



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

7800 W. McCarthy Rd,
Palos Heights, IL 60463
708-448-4170

**September 20,
2026**

**Seventeenth
Sunday after
Pentecost**

**9:00 am
Service of
Holy
Communion**

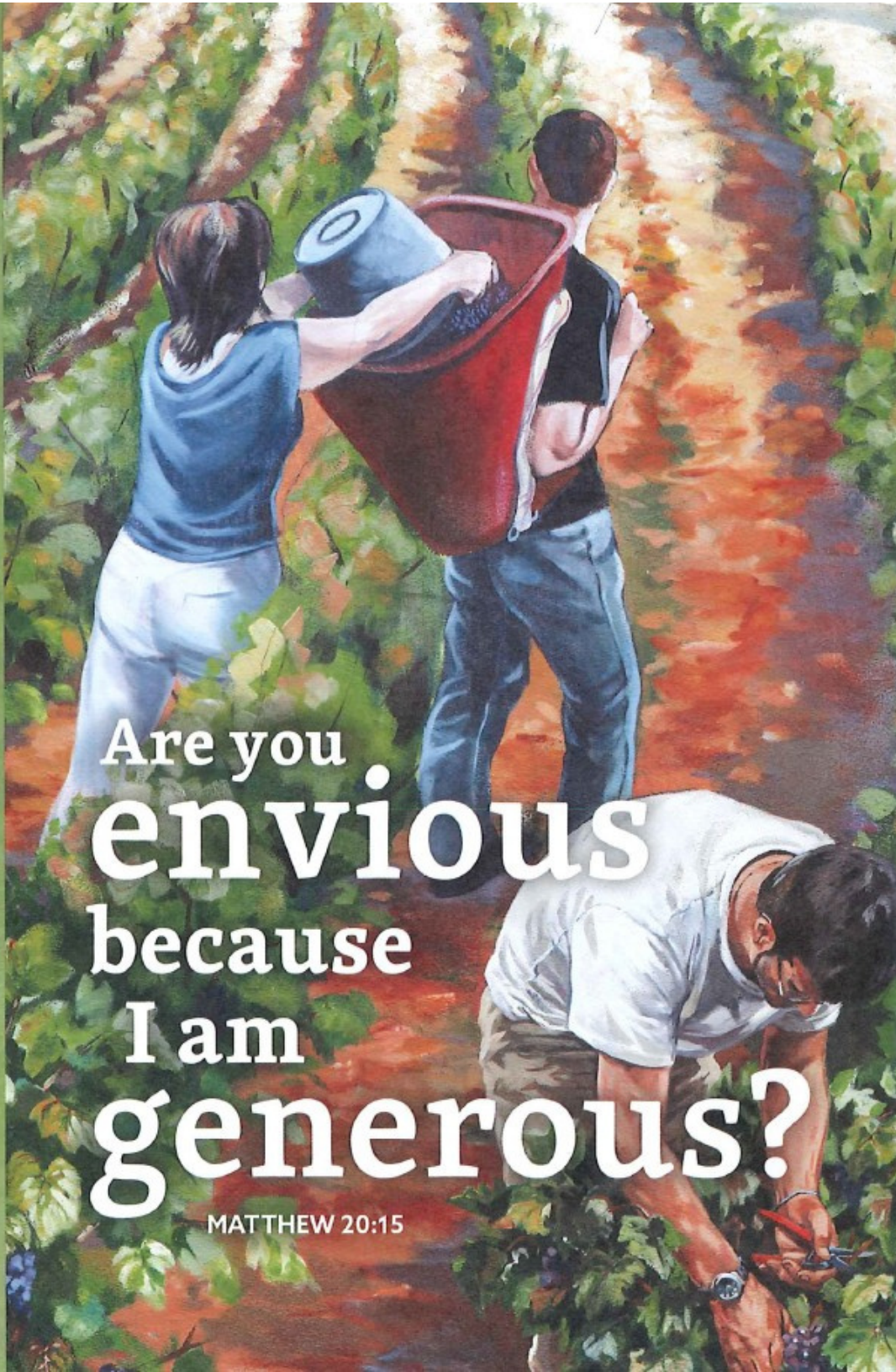
**11:00 am
Service of
the Word**

**The Pastor:
Rev. Chris
Buresh**

**The Associate
Pastor:
Rev. Andrew
Bell**

**The Director of
Children's &
Family Ministry:
Lori
Puttkammer**

**The Pastor
Emeritus:
Rev. Dr. Wayne
A. Basch**



Are you
envious
because
I am
generous?

