

Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost ~ September 6, 2026

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church
2402 W Grandview Blvd, Erie Pa 16506
Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor
Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

WELCOME

This morning, we welcome Pastor Karen's return to the pulpit.

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 836 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

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. **O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

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

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

PSALM: 119:33-40 Sung Responsively **Tone 1**

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way ¹ of your statutes,
and I shall keep it ¹ to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall ¹ keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with ¹ all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of ¹ your commandments,
for that is ¹ my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to ¹ your decrees
and not to ¹ unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from be- ¹ holding falsehood;
give me life ¹ in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise ¹ to your servant,
which is for ¹ those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach ¹ that I dread,
because your judg- ¹ ments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for ¹ your commandments;
by your righteousness en- ¹ liven me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

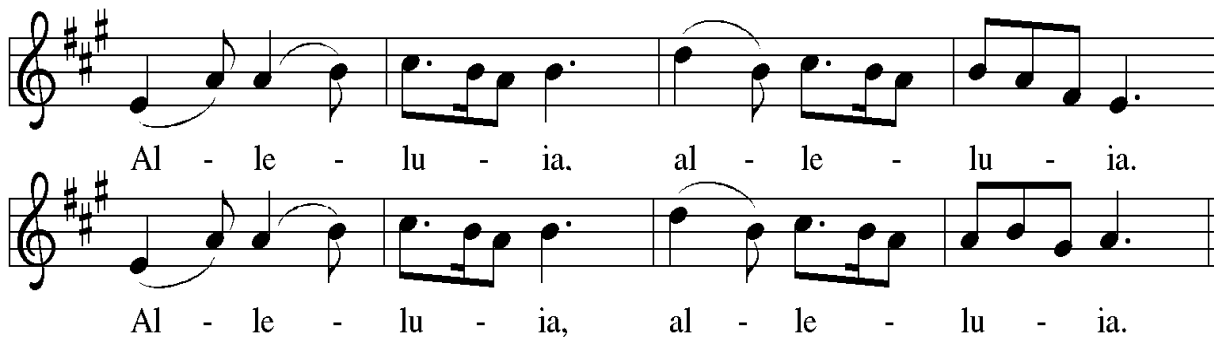
⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
cont'd

¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ Celtic Alleluia



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew Chapter 18. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ ELW 716 *Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace v.1,3,5*

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.*

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. We pray especially for: Don, Joan, Pat K., Barry & Kim, the Linder Family, Connie, Kim, Cheryl, Trudy & Carolyn, 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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us.

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

Please stand

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ ELW 466 *In the Singing*

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.

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 ~



COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMNS ~ WOV 783 *Seek Ye First* 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 ~ ELW 864 *Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven*

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

POSTLUDE

PARISH NOTES ~ September 6, 2026

Pastor Karen Parsh ~ 814-881-3266

Office: 814.868.8685 ~ ahadministrator@hotmail.com

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

*This week, the sanctuary flowers, are given to the Glory of God,
In Celebration of the AHLC Family being at 2402 West Grandview for 10 Years.*

Please keep in your prayers: Don Morey, Joan Doehrel, Pat Kerr, Dave Linder Family, Barry & Kim Ayers, Connie Kerr-Vogt, Kim Sandhold, Cheryl Hicks, Trudy Mueller & Carolyn Hayes, 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 6: Worship 9:30a

Monday, September 7: Labor Day – office closed

Thursday, September 10: Care & Share with Damian Santabene

Sunday, September 13: Worship 9:30a, Choir 9:00a

TOWN HALL MEETING – Following Worship

Rick Penn will speak about the Shared Ministry Project

Monday, September 14: Prayer Shawls 12n-2:00p.

Wednesday, September 16: Prayer Warriors 1:00-3:00p.

Thursday, September 17: Men's Night Out - 6:30p, Royal ChopStix.

Sign-up sheet in narthex...or just show up

Thursday, September 17: Ladies Night - 5:30p, Union Club (formerly Saga Club). **RSVP, Tues. Sept 15.** Sign-up sheet in narthex. Rides leave AHLC @ 5pm.

Sunday, September 20: Bible Study @ 11a ~ Zoom Bible @ 7p.

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.

Office Hours: Mon & Tues, 9:30a-12:30p. 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 6, 2026

Videographer	Andy Saska	Communion Cups	Lois Kuhns
Greeter/Coffee	June Morey	Communion Tray	Michele Rion
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Analee Cree	Usher	Linda Allen
Lector/Prayers	Jeanne Tropper	Usher	Andy Saska
Presenter	June Morey		
Presenter	Penny Gresh		