ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday, October 25th, 2026 9:30am

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

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: "How Firm A Foundation" -Osman Handbell Choir

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 46)*
P: God is our refuge and strength,
C: a very present help in trouble.
P: God is in the midst of the city;
C: it shall not be shaken;
P: Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted in the earth.
C: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW #504 A Mighty Fortress is Our God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
A: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
C: Amen.
A: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.
A: 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.
A: 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.

THIS IS THE FEAST

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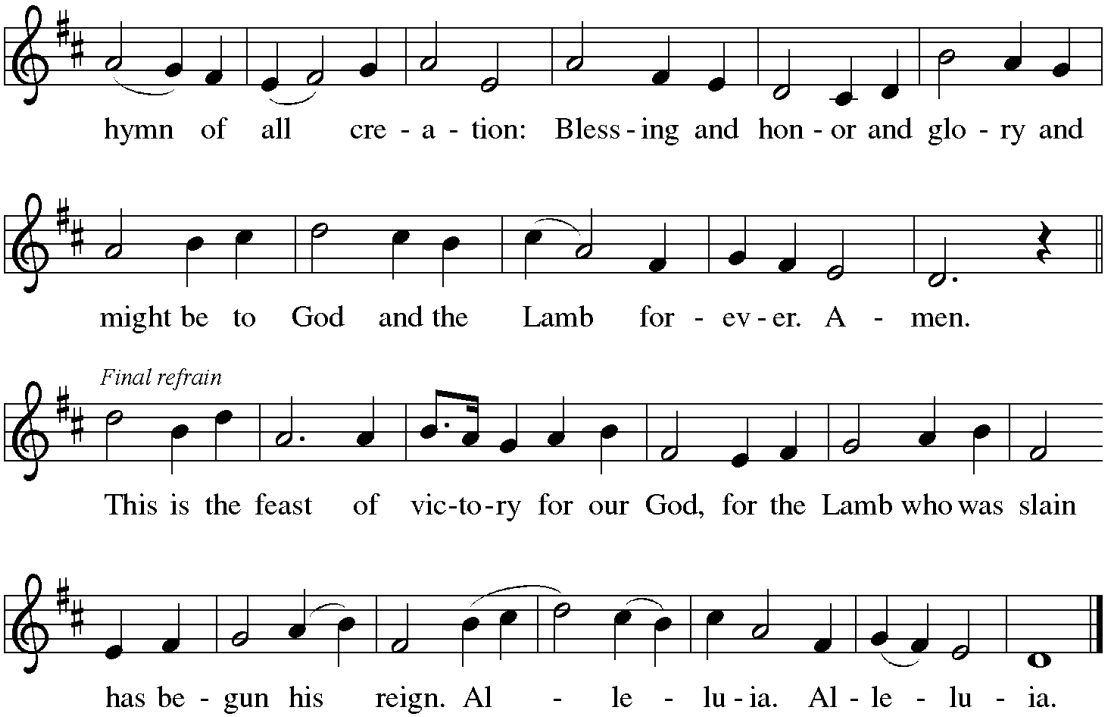


PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

This morning Muriel Junger, Charlotte Knipple, Elijah Luker-Lane and Samir Reyes will receive Bibles from St. Stephen the Martyr presented by their parents or grandparents.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (9:30) Pastor Brian Hooper

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the
house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with
their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a
covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the
covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will
put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and
they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other,
"Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says
the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

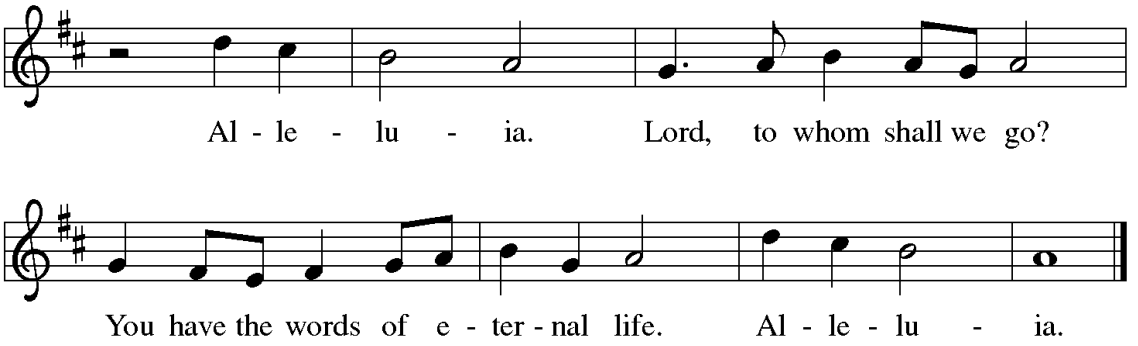
19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so
that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God.
20 For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through
the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is
attested by the Law and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the faith of
Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and
fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the
redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement
by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness,
because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it
was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and
he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of
works? No, rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by
faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

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



GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-46

Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

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

34 When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered
together, 35 and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him.
36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" 37 He said to him, " 'You
shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your
mind.' 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: 'You shall
love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the
Prophets."

