



# Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

93.1FM

Church: 419-332-6820

Faithchurch@amplex.net

www.faithfremont.org

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**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 25, 2022**

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Setting 3 with Holy Communion

\*Congregation please stand as you are able.

## **Introduction**

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those “at our gate,” visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

**Prelude:**            *Through the Eyes of Love*            **Francesca Marzolina**

**Welcome & Announcements:** Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

**(10:30) Call to Worship:**            *Father*            **D. Whitmore**

**\*Gathering Song:**            *Grace Alone*            **TBOB 77**

## **GATHERING**

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

## **\*Greeting**

**P:** Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**C:** and also with you.

## **Blessing of the Quilts and Prayer Shawls**

## **\*Invitation to Worship**

**P:** O Lord, open my lips.

**C:** and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God,

**C: that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Praise to the blest and holy Trinity, one God, who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection. Alleluia.**

P: Give glory to God, our light, and our life,

**C: Oh, come, let us worship and praise.**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who is eager to forgive  
and who loves us beyond our days.

**C: Amen.**

P: Dear friends, together let us acknowledge  
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of mercy and forgiveness,

**C: we confess that sin still has a hold on us.**

**We have harmed your good creation.**

**We have failed to do justice,**

**love kindness,**

**and walk humbly with you.**

**Turn us in a new direction.**

**Show us the path that leads to life.**

**Be our refuge and strength on the journey,  
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.**

**Amen.**

P: Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole.

God points the way to new life in Christ,

who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love

through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

**C: O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **WORD**

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

### **First Reading:**

**Amos 6:1a, 4-7**

*The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.*

R: A reading from Amos, the sixth chapter.

<sup>1a</sup>Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,  
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,

<sup>4</sup>Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,  
and lounge on their couches,  
and eat lambs from the flock,  
and calves from the stall;

<sup>5</sup>who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,  
and like David improvise on instruments of music;

<sup>6</sup>who drink wine from bowls,  
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,  
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

<sup>7</sup>Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,  
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,**

**and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**

**who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who

hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who**

**are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall reign forever,**

**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

**Second Reading:****1 Timothy 6:6-19**

*Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.*

R: A reading from 1 Timothy, the sixth chapter.

<sup>6</sup>Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; <sup>8</sup>but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. <sup>9</sup>But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

<sup>11</sup>But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. <sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight of

the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup>In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup>to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>16</sup>It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

<sup>17</sup>As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

<sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

*Glorify Thy Name*

Father, we love You, we worship and adore You,

Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,

Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

**\*Gospel**

**Luke 16:19-31**

*Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is “lifted up” and the rich one is “sent away empty.” Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.*

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

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: [Jesus said:] <sup>19</sup>“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was being tormented, he

looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ <sup>27</sup>He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—<sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup>Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ <sup>30</sup>He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup>He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Children’s Sermon**

### **Sermon**

**\*Sermon Hymn:**

*Christ, Be Our Light*

**ELW 715**

### **\*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: As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

*A brief silence.*

R: O God, rich in mercy, fill your church with righteousness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Empower the baptized by your Spirit to be rich in good works and ready to share. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: Protect the earth and its creatures. Provide water, food, shelter, and favorable habitats, especially for endangered species. Preserve threatened ice caps, glaciers, parks, and beaches. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: Increase justice in nations, local governments, and courtrooms. Guide lawyers and those who hold public office to act with compassion and discernment. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: Give food to the hungry. Set the captives free. Lift up those who are bowed down. Watch over the stranger. Tend to those who are ill, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for 10 seconds for people to be named)*. Stir us to act in the best interest of our neighbors. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: Enliven our praise. Inspire musicians, artists, poets, and all who create beauty in this place. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: Enfold the saints who have died in the arms of your loving care. Grant that the holy angels accompany us and bring us to eternal life with them in the light of your presence. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

R: Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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.**

(8:00) Praise Choir:

*Awesome God*

**Rich Mullins**

(10:30) Senior Choir:

*Take My Heart*

**M. Jordan**

### Offering

### \*Offering Prayer

P: Gracious God,

in your great love you richly provide for our needs.

Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,

and make us ready to share with all in need;

through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.

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.

### **\*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.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

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.**

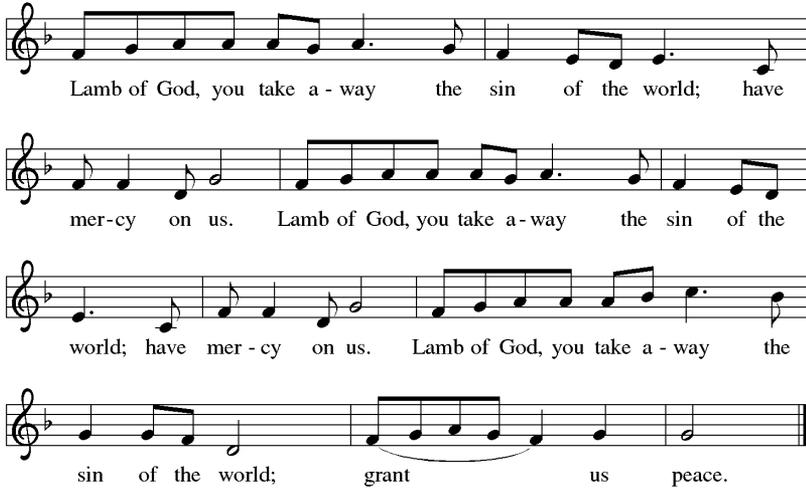
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

P: Christ invites you to this table.

