



**Emmanuel
Lutheran**
CHURCH & SCHOOL
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

13th Sunday of Pentecost

8:30AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

11:00AM BLENDED WORSHIP

OUR VISION: FULLY ENGAGED, BIBLICALLY PASSIONATE, DRIVEN TO SERVE



Dancing
to
**GOD'S
GRACE**

Luke 14:25–35

ChurchOffice@elcsmail.org



(828) 252-1795 x100

www.emmanuelutheran.info

Sunday—September 7th, 2025



Directly after second service:

- > Personal Prayer Ministry (after 11am service at the altar)<
- > 9:45 Adult Sunday School (School Music Room off the Gym) <
- > 9:45 Kid's Sundays School (room off the Fellowship Hall) <
- > The Food Pantry is CLOSED TODAY!<

8:30am Traditional Service

Call to Worship:

"The First Psalm"

Text from Psalm 1, Psalm 31:23, and Romans 8:28.
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Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn: LSB 688

"Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake

Divine:

Setting One

Invocation: page 151

Confession and Absolution: page 151

Kyrie: Page 152

This is the Feast: Page 155

Salutation and Collect: Page 156

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

(Responses page 156)

Epistle: Philemon 1-21

(Responses page 156)

Alleluia and Verse: Page 156

The Holy Gospel: Luke 14:25-35

(Responses page 157)

Children's Message

The Sermon Hymn: LSB 851

"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

The Sermon: Dancing to God's Grace

(Luke 14:25-35)

The Apostles' Creed: Page 159

Prayers of the Church

Offering

Offertory: Page 159

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Pax Domini: Page 163

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Distribution

Communion Hymns:

LSB 685

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

LSB 707

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My
Ways"

Post-Communion Cantic: Page 164

Post-Communion Collect: Page 166

Benediction: Page 166

Closing Hymn: LSB 918

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"



AS WE GATHER

Jesus is blunt about the cost of discipleship. He does not sugarcoat the life He calls us to in the baptismal waters but neither does He diminish His promises, gifts, and blessings that accompany this life of faith. Today He calls us to count the cost, knowing that the way of the Christian is constantly tested and tried by our affection for the things of this life, our vulnerability to the enemies of the faith, and the weakness of our own sinful flesh. Part of that cost is not just in what you desire but also in what you are willing to surrender for the sake of Christ and His kingdom.

CALL TO WORSHIP "The First Psalm"

Text from Psalm 1, Psalm 31:23, and Romans 8:28. Music by Pepper Choplin. ©2018 Hal Leonard Corporation. One License #300074.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG "Build My Life

(Verse 1)

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing

Worthy of all the praise we could ever
bring

Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever
breathe

We live for You

(Chorus)

Holy there is no one like You

There is none beside You

**Open up my eyes in wonder and show
me who You are**

And fill me with Your heart

**And lead me in Your love to those
around me**

(Verse 2)

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name

Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever

breathe

We live for You

We live for You

(Sing Chorus again)

(Bridge)

I will build my life upon Your word

It is a firm foundation

I will put my trust in You alone

And I will not be shaken

(Repeat Bridge)

(Sing Chorus 2x)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Most holy and merciful Father,

People: **we confess to You, and to one another, and to the whole company of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

Pastor: We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

People: **Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: We have taken for granted Your grace and mercy and lived as though You did not matter and we mattered most of all.

People: **Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: We confess to You, O Lord, that we have done the evil Your Word prohibits and have not done the good You command.

People: **Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: We confess that we have hidden our sin from You and from one another and have not confessed honestly before You or to those whom we have hurt.

People: **We are truly sorry for the sins we have committed in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done that is wrong and by our failure to do what is right. Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 (I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil.)

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you, life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore, choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

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

EPISTLE *Philemon 1–21* (Paul’s letter commending the slave Onesimus back to his master, not only as a slave but as a brother in the Lord.)

²⁴ Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶ on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸ And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? ³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³² At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, ³³ but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.¹ I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.