41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question:
42 "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of
David." 43 He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord,
saying,

44 'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet" '?

45 "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" 46 No one was able to give him
an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

PRESENTATION OF FAITH STATEMENTS

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #510 Word of God, Come Down to Earth

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these young people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

Presenter: Denise Sanders

I present Andre Dean, Adalyn Kopplin, Madeline Miller and Molly Myszkowski , who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

P: Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and this brother, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

C: Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: 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?

Response: **I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

AFFIRMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY *(please be seated)*

P: Andre, Adalyn, Madeline and Molly, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all earth?

Confirmands Response: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

P: People of God, do you promise to support this brother and these sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

P: Stir up in . . . 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.

C: Amen

P: Let us rejoice with these brothers and this sister in Christ.

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God. and proclaim the good news to all the world.

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: "Lord, in Thy Mercy" -Mendelssohn

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 3***

OFFERING PRAYER

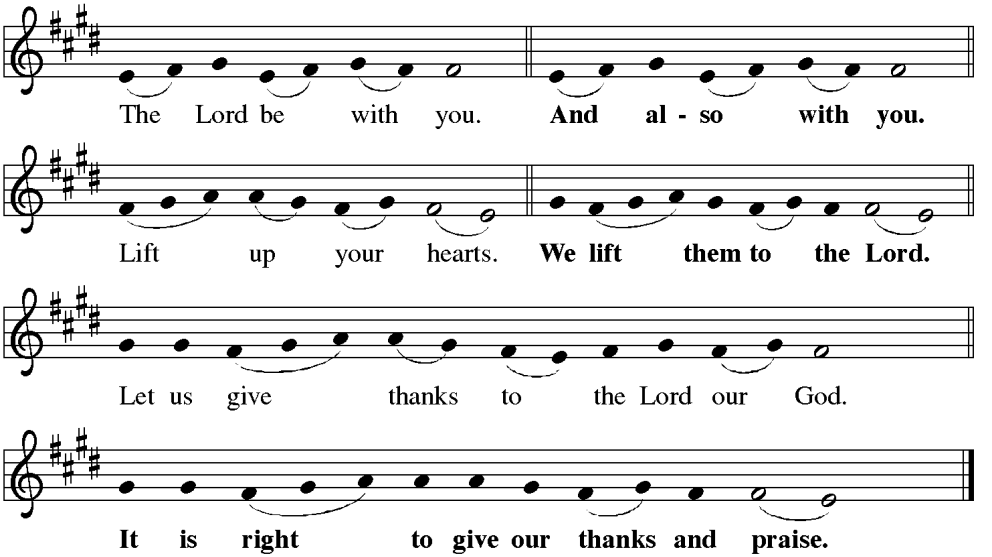
A: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen

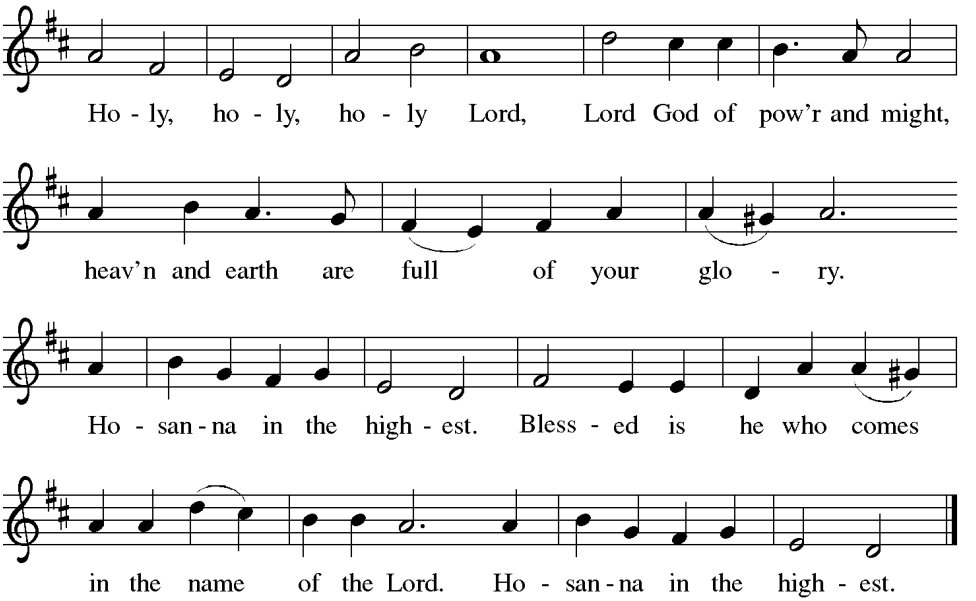
CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST COMMUNION - *Nora Burmeister, Abisola Dollar, Elijah Luker-Lane, Zola Reinholz and Nell Stockland, will receive their First Communion today. They and their families will commune first.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