Come, taste and see.



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 Pastor Tim know and he will offer a blessing.*

## Communion Hymn: *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Refrain:           And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
                          by our love,  
                          Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love,

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in the land. *Refrain*

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.  
And we'll guard human dignity and we'll save human pride. *Refrain*

All praise to the Father from whom all things come,  
And all praise to Christ Jesus his only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. *Refrain*

**Communion Hymn:**

**TBOB 55 *Feed My Lambs***

**\*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: God of the abundant table,  
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal  
with bread for the journey.  
Give us your grace on the road  
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**\*Blessing**

P: God, who gives life to all things  
and frees us from despair,  
bless you with truth and peace.  
And may the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

C: Thanks be to God.

**\*Postlude:**

*When We Are Living*

**Elise S. Eslinger, Roberto Escamilla, George Lockwood**

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Song *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*, Words: 1966 F.E.L. Publications.

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**“HAPPY ARE THOSE WHOSE HELP IS THE GOD OF JACOB. ... PRAISE THE LORD!”** (Psalm 146:5, 10, NRSV). I welcome you as we seek God’s help and praise him in worship.

**FAITH FAMILY** – We want to send our deepest thanks to all of those that sent prayers, came to Julie’s service and helped prepare or serve the reception meal. Losing our sweet sister and aunt has been difficult. Our family appreciates all of your support! The Smith Family.

**IF YOU HAVE A CHILD THAT IS BEGINNING 6TH GRADE THIS YEAR**, they are also ready to begin catechism. Please let Pastor Tim know if your child will be starting catechism this year.

**GLASS PLATTER AVAILABLE IN THE KITCHEN** – The women found a glass platter that is meant to sit under a punch bowl in order to add decoration around it. We don’t think we even have the punch bowl that fits in it. We have decided we will not use it anymore and therefore are offering it to anyone who would like to take it. You have until Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and then it will be donated to Share ‘N Care. It is in a large square box on the kitchen countertop over by the door to the outside in the kitchen. Thank you very much! FLCW

**THE FAITH LUNCH BUNCH** – The Lunch Bunch strikes again will be making reservations for October 16<sup>th</sup> at Ole Zim’s Wagon Shed. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please sign up by Sunday, October 9 so that a count can be called in for our reservation. It has truly been great to see such support and fellowship from our Faith members.

**FAITH’S SENIOR CHOIR**, directed by Darla Brown (419.680.6717), will soon “board” for musical worship and fellowship. Please consider joining this fun and meaningful group of volunteer singers on **Wednesday, September 7th**, from **7:30-8:30 p.m.**. Faith’s Senior Choir leads in the hymn singing and presents an anthem for each **10:30 a.m.** Sunday worship service, starting September 11th through May.

**FAITH’S PRAISE CHOIR**, directed by Becky Fox (419.618.6948), will also “board” on **September 7th**, from **7:30-8:30 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!

**FAITH’S HANDBELL CHOIR**, directed by Darla Brown (419.680.6717), invites all persons wishing to praise our Lord with the beautiful sounds of hand bells. Prior musical experience is helpful but not necessary to share in music with this fun and friendly group. Rehearsals will begin on **Wednesday, September 7th**, in the Fellowship Hall and will run from **6:30-7:20 p.m.** This choir usually performs one anthem each month from October through May.

**WELCA EASTERN CONFERENCE FALL RETREAT**

Saturday October 8, 2022 from 10:00am – 1:00pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 203 S. Washington St., Castalia, OH 44824

Take a few hours out of your busy schedule for a time of prayer, devotion, fellowship, and growing in God’s word.

