

Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost ~ September 20, 2026

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd, Erie Pa 16506

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given

WELCOME

We invite you to quietly prepare your hearts and minds for worship.
(please turn off your cell phone)

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 593 *Drawn to the Light*

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 ~ *Glory to God* cont'd pg. 3

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

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.

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

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.

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

to God's peo - ple on earth.

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.

Glo - ry to God in 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. **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.**

Please be seated

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When 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. ² He 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. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then 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. ⁶ The 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. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When 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." ⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then 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. ¹¹ And 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?"

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

PSALM: 145:1-8 Sung Responsively **Tone 1**

¹ I will exalt you, my ¹ God and king,
and bless your name forev- ¹ er and ever.

² **Every day ¹ will I bless you
and praise your name forev- ¹ er and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly ¹ to be praised!
There is no end ¹ to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works ¹ to another
and shall de- ¹ clare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor ¹ of your majesty
and all your ¹ marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your ¹ wondrous acts,
and I will re- ¹ count your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of ¹ your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully ¹ of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ Celtic Alleluia



GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew Chapter 20. Glory to you, O Lord. [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 going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

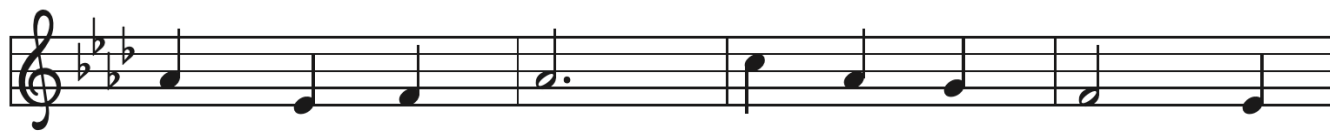
SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

Please stand

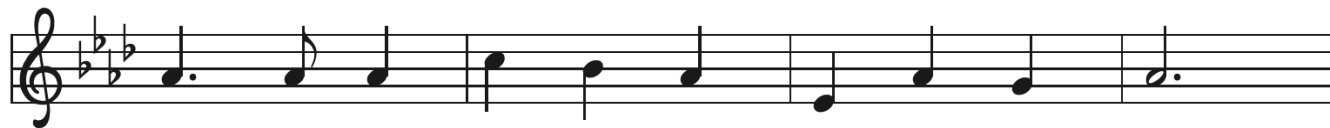
HYMN OF THE DAY ~ *God’s, Work Our Hands* pg.7



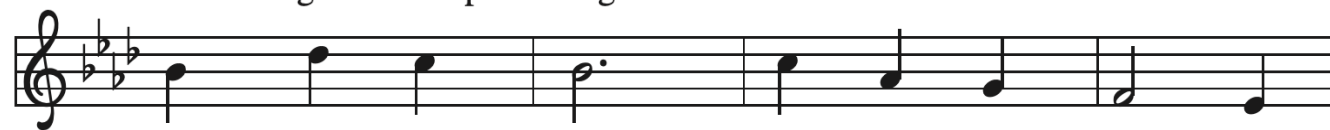
God's, Work Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored.



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless. God. our lives as we an - swer your call.



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

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

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

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need. We pray especially for: family & friends of Trudy. Also: Carolyn, Brian & Penny, Candy & Arch, Sam, Jared, Joy, Priscila, Don, Joan, Pat K., Connie, Kim, Christine P., Cheryl, Gilda & Anthony, Ed & Jeanne, Cindy & Rich, Harry & Susan, Dick & Diana, Kathi, Maury & Linda, Don & Donna, Damian & Marcia, the Little Library visitors, and for all in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.**

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

Please be seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING ~ CHOIR: *Tallis Canon* T. Tallis/arr. D. Wagner

Please stand

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ *Take My Life*



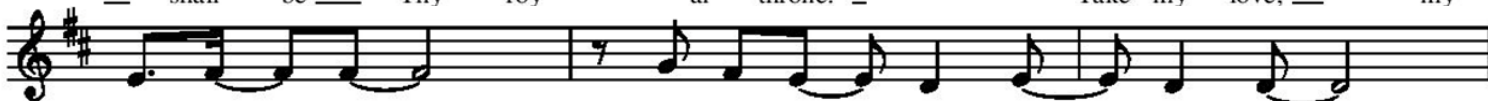
1. Take my life — and let — it be — con - se - crat - ed, Lord, .
2. Take my voice — and let — me sing — al - ways, on - ly, for —
3. Take my will — and make — it Thine, — it — shall be — no long -



