

Welcome to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster



Sunday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

14th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 30, 2026

The Prelude
The Greetings



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence for Prayer & Confession

Compassionate God,
**we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot
free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy
and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In
Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy
burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, + Son, and
Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

Lift High the Cross

The musical score is written on four staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff contains the melody for the verses. The fourth staff contains the melody for the refrain. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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The Prayer of the Day

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading
Jeremiah 15:15-21

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

Therefore thus says the Lord:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.
And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord.

I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 26:1-8 (NRSV)

Read Responsively

Give judgment for me, O Lord,
for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

**Test me, O Lord, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

**I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

**I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

**Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**



The Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel Reading
Matthew 16:21-28
Glory to you, O God.

From that time on [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] , Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

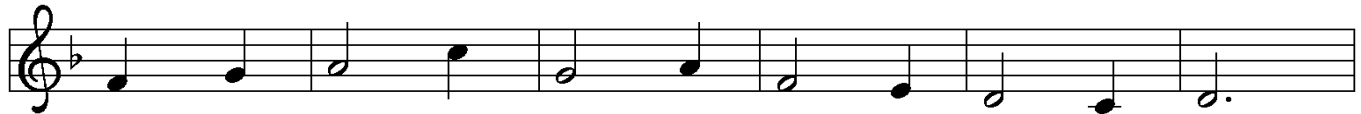
Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

This is the Word of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.



The Sermon
Pastor Jamie Retallack

Will You Come and Follow Me

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

The Prayers of the Church

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised.
All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The Offering

The Offering Music

The Offertory Hymn



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea-sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

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The Offertory Prayer

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

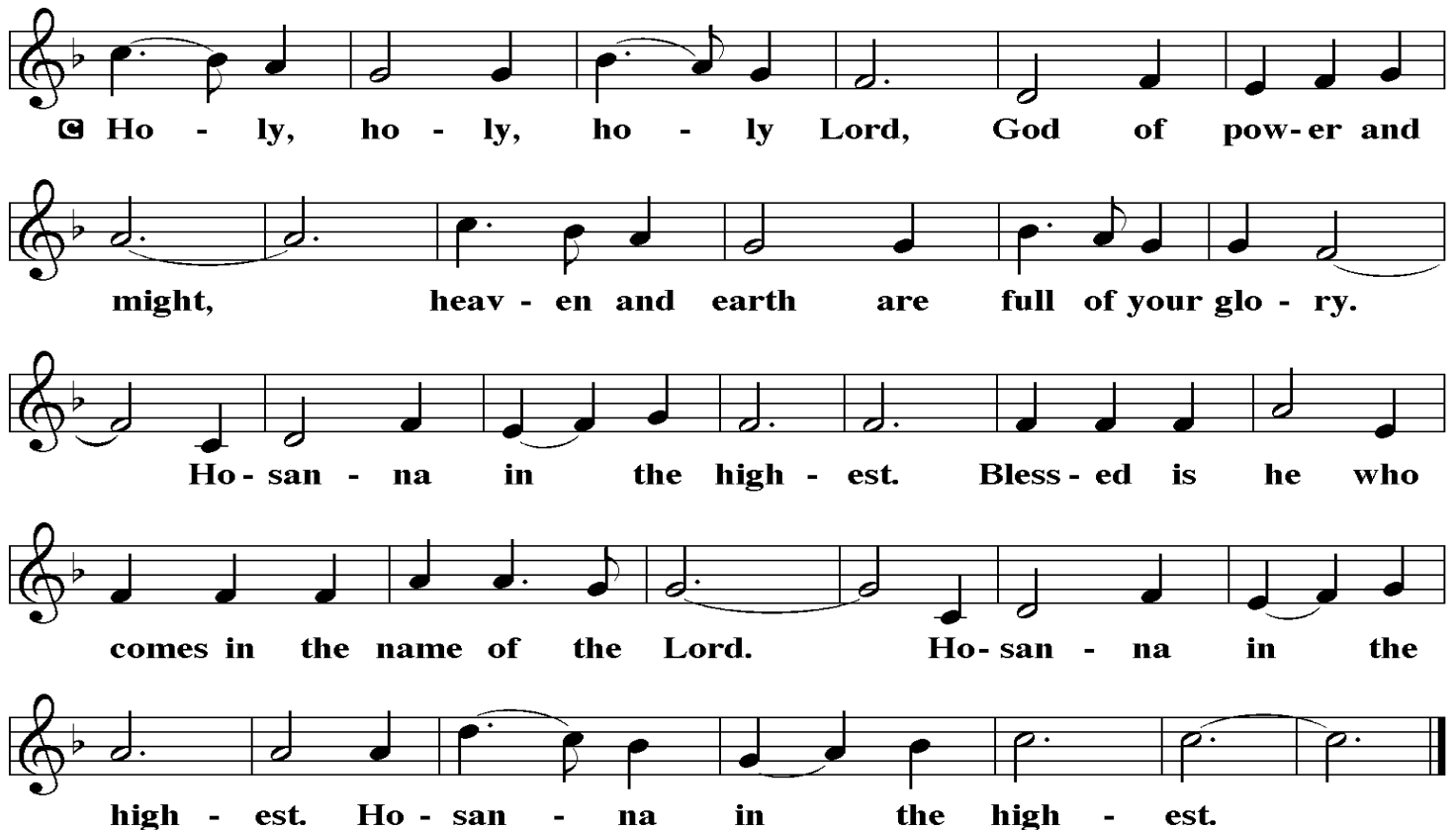
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Preface

