

Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost ~ August 31, 2025

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd, Erie Pa 16506

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music



Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

WELCOME

We invite you to quietly prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

(please turn off your cell phone)

Suggested personal meditation ~ Psalm 112

Thank you to Christina Murnock and Cindi Reid for providing musical accompaniment this morning.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community.

We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty.

In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

We confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest.

We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely.

In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 532 *Gather Us In v.1,3*

GREETING

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.**

HYMN of PRAISE

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you



for your glo - ry. *Refrain* Glo - ry to God in the high-



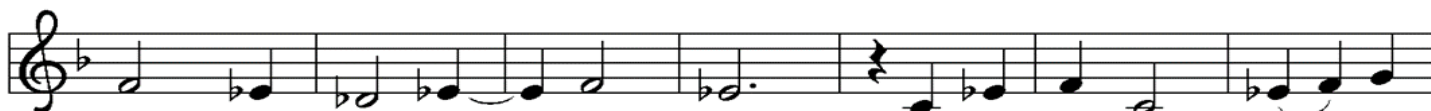
est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



2 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.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
 peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 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. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

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

PRAYER of the DAY

Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer. **O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Sirach 10:12-18

¹²The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord; the heart has withdrawn from its Maker.¹³ For the beginning of pride is sin, and the one who clings to it pours out abominations. Therefore the Lord brought upon them unheard-of calamities and destroyed them completely.¹⁴ The Lord overthrew the thrones of rulers and enthroned the lowly in their place.¹⁵ The Lord plucked up the roots of the nations and planted the humble in their place.¹⁶ The Lord laid waste the lands of the nations and destroyed them to the foundations of the earth.¹⁷ He removed some of them and destroyed them and erased the memory of them from the earth.¹⁸ Pride was not created for human beings or violent anger for those born of women.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~



11 Abadd9 Ab/Bb Eb Ebsus *to repeat* Eb Ab/Bb *final* Eb

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit, fill our hearts

75 Fm7 Eb/G Ab Bbsus Bb Bbsus Bb **D.S.**

and kin - dle in us the fire of your love. ____

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

11 Abadd9 Ab/Bb Eb Ebsus *to repeat* Eb Ab/Bb *final* Eb

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1,7-14

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 14. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. **cont'd**

¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." ¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ *Commonwealth is God's Commandment*



1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
 2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
 3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
 stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
 bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

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

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near. *A brief silence.*

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. We pray especially for: Monica, Terry, Joy R., Trish, Shirley, Jim, Karen S, Joy, Elliott, Dan & Peggy, Don, Dave & Pastor Karen, Maury & Linda, Damian & Marcia, Judy J., Ron F., Kathi, Don & Donna, prayer requests from the Little Library, and for all those we name in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.**

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

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS

OFFERING ~

Please stand

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ All That We Have

All that we have and all that we of - fer comes from a heart both
fright - ened and free. Take what we bring now and give what we need;
All done in His name. 1. Some men re - ly on their pow - er,
Oth - ers put trust in their gold; Some men have on - ly their
Sav - ior, whose faith - ful - ness nev - er grows old. _____

D.C. al Fine

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. **Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

We celebrate the Holy Spirit, who hovered over creation and brought order out of formlessness. We celebrate the Divine Spirit, who filled Jesus with power and wisdom and, through him, made divine life available to all. We celebrate the Spirit, who has been poured out on all people, and leads us into the Kingdom of God. And so, as we gather at this table, we recognize the Spirit's Presence among us, and we open our hearts to the Spirit's influence. Together, we offer our praise and join in the hymn of all creation:

Holy, Holy, Holy

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff in B-flat major (two flats) and 8/8 time. It consists of 17 measures. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, with some measures containing rests. There are also some unusual notations, such as a "7" above a note in measure 10 and a "13" above a note in measure 13. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words hyphenated across measures.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na, ho - san - na, ho -

13 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the

san - na in the high - est.

17 high - est, the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-

san - na, ho - san - na, ho -

25 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the

san - na in the high - est.

29 high - est, the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light. **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

Please be seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

LAMB OF GOD



melody

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have

harmony

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,

mer-cy on us.

1 2



COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN ~ ELW 483, *Here is Bread*

Please stand

PASTORAL BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Thank you, Divine Spirit, for this holy meal and for coming to us as we have shared it. May the love we find at this table be reflected in our lives; May the power we receive at this table make us peacemakers and healers; And may the Spirit who fills us again at this table lead us to be those who proclaim God's Reign in every word we speak and in everything we do. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ~ WOV 793 (blue hymnal) *Shout for Joy*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE ~

PARISH NOTES ~ August 31, 2025

Pastor Karen Parsh ~ 814-881-3266

Office: 814.868.8685 ~ ahadministrator@hotmail.com

FB: [abidinghopelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/abidinghopelutheranchurch) ~ www.abidinghopeerie.org

Please keep in your prayers: The family and friends of Judy Nordin.