— to Thee. — Take my mo - ments and — my — days, — let —
— my King. — Take my lips — and let — them — be — filled .
— er mine. — Take my heart, — it is — Thine — own, — it —



— them flow — in cease - less praise. — Take my hands — and
— with mes - sag - es — from Thee. — Take my sil - ver
— shall be — Thy roy - al throne. — Take my love, — my



let them — move — at the im - pulse of — Thy love. —
and my — gold, — not a mite — would I — with - hold. —
Lord, I — pour — at Your feet — its treas - ure store. —



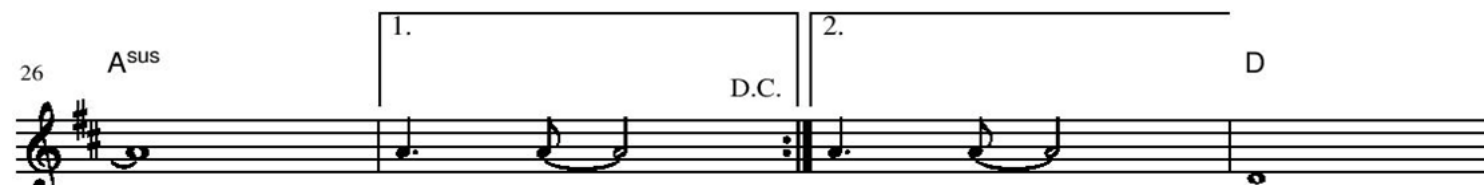
Take my feet — and let — them — be — swift — and beau - ti - ful — for Thee. —
Take my in - tel - lect — and — use — ev - 'ry pow - er as — You choose. .
Take my - self — and I — will — be — ev - er, on - ly, all — for Thee. —



Here — am I, — all — of me. .



Take — my — life, — it's all — for Thee. .



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.**

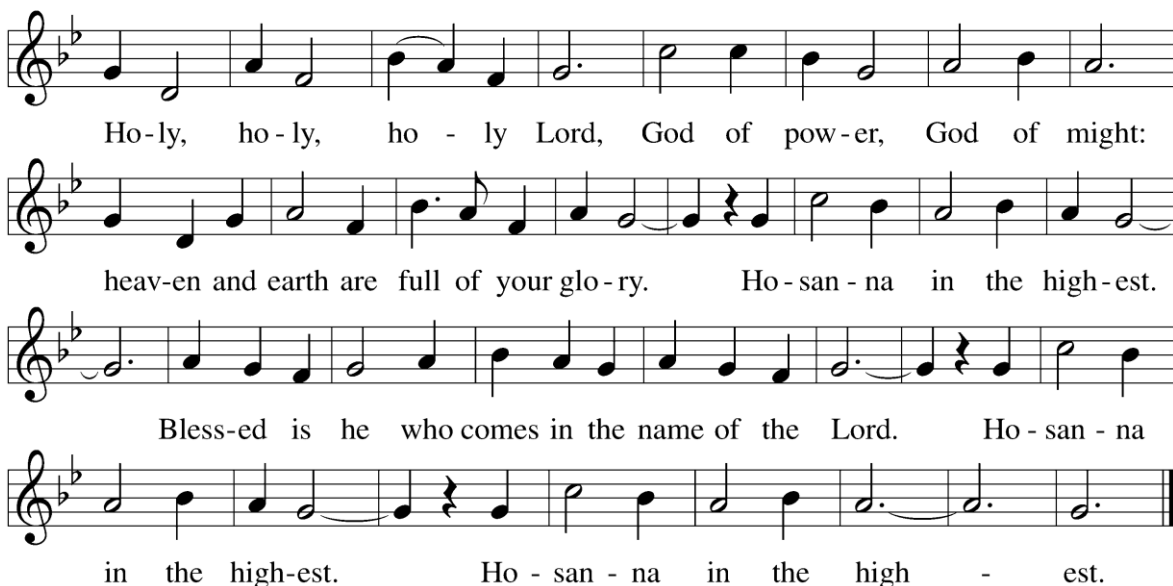
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of 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.

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, Amen

Please be seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

LAMB OF GOD ~

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

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMNS ~ pgs. 12 & 13

Be Exalted



I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, a-mong the peo-ple. I will sing prais-es to
Thee a-mong the na - tions. For Thy stead-fast love is great, is great to the
CHORUS
heav-ens; And Thy faith-ful-ness, Thy faith-ful-ness to the clouds. Be ex -
-alt-ed, O God, a-bove the heav - ens; Let Thy glo-ry be o-ver all the
earth. Be ex - alt - ed, O God, a-bove the heav - ens; Let Thy
glo - ry be o - ver all the earth.



