

“Who is the greatest
in the kingdom of
heaven?”
Matthew 18:1



Reformation Lutheran Church
"Gathered by Christ to be and make disciples."
2100 Manor Ridge Dr.
Lancaster, PA 17603
Pastor Mark Chavez
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Phone: (717) 947-4284
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Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sept. 10, 2023



WORSHIP LEADERS

	Sept. 10	Sept. 17
Assit. Min./ Comm. Assit.	Melissa Cuff	Kandi Null
Lector	Ken Hollinger	Kandi Null
Ushers	John & Kandi Null	Jack McCarthy/ Bob Thomas
Musician	Dcn. Arica Demme	
Altar Guild	Kandi Null	Rose Keller
Sound Tech.	John Null	Chaz Stroup
Offering Counters	Lee Mills/John Null	Ken Hollinger/Fred Lepley
Livestream	Mason Tippet/Sandy Tippet	Clarence Clark/ Judy & Lee Mills
Communion Prayers	Sandy Tippet/Beth Birchall	Crystal & Fred Lepley
Nursery/Class ages 4-5	Ruth Ober/Susie Kramer	Kandi Null/Susie Kramer

Sept. 3, 2023
ATTENDANCE - 69

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE USHERS.

“CRY ROOM AVAILABILITY”

For parents with children younger than one year, there is a “Cry Room” near the front entrance if you would need to use that during the worship service.

Please maintain silence for meditation as soon as the candles are lit until the beginning of the service.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The assembly stands (if able)

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Matthew 28:19b; [18-20]

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C: Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a -
 3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train Join your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,

bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,
 above are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name to hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, Though in es - sence on - ly one;

All in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with
 And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; And from morn to
 Un - di - vid - ed God we claim you And, a - dor - ing,

vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.
 bend the knee While we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth. 1820-1900, alt.
 Tune: Maria Theresa, Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774

GROSSER GOTT
 78 78 77

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al-might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the
 Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-
 lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O Lord, always lead and follow us with your grace, that we may be still more intent on doing good. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

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

Brief silence for reflection.

The Psalm is read responsively.

Psalm 32:1-7

- ¹ Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- ² **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
- ³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**
- ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- ⁶ **Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**
- ⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Brief silence for reflection.

The Second Reading is from the 13th chapter of Romans

Second Reading: Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

Brief silence for reflection.

The assembly stands (if able) to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6:68



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



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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th chapter.



Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two

or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly stands (if able).

HYMN OF THE DAY

In Christ There Is No East or West

Chords: C G7 C F7 Bb F C F Am Dm7 G7 C

1 In Christ there is no east or west, In him no south or north,
 2 In him shall true hearts ev - 'ry-where Their high com - mu - nion find;
 3 Join hands then, broth - ers of the faith, What - e'er your race may be.
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, In him meet south and north;

Chords: Am C Am C G9 C G7 C F C G7 C

But one great fel - low - ship of love Through - out the whole wide earth.
 His ser - vice is the gold - en cord Close - bind - ing all man - kind.
 Who serves my Fa - ther as a son Is sure - ly kin to me.
 All Christ - ly souls are one in him Through - out the whole wide earth.

© Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941
 © Tune: Negro spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

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 CM

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APOSTLE'S CREED

C: 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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all
people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these or similar words:

P: Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in
your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Matt. 5:22-24; Eph 4:1-3

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

*The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Ps. 104:14-15; Is. 25:6; 1 Cor. 5:7



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**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.**

The assembly is seated.

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29



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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

We invite you to pray silently for someone in the congregation while sitting in the pew before or after receiving Communion or while in line waiting to receive. Two people will be at the back of the sanctuary praying for everyone at this time.

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine.

HOW WE COMMUNE: When you come forward the pastor will first give you bread to eat. Then, take a cup from the tray. The assistant will pour in wine to drink. Afterward, you will place the empty cup in the water in the plastic container at the side aisle, and return to your seat.

If you are unable to consume wine, you may commune with only the bread. Unbaptized and those who have yet to receive first communion may come forward to receive a blessing. Signify by holding your hands to your chest instead of reaching out for the bread and wine.

The assembly stands (if able) when everyone has received the sacrament.

BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

[Psalm 105:1-3, 42-43; 1 Chronicles 16:8-10]



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray,

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.
 4 "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
 I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.
 I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."
 Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace."

Text: Jaroslav Vajda, b. 1919
 Music: Welsh
 Text © 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

In your daily prayers please remember those listed below:

Homebound

Debbie Binder

Clair Crist

Donna Hildebeitel

Elizabeth Larsen

Sonya LaGamba

Earl and Janet Harry

Luke Seamon

Deb Kneisley

Additional prayers

Tom Scherer - ALS

Pr. Ted Hummel – bone marrow cancer

Brittany Merrill – chemo, radiation & surgery

Donald Moyer – chemo

Jeff Bradley – recovering from lung cancer surgery

Shirley Kneisley - bronchiectasis

Meghan Mills – colitis

Neil Vital – stem cell transplant

Chuck Landis – cancer

Courtney Tito – kidney transplant

Lauren Didyoung – brain cancer

Judy Mills – securing a diagnosis

Jo Zimmerman – dementia

Ed Zook – recovering from heart attack

Dorothy Mills – bleeding esophageal
varices

Patricia Stroup – pulmonary disease

Anthony Riggi – custody of daughter

Jeff Hofsass – high blood pressure

Pr. Bill White – cancer

Pr. Bennett Harris – various medical issues

Pr. Greg Fryer & congregation – legal issues

Jeanne Zeller – pancreatic cancer

Pr. Amy Schiffrin – bone infection

BJ Wolfgang – broken arm

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES (continued)

To request a prayer during today's worship for a person not on the list above, "print" the name on the prayer request form on the table in the back of the nave before worship.

Names on the additional prayers list will be printed for one month. Contact Rose Keller (717) 333-1448 or (rose.a.keller@gmail.com) or Pr. Mark at (pastor@reformation-nalc.org) to keep a name listed for another month, to add a new name, or to remove a name.

Prayer Chain participants are emailed prayer updates. Contact Judy Mills (pabluebird1242@icloud.com) to be included in the updates, or request removal from the chain.

STEWARDSHIP



Offering plates are not passed during the service. They are on a table in the back of the nave. You may also mail checks to Sandy Tippet (3377 Horizon Drive, Lancaster PA 17603) or make a donation online at <https://www.reformation-nalc.org/giving/>.

MINISTRY CONTACTS

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Altar guild | June Kreider | 717-285-3241 |
| Announcements | Ray Kneisley | 717-449-9155 |
| Assistant ministers | Judy Mills | 717-468-7571 |
| Coffee Time | Joan Hollinger | 717-684-8584 |
| Funeral Luncheons | Rose Bennett | 717-468-8106 |
| Lectors | Judy Mills | 717-468-7571 |
| Luther Lager League | Pastor Mark | 717-947-4284 |
| Prayer Requests | Judy Mills | 717-468-7571 |
| Purls Shawl Ministry | Judy Mills | 717-468-7571 |
| Sound | Chaz Stroup | 717-684-2760 |
| Ushers | Rose Keller | 717-333-1448 |

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS AND LIAISONS

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| President | Ken Hollinger | 717-951-0323 |
| Vice President | Melissa Cuff | 610-457-6412 |
| Secretary | Kim Wittel | 717-468-7917 |
| Treasurer | Fred Lepley | 717-629-6371 |
| Christian Ed | Melissa Cuff | 610-457-6412 |
| Communications | Betty Scheich | 717-464-6759 |
| Mission Team | Melissa Cuff | 610-457-6412 |
| Fellowship | Ken Hollinger | 717-951-0323 |
| Finance/Stewardship | Fred Lepley | 717-629-6371 |
| Property | Jack McCarthy | 717-471-5855 |
| Social Ministry | Terry Miller | 717-898-0001 |
| Worship & Music | Kim Wittel | 717-468-7917 |

CORE VALUES OF THE NALC

Christ-Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, “according to which all doctrines should and must be judged” (Formula of Concord). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.

Mission-Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples — in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world — must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

Traditionally-Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.

Congregationally-Focused

We strive to be a church body that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servanthood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.



NALC

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