MATTHEW 20:15

Welcome

With warm hearts and hands, we welcome all who have come to worship the Lord. May this be a time of encouragement and inspiration for us all.

WHEN THE ROAD GETS ROUGH



It had been a long trip home, and the weary traveler still had miles to go. So when a sign appeared reading, “Rough Road Ahead — 4 miles,” he braced himself.

Rough was an understatement. The lanes narrowed, the shoulder disappeared, and traffic slowed to a crawl. Drivers carefully weaved around potholes and construction equipment, inching forward one stretch at a time. But just as the sign promised, after four difficult miles, the road opened up and smoothed out again.

Jesus offers a similar kind of clarity about life. In John 16:33 (NIV), He says, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Notice He doesn’t say we might face trouble. It is part of the journey. There will be stretches that feel slow, uncertain and hard.

Notice that Jesus didn’t say we “might” have trouble. Sooner or later, problems will come. The road will get rough. But Jesus has already defeated everything the world can throw our way. We just have to keep moving, fueled by hope.

The promise is just as certain as the warning sign. The rough road does not last forever, and it does not have the final say. Christ has already gone before us, and smoother ground is ahead.

IT ONLY TAKES A SPARK



Love is the spark that kindles the fire of compassion. Compassion is the fire that flames the candle of service. Service is the candle that ignites the torch of hope. Hope is the torch that lights the beacon of faith. Faith is the beacon that reflects the power of God. God is the power that creates the miracle of love.

—William Arthur Ward

GATHERING

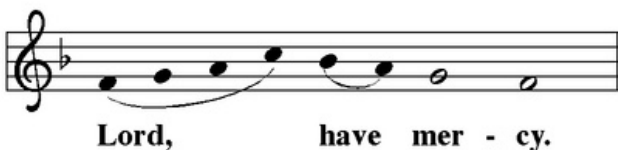
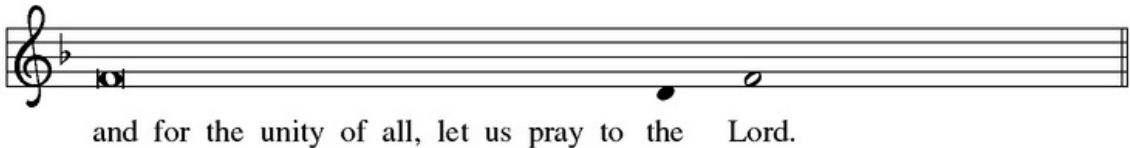
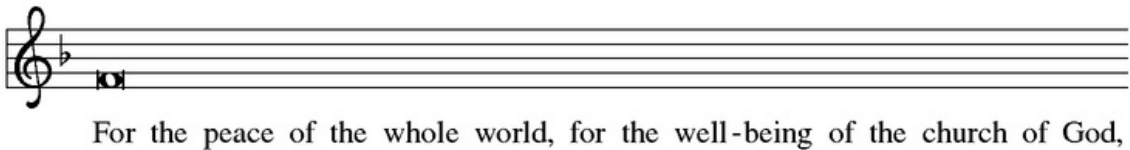
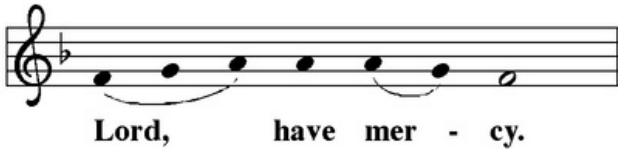
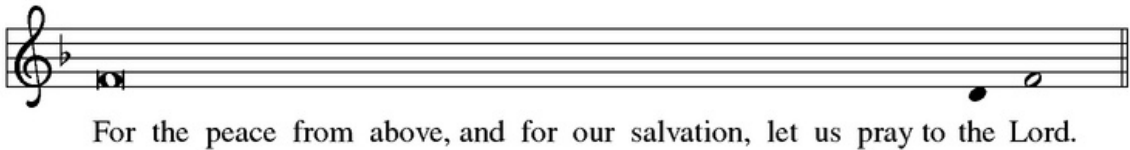
The Prelude: *"Love Lifted Me"* Smith

