

# Service of Holy Communion

## 15th Sunday after Pentecost

### September 21st, 2025



#### INTRODUCTION

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

#### GATHERING

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

P. Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Congregation kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection.*

P. Merciful and loving God, **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

P. Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

*Congregation stands*

## THE 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.**

## KYRIE

A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

A. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

A. For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

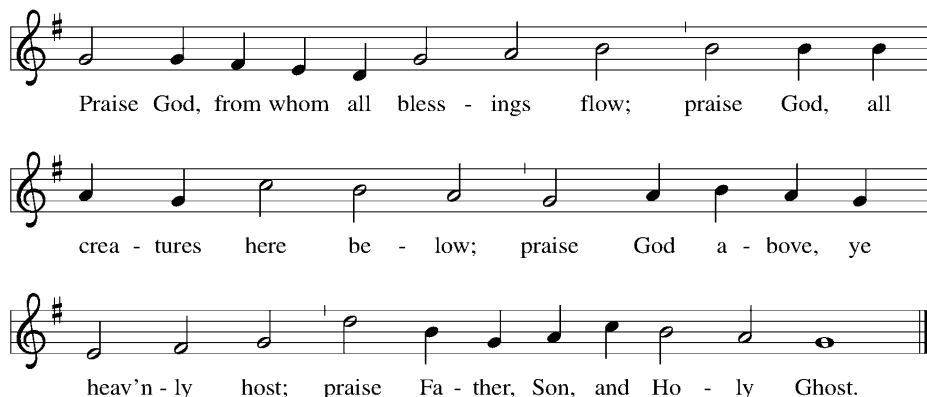
A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

A. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C. Amen**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Congregation is seated*

## WORD

### **FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7**

- <sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
<sup>5</sup> saying, "When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain,  
and the Sabbath,  
so that we may offer wheat for sale?  
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier  
and practice deceit with false balances,  
<sup>6</sup> buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."  
<sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

A. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

### **PSALM: Psalm 113** (*read responsively*)

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;  
praise the name of the LORD.  
<sup>2</sup> **Let the name of the LORD be blessed,  
from this time forth forevermore.**  
<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its going down  
let the name of the LORD be praised.  
<sup>4</sup> **The LORD is high above all nations;  
God's glory above the heavens.**  
<sup>5</sup> Who is like the LORD our God,  
who sits enthroned on high,  
<sup>6</sup> **but stoops to behold  
the heavens and the earth?**  
<sup>7</sup> The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust  
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,  
<sup>8</sup> **enthroning them with the rulers,  
with the rulers of the people.**  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD makes the woman of a childless house  
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

**SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time.<sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

A. Word of God, word of life.

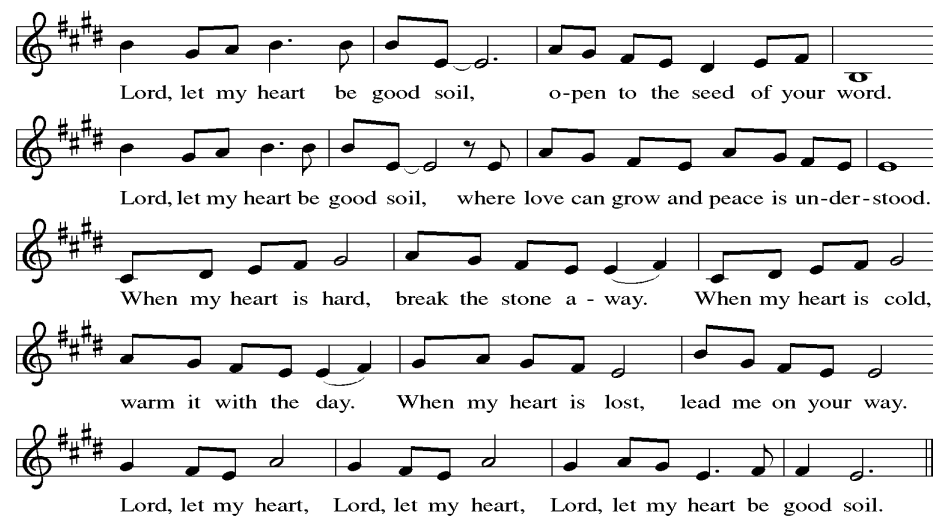
C. Thanks be to God.

