

LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

2725 58th Avenue

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est. 1986

Our Mission Statement

“Living Lord Lutheran Church is a family of believers, renewed through the Holy Spirit, to be the real presence of the Risen Christ in this place, our community, and the world.”

PASTOR

The Rev. Gregory Shreaves, ELCA

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Adria Ryan

MUSICIAN EMERITUS

Pamela Wilcox

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION - 10:00 AM

Living Lord Lutheran Church is a church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (www.elca.org.) With over 9,100 congregations and 4 million members throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, we are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world.

We believe and teach that Christ’s body and blood are truly present and are really given in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist. Communion at present is given in one kind – that is, the consecrated Body of Christ. It is given, along with the words spoken by the Presiding Minister, “The Body of Christ, the Blood of Christ.” Children and adults are invited to come forward to receive a blessing if you do not wish to receive the Sacrament.

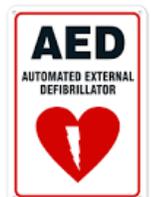
Our parish family extends a warm welcome to all newcomers, as well as those returning home to Living Lord today. We do not consider newcomers to be visitors. This is the church of Jesus Christ, and there is a place for you here. We invite you to join the conversation, participate fully in the spiritual life of this community, and proclaim with us the Good News to all the world. Again, welcome to Living Lord Lutheran Church. If you are visiting today, please inform an usher or the Pastor. Restrooms are located in the hallway off the lobby of the church.

Pastor Greg’s contact information

email: gbsbuckeye1@gmail.com

mobile phone: 610.295.9774

In the event of emergency, an AED device is located in the lobby/narthex of the church. You will find it on the wall leading to the restrooms



Sunday, September 18th, 2022
Service of Holy Communion
Pentecost 15



WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE TODAY

As the music begins please silence your phones and end your conversation with your neighbor and begin your conversation with the LORD.

+ Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand as you are able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY *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.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASSEMBLY SONG *“Because He Lives*

GATHERING

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

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.



The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

+ P: In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. C: **Amen.**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

The Presiding Minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

+ENTRANCE HYMN

“Praise to the Lord”
ELW #858

+ APOSTOLIC GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

L: 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.**

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(The assembly prays together. A brief silence is kept before the prayer.)*

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.

The assembly is invited to be seated...

WORD

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



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.

The reading is announced:

L: A reading from 1st Timothy

The reading may be concluded:

L: The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ASSEMBLY SONG

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”
ELW #502

PSALM: Psalm 113

The Lord lifts up the poor from the ashes. (Ps. 113:7)

¹Hallelujah! 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.**

³From 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.**

⁵Who is like the Lord our God,
who sits enthroned on high,

⁶**but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?**

⁷The 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.**

⁹The Lord makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able as we welcome the gospel among us.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Verse 1

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things.
Shall be added unto you.
Alleluia!

Verse 2

Man shall not live by bread alone
But by ev’ry word that proceeds
From the mouth of God
Alleluia!

Verse 3

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Alleluia!

+ **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.**

The reading may be concluded:

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

The assembly is seated.

SERMON The Rev. Gregory Shreaves

Silence for reflection follows the sermon. The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...

+ **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Jesus Keep Me Naer the Cross”
ELW #335**

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

The prayers are said responsively. The worship leader follows each petition with these or similar words: “God of grace”. The assembly follows with “Hear our prayer”.

A: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

During the prayers, other intercessions may be offered. The Presiding Minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words...

P: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

+THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

The peace is shared. The service continues with the Offering.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.



THE OFFERING OF THE GIFTS

The Offering is received as the Lord’s table is prepared. All are invited to place their offering in the offering plates as they are passed among the assembly. All are invited into quiet reflection as the Offertory is played.

OFFERTORY

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...

+ OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest, and have welcomed us all.

As we feast on your goodness,

strengthen us to labor in your field,

and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all people,
in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

+ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister offers the Words of Institution over the bread and wine...

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.

The Presiding Minister continues...

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.

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.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

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.

P: And now we pray boldly as our LORD Christ taught us to pray:

+LORD'S PRAYER

**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: The risen Christ dwells with us here.
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.
The assembly is seated...

The Sacrament is distributed.

As the Presiding Minister offers these words, “The body of Christ, given for you”, and the Assisting Minister offers these words, “The blood of Christ, shed for you” each is invited to respond with “Amen.”

During the distribution of the Sacrament, the assembly is invited to sing below:

COMMUNION HYMN/S *“In Christ Alone”*

After the distribution of the Sacrament is completed, all are invited to stand as you are able...

+ P: The body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.
Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

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



+BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: The God of peace,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly is invited to be seated for Ministry Announcements...

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to stand for the Sending Hymn, as you are able. ...

SENDING HYMN *“Victory in Jesus”*

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 18, 2022

LECTIONARY 25

The Grace of Confusion

In today’s gospel, Jesus tells a challenging parable about a dishonest steward that ends with an unsettling moral: “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” (Luke 16:9).

Is Jesus being ironic or sincere? Do the characters in the story somehow represent our relationship with God? Are we supposed to emulate the dishonest steward? This text is filled with questions. If you find Jesus’ words today perplexing, even baffling, don’t worry—you are in good company. Both the details of the parable itself and the lesson Jesus is drawing from it have vexed and puzzled generations of the best interpreters, theologians, and preachers.

There are many plausible ways to explain what is happening and what it means for our lives as Christians that might be explored in your assembly today. At the same time, scriptures like this are a reminder that the life of discipleship does not always come with easy answers and neatly packaged meanings. The gospels frequently report moments when Jesus' disciples simply could not understand what he was saying to them or profoundly misinterpreted his meaning.

The value of the community you join today does not come from the perfect understandings of either the assembly or its leaders. It comes from the one who continues to speak even when we do not understand, who daily affirms God's love for us through the waters of baptism, who offers his own body and blood at the table each week for those who are still struggling and learning what it means to be his disciples—and that includes all of us. In short, the value of the community you join today comes from a Lord committed to leading us as disciples, even when we are unclear of the way.

Note: Sunday, September 25th – Adria Ryan Installation

Next Sunday, we formally install Adria Ryan as our new Minister of Music. A reception follows worship. Join us in welcoming her!