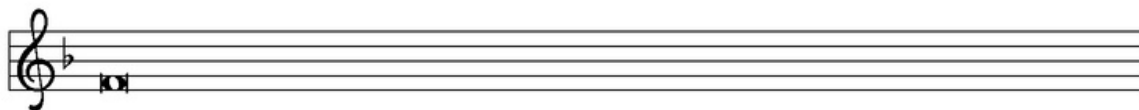
+The Opening Hymn: "TAKE MY LIFE, THAT I MAY BE" No. 583

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

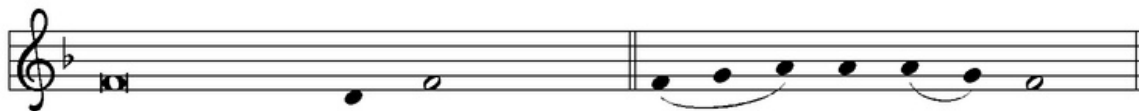
The Service of Holy Communion - 9:00 am

+ The Kyrie:





For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

+ The Canticle of Praise:



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



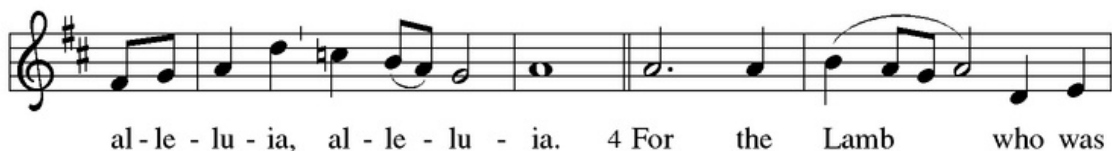
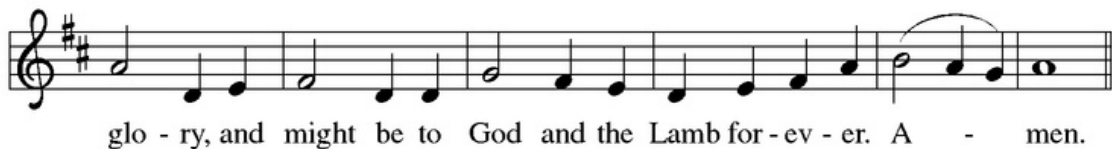
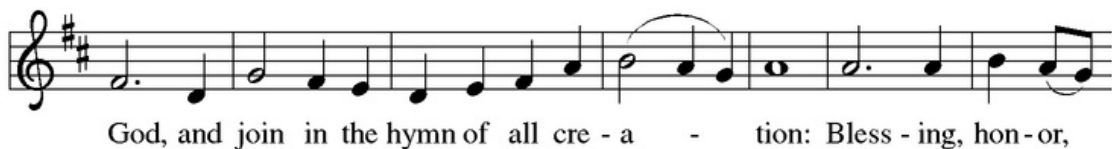
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and





The Service of the Word - 11 am



Today we joyfully participate in celebrating a baptism. Join in the baptismal liturgy as it is found on page 227 in the front of your hymnal.

+The Cantic: ***"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"***

+ The Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

+ The Readings for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10 - 4:11

¹⁰When 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. ²He 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. ³And now,

O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then 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.

⁶The 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. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When 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.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then 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. ¹¹And 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?”

The Anthem: ***“Be Still, My Soul” Sibelius/Larson***

The Holy Gospel: 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. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And 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?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When 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

+The Prayers

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence

Hold your church here and at our partner parish in Coronationville, accountable for our unwillingness to share your grace and our anger at your generosity. Nourish us to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide us to be wise caretakers of the earth, especially amid shifting weather patterns and natural disasters. So that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Remind those who are unemployed, unable to work or hurting financially that their true value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and suffering in any way (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of our country and communities. Inspire all in this congregation to support the places we call home with our time and talents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

+ Sharing the Peace of Christ (9:00 am only)