I Exalt Thee

For Thou, oh Lord, art high a-bove all the earth. Thou art ex -
-alt - ed far a - bove all gods; For Thou, oh Lord, art high a-bove all the
earth, Thou art ex - alt - ed far a - bove all gods. I ex -

CHORUS

- alt Thee! I ex - alt Thee! I ex - alt Thee, oh Lord!

1 2
I ex

Instrumental Meditation

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: **Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ~ *Great is the Lord pg.14*

DISMISSAL ~ Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Great is the Lord

VERSE



Great is the Lord, He is ho - ly and just, by His pow - er we trust in His



love. Great is the Lord, He is faith - ful and true by His mer - cy He proves He is

CHORUS



love. Great is the Lord, and wor - thy of glo - ry. Great is the Lord, and
Great are You, Lord, and wor - thy of glo - ry. Great are You, Lord, and



wor - thy of praise. Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice: Great
wor - thy of praise. Great are You, Lord, I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice:

ENDING



(1) is the Lord! (2) Great are You, Lord!



Great are You, Lord! Great are You, Lord,



Great are You, Lord! Great are You, Lord! _____

PARISH NOTES ~ September 20, 2026

Pastor Karen Parsh ~ 814-881-3266

Office: 814.868.8685 ~ ahadministrator@hotmail.com

FB: abidinghopelutheranchurch ~ www.abidinghopeerie.org

Please keep in your prayers: The family & friends of Trudy Mueller. Also: Carolyn Hayes, Brian & Penny Gresh, Candy & Arch, Sam Elder, Jared Semrau, Joy, Priscila Mirone, Don Morey, Joan Doehrel, Pat Kerr, Connie Kerr-Vogt, Cheryl Hicks, Kim Sandhold, Christine Petrone, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Gilda & Anthony, Cindy & Rich Filson, Dick & Diana Stoker, Harry & Susan Speakman, Kathy Sinnott, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Donna Holder and Little Library visitors.

**Sunday, September 20: Worship-9:30a, Choir-9a & 10:45a
Bible Study-11a, Zoom Bible-7p.**

Tuesday September 22: *Happy 1st Day of Autumn.* Fall cleaning your attic, basement, closets etc.? Don't forget to think about **donating wearable items** for **City Mission** (men's size L), **Bethany** (all sizes – women, men, kids) pairs of shoes and medical items for **Chosen. Baskets in Heritage Room**

Thursday, September 24: Care & Share @ 1p with Damian. **ALL** are Welcome.

**Sunday, September 27: Worship-9:30a, Choir-9a & 10:45a
Bible Study-11a**

Sunday, September 27: The **Crop Walk**. An event that helps support the KAFP and Second Harvest Food Bank. Walk starts **from Beach One @ 1:00pm**. All are invited to participate and/or donate. **Please see Analee Cree** to sign-up for the walk or donations.

Monday, September 28: Prayer Shawls @ **12n**. **ALL** are Welcome.

KAFP: September item....egg noodles. Basket in Heritage Room

Little Free Library: I am stunned by the extreme generosity of our congregation's donations for the educational packets. Your contributions have met the need for at least 50 more to be created and offered to the families in our neighborhood. Our library visitors have greatly increased, and these funds will directly impact our neighborhood. Many thanks!! *Blessings and Gratitude – Connie Kerr Vogt*

Little Jesus Project: An easy way to be an Ambassador for Christ is to leave a Little Jesus in a public place to be found by someone passing by! They are located in a basket under the monitor in the Narthex—help yourself!

Office Hours: Mon & Tues, 9:30a-3:30p. Wed. 9:30-12:30p

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.

Worship Leaders – September 20, 2026

Videographer	Penny Gresh
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Penny Gresh
Lector/Prayers	Sally Zill
Presenter	Michele Rion
Presenter	Diana Stoker
Communion Cups	Nancy Cuning
Communion Tray	Volunteer
Usher	Linda Allen
Usher	Rich Filson
Counters	Nancy & Diana

Worship Leaders – September 27, 2026

Videographer	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Jo Zeimet
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Bob Hicks
Lector/Prayers	Judi Pacileo
Presenter	Donna Holder
Presenter	Lois Kuhns
Communion Cups	Analee Cree
Communion Tray	Linda Allen
Usher	Andy Saska
Usher	Jay Zeimet
Counters	Jo & Lois