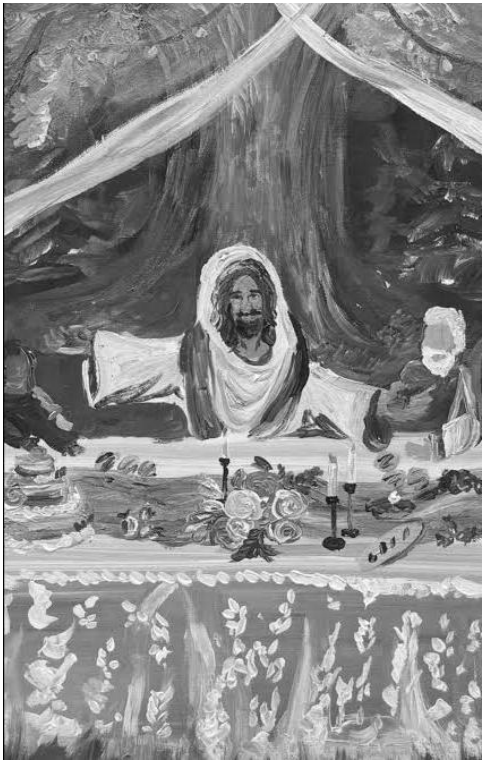
ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Saturday, October 10, 2026 5:00pm
Sunday, October 11, 2026 9:30am



In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

Please note: *Sunday Service is streamed, recorded and posted on YouTube beginning with the prelude and continuing through the postlude. Be aware that you may be recorded when coming up the center aisle for communion.*

ELW is the cranberry red Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship

SSM is equipped with hearing assistance devices. If you would like more information on how to gain access please see an usher for the instructions and assistance.

PRELUDE: **(5:00)** "Lord of All Hopefulness" -arr. M. Thewes
(9:30) "Now, We Join in Celebration: -Johannes Brahms

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 23*

P: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
C: The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
P: You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
C: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

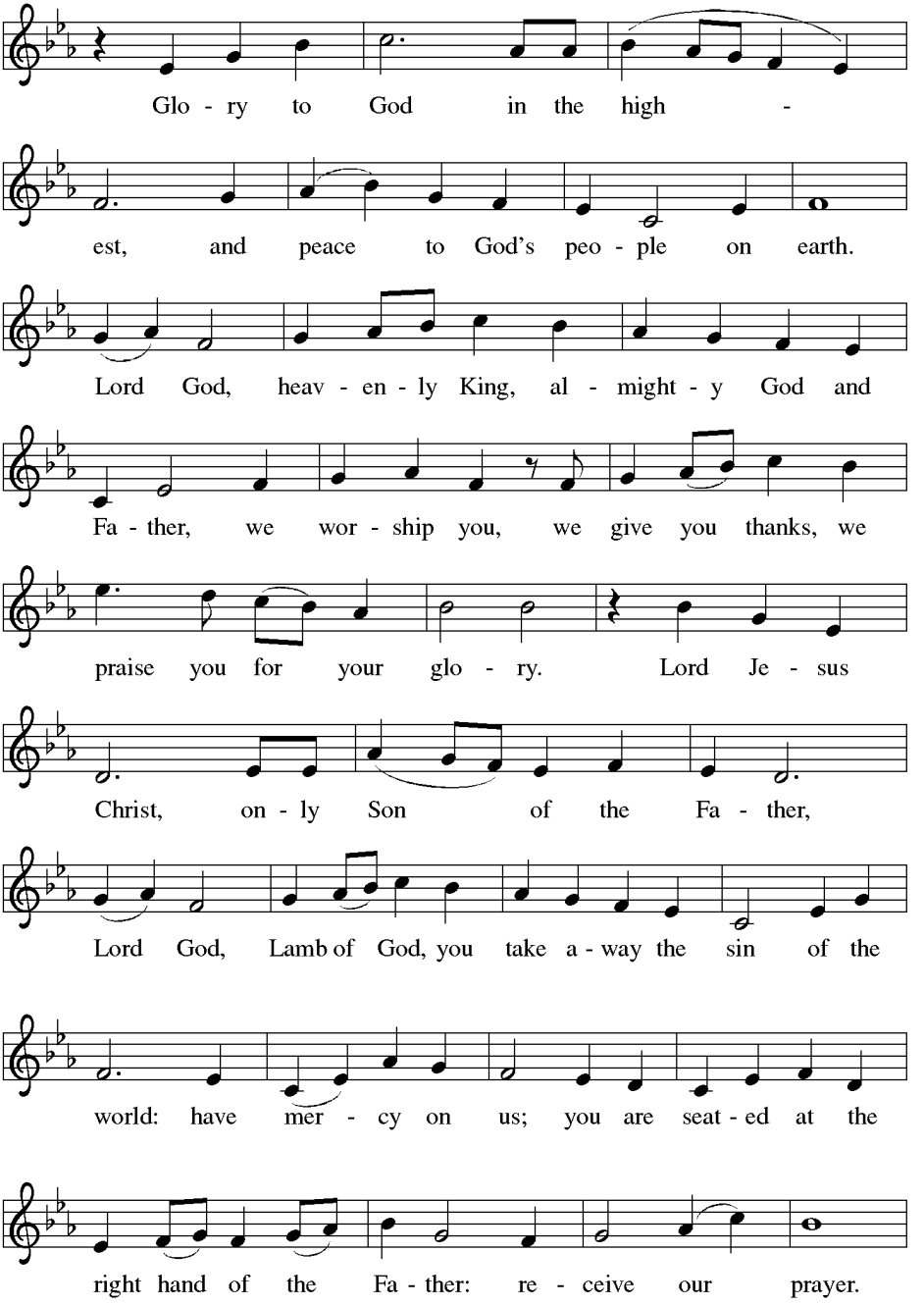
GATHERING HYMN: ELW #782 My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
C: Amen.
P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.
P: Compassionate God,
C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.
P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
C: Amen.

GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE

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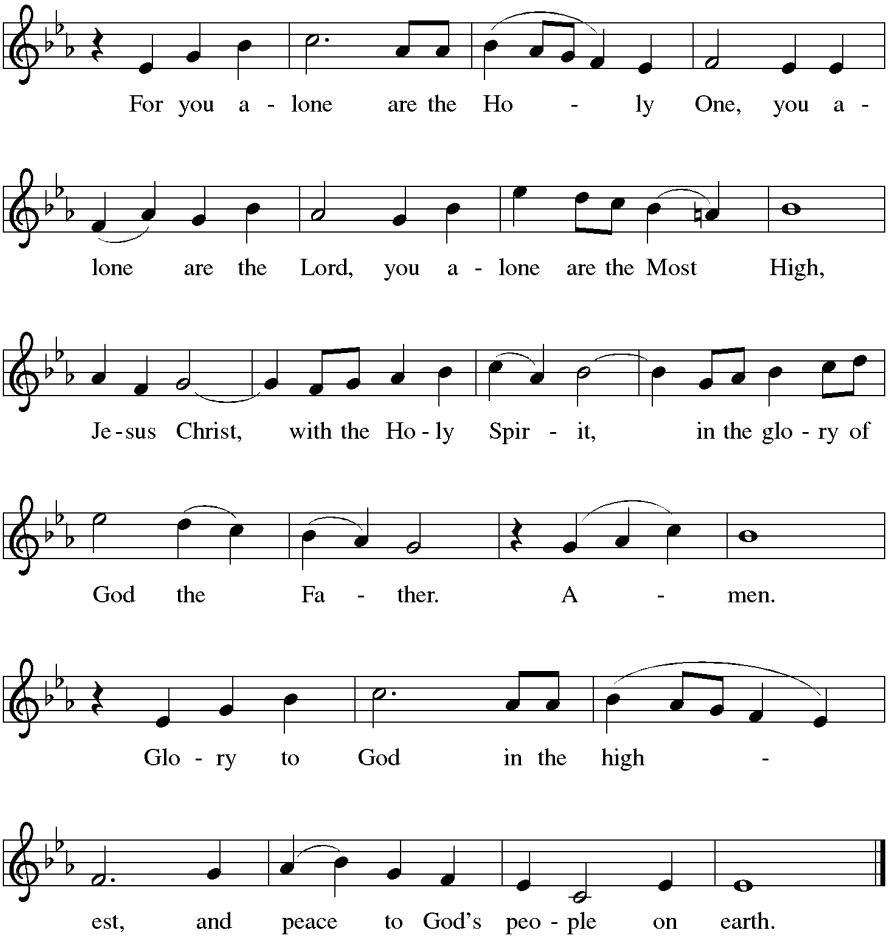

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Bonnie Zimmermann

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

[1] O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
[2] For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
[3] Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
[4] For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
[5] the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

[6] On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
[7] And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
[8] he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
[9] It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

[1] My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

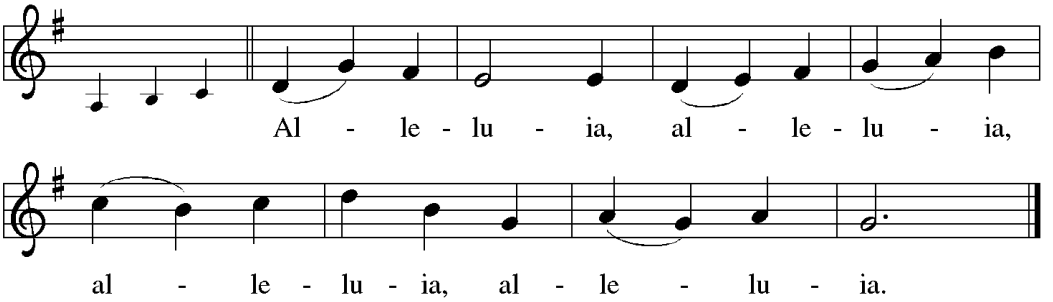
[2] I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. [3] Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

[4] Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. [5] Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. [6] Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

[8] Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. [9] As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please stand as you are able)*



GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[1] Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: [2] "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. [3] He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. [4] Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come

to the wedding banquet.' [5] But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, [6] while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. [7] The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. [8] Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. [9] Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' [10] Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

[11] "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, [12] and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. [13] Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be we

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

MESSAGE: "Party On?" Rev. Brian Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #658 O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

APOSTLES' CREED *(Please stand as you are able)*

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

*Each petition will end with the words, "Hear us, O God," After each petition the congregation will respond, "**your mercy is great**."*

SHARING OF THE PEACE *(please be seated after sharing the peace)*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

CHOIR ANTHEM: (9:30) "Grant Peace, We Pray: -Herman

OFFERINGS

Offerings can also be made electronically using the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app. More information can be found on our website ssmelca.org or use the QR codes listed here:

for Google *for iPhone*

OFFERTORY HYMN (9:30) ELW #583 Take My Life, That I May Be
verse 1

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

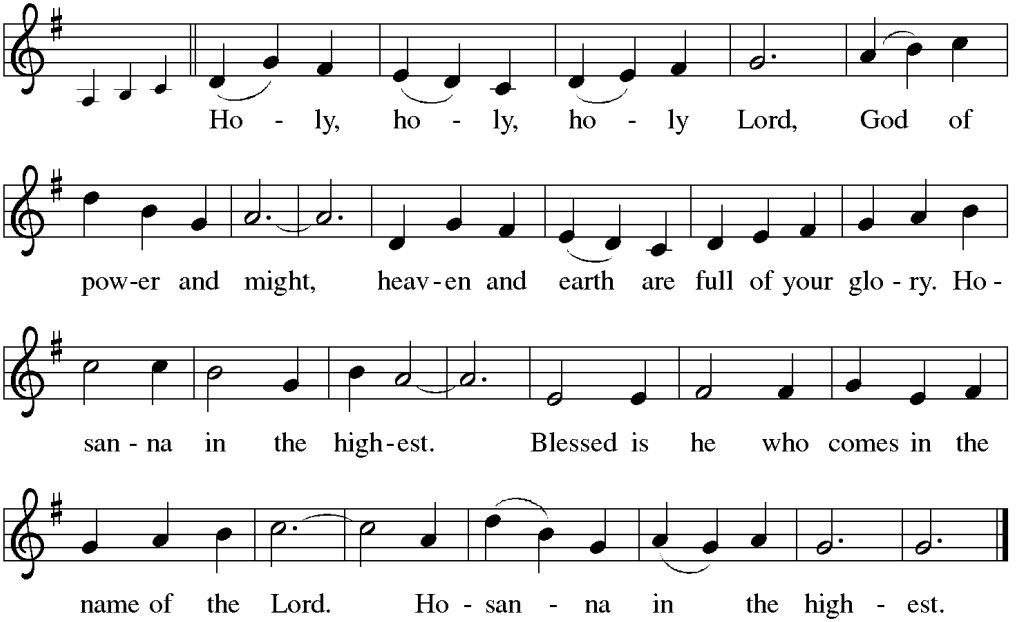
P: Lift up your hearts.

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, . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

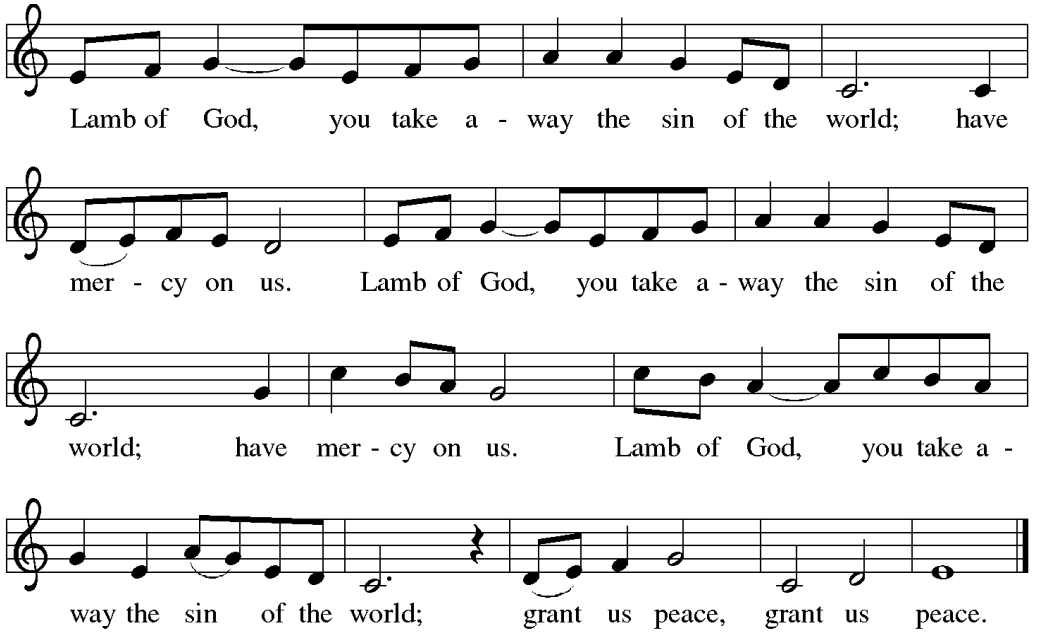


WORDS OF INSTITUTION: "In the night…"