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

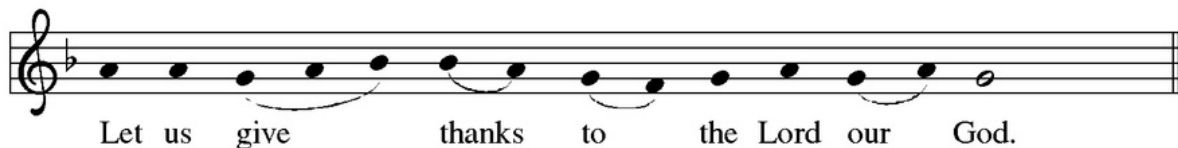
The Voluntary: "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" Townend/Tornquist

Service of Holy Communion - 9:00 am

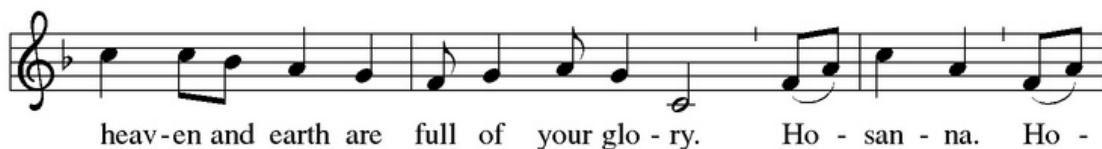
MEAL

+The Offering Prayer

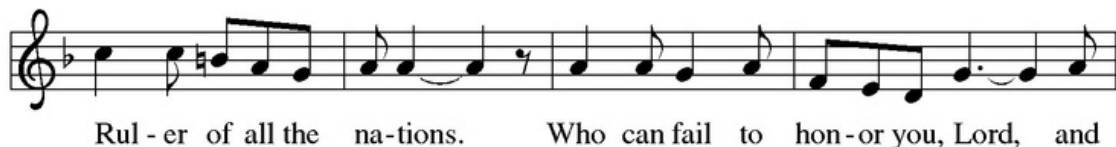
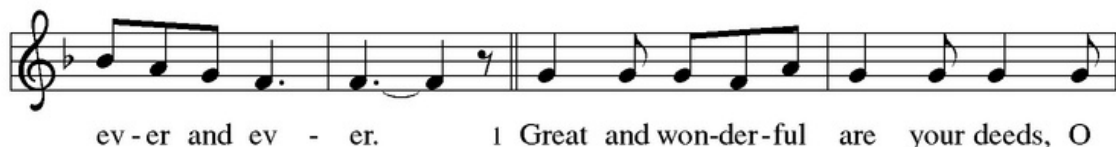
+The Great Thanksgiving



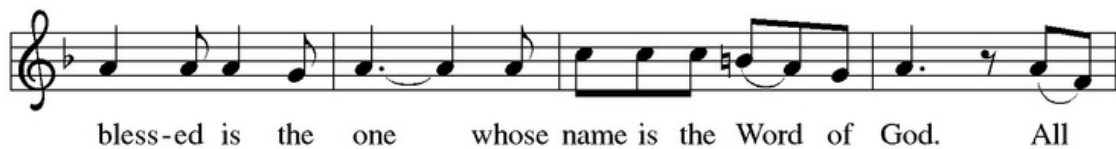
+The Preface is sung by the pastor.



Refrain



Refrain





+ The Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Word

+ The Lord's Prayer

SENDING

+The Benediction

+The Dismissal is spoken by the pastor.

Response: **Thanks be to God**

+SENDING HYMN: "LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING" No. 545

The Postlude: "*Praeludium und Fuge in C-Dur*" Bach

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SERVING TODAY:

The Organist - *Donna Choquette*

The Soloist - *Aaron Basch*

The Readers -9:00 - *Edith Schmitt*

11:00 - *Kristie Traverso*

The Acolytes - 9:00 - *Ron Krapf and Lilly Pegorin*

11:00 - *Ruby Gutierrez and Scarlett Gutierrez*



Today's chancel flowers are given by Lynn Evers in loving memory of her parents, Corinne and Walter Doerrer and by the Holke and Sweeney families in loving memory of Dave and Diane's parents, Ed and Betty Holke. The flowers are also given by Lori and Tony Puttkammer in loving memory of Lori's mother, Shirley Troc.