**A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL**

*Children & Youth are invited forward for a special sermon time with Pastor Peggy.*

*Congregation stands*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13**

P. The holy gospel according to Luke. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup> He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup> "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

P. The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Congregation is seated*

**SERMON**

Faithful Generosity

*Congregation stands*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

ELW 814 (*sing 5X*)

## APOSTLE'S 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 THE CHURCH

A. Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

A. O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones. We pray especially for...those we now say aloud...and those we hold in our hearts...May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P. We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C. And also with you.**

P. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

*Congregation is seated*

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

In the Quietness

by Gary Lanier

### **MEAL**

### **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

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via Venmo ↓



*Offering can be given by putting it in the offering plate when it is passed, online directly via the QR codes for Tithely or Venmo, or by requesting your bank to send a check to the church. Find more details on our website.*

***Thank you for your generous gifts!***

Scan to give  
via Tithely ↓



*Congregation stands*

## OFFERTORY SONG

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.  
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.

*Refrain*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF 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 our thanks and praise.**

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we



cannot see. 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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy** (*Sing 2x—English 1st time; Spanish 2nd time*)



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te\_a - do - ra.  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to\_e-res Se - ñor.  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Argentine traditional

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

*Congregation kneels or sits*

**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, 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. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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

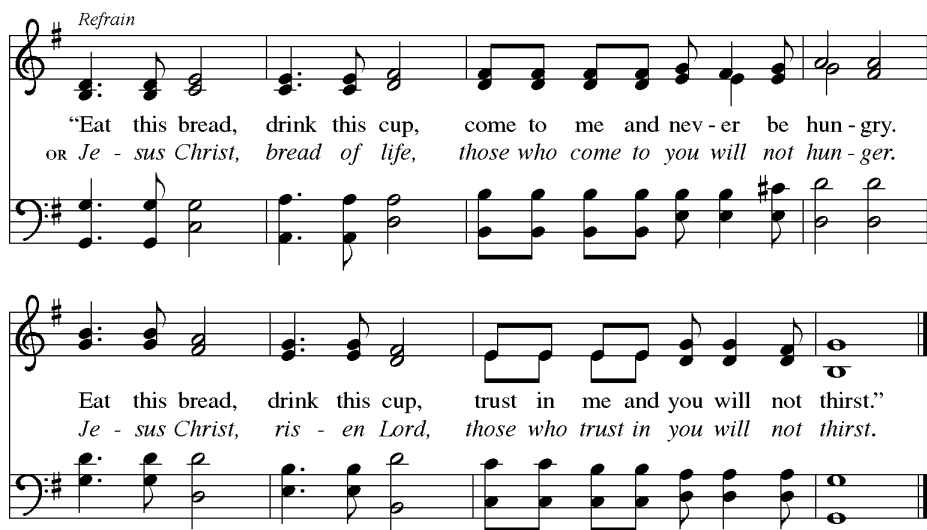
*Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Children are invited to the table for a blessing.*

*Gluten free and traditional wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come up. The bread is dairy and egg free. Grape juice is available in the second communion plate. As you return to your seat via the side aisles you can place your empty cup in the baskets on either side.*

P. Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

## COMMUNION SONG

*Refrain*



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.  
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”  
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*After all have received Communion the congregation stands.*

## TABLE BLESSING

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

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION

### Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



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 and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray...O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## SENDING

## BENEDICTION

P. The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,  $\text{✠}$  bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Do not lose heart. C. Thanks be to God.

