

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
13047 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98133
Worship for Sunday, 13 September 2026
+ 16th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A**

Actively Sharing Christ's Love in Community

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

Please Stand

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**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.

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.

Amen.

You may be seated.

Gathering Hymn #592

Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is primarily in the soprano and alto parts, with the piano providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, each corresponding to a line of the hymn. The first stanza is the main body of the hymn, and the second stanza is a verse. The third stanza is a doxology. The fourth stanza is a final line. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Apostolic 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.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray:

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

First Reading Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as God is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way Joseph reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:8-13

Please Read Responsively

Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

**you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

**As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.**

Second Reading Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

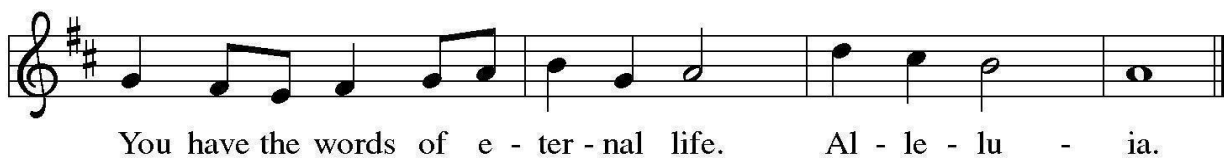
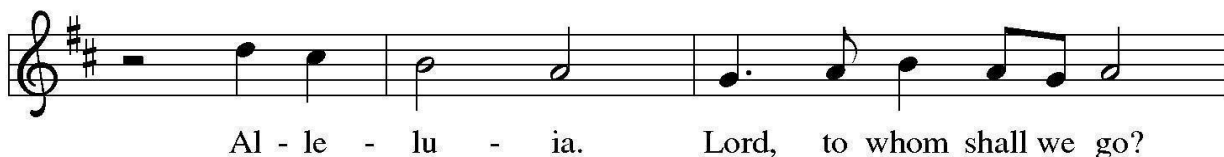
So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Please Stand



Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the dominion of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day #605

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.

Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

Prayers and Peace

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

From your place in the congregation, feel free to share a sign of peace with other members of the assembly.

Offering

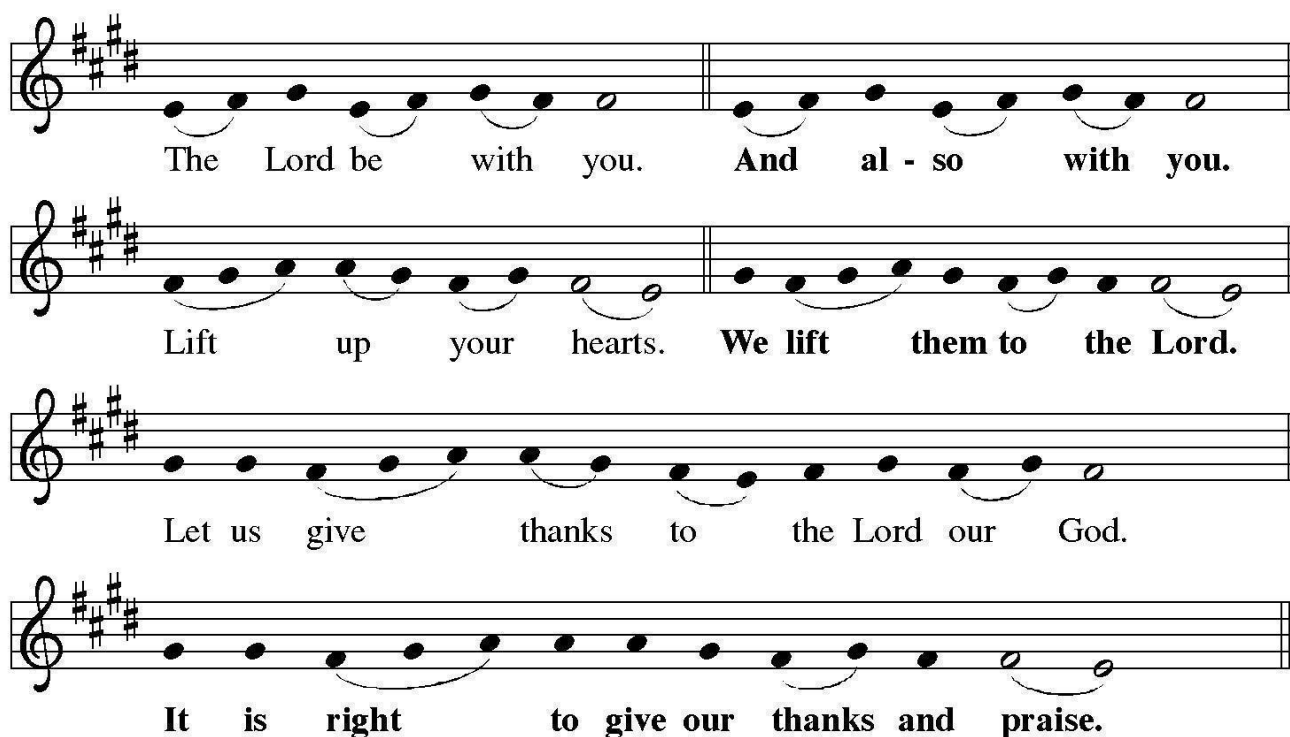
Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Please stand

