you to return and worship with us as often as you are able. Please sign the guest book in the narthex. Guest cards are also available. Please take one, fill it out and return it to an usher. The offering plates are in the back of the sanctuary. If you need a large print bulletin, please ask an usher. As you enter the nave, please conclude all conversations and silence all cell phones and other electronic devices, as to fully enter into this time of worship.

Please indicate to the Pastor if you require gluten free wafers, prior to worship, if possible.

The pass thru room at the top of the steps next to the office is now broadcasting our church service LIVE every Sunday. If you need to leave the sanctuary for any reason, you are welcome to continue worshipping by viewing the service in that room.

Introduction

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.

Confession and Forgiveness

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,
source of hope in every nation,
rest for the weary,
glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

C **Amen.**

P Let us bring every burden to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of all mercy,

**C we have sinned against you,
our neighbors, and your creation.**

Within ourselves and our communities,

our desire to do what is good

is at war with the evil that dwells in us.

We lament the evil that holds us captive.

We repent of the evil we have done,

and the evil done on our behalf.

Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us

for lives of compassion and courage

through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

P All-merciful, Almighty God

forgive you all your sins

through the grace of + Jesus Christ,

and by the Spirit's power

strengthen you in doing what is good.

C Amen.

The Gathering Hymn

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Hymn #756



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825–1878, alt.

Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

P Let us pray. Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

Zechariah 9:9-12

A reading from Zechariah.

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

A reading from Romans.

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁰ Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades.

“For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

The Sermon

Silence for reflection follows.

Please stand.

The Hymn of the Day

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

Hymn #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.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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The Apostles 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 of the Church

A Trusting in God's steadfast love, let us pray for the church, the nations, and all of creation.

Please sit or kneel for the prayers.

After each portion of the prayers:

A God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
C **Amen.**

The Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Without leaving your seat offer a wave to your neighbor, sharing God's peace, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Offering

During this time our offerings are represented through the gift of music, bread, and wine. Following the service you are invited to give your financial gifts in the offering plates located in the back of the sanctuary.

Please stand.

The Offertory Response

This Little Light of Mine

1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

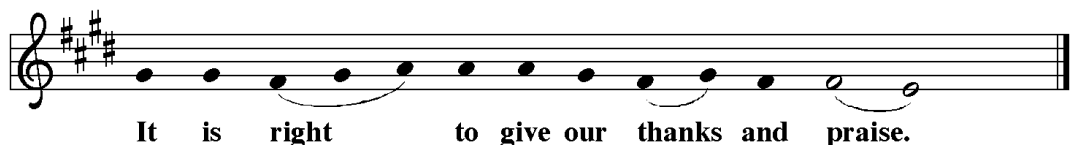
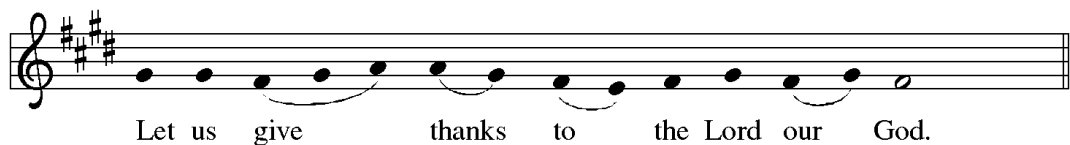
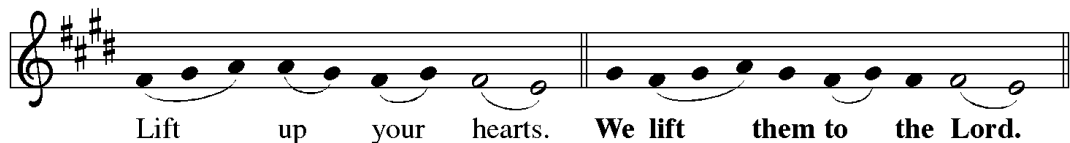
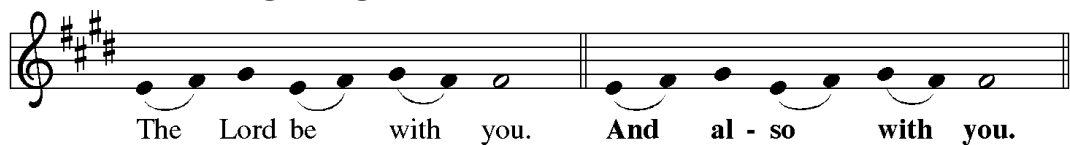
- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 4 In this neighborhood, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
In this neighborhood, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
In this neighborhood, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 5 Lancaster will see, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Lancaster will see, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Lancaster will see, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

