

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 20, 2026

Music and Hymns:

Gathering	<i>O God, Our Help in Ages Past</i>	ELW 632
Hymn of Day	<i>Let Us Break Bread Together</i>	ELW 471
Sending	<i>Savior, Again to Your Dear Name</i>	ELW 534
Prelude	<i>Chorale: Our Father Who Art in Heaven Above</i>	
Anthem	<i>All People That on Earth Do Dwell</i>	Young
Communion	<i>Nun Freut Euch, Lieben Christen</i>	
Postlude	<i>Plein Chant Du Premier Sanctus`</i>	Couperin

First Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. ^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Psalm 145:1-8

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When

those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

SERVERS	Today	Next Week
Greeters	Theresa Garner	<i>*need volunteer</i>
Lector	Tyler Cox	Caroline Raszewski
Worship	Tyler Cox	Gail Marcum
	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
Ushers	Wayne Lybrand, Chief <i>*Need Volunteer</i>	Jim Garner, Chief <i>*Need Volunteer</i>
Tellers	Beth Cleland/Sandra Hughes	Pam Hanfland/Gail Marcum
Offering Pickup	Wayne Lybrand	Pam Hanfland
Property	Jim Garner	Jim Garner
Altar Guild	Linda Hill/Sylvia Ford	Gail Marcum/Marie Lybrand

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The weekly bulletin is printed on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Please submit any announcements to the church office before then. Thank you.
- God's Helping Hands current needs are: miscellaneous canned vegetables, canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, crackers, canned fruit and Jiffy cornbread mix. Please place donations in the container in the Cameron Hallway.
- **Lutheran Men:** Monthly breakfasts will resume at the Lizard's Thicket on Augusta Road on Monday, September 21 at 9 a.m., and will continue to meet on the third Monday of each month. All men of the congregation are invited.
- **New Communication Tool:** A mailbox is now available on the office door to help organize written communication. There is a folder for Pastor Joanna and one for Denise. Please place any written communication in the appropriate folder.
- **Worship Leadership Opportunities:** Thank you to Tyler for leading and assisting in worship. As we continue expanding opportunities for people to serve, you are invited to

participate in one or more of the following ways: assist with communion, lead the creed and prayers, or serve in both roles if you feel called to do so. If you are interested, please sign up in the narthex or speak with Pastor Joanna

- **SAVE THE DATE** – Treasure Find and Fall Fest – Saturday, November 14th

In our prayers this week, we commend the following individuals to God's gracious care. If a name belongs to someone outside our congregation, please let the office know your connections. If there are any names to update, please also let us know additions or changes.

Melanie Amick
Gerald Bush (Friend of Sandra Hughes)
Greg Chapman
Jeannie Chapman
Virginia M. Cromer
Katie Doble
Jerry Hite
Dolores Hopkins
Steve Rucker
Herman & Elizabeth Shealy
Marie Shealy (National Health Care)

Sunday <i>September 20</i>	10:15 a.m.	Youth Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	11:45 a.m.	Council Meeting
	3:00 p.m.	Saxe Gotha Conf. Meeting
Monday <i>September 21</i>	9:00 a.m.	Lutheran Men Breakfast
Wednesday <i>September 23</i>	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
Sunday <i>September 27</i>	10:15 a.m.	Youth Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday <i>September 30</i>	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study