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.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN ELW #462 Now We Join in Celebration

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please be sure to read the printed announcements.)*

BLESSING

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW #534 Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: (5:00) "March from Scipio" -arr. T. Birchwood
(9:30) "Sonata 2 in C Minor Mvt 4" -Felix Mendelssohn

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THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: (5:00) Larry & Sue Stasiewski **(9:30)** Ed Hartfield, Jim Palasz, Adam Woerpel
Reader: (5:00) Pam Maschke **(9:30)** Denise Sanders
Communion: (5:00) Heidi Hennessy
(9:30) Jason & Tracy Covert
Streaming Technician: Eric Sanders

Announcements

October food donations will go to our partners at Unity for their food pantry. Please place your food donations in the bins located under the "Giving Station" in the Narthex. Monetary donations are always welcome, mark them "Food Ministry" or use an envelope found on the Giving Station Board.

Human Concerns is collaborating with our partner congregations to support their ministries throughout the summer. **Tippecanoe** is collecting quarters and one-dollar bills and laundry detergent to assist the people they serve with getting their laundry done. **Unity** is looking for specific items to distribute to their guests. There is a blue bin with more information in the Narthex for each of these programs. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

First Communion: A first communion instruction time with Pastor Brian is scheduled for this weekend, Sunday, October 11 after worship. If you have interest in learning more or participating, please meet with Pastor after the service on Sunday.

The Lunch Bunch will go to Benny's at noon on October 14th. Benny's is located at 5354 S 27th Street. If you plan to attend please contact Pat Schroeder so that reservations can be made.

Lutherdale: We are planning a High School Youth retreat, *"Embodied: Faith That Shows up."* Dates are November 6-8 and it takes place Friday night at 7pm to Sunday at 10am. Cost is $125.

High School Pizza, Pumpkins and Halloween Movie on Saturday, October 24 at 6pm at SSM:: Bring your pumpkin to be carved. We will have some pizza and watch a scary movie together.

This Week at SSM			
Tuesday, 10/13	**6:30pm**	Mega/Council Meeting	
Wednesday, 10/14	**10:15am**	Women's Bible Study	
	12 noon	Lunch Bunch	
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Thursday, 10/15	**6:30pm**	Stole Making and Faith Statement Preparation – 2026 Confirmands	
21st Weekend after Pentecost			
Saturday, 10/17	**5:00pm**	Worship	Ushers: Herb Lepien, Patti Nelson
			Reader: Patti Nelson
			Communion Set Up: Bonnie Court
			Communion Server: Patti Nelson
Sunday, 10/18	**9:30am**	Worship	Ushers: Dennis Lucchesi, Cheryl & Dan Stefanski
			Reader: Bonnie Daleness
			Communion Set Up: Faith O'Connell, Shelly Rosenstock
			Communion Servers: Faith O'Connell, Kipp Zimmermann
		Sunday School	
	10:45am	Coffee Hour – Robyn, Lorin & Quinn Schuchardt	

KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

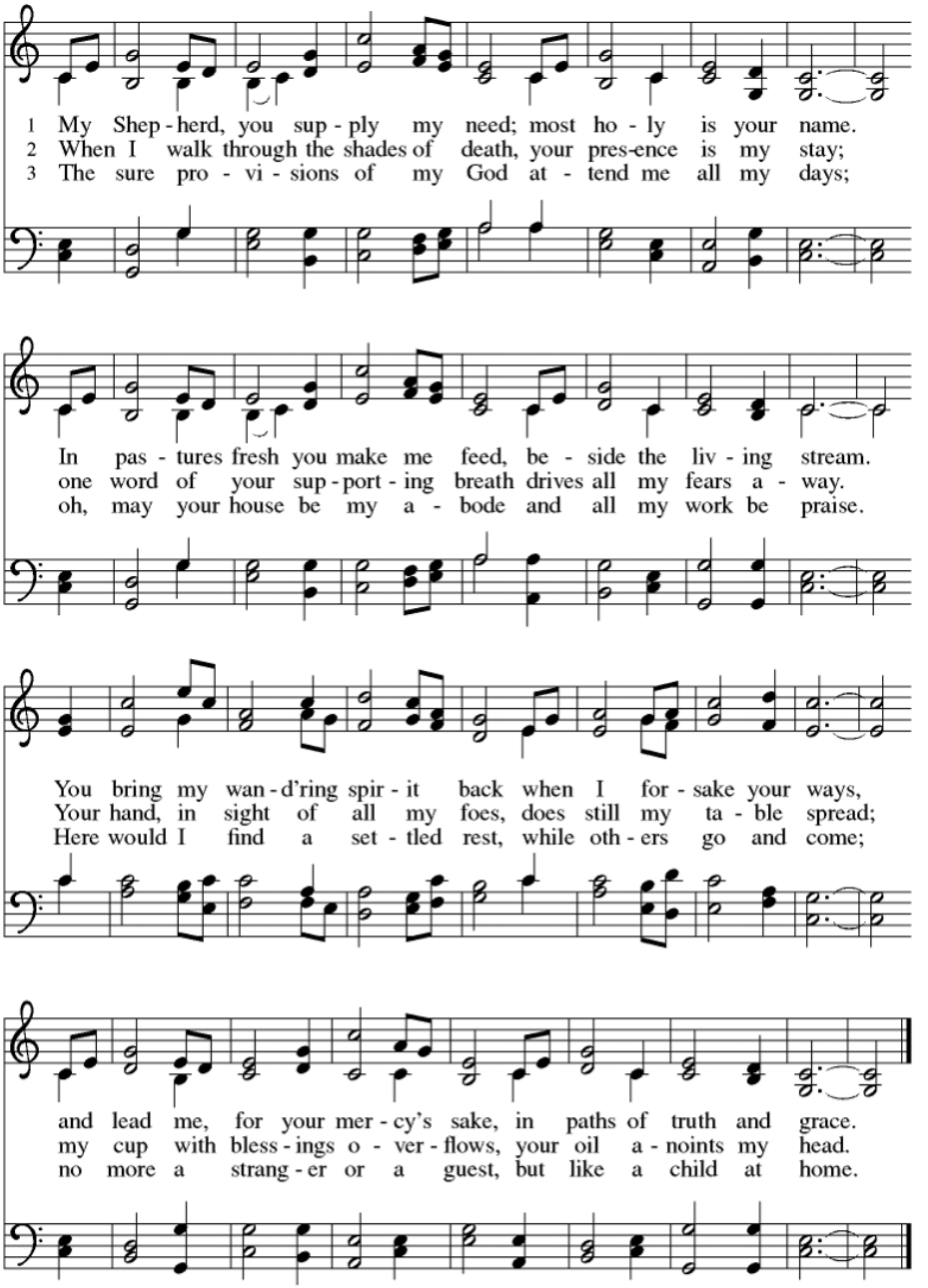
Sharon Behling, Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins, Jay Chadwick, Diana Gastrau, Sue Jarchow, Carolyn Kahl, Joy Kilimann, Sally Kowalewski, Carol Kucharski, Billie Jo Kunesh, Shirley Lieske, Carol Mueller, Larry Petricek, Joan Retzlaff, Eleanor Salb, Richard Sontvedt

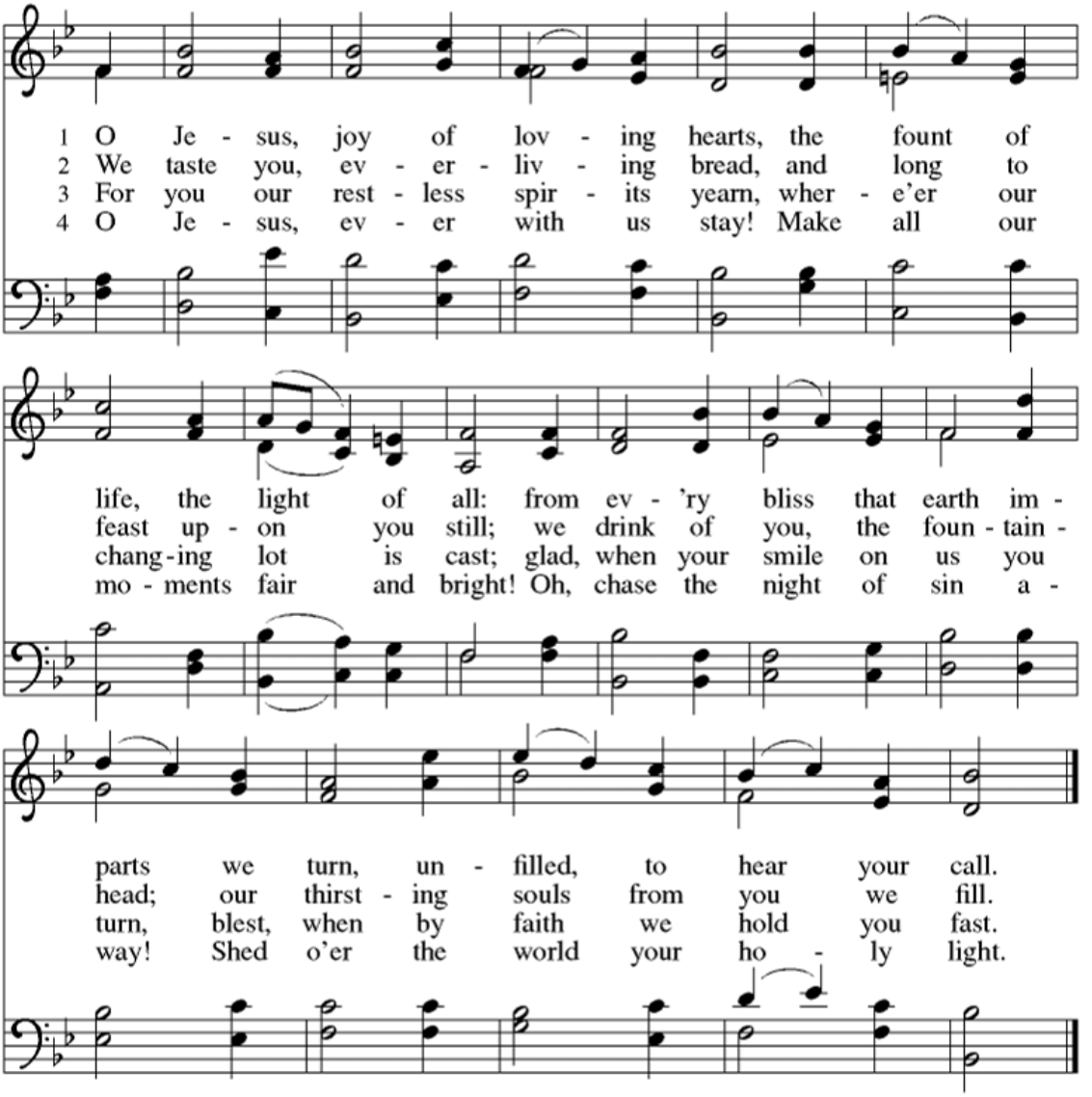
PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