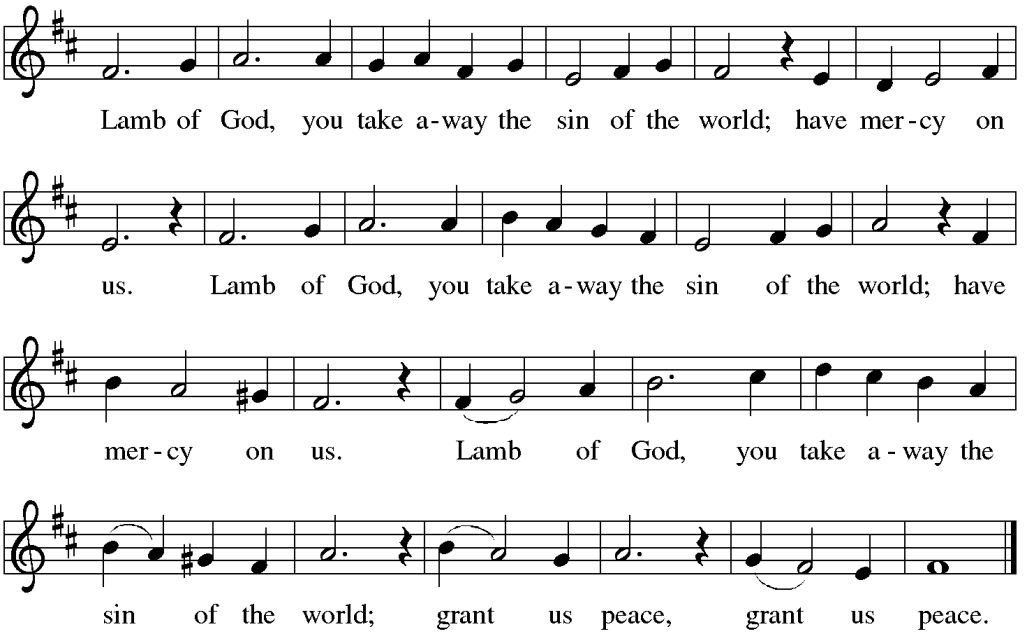


WORDS OF INSTITUTION: "In the night…"

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 #652 Built on a Rock

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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 #517 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Prelude in G Major" -J. S. Bach BWV 541

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Flowers are provided by Kipp & Bonnie Zimmermann in honor of the Confirmands

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: Chris Dollar, Diane Moraza, Shelly Rosenstock, Andre Dean

Acolyte: Christopher Dollar

Readers: Mary Luedtke, Adalyn Kopplin, Madeline Miller

Communion: Julie Starks, Cathy Peterson, Molly Myszkowski, Adalyn Kopplin

Streaming Technician: Eric Sanders

Announcements

Meru Teen Mother Education Program - A new program provides 1 year of training for teen mothers in the areas of food preparation, tailoring or hair dressing at a Diocese of Meru supported vocational school. Cost is $460/person. The program begins in January. Donations received NOW can be sent in a November wire transfer in time for next year's group. There are 60 girls on the waiting list! Contact Julie Starks for more information, jastarks39@gmail.com, 414-254-253.

November food donations will go to the Bay View Community Center 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.

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.

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.

Ascension Lutheran Church will host a presentation by Nadia Bolz-Weber about Christian Nationalism titled "Red State Revival" on October 30th. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board between the offices,

This Week at SSM			
Wednesday, 10/28	**10:15am**	Women's Bible Study	
	12 noon	Lunch Bunch	
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	
All Saints Weekend			
Saturday, 10/31	**5:00pm**	Worship	Ushers: Jim Hennessy, Herb Leppien
			Reader: Heidi Hennessy
			Communion Set Up: Bonnie Court
			Communion Server: Patti Nelson
Sunday, 11/1	**9:30am**	Worship	Ushers: Pat & Shelley Burns, Nancy Mineau
			Acolyte: Penny Whitmore
			Reader: Sandy Wesolowski
			Communion Set Up: Denise Sanders
			Communion Servers: Denise Sanders, Bonnie Daleness
		Sunday School	
	10:45am	Coffee Hour, Debbie Barth Host	

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

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 #504 A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

HYMN ELW #510 Word of God, Come Down on Earth

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919
Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673
Text © James Quinn, SJ, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent. www.selahpub.com.

HYMN ELW #583 Take My Life, That I May Be *verse 3*

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, adapt.; Spanish text: Vincent Mendoza, 1875–1955
Music: TOMA MI VOLUNTAD, William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956
Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

HYMN ELW #652 Built on a Rock

5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
"I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

HYMN ELW #517 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Love

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543