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Announcements for September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

*Welcome to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God’s presence in our worship!*

*If today is your **first time** worshipping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the “Guest Book” on the table in the narthex and take a welcome bag.*

*Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning. **Large print bulletins are available.***

***Worship is live streamed** to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.*

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***Altar flowers are in honor of Sue & Ray Loughren, from Elaine Kuntz***  
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**Volunteers for Today’s Worship**

- |                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Lay Asst.</b>    | <i>Volunteer needed</i>        |
| <b>Ushers</b>       | Janet Beach & Jeanne Von Oesen |
| <b>Comm. Asst.</b>  | <i>Volunteer needed</i>        |
| <b>Tech</b>         | Fred Schoenagel                |
| <b>Tellers</b>      | <i>Volunteer needed</i>        |
| <b>Refreshments</b> | <i>Volunteer needed</i>        |

**Volunteers for Next Sunday, Sept 28<sup>th</sup>**  
***All roles open***

**\*\*\*\*\* Join us for refreshments after worship\*\*\*\*\***

**THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR**

**Sunday, Sept. 21:** Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am  
Worship w/Communion, 9:30am  
Special Congregational Meeting following worship  
Choir Practice [following](#) meeting

**Monday, Sept. 22:** Council Meeting, 6:30-8:30pm

**Wednesday, Sept. 24:** Adult Ed, [Zoom](#), 10am  
Mindfulness Walk, Maple Grange, 4-5pm

**Thursday, Sept. 25:** Pastor's Community Hours, Scout Goods, 10am-12pm

**Saturday, Sept. 27:** Sisters in Prayer, [Zoom](#), 8:30am

**Sunday, Sept. 28:** Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am  
Worship w/Communion, 9:30am  
Choir Practice following worship

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**Beginning next week our congregation is going to focus on financial stewardship for 2026.** We will reflect on the generosity of HCLC and the importance of financial support for our churches' mission by each member and friend of the congregation.

**On Generosity Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, each friend and member of HCLC will be invited to submit an intent card as we pray over our intentions for the coming year.** As you hear people provide their Generosity Impact Moments during worship in the coming weeks **we ask you to do two things:**

First, to prayerfully discern either **making your first intent card** to HCLC, or if you've done so in the past, to **increase your giving** by 1 or 2% of your household income.

Second, consider **making your gifts using Tithely or Venmo** to help the church with sustained giving. We can help you set this up—just let the church office know!

**With your support you are helping to spread God's love by Building a Culture of Generosity!**

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**Special Congregational Meeting:** TODAY after worship, we will be holding a special congregational meeting to hear about and vote on replacing the porch at the parsonage. Please **plan to stay after worship** for this brief meeting.

**Pastor's Community Office Hours:** Pastor Peggy will be at Scout Goods this Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm. All are welcome to drop in for a visit as she is present in the community.

**Mindfulness Walks:** Join Pastor Peggy for a rejuvenating mindfulness walk at Maple Grange Park **THIS Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 4-5 pm.** We will meet in the first parking lot and determine our route based on the group. You're invited to **wear your 'Live Generously T-shirt'.** All ages are welcome!

**Blessing of the Animals:** Our annual Blessing of the Animals will be **Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 3pm on the church front lawn.** Spread the word! All are welcome to join us for this brief gathering. Please bring your leashed or crated pet or their picture for a blessing.

**Cluster Wide Education Series-Fall Edition:** Our ELCA Clergy Cluster is offering our third edition of Growing Together in Faith, titled **"Scriptures that Didn't Make It".** We will gather with other ELCA church members in our cluster **via Zoom every Wednesday in October from 7-8pm.** All are invited to attend. **Please let Pastor Peggy know if you'd like to participate** so she can send the link.

**Kick It with Your Fellow Lutherans at the Gotham FC Soccer Game:** The NJ Synod Youth Ministry Team is hosting an outing to see the **soccer game for Gotham FC vs. Racing Louisville FC on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** at the Sports Illustrated Stadium in Harrison, NJ. All ages are invited to attend. Enjoy an exciting match featuring some of the world's best women athletes. **Tickets are \$10 each. Tailgating from 1-2 pm with kickoff at 3 pm.** For more information and to register [click here](#).