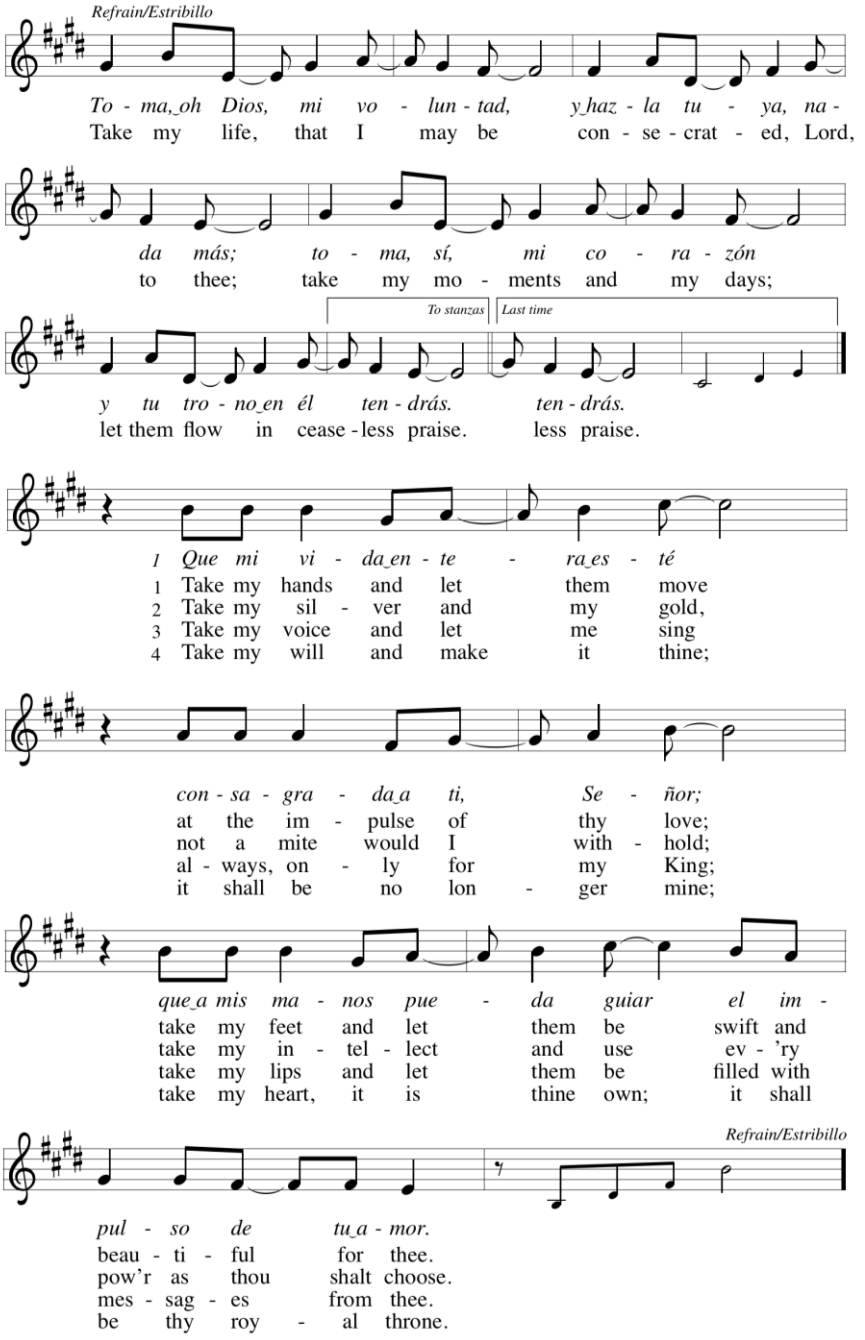
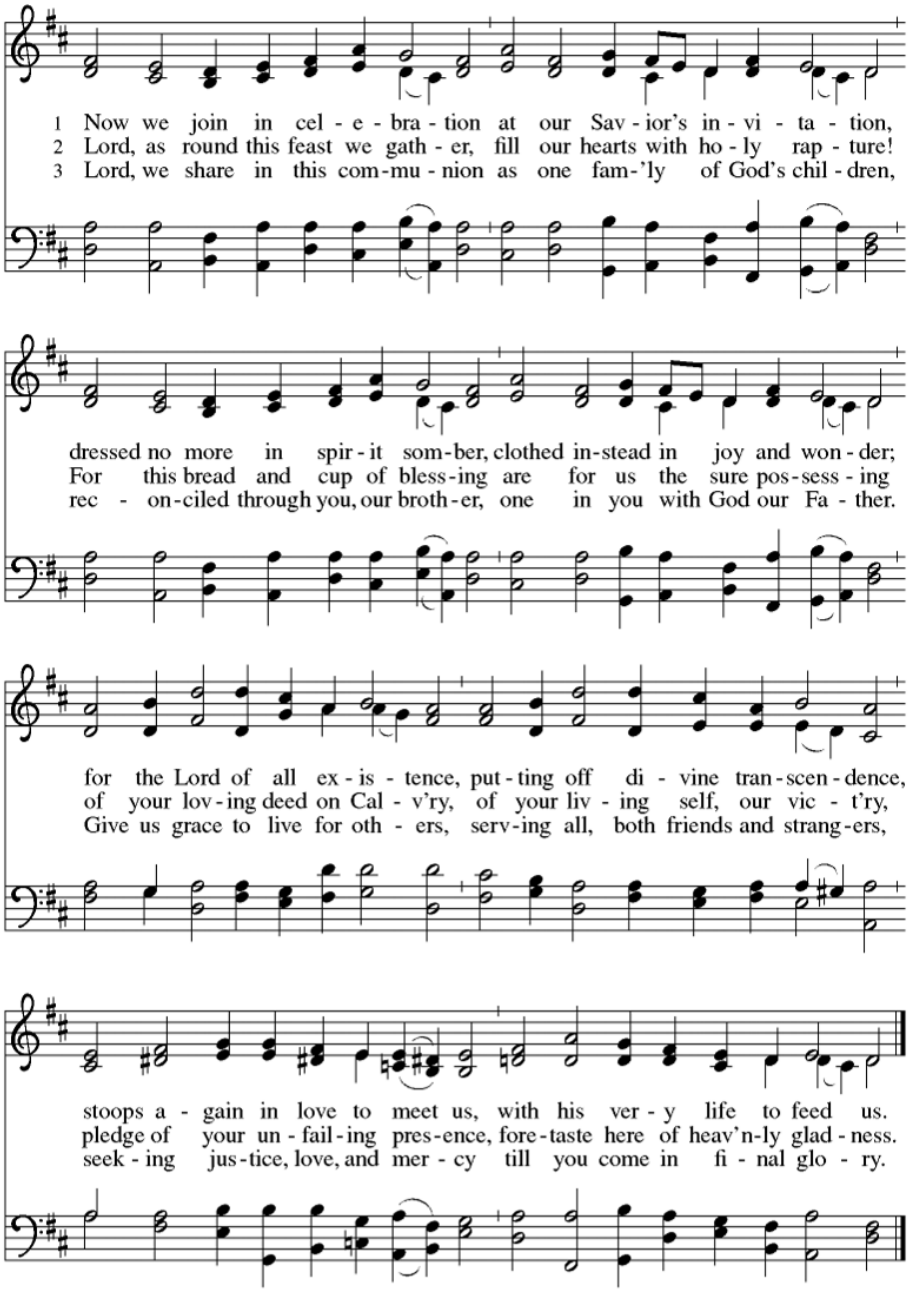
Brent, grandson of Dennis & Geri Lucchesi
Carol, sister of Heidi Hennessy
Cheryl, sister-in-law of Larry & Sue Stasiewski
Helen, mother of Jenny Koeff
Pam Baranowski, friend of Kelly and Greg Sachse
Evelyn Buck, cousin of Pastor Maren
Arlene Cich, cousin of Don Manning
Corstan Court, son of Bonnie Court
Jennifer F and her family, friends of Kelly Sachse
Julie Francis, daughter-in-law of Sally Kowalewski
Marcia Gabriel, friend of Nancy Mineau & Marion Walton
Mimi Garcia, former administrative assistant at SSM
Karen Gastrau, daughter-in-law of Diana Gastrau
Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Tim Ingram, grandson of Ron Ropel
Lise James, friend of Kelly & Greg Sachse
Robert Koenen, friend of Don & Carol Manning
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt
Jon Kowalewski, husband of Sally Kowalewski
Kristine Klugiewicz, sister of Nancy Mineau
Tim Lingen, nephew of Nancy & Bruce Mineau
Christine Lymne, sister of Deb Perl
Linda Oberbrunner, niece of Marion Walton
Ted & Ellen P., family of Gail Jakus
Paul R, friend of Shelly Rosenstock
Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Deb Rusch, friend of Kelly & Greg Sachse
Jakob Sachse, nephew of Greg and Kelly Sachse
Scott & Pam Sawicki, brother & sister-in-law of Sandy Wesolowski
Gloria Simley, sister of Dave and Rae Ann Simley
Richard Sorenson, friend of Jim & Heidi Hennessy
Barb Starks, mother of Julie Starks
Lynne Turnquist, friend of Carol Manning
David Vento, friend of Al Behling
Billy Waters, Stepdad of Lori Salas
Chrissy White, daughter of Sue Herman
Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Cohen Zettle, family of Pam Young

