BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Serving, accepting, and loving all.

Sunday Bulletin July 20, 2025

Daniel P. Smail & Ellen S. Lundie, Pastors Laura M. Henri, Organist and Director of Choirs

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Sunday, July 20, 2025 Lectionary 16, Year C

Introduction

Perhaps the church, at its best, is "all ears." God urges the faithful, again and again, to "listen up!"—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

GATHERING WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection*.

A: Merciful God, you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of \pm Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG NO. 834 Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might; thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all; we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
- 4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light; thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight; all laud we would render; oh, help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

 Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

GREETING (ELW p. 203)

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 204)



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for ev er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa-ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING Genesis 18:1-10a

The LORD visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

A reading from Genesis,

¹ The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ^{10a} Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

² Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right, who speak the truth | from their heart;

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends; they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴ In their sight the wicked are rejected,

but they honor those who | fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown

SECOND READING Colossians 1:15-28

This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is "Christ in you." Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.

A reading from Colossians,

¹⁵ [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints.

²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of

glory. ²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205



GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸ Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me."

⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON - The Rev. Daniel P. Smail

HYMN OF THE DAY NO 676 Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak

- 1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in living echoes of your tone; as you have sought, so let us seek your straying children, lost and lone.
- Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.
- Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the precious truths which you impart; and wing our words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.
- Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord, until our very hearts o'erflow in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

APOSTLES 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 INTERCESSION

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen with eager longing for your words of life. Equip biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful discernment, that your word may be more fully known. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Every creature under heaven has been promised the hope of the gospel. From that promise, generate in humankind an eagerness to protect and care for creation. Bring healing to the earth with your words of life. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all who govern the nations of the world. May your word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Speak your word of comfort to any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or despair; especially those we name within our hearts (*a moment of silence*). Bring honor to any who experience slander and evil intent or are discredited by others. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Enliven and uphold all siblings in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Mary, Martha, and all the saints who attended to your word, we give thanks. Open our ears to your voice until that day when we realize the promise of the gospel with all creation. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,

that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

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.

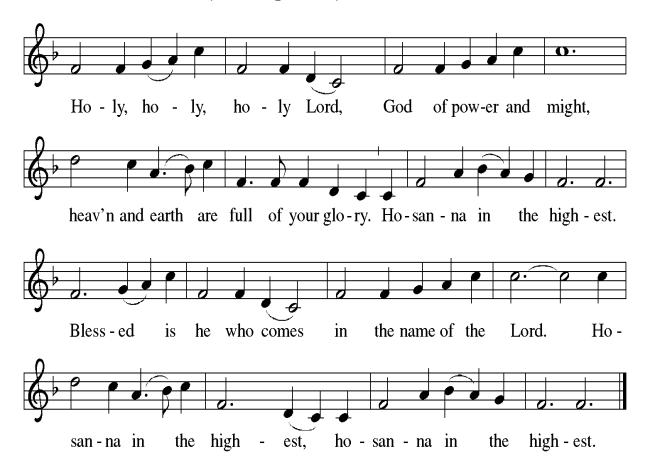
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise

PREFACE (ELW p. 207)

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 207)



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:

as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, 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

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

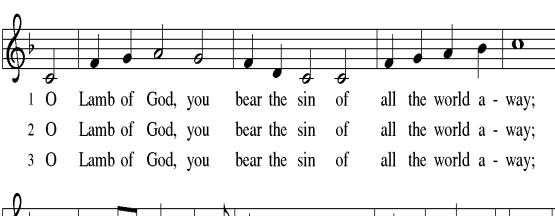
C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those

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

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 208)





you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN NO. 754 Jesus, the Very Thought of You

- 1 Jesus, the very thought of you fills us with sweet delight; but sweeter far your face to view and rest within your light.
- 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind recall

a sweeter sound than your blest name, O Savior of us all!

- 3 O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul, O joy of all the meek, how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
- 4 O Jesus, be our joy today; help us to prize your love; grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home above."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray,
God of abundance, with this bread of life
and cup of salvation you have united us with
Christ, making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love
to the world and continue forever in the risen
life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit

+ bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG NO. 544 Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

- 1 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing, worship, thanks, devotion voicing: glory be to God on high!
 Christ, your cross and passion sharing, by this eucharist declaring yours the final victory.
- 2 Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing, lost and lonely, one voice hearing, ears attentive to your word; by your blood new life receiving, in your body, firm believing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
- 3 Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving, we go forth alert and living in your Spirit, strong and free. Partners in your new creation, seeking peace in ev'ry nation, may we faithful foll'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt. Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-733689.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Children's Space

We encourage children to worship in the sanctuary as much as possible. However, we know that some days, a break may be needed. Please stop in the lounge for shorter breaks where there are coloring activities and snacks provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult. he nursery is also available downstairs in Fellowship Hall with the ability to hear the service.