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:



The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks He 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, poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Invitation

The Lamb of God



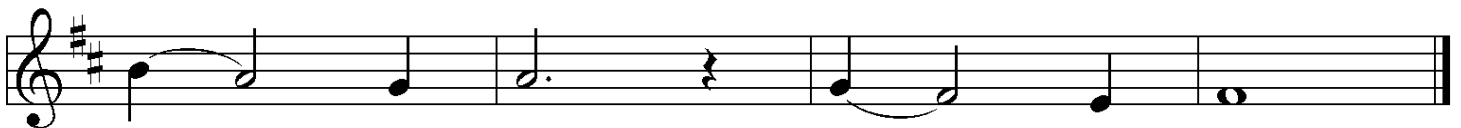
☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Music
LBW 212, WOV 709

The Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

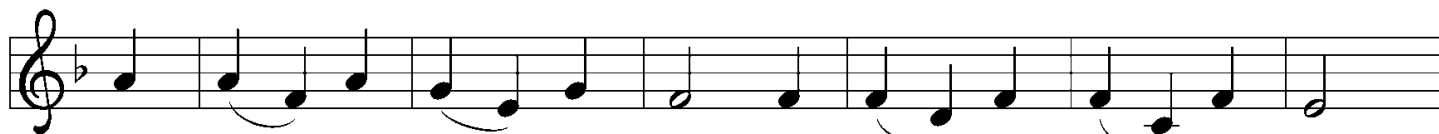
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory;
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Sending Prayer

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**



The Benediction

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

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The Sending

Heaven has come near.
Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

The People of St. John's Welcome You for Worship Today!

If you would like a **pastoral visit** for any reason, please call the office or call Pastor directly on his cell @ (716) 848-9683.

Office Hours:

St John's Lancaster M, W, Th 10am-3pm.

St John's Elma Tuesdays 10am-3pm.

Altar Guild: Kathy Snyder

Deacon: Kathy Konstabel

Ushers: Rich Rice & Janet Sincebaugh

QR Code for Offering

Using your camera app you can scan the QR code to go to **St. John's donation page** where you can make a one-time or recurring **offering!** Thank you for giving!



Offering

8/23/2026

\$1816.00

Quarterly Statements available upon request.

If you would like to receive quarterly statements by mail, please let the office know.

ELW 798 Will You Come and Follow Me

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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BOOK CLUB

Please join us at the Conference Table downstairs in the Chapel Hall at St. John's Lancaster (using the ramp entrance) on Wednesday, September 30th at 2:30 PM to discuss the novel, **THE CORRESPONDENT**, by Virginia Evans.

**September Women's lunch/fellowship –
09/09/2026 @ 11:30 am @ St. John's Lancaster**

Our monthly lunch will be at St. John's Lancaster in the Fellowship Hall. Use the ramp to enter. Everyone is bringing their own lunch.

We want to use this lunch to discuss our next service project. We are leaning towards school supplies for a local school and The Teacher's Desk which allows teachers from any district to go and get supplies they need.

Looking forward to the fellowship and ironing out the details. We will also discuss how/if we want to continue our monthly breakfast/lunch going forward. Please reach out to Kathy Snyder with any questions.