Our Mission Statement

A caring fellowship of all God's people empowered by grace to proclaim the gospel and lovingly serve as Jesus teaches.

Our Vision Statement

Transforming lives by making the hope of God real through bold faith, service, outreach, discipleship and helping all people discover their God-given value.

Core Values

Encouraging each other in our lifelong journey of faith through our core values of:

- Drawing nearer to God*
- Prioritizing Love over Judgment*
- Practicing Grace*
- Welcoming All*
- Generously Serving*
- Fostering Community*

Our Intercessions Include:

The bereaved: The Spooner family upon the passing of Kurt's brother and Grant's cousin, Scott Spooner.

The Holy Baptism: *Violet Joy Mason*, son of Andrew Mason and Jessica Petrisko. Born: March 16, 2026. Sponsors: Kristen Cekella and Dan Ruelas-Petrisko.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rudolph's BIG BUILD is scheduled for Fri., Sept. 25 at 5:00 pm and Sat., Sept. 26 beginning at 8:00 am. Come join this all church mission project to help a family in need. Sign-up in the narthex today!

Bible Studies started up last week on Tuesday. Check the newsletter for times and more information. Newcomers are always welcome!

Our choirs started up last week and are a great source of pride for Good Shepherd. Joining them is a great way to share your gift and meet some amazing friends. Call the church office for more information.

8th grade Confirmation meets today in the sanctuary between services. 6th and 7th Grade Confirmation began last Monday at 7 pm. If you know of any 6th – 8th grader eligible for this adventure, please see Pastor Chris, Pastor Bell or Mrs. Lori.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the last week to get us information on your college student so we can publish it in the October newsletter. Please complete a form available in the narthex. Thank You!

SAVE THE DATE: Trunk or Treat is being planned for Oct. 24 from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. Look for more information in October's newsletter. All members, families, friends and neighbors are encouraged to attend and join in the fun!

The calendar for the week of September 20

MON	1:00 pm 4:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	"Spiritual Fitness" Hostess: Joan Meyers "Just a Quick Word" - YouTube/FB Junior Choir 6 th & 7 th Grade Confirmation "Body & Soul"
TUE	9:30 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm	Faith, Prayer & Joy Group Bible Study Discovering the Bible
WED	6:00 pm	Adult Choir
THU	6:30 pm 9:00 pm	Carillon Choir Prayer Walk
FRI	5:00 pm	BIG BUILD Wood Cutting
SAT	8:00 am	BIG BUILD
SUN	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 10:10 am 10:30 am 11:00 am 11:00 am	Service of the Word <i>Online Service</i> Puppets 8 th Grade Confirmation Cherub Choir Service of Holy Communion Sunday School

PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation

Dave Holke	Gail Kendall
Matt Vitt	Shirley Hulse
JoAnn Montecki	Lori Cronin
Barb Bergamo	Barry Garr Jr.
Matt Brett	Gerhard Haigis
Ed Schussler	Jim Srbeny
Beth Wetzig	Bill Innocenti

Friends of the Congregation

Gary Gamauf	Adrienne Manley
Bob Stevens	Ron Warnke
Dorothy Norris	Craig Chismarick
Linda Mazurek	Marilyn Veselack
Judi LaBuda	Walter Kroll
Rev. Chuck Johnson	Dolores Wrzesinski
Ryan Barlaan	Kaylee Wynn
Donna Herpich	Andre Swanson
Natalya Villa	Chuck Singleton
Sylvia Rodriguez	Laura Nicholson
Steve Hayward	Tom Elsner
John Ledwitch	Debra Casey
Nicholas Lyon	Laura Reynolds
Matt Mansfield	Joe Kaderabek
Donna O'Malley	Louise Sims
Pattie Hayes	Jason Randall Glugla
Linda D'Oyley	Tim Hennessey
Kathleen Cantillon	Katy Peterman
Linda Celesia	Dale Koch
Kim Heck	Maryanne Campbell
Robbie Glocker	Alex Gersic
Christina Carroll	Silvia Guijarro

Please let us know if there is someone you need added or removed from the prayer list by contacting the church office by 9 am on Friday. Thank You!

Pictures may be taken at our service to use on our updated website. Please contact us if you desire we not use any photograph including your image.