



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

Church: 419-332-6820

faithchurch@amplex.net

www.faithfremont.org

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

Setting 3 with Holy Communion

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

Prelude:

All Glory Be to God on High

Wilbur Held

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

Noisy Offering: The Noisy Offering is given so children from our Companion Parish of Bumila Lutheran Church have the opportunity to attend school in the Mpwapwa Region. Thank you for your support of the children of our sister congregation in Bumila, Tanzania.

***Opening Hymn:** *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* ELW 807

GATHERING

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

*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.**

Amen.

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✝ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

*Canticle of Praise

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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.



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.



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.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

C: God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

First Reading:

Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

R: A reading from Amos, the 8th chapter.

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵ saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 113

¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

² **Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.**

³ From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.

- ⁴ **The LORD is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens.**
- ⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
who sits enthroned on high,
- ⁶ **but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?**
- ⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,
- ⁸ **enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.**
- ⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

Second Reading:

1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

R: A reading from 1st Timothy, the 2nd chapter.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



***Gospel**

Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

***Sermon Hymn:** *Take My Life, That I May Be* ELW 685

(8:00) Baptism: Page 227

(8:00) *Hymn: *I'm Going on a Journey* ELW 446

(10:30) *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**

R: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

R: O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones *especially those we name at this time (Pause for people to be named)*. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

R: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(10:30) Sr. Choir: *May Jesus Christ Be Praised* **E. Broughton**

***Offertory:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Offering Prayer

P: Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,

but on you, who richly provides for us.

Multiply what we have gathered

to bless all who are suffering and in need,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

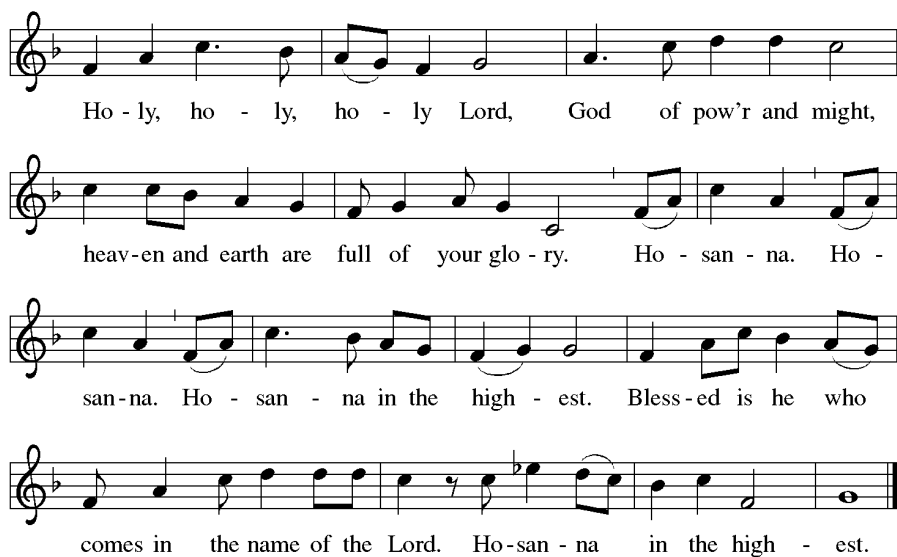
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us

the way of everlasting life.

P: And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



***Thanksgiving at the Table**

- P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
- P: 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.
- P: 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.
- P: Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.**

***Invitation to Communion**

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

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.

Distribution of Communion

Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle.

If you prefer gluten- free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let the Pastor know and he will offer a blessing.

Communion Hymns:

ELW 396 *Spirit of Gentleness*

ELW 715 *Christ, Be Our Light*

***Post Communion Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

P: O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

***Blessing**

P: The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude:**

Festive Celebration

Paul Fey

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB150404.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Song *We are Called*, Text and music © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358., Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Song *Spirit of Gentleness* Text and music © 1978 James K. Manley. Song *Christ, Be Our Light*, Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications. Song *I'm Going on a Journey*, Text and music © 1994 Amity Music. Permission was gained thru One License #A-739669 for streaming and recording. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



WELCOME, FRIENDS — NEW AND FAMILIAR! The psalmist reminds us: “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24). May our hearts be open today to God’s presence, peace, and purpose.

TODAY, THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM, we welcome Shelly Miller, Brittany Miller, Baily Root, Nolan Root, and Laine Root into the family of God and Faith Lutheran Church.

ALTER FLOWERS today are given by Bill and Ruth Ann Seibert as a thank offering for their 54th wedding anniversary which will be on Wednesday, September 24th – and also for the many prayers that are offered to God for us regarding Bill’s cancer issues. They are felt and much appreciated. Thank you!

