

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our mission is to celebrate and share God's love in Jesus Christ

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

³³“Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailling treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.



³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Luke 12:32-40

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 7, 2022 at 10:00 AM

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL'S!

If you are visiting with us for the first time, please share in all that is ours in Christ! We invite you to consider making St. Michael's your church home. Please ask us about our participation in God's mission in the world. By God's grace we celebrate and share Christ.

Our worship services this morning are streamed live to St. Michael's Facebook and YouTube pages. Please keep conversation to a minimum in the sanctuary, you may be picked up by our sound system. If you prefer not to be seen on camera please speak to an usher and they will seat you outside of the video frame. Thank you for your understanding.

Ministers: The People of St. Michael's
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Adagio" Georg Muffat

GATHERING

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

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Merciful God,

ALL: we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

ALL: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #771 “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

- 1 God, who stretched the spangled heavens
infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance
through the silent fields of space:
we, your children in your likeness,
share inventive pow'rs with you;
great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.
- 2 We have ventured worlds undreamed of
since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging
through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom,
yielding unimagined pow'r,
facing us with life's destruction
or our most triumphant hour.
- 3 As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew:
children of creative purpose,
serving others, hon'ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with
promise;
each endeavor well begun;
great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927 Text © 1967 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

GREETING

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

ALL: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



G Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



I 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.



II Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



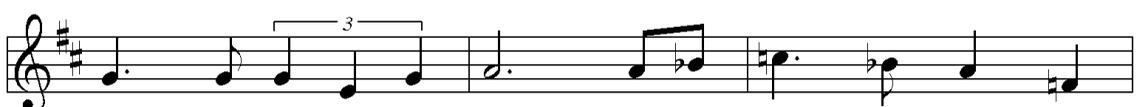
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



III 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, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



I For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

II



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.



☒ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen

The assembly is seated

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

Lector: A reading from Genesis.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Lector: The word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

Lector: A reading from Hebrews.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

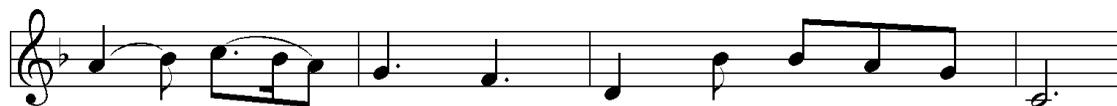
²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place

that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” ¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Lector: The word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly is invited to stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL:

Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Luke. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. ³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated

SERMON

The assembly is invited to stand.

APOSTLE’S 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.**

THE PRAYERS

Assisting Minister: Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer, responding with "receive our prayer."

A brief silence.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence. Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you especially...those we name aloud now...and hold in our hearts. Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Let your lovingkindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation and all who care for those in need. Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Pastor: Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

ALL: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

The assembly is seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Offering is being gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. You are invited to place your offering in one of the offering plates located in the rear of the Sanctuary or send your offering to the church office through the mail or by having your bank mail a check directly. You can also contribute using any of the electronic giving options found on our church website.

The assembly is invited to stand.

OFFERTORY

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”



☐ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we

of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
 Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

ALL: Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: 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. 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
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.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and 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." The score ends with a double bar line.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: 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 your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

ALL: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL: 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

Pastor: In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

LAMB OF GOD



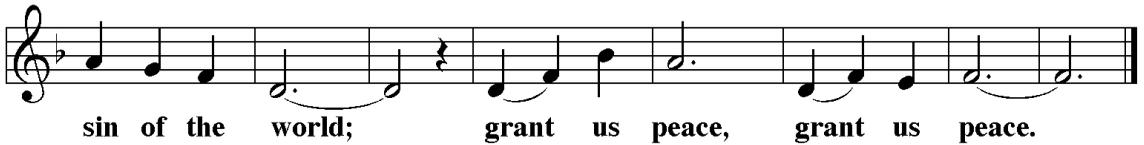
☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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



The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*All who are guided by faith to receive the Lord’s Supper are welcome at Christ’s table. We give thanks as we receive the real presence of our resurrected Lord in, with, and under the bread and the wine. **Communion will be distributed continuously, in household groups, under the direction of the usher.** Take an empty cup to receive from a pouring chalice (let the communion assistant know if you prefer grape juice). Please let the pastor know if you require a gluten free host. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say “The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.” and each person may respond, “Amen”. Worshippers who are not yet communing are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

After all have communed the assembly is invited to stand if able.

TABLE BLESSING

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in Christ’s Grace. **All: Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
 lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks-
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: 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.

ALL: Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

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

ALL: Amen

SENDING HYMN

“Blessed Assurance” *ASSURANCE*

ELW 638

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
 Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
 born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior, all the day long:
 this is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior all the day long.

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my
sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
Refrain
- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
Refrain

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Trumpet Tune in B \flat "

Upcoming Commemorations

Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), died 1221

Monday, August 8, 2022

Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.

Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor. Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor had him put to death.

Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253

Thursday, August 11, 2022

A contemporary of Francis of Assisi, Clare and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She inspired other women to pursue spiritual goals.

Altar Flowers - The altar flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God by Kay, Wayne and Jimmy McConnell in memory of Helen Steigerwalt.

A FUN-FILLED DAY WITH THE ENTIRE SYNOD!

Join the entire synod for a fun-filled day at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson NJ. We will have an interactive mission fair, outdoor worship jubilee, and lunch. The parking lot opens at 10 am and the park remains open until 7pm to enjoy the rides. All are welcome! The cost of the ticket is \$10 before August 15. (\$25 from August 15-29). Deadline to purchase tickets is August 29th.

For more information or to **purchase tickets go to: www.njsynod.org/synodday**

PACK-A-SACK FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Please help us collect back-to-school items for the **Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council. Child-size backpacks are available in the narthex, or you can buy your own to fill with back-to-school items such as pens, pencils, notebook paper, ruler, folders, or any type of school supplies that you think a child could use. IHOC will be distributing these items to the various homeless shelters in the area. Thank you for your support. For more information, contact the church office. Filled backpacks should be returned by **Sunday, August 28.****

EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response is joining companion churches and partners in response to this crisis. These partners provide immediate support and supplies. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an interfaith call for peace in the region.

There are ways to help in support of those in Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries affected by this crisis. Please pray for healing, peace and hope in their time of need. An offering labeled "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" can be placed in the offering plate in the rear of the Sanctuary or sent to the church office through the mail or by having your bank mail a check directly. You can also contribute using any of the electronic giving options found on our church website.

CARING FOR CREATION

Genesis 2:15 -Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

The Invitational and Social Outreach committee will be presenting a series of Temple talks at the 8:15 and 10:00 am services focused on the environment. The topics will include:

- August 14 - 10:00 am - Pollinator Gardens
- August 21 - 8:15 am - Trees
- August 28 - 8:15 & 10:00 am - Environmental Stewardship

Small changes in our daily living habits can have a large beneficial impact in our environment. We look forward to presenting these topics as well as soliciting your input to help protect our environment.

MAKE AN IMPACT ON WORLD HUNGER

Food insecurity is a serious problem for so many. "As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work." We take that call at St. Michael's and continue to impact hunger in the world, both locally and globally.

Every month we work to provide breakfast casseroles for the folks at Joseph's House. We also collect food for distribution through the work of Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ programs in Camden. Many school related food programs don't operate during the summer recess. Items like canned pasta meals, mac & Cheese, canned fruit/applesauce, tuna, crackers, snacks, cereal, juice, and PB & J are especially needed now. Our long-standing relationship with LSM also extends to special Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter meals. Stay tuned for more information when those holidays approach. You can also check out the weekly email or the Sunday bulletin for the sign up link for breakfast casseroles.

We are making a significant impact in the lives of real people right here and right now. Are there places that you would like to get more involved? Are there other programs or ministries that we could help support? Let us know.

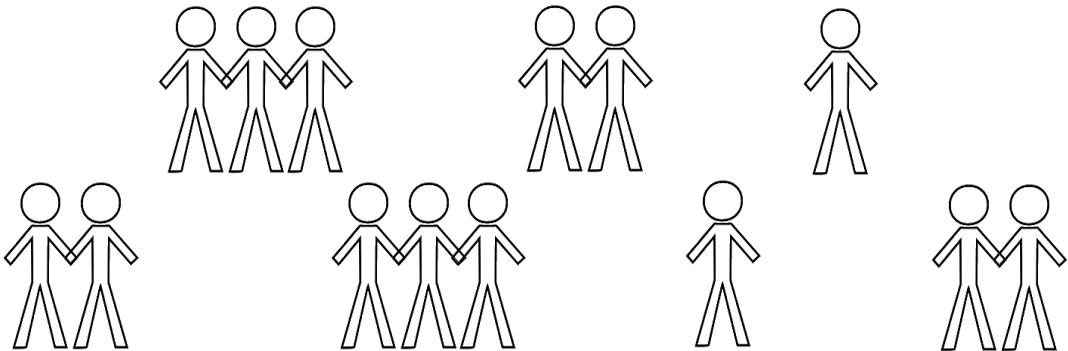
DIGITAL SIGN IN

To help keep each other safe, you are welcome to sign in with our new digital sign in. Please use the QR Code that can be found here in the bulletin or on the tables in the Narthex. You are also welcome to still sign in on the hard copy on the table in the Narthex.



WORSHIP SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

We are asking that folks try not to sit directly behind each other during worship and instead sit in-between the groups in the pew directly in front of you. Think about it like taking a class picture back in school, when you had to stand in the 'window' between the two people in front of you.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.