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

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 14:25–35* (Jesus speaks of the cost of discipleship and calls on those who would follow Him to deny themselves and take up the cross.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’

³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. ³⁴ “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵ It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG "As For Me" by Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, and Pat Barrett

Verse 1

Your love oh Lord is strength to my soul
Hope for tomorrow it won't let go
Your presence is the joy of my life
To You I lift my eyes

Chorus

**As for me and my house we will
serve the Lord
We will sing of Your love forevermore
As for me and my house we will
serve the Lord
Serve the Lord**

Verse 2

Your word alone a lamp to my feet
A light to my path as You're leading me
Your ways oh Lord are higher than mine
To You I lift my eyes

(Sing the Chorus)

Bridge

We give our everything
To You our lives we bring
All glory to our King

(Repeat Bridge)

(Sing Chorus 2x)

(Sing Verse 1)

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SERMON "Dancing to God's Grace" (Luke 14:25-35)

CREED APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERTORY SONG "Follow"

(Verse 1)

I give my life to follow Jesus
Captive to Christ I know true freedom
I count it all joy to take up my cross
I'll follow

(Verse 2)

These earthly wells have left me thirsty
All worldly wisdom comes up empty
Only Your word and only Your ways
I'll follow

(Chorus)

**What a joy it is to follow You Jesus
What a gift it is to bear Your name
What an honor to choose to worship
And make You my everything**

(Verse 3)

When the darkness brings its questions
When trusting You becomes a wrestle
I have resolved no matter the cost
I'll follow

(Sing Chorus 2x)

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(Bridge)

Yes, to surrender
Yes, to the altar
Yes, to Your plans for me
Yes, to correction Yes, to confession
Yes, to refining me
Yes, to Your blessing
Yes, to anointing
Your Spirit alive in me
Yes, to direction
And resurrection
Yes, to eternity

(Sing Chorus)

**What a joy it is to follow You Jesus
What a gift it is to bear Your name
What an honor to choose to worship
And make You my everything**

(Ending)

And make You my everything
Lord You are my everything

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Holy and mighty Lord, in Your mercy You created all things and still preserve them, and by Your will and purpose You sent forth Your Son, born of the virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit, to rescue and redeem us from the sin and death we chose. As He has fulfilled Your holy purpose and won for You a holy people, grant that we may here receive with faith the fruits of His redeeming work and in this Holy Communion be fed and nourished to everlasting life in Christ.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matt.26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Cor.11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \times body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:2*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 685 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus
And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.

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LSB 707 "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will!

2 Order my footsteps by Thy Word
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken. Jesus,
You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me

3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e'er forget Thy way,
Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

4 Make me to walk in Thy commands—
'Tis a delightful road—
Nor let my head or heart or hands
Offend against my God.Text: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

People: and His mercy endures forever.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG “In God We Trust”

(Verse 1)

Overwhelmed but I won't break

Through the battle I will say

Your grace will be enough

Your grace will be enough

Under fire but we won't fall

We will never be alone

You'll always be enough

You'll always be enough

(Chorus)

Now in God we trust

In His name we hope

I know God will not be shaken

God is here with us

He's already won

I know God will not be shaken

(Verse 2)

We will follow where You go

We will trust through the unknown

I know You go before

I know You go before

Lead my heart now in Your ways

For we're carrying Your name

Your promise never fails

Your promise never fails

(SING CHORUS)

(Bridge 2x)

You'll finish what You've begun

Forever strong in Your love

Your name is sure

And You will fight for us

Our hope forever secure

In You alone

(SING CHORUS)

Servers	8:30am	11:00am	Prayer Support Team: Linda Carlson & Ron Pepin Sound & Tech Crew: 1 st : Heather M. & Peter L. 2 nd : Peter L. & Rachel S. Altar Guild: 1 st : Martha Greene & Kathryn Wilmoth 2 nd : Margo Rabon & Carolyn Salsieder Offering Counters: Mike & Rojealous Rush
Elder	Marni Jennejahn	Rich Baldwin	
Acolyte	TBD	Ivana Lopez	
Ushers	Stephanie Hanson Scott Hausman	Doug Piercy Lisa Baldwin	
Communion	Neil Pursley Debbie Reiling	Ron Pepin Rich Baldwin	
Lector	Amy Bair	Carolyn Salsieder	