We lift up: Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Arden Kruger, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Joshua B., Clare Hotchkiss, Mike, Melvinea, Kathy & Dave W., and the family & friends of David Deutschlander.

Grape juice & gluten free wafers are available for **Communion**

Altar Flower Arrangements:
as of January 1, 2026, flower arrangements are \$40 (for 2).
Available Flower Dates: Sept 6, 13, 20, 27

Poppi's Pantry is serving this congregation and residents of the Lancaster Towers the **2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 11-2**. Kindly consider donating time to help. There is a sign-up sheet on the door to the pantry. Thank you!

Poppi's Pantry As we head into the cooler weather, we need more help than ever to keep the shelves stocked. Anything you can give is greatly appreciated. Much needed: cereal, ready-to-eat meals and soups, canned meats, canned fruit, or anything sugar-free. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Ramp Fund The St John's Lutheran Young Men association is sponsoring a ramp fund to help offset costs incurred by the Rudz family. We will be matching up to \$3000 in donations to the fund. Please use cash, money order, or check to St John's Lutheran Church Lancaster, marked "Ramp" or noted somehow on an envelope.
Thank you very much & God Bless! LYMA

Thank you to all who made this season's **Prayer Shawl Ministry** happen: those who made the shawls, blankets, and hats, and those who donated yarn and gift cards. The ministry is ALWAYS in need of yarn, so donations are gratefully accepted during office hours or on Sundays. Thank you!

Sunday Morning Bible Study will resume on Sunday, September 13 at 9:00 AM. This season we will be reading through the book of Romans. This will provide an opportunity to review what caused Martin Luther to challenge the church of his day and guides us as Lutheran Christians today. Come join us each Sunday at 9:00 AM before worship in the Memorial Lounge.

Follow us on Facebook [@stjohnslancaster](#)

This Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Event	Time	Location
In Person/ Online Service	10:00am	Sanctuary
Baby Shower - Jackson	1:00pm- 5:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Monday, August 31, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office
LYMA Golf	5:15pm	Kis-n-Greens Alden
Girl Scouts	6:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Event	Time	Location
NA Meeting	7:00pm	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Church Office Hours	10:00am- 3:00pm	Church Office

Saturday, September 5, 2026

Event	Time	Location
In Person Service	5:30pm	Chapel

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Event	Time	Location
Worship/Baptism (Laurienzo)	10:00am	Sanctuary
Confirmation Class	11:15am	

A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring various autumn-themed elements. At the top and bottom, there are large, stylized yellow and orange flowers with dark brown centers. Interspersed among these are green leaves of different shapes and sizes, some with yellow or orange tips, suggesting a mix of deciduous and evergreen foliage. Small, delicate sprigs with tiny yellow flowers are also scattered throughout the border.

Groups Resuming

CHOIR REHEARSAL

9/6 @ 11:05AM

LYMA

9/9 @ 7:30PM

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

9/13 @ 9AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9/13 @ 10AM

QUILTERS

9/15 @ 9:30AM

HAND BELL REHEARSAL

9/17 @ 6:30PM

THURS. BIBLE STUDY

9/24 @ 1PM

JOYSINGERS

TBD

MISSION STATEMENT

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church provides
an inviting environment for spreading God's Word
through worship, teaching, and fellowship to address
the spiritual needs of our congregation and community.
Open - Inviting - Alive in Christ!*

Pastor Rev. Jamie Retallack (716-848-9683)
Pastors Emeriti -Rev. John Swanson -Rev. John Scarafia
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
55 Pleasant Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086
Office 683-8972 (Mon-Wed-Thurs 10am-3pm)
www.stjohnslanc.org
stjohnslancaster55@gmail.com

Congregation Council

Janet Sincebaugh (President)
Carol Graham (Vice-President)
Karen McClintock (Secretary)
Kathryn Snyder (Treasurer)

Pauline Bauer	Jeff Miller
Tom Frost	Rich Rice
Sam Gierlinger	Paul Rudz
RaeAnn Jakubowski	Kelly Sieracki
Marjorie Kruger	

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Bible Passages unless otherwise noted: New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition
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Prayers of Intercession

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit (*especially Tom Morse, Jackie Wolfram, Dave, Sara Hermsmeyer, Arden Kruger, Kelly R., Bryce, Mary Anne, Paul Rudz, Rob Webster, Jake, Gloria Richards, Joshua B., Clare Hotchkiss, Mike, Melvine, Kathy & Dave W., and the family & friends of David Deutschlander.*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.