FAITH FAMILY: A note of thanks for all the cards and Prayers. A special thanks to Women of the Church for the flowers! A big thank you to Pastor Tim for his visits and words of encouragement. Until you are at a Health Care facility, you do not realize the value of Tea Time with Faith! Thank you, ladies, for your time and dedication! Sandie Reed

CLEAN UP DAY is scheduled for Saturday, October 4th starting at 9 a.m. and should be done by 11 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway.



THIS YEAR, WE ARE LOOKING TO FILL 3

COUNCIL POSITIONS: Vice President, Trustee, and Elder. Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these capacities, and if you feel the Spirit moving you to do so, please let one of the council members or Pastor Tim know.

FAITH LUTHERAN FOOD DRIVE

FALL INTO GIVING: HELP FILL THE PANTRY is an event being organized by the Christian Mission and Outreach Committee to help stock the shelves at our local Sandusky County Food Pantry during the month of September. We will be placing a table and a cart in the narthex to aid in the collection of food items. After speaking with one of the pantry's managers, she gave me a paper that listed the center needs. The grocery products needed most are:

CANS OF TOMATO SOUP –

CANS OF CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

CANS OF SPAGHETTI SAUCE

BOXES OF SPAGHETTI

CANNED FRUIT... ESPECIALLY APPLESAUCE

BOXES OF CEREAL

CONTAINERS OF PEANUT BUTTER

BOXES OF SALTINE CRACKERS

BOXES OF PANCAKE MIX

BOXES OF MACARONI AND CHEESE

**CANNED VEGETABLES...ESPECIALLY GREEN BEANS OR
CORN**

CANS OF SPAGHETTI O's

CANS OF TUNA OR CHICKEN

CONTAINERS OF OATMEAL

BOXES OF POTATO FLAKES (INSTANT)

**Please try to purchase items in boxes, cans, or plastic containers.
No glass. Thanks.**

All the groceries donated will be then transported to the pantry at the end of September. Thank you for your love and kindness with this endeavor.

Your donations are greatly appreciated!



SOUPER SOUP COOKOFF AND SILENT AUCTION:

WHAT: Any kind of soup – No Peppers please

WHEN: Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 5 pm

WHERE: Faith Fellowship Hall

COST: \$10.00 for adults and
\$5.00 for kids 10 and under

Tickets sold at door only

UP TO 12 ENTRANTS: Sign-up between July 27th and September 14th.

We request that you be present to win.

RESTRICTIONS: **MUST NOT USE PEPPERS IN SOUP - Except**
Black Ground – due to some who are allergic to them.

SOUP HERE BY: 4:00 P.M. in a crock pot with no names or
identifying marks on it.

SERVING: Women's Board Members will serve Soup in
Styrofoam bowls with entrant's number on it.

TO ATTEND, EAT AND VOTE: Sign up by Sunday, September 28th –
not required – simply to give us an
idea of how many to expect.

VOTING: Each person attending will be given 1 ticket to write
their number one choice on and drop into a box.

Only one ticket will be issued per person.

PROVIDED: Hot Dogs, Buns, Condiments, Crackers, Tableservice
Drinks: Lemonade, Iced Tea (Sweetened &
Unsweetened), Hawaiian Punch, Water, Ice

PROCEEDS: To Flag City Honor Flight (For veterans to view
monuments in Washington, D.C.) Free to Veterans, 1 Guardian can fly
with them at a cost of \$400. They do 4 flights per year at a cost of
\$150,000 per flight to take 80 Vets and their Guardians.

WANTED: Salads and Desserts to add to meal.

Sign-up sheet will be out closer to the time.

PRIZE: \$50.00 Visa Gift Card, Framed Certificate and
Apron to sign to be displayed at the church AND
“All year bragging rights”

SILENT AUCTION: **Wanted** – Groups or members to help donate
Baskets/Items, Craft items, or Services you could
provide someone to be included in auction. Sign
up between July 27th – Sept. 28th

BE CREATIVE AND HAVE FUN WITH IT!

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE BEGIN A NEW SEASON OF MUSICAL WORSHIP!



Faith's Senior Choir, directed by Darla Brown, will begin rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 3rd!** Rehearsals run from **7:30-8:30 p.m.** in the **Choir room** which is down the hall on the right. Faith's Senior Choir leads in the hymn singing and provides an anthem for each 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service, starting September 7th through May. The choir may participate in additional services during the Advent and/or Lenten seasons. New singers are always welcome to join!



Faith's Handbell Choir invites all persons wishing to praise our God and Savior with the beautiful sounds of handbells. Prior musical experience is helpful but not necessary to share your interest in heavy (and light) metal music with this fun and friendly group. Rehearsals will begin on **Wednesday, September 3rd**, in the **Fellowship Hall** and will run from **6:30-7:20**

p.m. This choir usually performs one anthem each month from Sept./Oct. through May.