Acts
OF THE APOSTLES
BIBLE STUDY
BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 7TH
10 AM
SCHOOL MUSIC ROOM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church's **RSVP**

Oktoberfest

October 18, 2025
12-3 pm
Live music
Free German meal

Beer and wine
\$3

Sacred Communion Values

As baptized Christians, having received instruction in the Holy Sacrament; our precious Savior and Lord Jesus Christ invites us to His Holy Meal in which we receive the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. Before we receive the Holy Sacrament, we should:

- a) Examine our relationship with God & others according to the Ten Commandments;
- b) Truly repent of our sins and seek forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord;
- c) Faithfully believe God's Word which teaches us that in, with, and under the bread and wine we receive the true body and blood of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ;
- d) By the working of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, commit our life as a redeemed disciple of Jesus Christ through thought, word, and deed.



**Emmanuel
Lutheran**
CHURCH & SCHOOL
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

Scott Hausman (*Chair Rep.*), **Rojealous Rush** (*V-Chair*),
Steve Ude (*Parish*), **Deb DeBerry** (*School*), **Neil Pursley** (*Music/
Worship*), **Eugene Edwards** (*Outreach & Family*),
Ed Lopez (*Secretary & Youth*), **Peter Renner** (EMT), & **Rich Bair**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, September 8

7:00pm Southside Bible Group –Baldwin Home

Tuesday, September 9

6:00pm BOD Meeting Steam or Virtual

Wednesday, September 10

12:00pm Midweek Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Thursday, September 11

Friday, September 12

6:00pm Pickleball (gym)

Saturday, September 13

Food Pantry is OPEN!!!

Sunday, September 14

Post-Service Prayer Ministry Support (Altar)

Food Pantry is CLOSED

5:00pm High School Youth Group

Last Sunday's Attendance & Stats

In-person

Services: 10 am: 118

Wednesday Noon 8/6: 19

Online

Website: 31

FB: 5

Upcoming Member Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS:

9/13 - Briana Hastings

ANNIVERSARIES:

Previous Week's Offerings

General Offering Received: \$ 7216.39

Building Funds Received: \$ 3721.09

***Weekly Offering Budget:** \$ (12817.31)

CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Skopak

Director of Christian Education: Alexi Lundquist

Parish Administrator: Dirk Wilmoth

Business Administrator: Gail Thomas

Finance Asst.: Leigh Horsley

Office Asst. Church & ECE, Benefits Mgr: Amy Skopak

Admin. Asst.: Anitta Charlson

Church Music and Sound Director: Heather Meulenberg

Organist: Lula Meulenberg;

Digital Media : Peter Linton

Hospitality Ministry: Shirley Parker

Facilities Mgmt: Neil Seidler, Mike Rush, Neil Pursley

SCHOOL K-8

Principal/STEAM: Mark Edmiston

Admin. Assistant: Shari Reaves

Asst. Principal/MS English: Denise Ball

Director of Admissions: Emily Leatherwood

Kindergarten: Kim Noel & Jamie Wertham

First Grade: Kerry Stead /Mackenzie Knapp

Second Grade: Leigh Weaver

Third Grade/Curriculum Coordinator: Kiara Studer

Fourth Grade: Chelsey Towery

Fifth Grade: Emily Lundquist

MS Science: Leigh Conner

MS Math: Jenelle Lanham

MS Social Studies: Mindy Stackhouse

PE/Athletic Director: Jennifer Jenkins "Coach J"

Art: Tammy Reilly

Music & Spanish: A.L. Brown

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:

