

The 15th Sunday After Pentecost

September 6, 2026



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

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.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

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.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

[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.”

Reflection

Prayers of Intercession

Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

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. 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 the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and
that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

This Week at St. Matthew: 814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci is continuing ed. from September 2nd—September 7th. In case of emergency during those dates, please call Pastor MJ Irvin-Stellabotte at 814-934-9941. Otherwise, please call Pastor Traci at 814-935-9267.

Jen – No office hours this week. Please call or text her at 814-935-3801 for assistance with office-related needs.

This Week Events

Today – *15th Sunday after Pentecost*
Worship Online Only on Facebook

Monday – Labor Day

Tuesday – Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. via Zoom only

Sunday – *16th Sunday after Pentecost*
Worship Time/Location TBA
God's Work Our Hands Worship & Ice Cream 2 p.m.,
Lutheran Home

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Dan Kensinger, Ruth Marshall.

Prayer Concerns: Greta Buchar, Doug Bush, Bill Davis, Julie Dick, Mary Farabaugh, Marilyn Horton, Kathy Keith, Dwight and Bethany Kensinger and their newborn son, Rachel Kensinger, Kristen Malloy, Pat Mellot, Randy McGraw, Barbara Moorhead, John Murphy, Dan Ross, John Russell, Dan Sinal, Joshua Sollenberger, Kaleb Sollenberger, Bill Stahl, Dr. Darwin Stapleton, Peggy Steinfurth, Jim Stewart, Jennifer Winston, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

Away at School: Mace Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jay Hoenstine, Jeff Hoenstine, Camden Kuster, Lacey Ripka.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchar, Melody Estep.



Out of an abundance of caution...

St. Matthew will be limiting the use of the building temporarily for the health and safety of our members, visitors, and staff. Please check your email for updates from the office.

Worship, Sunday, September 6th --online only (Facebook)

Council Meeting, Tuesday, September 8th --Zoom only

Worship, Sunday, September 13th --to be announced

Return of Sunday School--to be announced



Thank you for your patience!

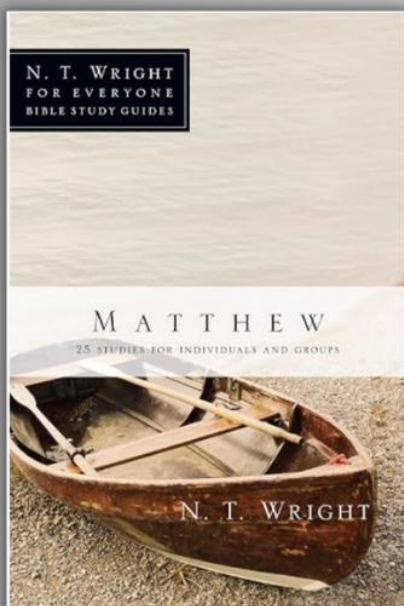
September Office Hours



Pastor Traci will be away a for a large part of September for continuing education, Bishop's Convocation, and a stewardship conference. No regular office hours will be scheduled this month, but she will be available for meetings in the office or for visits at home by appointment:

814-935-9267 (cell)

revtracimarriott@gmail.com



Back to Sunday School

When Sunday School resumes, we will meet in the Window Room to study N.T. Wright's guide to Matthew, relevant to this year's gospel readings. Books are provided. All are welcome!

**Sunday School is On Hold
Until Further Notice...**



Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Memorial Brethren Church will be helping distribute food on Thursdays, September 3 and September 17 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. During Harvest time, if you have any extra vegetables or fruit you would like to share, it would be appreciated on the days we are open.

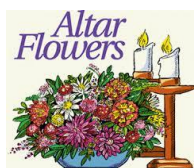


Items most needed for September: Macaroni & Cheese, Hamburger Helper, Peas, Spaghetti, and Fruit. Thank you!

Our thanks, also, for all the school supplies received in August! This means a lot to the children and youth as they begin school.

Thank you to Camden for donating veggies from his Eagle Scout garden!

Linda Smith



Please welcome Elaine Smith as the new flower chairwoman, replacing Margie Smith who is stepping aside after years of dedication. If there are any questions regarding altar flowers, please contact Elaine at 434-981-0560.

The 2026 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00

Talk-O Tuesday



Fellowship, Food, & Faith Conversation
Tuesday, September 29th at 6PM
La Fiesta at the Airport
RSVP to the office by Noon

Save the Date: God's work. Our hands. Sunday--September 13th

For this year's *GWOH* Sunday, together with the members of the other Blair-Huntingdon Conference churches, we will join the residents of the Lutheran Home in Hollidaysburg for worship and an ice cream sundae social.

Worship will be at 2PM at the Lutheran Home, outside if weather permits

Up to & including Sunday the 13th, we will collect prizes for Resident Bingo: candy, hand lotion, puzzle books, writing materials, small seasonal decorations

Join us and/or contribute to the collection



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Save the Date...

The Weekend.

Allegheny Synod Youth Event
December 11-13, 2026
St. James Lutheran Church & Comfort Inn
Huntingdon, PA



Allegheny Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

How has God gifted YOU with skills
& passion for our shared ministry?
We want to know!

Please complete the Allegheny Synod's Life Together Survey to help Bishop Kevin and his staff connect members of our synod with each other and the committees and teams working to spread God's love & light in the world. Access the survey with this QR code or on the Synod website. Contact your church office or the synod office for a paper copy.