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.

Great Thanksgiving



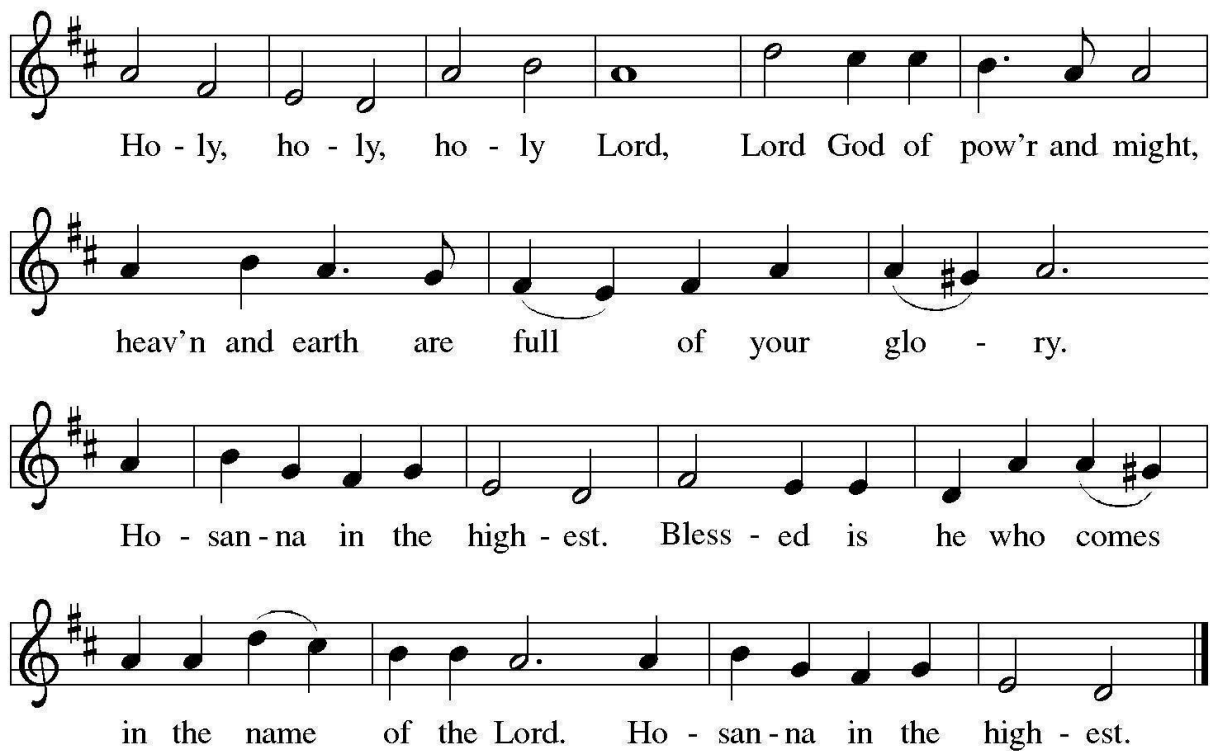
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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:



Eucharistic Liturgy

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Distribution of Holy Communion

You may be seated

Please proceed up the center aisle to pick up a piece of bread from the Presiding minister and a glass of either wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. There will be a basket off to the side where you can dispose of your used cup. The communion bread is all gluten free, but does contain honey. All are welcome to receive from Christ's table.

You may also come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing.

Communion Hymn #482

I Come With Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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If we live, we live to the Lord. If we

die, we die to the Lord. So then, wheth-er we live or

wheth-er we die, we are the Lord's.

Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, based on Romans 14:8, Psalm 103

Music: IF WE LIVE, Rolf Vegdahl

Music © 2009, 2016 Augsburg Fortress

Post-communion Prayer

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 your world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

Blessing

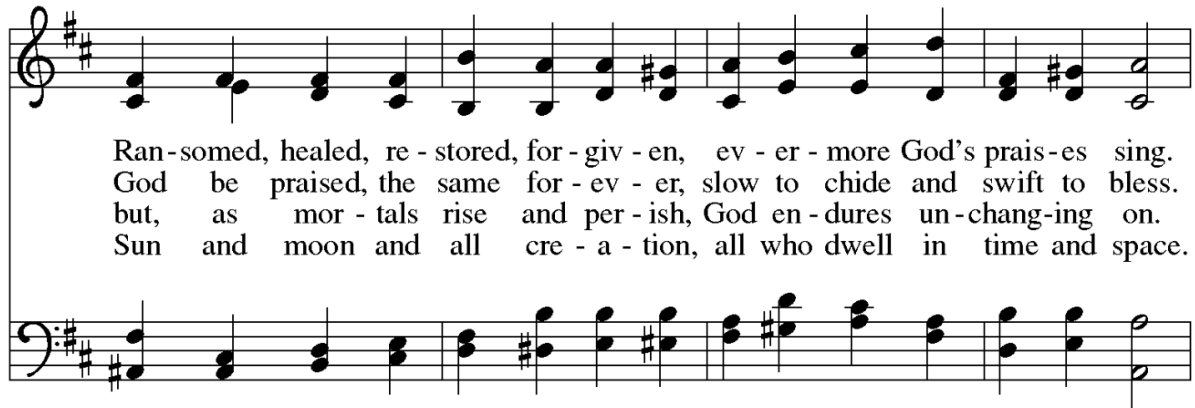
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

Sending Hymn #864

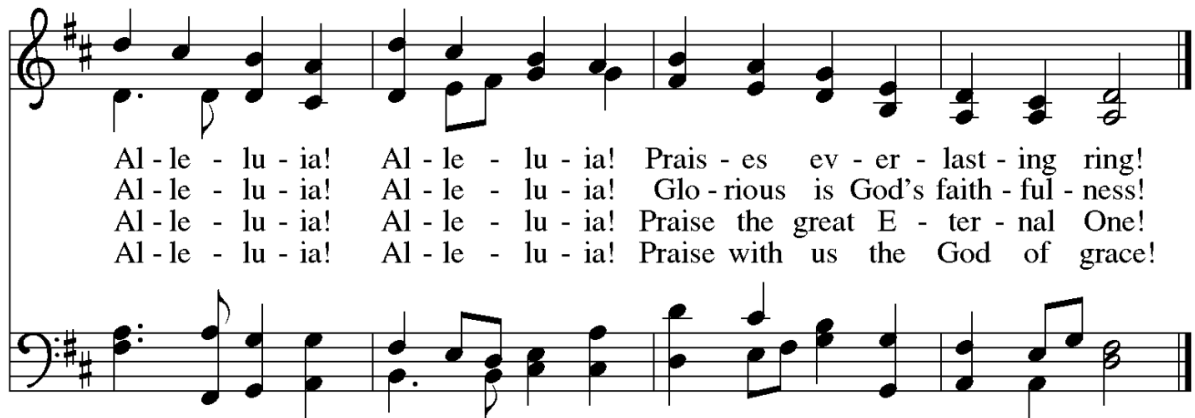
Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en-dures un-chang-ing on.
Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

Postlude

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Today's Worship Leaders:

Deacon Andrew Larsen
Chrissie Goldstein
Leia Smith
Raj & Colleen Lingappaiah
McFarland Family
Christine Lawson

Preacher/Presider
Musician
Communion Assistant
Ushers
Lectors
Altar Care

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: *Jonah 3:10—4:11*
Psalm: *Psalms 145:1-8*
Second Reading: *Philippians 1:21-30*
Gospel: *Matthew 20:1-16*

Announcements:

Pastor Sara Out of the Office September 10th-16th: As promised on Sunday, this is hopefully the last time that Pastor Sara will need to be away for a while, but she will be out of the office September 10th-16th as she prepares for, and recovers from, her surgery on September 11th. Depending on how she is recovering, it is possible that this timeframe will be adjusted, but this is her current plan.

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed: As many of you know, we feed countless neighbors every week through our Little Free Pantry. None of that would be possible without all of your donations or those of you who volunteer your time to help stock the pantry every single day. We have a dedicated team who have faithfully been serving in this capacity for years, and they are looking for a few other folks to join their team! They are specifically looking for someone who is able to take over the Tuesday morning re-stocking shift, as well as any others who would be interested in being added to the list of back-up volunteers who can fill in when our regular weekday folks are out of town or otherwise unable to make it to church and need someone else to step in for them. If you are interested in learning more or have any other questions, please talk to either Pastor Sara or Diane. Thank you again for all that you do to help our neighbors access the food they need!