Director: Nicole Loria

Admin Assist: Carolyn Mashburn

Younger Infants: Paula Jones and Rachel Bishop

Older Infants: Becky Swatzell & Hydeia Beck

Toddlers 1: Lindsey Smathers & Mikayla Gulbrand

Toddler2: Neesie Castillo and Ivy Robles

PS2: Veronica Milner and Christy Credle

PS-2/3: Amy Bair and Julia Sherman

PS3: Madison McDonald and Jasmine Riddle

PS3/4: Robin Rutherford & DeAsia Little

PreK-1: Madison Peach & Cleo Green

PreK-2: Faith Noell & Crystal McCormick

Floating Aid: Felicia Norton

Cafeteria: Kristen Warren and Mikaela Bennett

ELC Grab n Go Sunday Food Pantry

Saturday 8/24

85 Households, 312 Individuals served



Emmanuel Lutheran Prayer List September 7, 2025

These are people in need of prayers this week. "Lord Jesus we commend into Your hands the needs of people that go through challenges of many kinds. You know their joys, troubles, illnesses, and fears. We now commend them to You.

"Prayers for good health, swift healing, & favor:

-McKenzie - (Brian Parker fiancé's daughter) prayers for health & well-being

- Rev. Dr. John Groh - (D.Groh's brother) had a stroke/cannot talk

◇ **John Jennejahn - Recovering from gastro procedure 9/4**

◇ **Pastor Dan Kelm - Recovering from knee replacement surgery**

◇ **Edith Walker & Family - Mike passed away 8/31**

◇ **Marilynne Stinson - Recovering from knee surgery 8/29**

- Nicole - (S. Rauschenplat niece of BIL) Aggressive liver cancer

◇ **Nick & Brooke Jud - (Reaves) Baby Gracelyn Anna born 8/27**

- Barb Haun - (Mary Hufnagle's SIL) Recovering after Hiatal Hernia surgery

◇ **Lorenz Family & Friends- (Christi Lorenz's mom, Marliyn Saylor, passed away 8/24**

- Lisa Anders-Hoepgen & Family (Horsley, friend/neighbor) Daughter, Sundari, passed away at age 14. Prayers for comfort, hope, peace.

- Barbara Haseley - (I.Lopez Grandmother) Breast Cancer

- Virginia Lopez - (E. Lopez Mom) in Hospice care

- Ron Gill - (D.Meyer friend) Cancer

- Alice & Dawn -(J.Kearley friends) both have breast cancer

- Jason Morris - (D.Myer's friend) Jason's mother died suddenly, he has a brother with special needs

- Lee Hagan - (Pres./Missouri District) recovering from a stroke

- Don Erbes - (Meyer's friend) Heart Surgery 7/28

◇ **CJ Reece - outpatient surgery for catheter ablation soon**

◇ **Ed Schallhorn - recovering from major surgery at home**

- Zeb Dowdle (N. Black, best friend) Needs kidney transplant due to being on meds since age 5, after a heart transplant.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church is a praying community!

We believe the promise of God regarding His Word.

Prayer request cards are located on the bottom of our attendance cards in the sanctuary on the back on the pews. You may also call or email your request to the church office at anytime!