Monthly Special Offering for JULY is: United Lutheran Seminary



Our Blessing Box

Our outdoor food pantry has been a blessing to our community providing needed items to those who are food insecure. Your generosity shows your commitment to do God's work but still day after day the box is being emptied by those in need. Here are some of the most desired foods: Cereals small individual boxes Individual packaged Pop Tarts, Granola or protein bars Individual packaged individual fruit cups, Hormel single serve meals- Single serve Coffee packets individual cups of Peanut butter -- small sized boxes of crackers, Tuna—in foil packages Ensure individual_bottles, Individual pkg. cookies or snacks

Grab and go items with lift off lids Cans of spam, beef stew. Individual Rolls Toilet Paper Small size Deodorants, small bottles or shampoo, individual bars of soap

NO MEDICATIONS OF ANY KIND



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS will take place at all service on the weekend of August 17th. Children of all ages are welcome and encouraged to bring their backpacks and come forward for a special blessing as they prepare for the start of a new school year.

The Week at Bethlehem

Sunday, July 20th 8:00 am Worship & Communion

*9:30am Worship & Communion

* Live streaming of worship service

Following late service Mtg. of Interest for

Madrigal Dinner

Monday, July 21st 9:00a-2:30p – PACC Fellowship Hall

11a-2p – Passage to Recovery (Library)

Tuesday, July 22nd 10:30-11:30a AA (Schmid Hall)

6:00-8:30pm NA (Fellowship Hall)

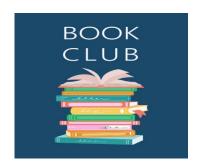
Wednesday, July 23rd 10:30a & 7:00p Bible Study (Schmid Hall)

7-8:30p Boy Scouts Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, July 25th Shaler Area Little Titans

Fellowship Hall 4-8pm

Saturday July 26th 6:00pm Worship/Comm.



Bethlehem Book Club September 2025

On the evening of September 23rd at 6:30 the Bethlehem Book Club will gather to discuss Robert Dugoni's, "Hold Strong." "Hold Strong," has been described as a "one of a kind novel," so join us for a meaningful conversation and let's discover the uplifting ways in which the things we are reading have the power to inform our lives of faith in meaningful ways.

Thanks in advance for your participation!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Sunday School Registration 2025-2026

(Sunday School begins on Rally Day, Sept. 8th @ 9:15am)

Name:	
Address:	
Grade Entering:	Nickname:
Date of Birth:	Date of Baptism:
Emergency Contact during Su	ınday School:
Name:	Phone:
Email:	
Relationship:	OR In the Building:
Food Allergies:	
Helpful hints to help your child	d learn:
Special Needs:	

Thank you,

Bethlehem Sunday School Staff Please return the completed form to the church office!!



Summer Fellowship Event!

Acrospire Brewing Company Wed, August 13 6:00-9:00 pm

Please join us for a fun evening of fellowship at our favorite local brewing company, **Acrospire**!

They will have beer for tasting and sale, and the Fellowship Committee will provide non-alcoholic beverages and light snacks. Please feel free to bring an appetizer to share if you'd like.



1702 MT. ROYAL BOULEVARD, GLENSHAW, PA 15116 www.acrospirebrewingco.com

Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to sign up.

Hope to see you there!



God's Work, Our Hands -- T-shirt ordering opportunity

Have you heard of (or seen) any God's Work, Our Hands t-shirts in and around BELC? Hint: There's a display in the Narthex now. It's been several years since we last ordered them -- and we thought perhaps folks are looking to update their wardrobe to include a great message! And, BELC's info will be displayed on the backs of the shirts. What a wonderful way to show the world what we are up to at BELC! Orders will be taken through Sunday, August 3rd. This way, we should have our order delivered to us in time to wear for the Rally Day celebration and Church Picnic on September 8th!

God's Work, Our Hands T-shirt Order Form

All shirts are 100% pre-shrunk cotton Short sleeve t-shirts: \$15.00 each Long sleeve t-shirts: \$20.00 each

Adult sizing: Small - 5XL Youth sizing: Small - Large

.....