Celebration for Beverly on September 20th: After service on September 20th, you are invited to bring your coffee to Celebration Hall for cake to celebrate Beverly Mueller's 90th birthday, as well as her 25th anniversary of being a member at Luther Memorial! We hope you all will join us for this joyous celebration!

Quarterly Group Outings: For those of you who were excited to go to Mariner's game, but were unable to attend the one this past weekend, please know that we are working to schedule other group outings, hopefully on a quarterly basis to different arts, cultural, and sporting events! Pastor Sara would love to hear any suggestions you have so that we can participate in a broad range of activities and experiences together!

Pippin at 12 Ave Arts: Our former musician, Cynthia, who was with you all on Sunday, August 30th, is inviting anyone who is interested to see her in Reboot Theatre Company's performance of Pippin, starting September 11th! Reboot Theatre Company | Discover and Support Theater Excellence

Book Club: Our next book club meeting will be on Saturday, September 26th at 10:30 A.M. on Zoom. We will be reading the book *Saoirse* by Charleen Hurtubise. All are welcome to join!

Seeking Worship Volunteers: As our worship community continues to grow, we would love to have more folks join our monthly rotation of worship assistants! We are currently seeking more people to add to our lector (reading) schedule, as well as our ushering team. Pastor Sara would also love to talk about bringing back assisting ministers to help with the prayers and general service leadership. If you are interested in any of these roles or have more questions about what they would entail, please email Pastor Sara!

Mark Your Calendars: As we make our way toward Fall, you are invited to mark your calendars for two more special upcoming Sundays!

- September 27th: Our Fall Kick-Off, with a Potluck to follow worship!
- October 4th: Blessing of the Pets (yes, this means you are welcome to bring your pet to worship that morning!) If being in the worship space, especially with other animals, would not work well for your pet, we will also be scheduling a time for Pastor Sara to be outside to bless even more pets!

School Supply Drive: The school year has officially begun, so we will be hosting a school supply drive at church for the next few weeks to donate to our neighbors at Broadview-Thomson. Below are their most requested items, but all donations are greatly appreciated!

- Adult-sized backpacks for the middle school students
- Wide-ruled notebooks
- #2 Pencils
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Reuseable water bottles
- Crayons
- Glue sticks
- Yellow and blue two-pocket folders
- Wide-ruled filler paper
- Dry Erase Markers

Food Pantry Donations: We do not currently have a specific food pantry donation theme, but any donation you make is still greatly appreciated, as the need for food in our community remains high. Below are some specific items that are always requested:

- Canned chicken
- Canned fish
- Shelf stable milk
- Ramen noodles
- Canned fruit or fruit cups
- Bread
- Tortillas
- English muffins
- Bagels
- Tortillas
- Hygiene products: toothbrush, toothpaste, period products, soap, etc.

As the weather begins to cool off, we will hopefully be able to start putting out fresh produce again! In the meantime, if you have an abundance from your garden that you would like to share, please feel free to place it in the pantry, as many people greatly appreciate it.

Thank you so much for your generosity!

September Grief Group Schedule: Our grief group will be gathering during the following times in September. Due to scheduling challenges, there will not be a Saturday Zoom grief group this month, but there will be an additional in-person option. As always, if you are interested in the grief group, but are unable to attend any of these sessions, please talk to Pastor Sara.

- Wednesday, September 23rd at 10:00 A.M.
- Tuesday, September 29th at 10:30 A.M.

Upcoming Events

13	SEP, SUN	All day	Pr. Sara Surgery and Surgery Recovery (Day 3/5) LMLC Office
		10:30 – 11:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship Sanctuary
		4 – 6pm	Skandia Society Rehearsal Celebration Hall
		6:30 – 7:30pm	NA Pink Progress Club Celebration Hall
14	SEP, MON	All day	Pr. Sara Surgery and Surgery Recovery (Day 4/5) LMLC Office
		6:45 – 7:45pm	NA - Afterparty Group Celebration Hall
15	SEP, TUE	All day	Pr. Sara Surgery and Surgery Recovery (Day 5/5) LMLC Office
		1 – 3pm	Quilting Group - Elaine Celebration Hall
		7 – 8pm	Church Council Meeting Zoom
17	SEP, THU	6 – 9:30pm	Sound Harmony Sanctuary
18	SEP, FRI	12 – 1pm	Pause for Prayer Zoom
19	SEP, SAT	12:30 – 4pm	Memorial Service Sanctuary

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