Faith's Praise Choir, directed by Becky Fox, will also rehearse on Wednesdays, from **7:30-8:00 p.m.** and will meet in the **Sunday School Gathering** room. This

joyful group of singers presents a contemporary anthem periodically for the **8:00 a.m.** Sunday worship service, starting in September and running through May. New singers are always welcome to join!

You may contact Darla at 419.680.6717 or Becky at 419.618.6948 if you have any questions and would like more information. We hope to see you soon...

"as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:19-20 (NRSV)

ASSISTING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Mike & Brenda Tooman Mary L. Cooper & Sally Sleek

Lector: Noah Seibert Shelby Thornhill

Acolyte: Greyson Tooman

Communion: J. Seibert/B. Fox R. Brown & R. Koch

Counters: Laurie Krynock* & Randy Koch

Fellowship Time Host: Ruth Ann Seibert and Margie Roach

Altar Guild: Marg Schwartz, Laurie Krynock & Ann Waggoner

Ushers: Mike & Brenda Tooman

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer **Pianist:** Becky Fox

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown **Flautist:** Marilyn Ring

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Reese/Ryla Smith & Peyton Heschel Sarah Wilson

Lector: Jackson Fought Marie Reiselt

Acolyte: Jackson Fought

Communion: Mike Fought/Kim Smith Ginger Walker & Angie Miller

Counters: Marie Reiselt* & Nicole Weiker

Fellowship Time Host:

Altar Guild: Marg Schwartz, Laurie Krynock & Ann Waggoner

Ushers: Harder Family

PRAYING DAILY



For healing and hope: Paul Antesberger, Joan Bolen, Patty Carrigan, Mary Ann Diekman, Denny Fahle, Millie Fetterman, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Bill Leutenegger, Dean May, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Sandie Reed, Ken & Gloria Root, Bob Schneider, Bill Seibert, Becky Sterling, Janet Tressler, Linda Woessner, Dorothy Hartford.

For our Military: Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Jade Kayser, Daniel Linder, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

For our Bishops: Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi

FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF – Sept. 21 to Sept. 28

Sunday

Sept. 21----- 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

Monday

Sept. 22-----8 a.m. Men's Group in Fellowship Hall
 10 a.m. Valley View – Tea Time with God

Tuesday

Sept. 23-----7:00 p.m. Esther Circle – Sermon on the Mount #11

Wednesday

Sept. 24-----6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir
 7:30 p.m. Praise Choir

Thursday

Sept. 25-----3 p.m. Christ Care

Friday

Sept. 26-----

Saturday

Sept. 27-----9:15 a.m. Christ Care

Sunday

Sept. 28----- 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025: ATTENDANCE: 131 – OFFERING: \$3,846.02

CROGHAN TRUST & INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT: Join us for insights into the **One Big Beautiful Bill** on Wednesday, **September 24th at 6:00 p.m.** at the Fremont Elks Lodge, 436 Croghan St., Fremont. This informative session will help community members understand how the changes made in the One Big Beautiful Bill may impact you and your taxes. Following the presentation, Croghan's wealth management experts will be available to answer any questions you may have.

GOSPEL MESSAGE
September 21, 2025
15th Sunday after Pentecost

True Riches

Being stuck in unjust systems is exhausting. Perhaps they are designed to frustrate and impede any efforts to undo their power. The manager in Jesus' parable does what he can to make the most of his precarious position, but his resolution still leaves a lot to be desired. Does the rich man remain in his wealthy and powerful position? What about all the others who still owe the estate? Why does the manager, and not the rich landowner who holds all the cards, become the object lesson?

It seems Jesus is getting serious here about our relationships with money, riches, and power: "You cannot serve God and wealth" (Luke 16:13). That much is clear. But perhaps Jesus is drawing our attention to the larger implications of God's economy and what it means to lean on one another for the sake of justice in our world. Luke's gospel began with Mary's song, after all, extolling the ways the poor will be lifted up in the kingdom Jesus brings. In this new reign, all resources are brought into the service of those who need them most. Faithful living here and now might look different from what we're accustomed to when we consider what God has in mind, especially when we are used to unhelpful contemporary mantras like "Might makes right" and "Winner takes all."

True to Mary's song, Jesus indeed turns our world upside down, which distresses those of us who appreciate good order. But in the end, this turning does what is needed to make the world right. In our world today, we may struggle with the forgiveness of debts and the redistribution of wealth, but Jesus doesn't. God brings the true riches of justice and love for all and will not fail to do what is needed to make sure every last beloved person on earth has what they need to truly live.