Name:	Phone:		
Shirt size:	Short/Long Sleeve (circle)	No	
Shirt size:	Short/Long Sleeve (circle)	No	
Shirt size:	Short/Long Sleeve (circle)	No	
Shirt size:	Short/Long Sleeve (circle)	No	
Total shirts to order:	Total cost: \$		

Please make checks payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Order forms may be placed in offering box, along with payment



Your generosity makes **ALL** the difference!

Glade Run serves thousands of youth in our schools and communities. Many families lack the resources to provide these basic items that will enable their children to be successful in school. If you can help by providing any of these items, please contact Glade Run Foundation.

Help the kids at Glade Run get ready for school by providing any of the following items:

School Supplies Needed:

- ✓ Journals/Composition Books
- Pocket Folders
- Calculators
- Crayons
- Washable Markers
- → Highlighters
- ✓ Pencil Boxes
- ✓ Construction Paper (all colors) ✓ Pens & No. 2 Pencils
- → Backpacks
- Notebooks

- Glue Sticks
- ✓ Elmer's Glue
- ✓ Small White Boards w/markers
- ✓ Dry Erase Markers & Erasers
- ✓ Paints (finger, tempera & poster)
- → Paint Brushes & Paint Cups
- ✓ Poster Board (all colors)
- ✓ Erasers
- Wall Calendars / Planners

Personal Items Needed:

- Stress Balls / Fidget Spinners / Pop Its
- Water Bottles
- Noise Cancelling Headphones
- ✓ Nerf Footballs / Sports Balls
- ✓ Kleenex / Clorox Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Deodorant, Shampoo, Body Wash, Comb & Brush)
- Dollar General, Giant Eagle, Aldi)

Please bring donated items by Friday, August 1 between 8am and 4pm to: Glade Run Lutheran Services, Administration Building Lobby

30 Glade Run Drive, Zelienople, PA 16063

For more information, contact Cheryl Martin at 724-452-4453 x1277 or by email at cmartin@gladerun.org.

About Glade Run: Glade Run is a non-profit organization that provides educational, mental health and autism services in both educational and community settings. Program offerings include treatment for children with emotional health issues, private education for students with behavioral health issues and autism, community-based mental health and autism services, and innovative therapeutic programs. Glade Run serves over 7,000 individuals annually through offices in Butler, Beaver Falls, Greensburg, New Castle, Pittsburgh, Rochester, West View, Wexford, Utica and Zelienople





Altar Guild Help

The Robes that the Acolytes wear each Sunday are in need of laundering. They can be washed on a normal cycle in cold water and hung to dry. Anyone who has a desire to help can pick up just a couple of the robes after church on Sunday from int the office area or anytime during the week when Marianne is in the office. If your child has been an acolyte perhaps they can even help with a little guidance from mom or dad. Thank you for your willingness to lend a helping hand.

A little look into August for L.I.F.T.

L.I.F.T. boat outing Saturday August 16, rain date August 17. 2:00 pm

Please sign up in the Narthex if you plan to attend. The boat is docked on the Ohio River under the I79 bridge across from Neville Island. Please wear rubber soled shoes. There is a ramp to navigate from the shore to the docks along with a long walk on the docks to get to the boat. Main dish dinner will be provided. Sign up to bring snacks or side dish.

2025 Madrigal Dinner

Interest and Organizational Meeting!

Last year we had a great time pulling together our very first Madrigal Dinner production. Well, here we are, and it is time to start making plans once again. Our first interest and organizational meeting will be held TODAY, *July 20th following our 9:30* worship service. And please know, there are all kinds of ways to get involved! We need dramatists and thespians, set designers and lighting experts, choristers and cooks, and a whole host of other things too! So, if you are ready to join the fun, please plan on attending on the 20th. If you are interested, but cannot make the meeting, please feel to reach out to Pastor Ellen or Pastor Dan and they will be sure to get you plugged in!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

As agreed at the last Worship meeting, Liturgy Setting 10 is to be used for the first six weeks of the summer season, beginning after Pentecost Sunday. By now you remember that this setting has the liturgical texts set to familiar hymn tunes, e.g., the Hymn of Praise set to Beethoven's Ode to Joy.

With another Hymn Sing service planned in the fall, members are requested over the rest of the summer to take a moment to submit your favorite hymn to be included. Perhaps use the quiet time before the worship service begins to leaf through the sections of the hymnal to help recall those hymns that have a special meaning. And if you have more than one favorite, be sure to submit the form below.

HYMN SING REQUEST FORM	
My favorite hymn Is:	No:
Name:	