**Program: Pastor Katie Suggitt will lead the Bible Study on “Grace, Gratitude, and Generosity”.**

**Cost: \$5.00** (paid at door – includes coffee hour & lunch)

**Offering:** Will go to Lutheran Disaster Response (Kentucky, Ukraine)

**RSVP by Oct. 2nd to 419-684-5059 or [macdonaldb58@gmail.com](mailto:macdonaldb58@gmail.com)**

## ASSISTING TODAY

**Pastor:** Rev. Tim Miller

**Pianist:** Becky Fox

**Sr. Choir Director:** Darla Brown

**Assisting:** Judi Neill

**Flautist:** Marilyn Ring

**8:00 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Greeter:** Bill & Ruth Ann Seibert      Bill & Noelle Leutenegger

**Lector:** Jackie Seibert      Noelle Leutenegger

**Acolyte:** Caleb Seibert      Lauren Gazdecki

**Communion:** C. Trick /J. Seibert      Annie Gazdecki & Angi Miller

**Counters:** Anne Gerner\* & Annie Gazdecki

**Fellowship Time Host:** Toomans

**Altar Guild:** Ann Waggoner & Barb Kocsis

## ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

**Pastor:** Rev. Tim Miller

**Organist:**

**Sr. Choir Director:** Darla Brown

**8:00 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Greeter:** Corbyn & Easton Root      Mike & Toni Cooper

**Lector:** Karly Paeth      Randy Koch

**Acolyte:** Karly Paeth

**Communion:** A. Miller/C. Paeth      Carol Trick & Randy Koch

**Counters:** Cheryl Durnwald\* & Randy Koch

**Fellowship Time Host:** Adult II Sunday School Class

**Altar Guild:** Sarah Quaintance & Nicole Weiker

**SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS EVENT** – On October 1, 2022 at Hedges-Boyer Park in Tiffin, Ohio there will be a ½ mile Kids Run and Max's Miles Community Walk Remembrance and Awareness Event. 9 a.m. Registration. 9:30 a.m. Walk Begins (Kids Lap, Dog Lap followed by Adult Laps). Music, Raffles, Crafts, Food Vendors, Bounce House, 50/50 Drawing to follow the walk. For more information call: 419-448-0640. To Register visit: <https://maxsmiles2022.eventbrite.com>

If you have a photo of a loved one whom you have lost to suicide, or a quote you would like to share for us to display on race day please email it to [coordinator@mhsosw.org](mailto:coordinator@mhsosw.org) This event is put on by the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky & Wyandot Counties.

## PRAYING DAILY



**For healing and hope:** Pat Copley, Mary Ann Diekman, Bob Fought, Miranda Garlock & Family, Bob Goehring, Della Humbarger, Cinda Jones, Denny Krumnow, Nancy Mylander, Dorothy Swedersky, Janet Tressler, Carnetta Weber, Norma Willey, Jerie Young. Jim & Judy Laurer, Mike Miller, Jonathan Skarie, Teri Tooman.

**For the Family of:** Deron Leutenegger, Christine Revere Smith, Julie Smith.

**For our Military:** Troy Halfhill, Daniel Linder, Katie Olmstead, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

**For our Bishops:** Bishop Rev. Amon Kinyunyu, 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. 25 to Oct. 2

### Sunday

Sept. 25-8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.   Worship/Holy Communion  
9:15 a.m.                    Sunday School & Fellowship Time

### Monday

Sept. 26-----8 a.m.       Conversation & Prayer @ Frisch's  
8 a.m.                        Men's Group in Fellowship Hall  
10 a.m.                      Valley View Tea Time with God

### Tuesday

Sept. 27-----7:00 p.m.   Esther Circle

### Wed.

Sept. 28-----6:30 p.m.   Bell Choir  
7:30 p.m.                   Senior Choir  
7:30 p.m.                   Praise Choir

### Thursday

Sept. 29-----3 p.m.      Christ Care

### Friday

Sept. 30-----

### Saturday

Oct. 1-----9:15 a.m.     Christ Care

### Sunday

Oct. 2--8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.   Worship/Holy Communion  
9:15 a.m.                    Sunday School & Fellowship Time

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022: ATTENDANCE 146; OFFERING \$4,627.50

NOISY OFFERING, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022: \$450.31

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## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

### **September 25, 2022**

#### **Optical Illusions**

Have you ever seen one of those pictures that changes depending on how you look at it? Is it a rabbit or a duck? Is it a vase or two faces looking at one another? A young woman or an old one? Sometimes our first impression of something gets in the way of us seeing it another way.

In the parable Jesus tells today, there is a man with wealth and influence who has always seen his life as a success. That success seems all the more pronounced in contrast to a poor, sick beggar who is always hanging around the entrance to his house. But when the rich man dies, he realizes that his life was actually the opposite of what he thought. It was not his possessions or status that mattered; it was the justice and love he showed to others. When it came to those things, he was far more impoverished and much sicker than the man he looked down on every day.

When we look at our own lives, it can be easy to get stuck in just one way of seeing them. If we focus on worldly standards, we may judge ourselves as successes or failures in ways that are out of touch with how God sees us. With this parable, Jesus calls us to new ways of looking at ourselves. Where are we missing the opportunities right outside our front door to act with love and justice for our siblings near and far?

In Christian worship, we gather to practice the way our lives and our world appear to God. We lift up the cries that have gone unheard. We look at one another and ourselves through the redemptive waters of baptism. We feed one another around the table that Christ sets for us all in our common need. As witnesses to God's truth, we send one another forth to shatter misguided illusions in the world around us.