**Auction of the Gifts:** **Do you have a special gift or talent?** Maybe you sew, organize well, or are a talented photographer. Or maybe you love to cook, have a vacation house to lend, or have another idea altogether! It is time to start thinking and share your gift for the Auction of the Gifts & Oktoberfest Dinner Fundraiser on **Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 5—8 pm.** **Here's how it works:** you donate your gift and then the item is auctioned off to the highest bidder while we all enjoy dinner, community, and fun. Contact Diane Rossi to donate your gifts today!

**Sunday School & Confirmation:** Sunday School resumes **TODAY!** Sunday School is from **8:45-9:15am** Sunday mornings before worship for ages 3yrs old-6<sup>th</sup> grade. **Register** for the new program year [via this link](#). Confirmation is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders held on Sunday evenings, approximately twice a month, beginning in October. Please talk to Diane Rossi or Pastor Peggy with questions about either program.

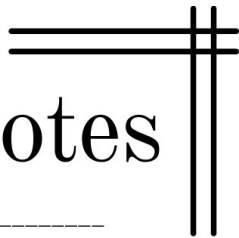
**Food Pantry:** The Food Pantry is low on canned chili, canned green beans, pasta, pasta sauce, canned soup, canned baked beans, macaroni & cheese, boxed rice, mayonnaise, tuna helper, cereal, instant pudding & jello, snacks and juice packs for kids, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, and 4-pack toilet paper. You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be placed in the blue bin by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!



For God's Children of all ages!

# Worship Notes

Sunday's Date: \_\_\_\_\_





My Favorite Song:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



This week, I'm praying for:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



I'm curious or have a question about:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Word Count

How many times did you hear each of these words today? Make a tally.

grace: \_\_\_\_\_

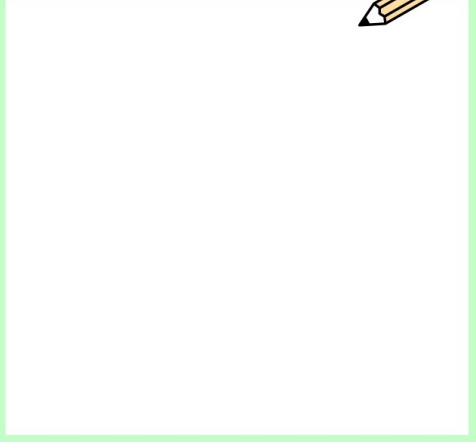

joy: \_\_\_\_\_

peace: \_\_\_\_\_

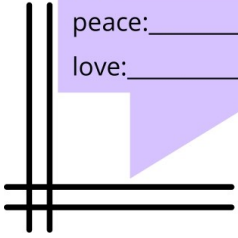
love: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Focus Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_

I would draw it like:



||||| ||





### **Contact Information**

(973) 827-5251 office

[www.hc-lutheranchurch.org](http://www.hc-lutheranchurch.org)

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Director of Music: June Tarantino: [music@hc-lutheranchurch.org](mailto:music@hc-lutheranchurch.org)

Office Administrator: Cathy Nemecek: [office@hc-lutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@hc-lutheranchurch.org)

Bookkeeper: Wynn White: [accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org](mailto:accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

***As Children of God,  
we are called to share and serve  
Christ's love and bring God's word to all.***

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Pastor** Rev. Peggy Ludlow

**President** Nancy Knecht

**Vice President** Frank Urbaniak

**Treasurer** Claire Speroni

**Recording Secretary** Dawn McCormick

**Financial Secretary** John Heeren

**Outreach Coordinator** Francine Vince

**Nurture Coordinator** Fred Schoenagel

**Administration Coordinator** Diane Rossi

**Youth Representative** Kevin Drache

### **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Kristina Heeren

Pam Kucks

Matt Moller

Aileen Donovan

*Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*