Prayers for those with long-term illnesses & conditions:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| ◇ Harold Neuenkirchen | Linda Poppenhagen |
| ◇ Ken Treadway | Rev. Mark Spelzhausen (J. Gibney, friend) |
| ◇ Lorenzo Lopez | Donna Logeman (E.Lundquist, mother) |
| ◇ Peg Hardesty | Nancy Hutchins (G. Bailey, friend) |
| ◇ Jim Clark | Ann Downs (K. Emory, mother) |
| ◇ Steve Taylor | Ann Melious (McCarthy family) |
| ◇ Mary Hufnagle | Carol Harris (S.Ude's friend) |
| ◇ Sharon Pruet | Robin Worley (J.Kearley's friend) |
| ◇ Diana Hempel | Virginia Lopez (E. Lopez, mother) |
| ◇ Emily Nieting | Chris Alstrin (L.Schulhof, friend) |
| ◇ Cynthia Cline | Jennie Buckner (C.Cline's neighbor) |
| ◇ Helen Cline | Elsie Lankford (S. Pruet's mother) |
| ◇ Marjorie Locke | Mike Lemmons (J. Groh) |
| ◇ Julia Kearley | Jamie Leyva (C. Leyva, daughter-in-law)) |
| ◇ C.J. Reece | Ron Riddle (B. King, friend) |
| ◇ Mike Fastenau | Erin Y. (J. Thomas, friend) |
| ◇ Ray Bailey | Ralph Ector, Jr & Snr (S.Edwards, family) |
| ◇ Don Maskell | Tyrone Ayres (S. Edwards, friend) |
| | Lynn White (S. Edwards, cousin) |
| | Randy Booker (J. Kearley, brother-in-law) |
| | Todd Sluder (C. Piercy, friend) |
| | Mary Walker (D. Meyer, aunt) |
| | Brandon Talofuse, Newton Crave (E.Bailey) |

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBER BROTHERS & SISTERS:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| ◇ K. Ray Bailey | ◇ Carol Cook | ◇ Diana & Isabelle Hempel |
| ◇ Teenie Smathers | ◇ Marjorie Locke | ◇ Andre & Lori Benson |
| ◇ Ken & Carol Treadway | ◇ Helen Cline | ◇ Gerry & Peg Hardesty |
| ◇ Jim & Judy Clark | ◇ Clela McCall | |

Scripture & Prayer

"Ask, and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks will receive, and anyone who seeks will find, and the door will be opened to those who knock...How much more, then, will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:7-8, 11b)

Dear Father, come to our homebound brothers and sisters. Encourage them every day and give Your peace that passes all understanding. May they experience Your great love for them again and again. Fill them with the hope of everlasting life in Jesus. Be the Encourager and the Helper to their families and caregivers. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

September 7, 2025
Dancing to God's Grace
Luke 14:25-35

You may have _____ away from other things in order to focus acutely to get the job done. What about your _____ of faith? Have you ever considered the sacrifices in order to be a disciple of Jesus?

- I. It's Not _____
- A. The discipleship road is _____
1. Luke _____
 2. This is a _____ statement
 3. The point: To follow Jesus one must put everything _____ in life
- B. Jesus comes _____
1. Jesus comes before _____, _____, and even our own _____
 2. Jesus is calling us to a _____ kind of life
- C. Jesus is asking us: Are you _____ to pay that kind of price to be His follower?
1. You have to _____ the _____
 2. The life of a disciple of Jesus requires _____
- II. Cheap _____ ???
- A. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "The _____ of Discipleship"
1. "Cheap Grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring _____, baptism without Church _____, Communion without _____, absolution without personal _____"
 2. "Cheap grace is grace without _____, grace without the _____, grace without _____, living and incarnate."
- B. Costly _____
1. "Costly _____ is the Gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must know"
 2. "Such grace is _____ because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to _____ Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his _____, and it is grace because it gives man the only true _____"

- C. _____ down Grace loses its meaning and its greatness for people
1. The consequence: The door to _____ is wide open in the minds of people
 2. BUT Scripture tells us the door is _____ and, in the words of Jesus, there will be "weeping and gnashing of teeth"

- III. BUT...The Message of _____ Tells Us More!
- A. There was a _____ that had to be paid
1. Luther: "A Religion that gives _____, costs _____, and suffers _____, is worth _____"
 2. Discipleship requires us to model our _____, love our _____, be _____, and serve as good stewards of what God has given to us
- B. The grace of Jesus needs to _____ our lives all the time

Christians are prone to follow the _____ while ignoring the _____. We master the doctrine, outline the chapters, memorize the verses, debate the rules, and stiffly step down the _____ floor of life with no _____ in our hearts. Let God have you - and let your hearts be filled with His _____ of Grace as you live a life of Discipleship.

