

Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost ~ August 16, 2026

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

We are a Loving Family, Growing in Faith,
Sharing the Hope of Christ.

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams ~ Coordinator of Music

Let us quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

(please turn off your cell phone)

This morning, we welcome Damian Santabene as our Lay Minister.

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 641 *All Are Welcome v.1,4,5*

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.**

KYRIE

Refrain

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church. for the u - ni - ty of all: for this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray together.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1,6-8

¹ Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

cont'd

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

Psalm: 67 Response Spoken

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the
peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷ **May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.**

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 188

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-28

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 15.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." ²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Damian Santabene, Lay Minister

Please stand

HYMN of the DAY ~ *Build a Longer Table* pg.5

Build a Longer Table



- 1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
- 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
- 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
- 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

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

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*

For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind. We pray especially for: Sharron, Connie, Bernadette, Kim, Pastor Karen, Don & Marion, Cheryl, Trudy, Gilda & Anthony, Ed & Jeanne, Cindy & Rich, Christine P., Harry & Susan, Dick & Diana, Kathi, Maury & Linda, Don & Donna, Damian & Marcia, the Little Library visitors, and for all in our hearts. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ Make Us One



1,4. Make us one, _____ make us one; Make us _ one, un - di - vid - ed
(2. Make us) love, _____ make us love; Make us _ love, so the _world will know _ we
(3. Make us) pure, _____ make us pure; Make us _ pure, and _right-eous, make _ us

| 1. 2. 3.



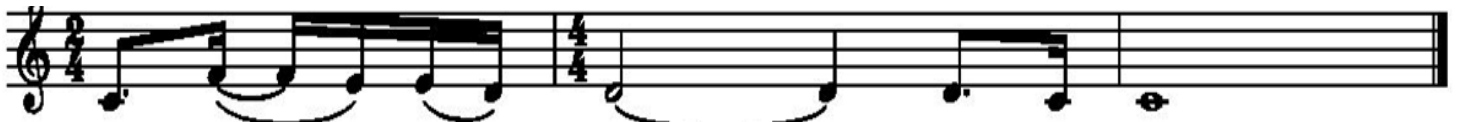
bod - y. Make us one, _____ make us one. _____ For the _ sake of _____ Your _Name, make us
love _ You. Make us love, _____ make us love. _____ For the _ sake of _____ Your _Name, make us
ho - ly. Make us pure, _____ make us pure. _____ For the _ sake of _____ Your _Name, make us



one. 2. Make us sake of _____ Your _Name, make us one. _____ For the _
love. 3. Make us
pure. 4. Make us



sake of _____ Your _Name, 'til You come, _____ for the _



sake of _____ Your _Name, _____ make us one.

Lay Distributor

PRAYERS of DISTRIBUTION

Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

When our congregation gathers for the celebration of Holy Communion, we hear again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With thanksgiving we remember the words that have been spoken:

"In the night in which he was betrayed, he 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

We have been given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ. As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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.

DISTRIBUTION of ELEMENTS ~ Lay Distributors

LAMB of GOD

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, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

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

COMMUNION HYMNS ~ ELW 496 *One Bread, One Body*
Instrumental Meditation

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer ✚ one God, bless, heal and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ~ *Ten Thousand Reasons* pgs. 10,11

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Ten Thousand Reasons

CHORUS



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Wor-ship His ho - ly name. Sing like



nev - er be - fore, O my soul; I'll wor-ship Your ho - ly name. The

VERSE 1



sun comes up, it's a new day dawn-ing, it's time to sing Your song a - gain. What-



- ev - er may pass, and what - ev - er lies be - fore me,



let me be sing-ing when the eve - ning comes.

VERSE 2



You're



rich in love and You're slow to an-ger. Your name is great and Your heart is kind. For



all Your good - ness, I will keep on sing - ing;



Ten thou - sand rea - sons for my heart to find.

To CHORUS

VERSE 3

And on that day, when my strength is fail-ing, the end draws near, and my time has come;

Still, my soul will sing Your praise un - end - ing

ten thou-sand years, and then for - ev - er - more! Bless the

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for Verse 3, measures 37 through 49. The melody is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Measure 37 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Measure 40 is marked with a '40' and shows a change in the melody. Measure 49 is marked with a '49' and shows a change in the melody. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

CHORUS

Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Wor-ship His ho - ly name. Sing like

nev - er be - fore, O my soul; I'll wor-ship Your ho - ly name,

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the Chorus, measures 50 through 57. The melody is written on a single staff in G major and 4/4 time. Measure 50 starts with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Measure 57 is marked with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

TAG

wor-ship Your ho - ly name, Lord, I'll wor-ship Your ho - ly name.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the Tag, measures 58 through 60. The melody is written on a single staff in G major and 4/4 time. Measure 58 starts with a double bar line. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Measure 60 is marked with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

ENDING

wor-ship Your ho - ly name. Sing like

nev - er be - fore, O my soul; I'll wor-ship Your ho - ly name,

wor-ship Your ho - ly name, wor-ship Your ho - ly name.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the Ending, measures 61 through 67. The melody is written on a single staff in G major and 4/4 time. Measure 61 starts with a double bar line. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Measure 67 is marked with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures. The word 'Sing like' is written in purple in the original image.

Parish Notes ~ August 16, 2026

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church ~ 2402 W. Grandview Blvd. 16506

Phone: 814-868-8685 – Email: ahadministrator@hotmail.com

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

Pastor Karen Parsh – 814-881-3266, Pastorparsh@gmail.com

Please keep in your prayers: Sharron Sontheimer, Connie Kerr-Vogt, Bernadette Plymyer, Kim Sandhold, Pastor Karen Parsh, Don & Marion Fuller, Cheryl Hicks, Trudy Mueller, 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, August 16 ~ Worship, Church Picnic & Steel Drum Band

Worship 9:30a – Lay Minister, Damian Santabene

Picnic 11:30a - Hot dogs/Hamburgers, Beverages, Table Settings provided.

Side dishes/Desserts welcome

Steel Drum Band, 1:30p, Outside lower level. Bring a chair. Open to all/free.

Monday, August 17: Prayer Shawls Gathering meets at 12 noon.

Wednesday, August 19: MNO 6:30p, Royal Chopstix. Sign-up sheet in narthex.

Thursday, August 20: Care & Share Group @ 1p with Damian. Open to all.

Thursday, August 20: LNO 5:30p, Venango Golf Club. Sign-up sheet in narthex.

Sunday, August 23: Worship 9:30 – Rick Penn, Lay Minister

Get Well Cards: Pastor Karen Parsh ~ 3649 Gerry Ave, Erie 16508

Little Free Library: Bookmarks for children's books are running low. **Educational packets, workbooks, crayons, paper, pencils** will be placed in the library **for young children. Donations** appreciated to the Little Library Basket in Heritage Room.

Bethesda Foundation for Children: Collecting school supplies for resident students. A flyer with a **list** can be found on the **center table** in the **narthex**. Please **return** donations **by Aug. 30**.

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9:30a-3:30p. Wednesday 9:30-12:30p.

Immediate pastoral needs, please contact Rick Penn @ 814.737.9974. For **additions or revisions** to the weekly **prayer list**, please **call** or **email** the office.

Worship Leaders ~ August 16, 2026

Videographer	Analee Cree	Communion Cups	Diana Stoker
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall	Communion Tray	Barb Ruhlman
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Analee Cree	Usher	Rich Filson
Lector/Prayers	Penny Gresh	Usher	Volunteer
Lay Distributor	June Morey	Counters	Diana & Andy