Also members and friends: Monica MacKellar, Terry Dunn, Joy Reed, Trish Cirillo, Shirley Englert, Karen Shick, Joy, Elliott Marriotti, Dan & Peggy Kaeberlein, Don Holder, Jr., Bob McDaniel, Pastor Karen & Dave Parsh, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Ron Froess, Kathi Sinnott, Don & Donna Holder, Judy Johnston, and requests from the Little Library.

Sunday, August 31: The Holmberg's "Fun Day" in Findley Lake. Invitation below.

Monday, September 1: Labor Day – office closed

Thursday, September 4: a **NEW four-week** series, with **Pr. Karen and Damian Santabene**, of insightful and meaningful discussions based on the book "The Lord is My Shepherd" @ 1:00p. For members, their families and friends. See Pastor to purchase a book, \$13.50.

Sunday, September 7: Worship 9:30a – Choir Picnic Lunch following worship

Monday, September 8: Prayer Shawl Ladies 10a-12n

Sunday, September 14: Worship 9:30a - Rev. Ralph Mineo @ AHLC.

Pulpit exchange Sunday. Pastor Karen will be at Prince of Peace

Sunday, September 28: The 50th anniversary of **Crop Walk**. An event that helps support the Kearsarge Food Panty and Second Harvest Food Bank will start **from Beach One @ 1:00pm**. All are invited to participate in the walk and of course, donate. **Please see Analee Cree** to sign-up for the walk or donations.

Church Sexton: If anyone is interested or may know of someone, the **part-time position of church sexton still needs to be filled**. Please contact Analee Cree.

Office Hours: Mon & Tues, 930a-1230p. Wed 930a-1230p. For Pastoral emergencies, please contact Pastor Karen @ 814-881-3266

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up and request forms are on the table in narthex. Arrangements- **\$20.00 each**. Place the **completed form and payment** in the offering plate, or to the office by Monday prior your chosen Sunday.

WORSHIP LEADERS ~ August 31, 2025

Videographer	Analee Cree
Greeter/Coffee	June Morey
Lector/Prayers	Sally Zill
Assiting Minister/Acolyte	Bob Hicks
Communion Cups	Penny Gresh
Communion Tray	Emily / Kayla Miller
Presenter	June Morey
Presenter	Carolyn Hayes
Usher	Rick Penn
Usher	Volunteer
Counters	Andy & Diana

Before Summer slips away...

...let's enjoy some time together at Findley Lake!

Where: **John and Jacque Holmberg's house, 2506 Sunnyside Rd. (Route 426), Findley Lake NY** (four doors down from the ice cream stand).

What: Fellowship, boating (pontoon, canoe), eating (pulled pork, watermelon, and anything anyone chooses to share) Special Bonus: The Harvest Fest is happening in downtown Findley Lake. Music, food, vendors, etc.

When: Sunday, August 31 following the worship service until 5 pm.

How: Just show up whenever and hang out for the whole time, or just a while. Bring your swimsuit or lawn chair if you like. Bring your favorite drink or food to share if you like. Plans are pretty loose.

Weather is supposed to be nice this Sunday.

If it rains, we'll give you short notice for another date! ☺

LOOKING AHEAD

FROM OUR WALLS TO YOURS...



Displays and bidding:
Lower level,
Fellowship Hall
2402 W Grandview Blvd.
Erie, PA

www.abidinghopeerie.org

Silent Art Auction!

Prepare yourself for one of the most enjoyable events of the year... a silent auction showcasing beloved art pieces that have been gently enjoyed and are now looking for a new home.

Timeframe

Donations received by Sept 14
Displayed for AH members Fri Sept 19-5-8pm
Displayed for community Sat Sept 20-1-4pm
Final bids Sunday Sept 21-12n -3pm
Successful buyers contacted on Sept 21

Choose from
wood carvings,
canvas florals and
nature prints, final
selections from the
Sontheimer
collection,
paintings of
animals and
people... and an
exceptional
selection of
religious art.



Bishop-Elect Kristen Papson's installation:

Sunday, October 19, 2025, 3:30pm

Good Hope Lutheran Church, Oil City

**Two (school) buses leaving from Erie - \$5.00per person
Sign-up sheet with additional information in narthex.**