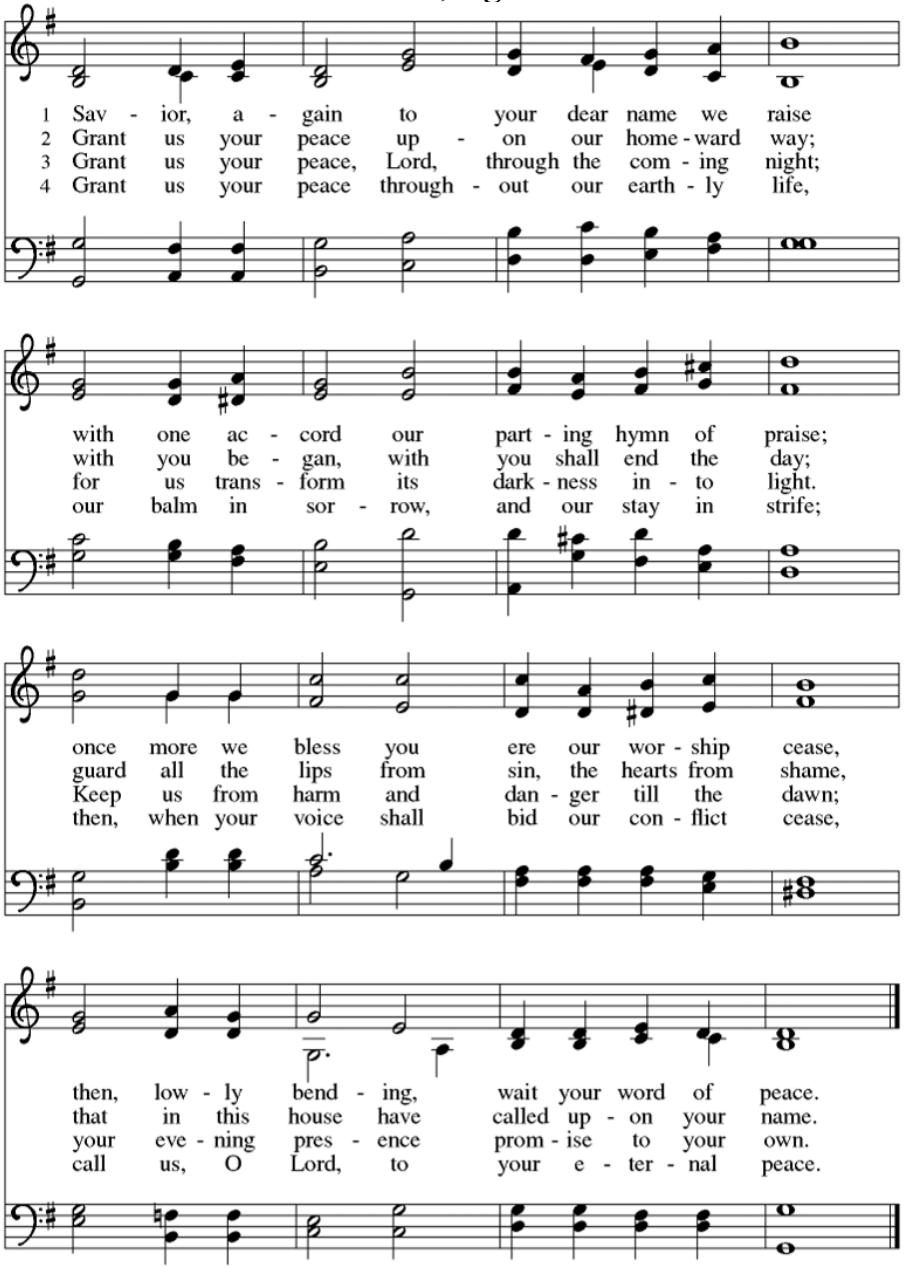
Rev. Brian Hooper, Pastor
Tabitha Moldenhauer, Music Director
Mark Breutzmann, Saturday Musician
Jim Hennessy, Church Maintenance

Bonnie Zimmermann, Ministry Assistant
Office phone - 414-421-3543
email - office@ssmelca.org
Website – www.ssmelca.org
Facebook - https://m.facebook.com/SSMELCA/

HYMN ELW #782 My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23
Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

HYMN ELW #658 O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

HYMN ELW #583 Take My Life, That I May Be *verse 1*

HYMN ELW #462 Now We Join in Celebration

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918-1990
Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662
Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

HYMN ELW #534 Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, alt.
Music: ELLERS, Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900