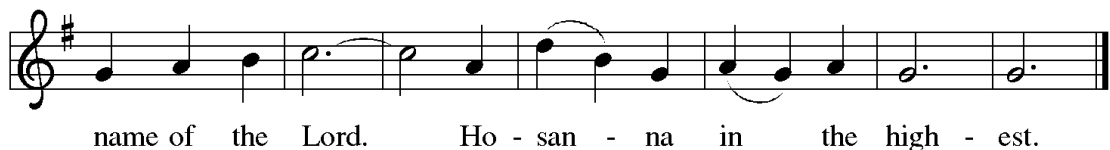
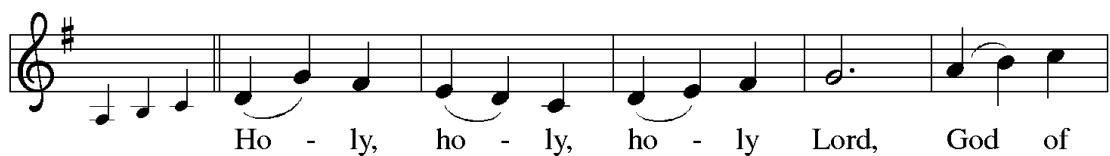
The Offertory Prayer

- A Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God,
for waves of grain and harvesters,
fruitful vines and winepresses,
for our labor and our rest,
for the gifts of your hand in this land.
Transform us and what we offer
into the banquet of your compassion,
serving your love without limits
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving



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



Eucharistic Prayer

P 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.

C Amen.

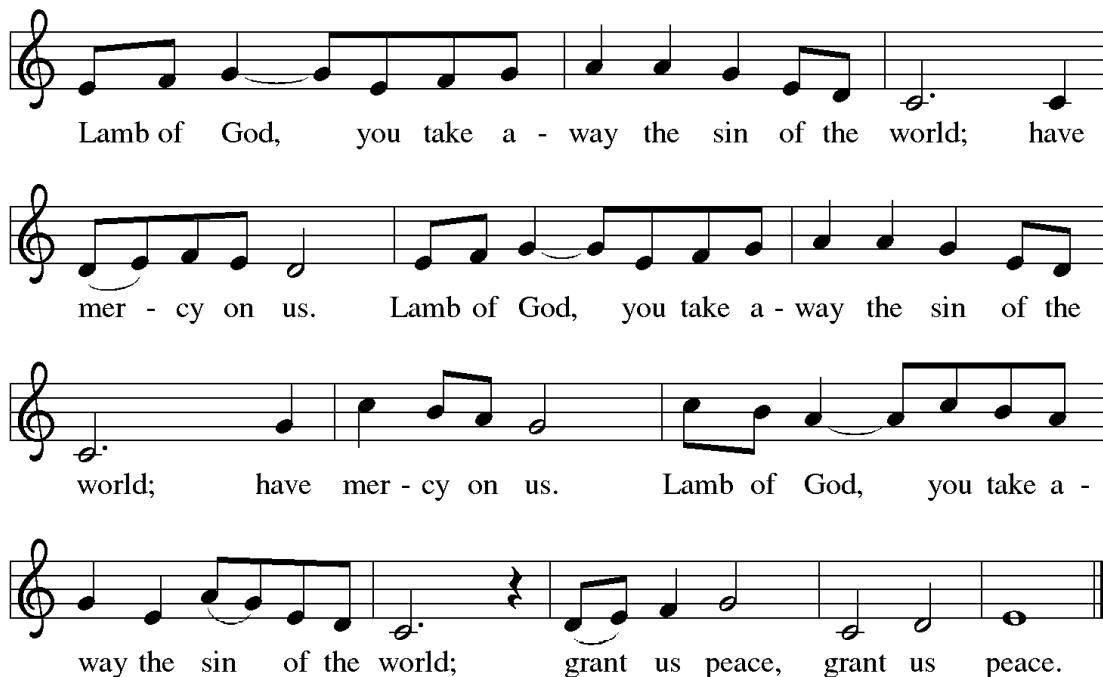
The Lord's Prayer

**C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Invitation to Communion

P Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

The Lamb of God



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

Please be seated.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America practices open table hospitality. Baptized communicants of other Christian denominations, of all ages, are welcome to receive the sacrament. An usher will direct each seating area to come forward to receive the sacrament. Pick up a communion cup as you approach the altar. Please **stand** at the communion rail and the pastor will place the bread into the hands of communicants. The first chalice contains wine, the second chalice contains grape juice. A gluten free wafer is available upon request. Those persons not receiving communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.*

Hymns During Distribution

This Is My Song

Hymn #887

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Hymn #779

This Is My Song



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912–1993, sts. 1–2; Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, st. 3

Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957

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Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



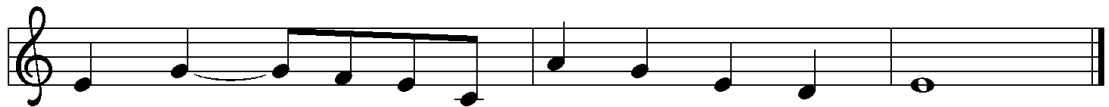
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

The Post Communion Blessing

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

C Amen.

The Post Communion Prayer

- A Let us pray. Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

The Blessing

- P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
+ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
- C **Amen.**

The Sending Hymn

My Country, 'Tis of Thee/ Let Freedom Ring

The middle three verses of this hymn were written in January of 2018, while planning music for an upcoming worship service during the weekend nearest to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Written as a prayer for freedom, the text echoes the words in a sermon by Dr. King calling for freedom to ring until, among other things, people of every race and nation become united in heart, mind and soul.

My country, 'tis of thee,
sweet land of liberty,
of thee I sing:
land where my fathers died,
land of the pilgrims' pride,
from ev'ry mountainside
let freedom ring.

Let freedom ring, O Lord,
till all in one accord
find liberty.
Loose all the chains that bind;
let none be left behind;
give strength to heart and mind,
and make us free.

Help us, O Lord, oppose
freedom's most ardent foes.
Lord, help us stand!
We'll march for what is right,
and trust you through the night
to see by morning's light
your promised land.

Lord, grant us courage now
to keep this sacred vow.
Your praise we sing.
We plant our feet on sod
where blessed saints have trod.
We cry to our great God:
let freedom ring!

Our fathers' God, to thee,
author of liberty,
to thee we sing:
long may our land be bright
with freedom's holy light.
Protect us by thy might,
great God, our king.

Dismissal

P Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

+++

Looking Ahead

Pastor Gretchen will be away from the office for Continuing Education July 6-12. During her time away, we are grateful that Pastor Melody Sell will provide pastoral care and coverage. We also look forward to welcoming Cathy Geib, who will be preaching during worship on Sunday, the 12th.

Sponsors

Today's flowers are in honor of grandson, Quinn Hoffer.

Today's bulletin is sponsored by Sandy Stouffer in loving memory of Joe Stouffer.

The text for next week:

Isaiah 55:10-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



Lemonade Socials

Join us for Lemonade Socials throughout the Summer thru August 30! We will gather in the narthex after worship.

Opportunities to host: sign up at the Ministry Table outside the Pastor's office door.





The goal of our Capital Campaign
is to fund the installation of the new church roof.

Upcoming Events

Celebration Sunday: September 13

*Join us for a lunch to celebrate everyone's
commitment to the campaign, following worship
in the Fellowship Hall.*

Worship Assistants

July 5	July 12
Acolyte	Acolyte
Melanie Dandridge	Iriana Ramirez
Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister
Chip Froehlich	Tim Smith
Patti LaPorte	Andrew Knaub
Lector	Lector
Chip Froehlich	Marilyn Knaub
Greeter	Greeter
Lisa Feree	Marilyn Knaub
Usher	Usher
Dennis Steiner	Don Eckert
Bread Provider	Bread Provider
Patti Laporte	JoAnn Matos
Altar Guild Set-up	Altar Guild Set-up
Diane Thompson	Noelle Dandridge
	Janet Wiegand
Altar Guild Clean-up	Altar Guild Clean-up
Cheryl Amey	Noelle Dandridge
	Janet Wiegand
Council Person	Council Person
Carrie Ruggiero	Charlie Schwenk
Counters	Counters
Suzann Schwenk	Sandy Stouffer
Sandy Rohrback	Melissa Randall
Technology	Technology
Chip Froehlich	Doug Dandridge
Sam Dandridge	Danica Dandridge

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Coming up at Holy Spirit

- July 7 Prayer & Meditation, 6:00 p.m.
- July 8 Prayer & Meditation, Cancelled this week.
Bible Study, 11:00 a.m. Cancelled this week
- July 11 Men's Group, 5:00-7:30 p.m.
- July 12 Lemonade Social, *following worship.*
- July 14 Prayer & Meditation, 6:00 p.m.
- July 15 Prayer & Meditation, 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study, 11:00 a.m.
- July 18 3rd Saturday Cleanup, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Help with weeding and lawncare.
- July 19 Lemonade Social, *following worship.*
- Aug. 15 3rd Saturday Cleanup, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Help with weeding and lawncare.
- Aug. 30 Summer Auction, *following worship.*
- Sept. 30 Raise the Roof: Celebration Sunday
Lunch following worship.



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Director of Music- Allison Carlson