

*You are of more value
than many sparrows*

MATTHEW 10:31



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 21, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville

5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road

Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937

Church 740-574-8028 or email: stjohn1875@gmail.com



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June 21, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Leader: People of St. John, what is our purpose?

All: To live for the Lord who made us, to love as Jesus taught us, and to serve where the Spirit leads us.

Prelude

+ Confession and Forgiveness

Stand The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

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.

C Amen

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

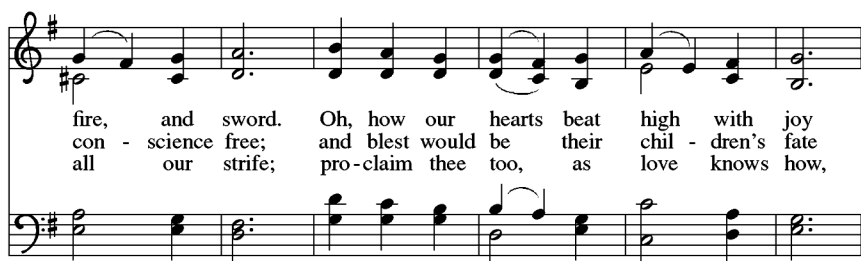
C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

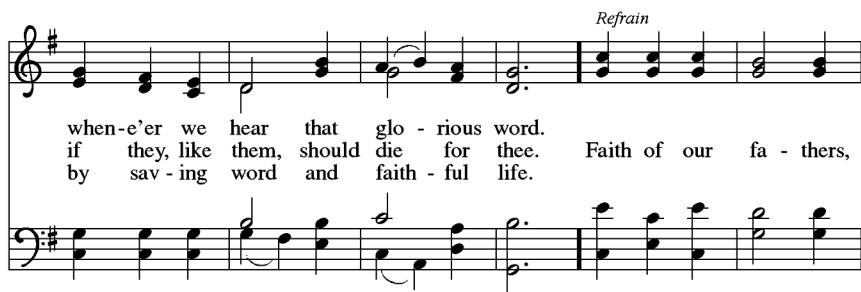
C Amen



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
 2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and
 3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in



fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
 con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate
 all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,



Refrain
 when - e'er we hear that glo - rious word.
 if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,
 by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.



ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.

Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain

+ Apostolic Greeting

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

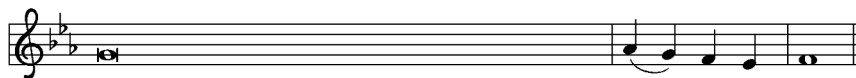
C And also with you.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



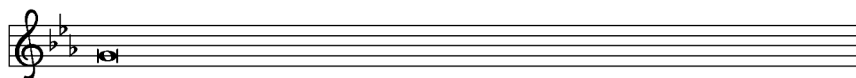
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



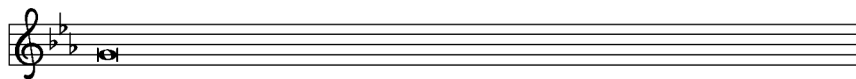
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

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

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,

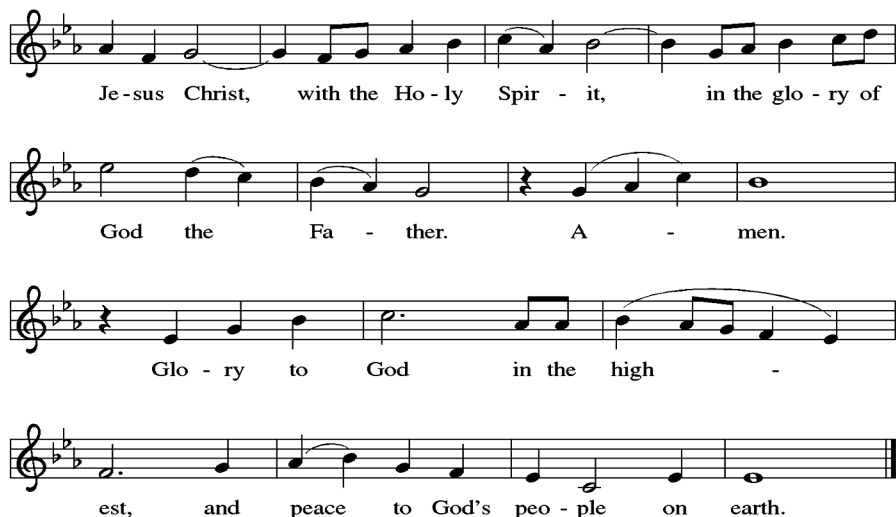
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

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,



+ Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. . . **Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Choir Anthem

Children's Sermon

Children will be dismissed to Children's Church following the Children's Sermon

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

⁷ O LORD, you have enticed me,
 and I was enticed;
 you have overpowered me,
 and you have prevailed.
 I have become a laughingstock all day long;
 everyone mocks me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
 I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
 For the word of the LORD has become for me
 a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him
 or speak any more in his name,"
 then within me there is something like a burning fire
 shut up in my bones;

I am weary with holding it in,
 and I cannot.
¹⁰ For I hear many whispering:
 "Terror is all around!
 Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
 All my close friends
 are watching for me to stumble.
 "Perhaps he can be enticed,
 and we can prevail against him
 and take our revenge on him."
¹¹ But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior;
 therefore my persecutors will stumble,
 and they will not prevail.
 They will be greatly shamed,
 for they will not succeed.
 Their eternal dishonor
 will never be forgotten.
¹² O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous;
 you see the heart and the mind;
 let me see your retribution upon them,
 for to you I have committed my cause.
¹³ Sing to the LORD;
 praise the LORD!
 For he has delivered the life of the needy
 from the hands of evildoers.

Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

^{1b} Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus

+ Alleluia Verse

John 6:68

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

+ The Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 10th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Pastor Kruse

Silence For Reflection

Hymn of the Day

Take My Life and Let it Be

#377

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the next four lines. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with each line of music corresponding to a line of text. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear harmonic structure. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment.

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

+ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Let us pray.

P Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

P Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering (*especially*). God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Faithful God, we give thanks for saints (*like Onesimos Nesib*) who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

C Amen.

+ The Peace

[shared among the congregation]

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you

R

Peace be with you.

Parish Announcements

Offering

+ Offertory *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful, Lord*

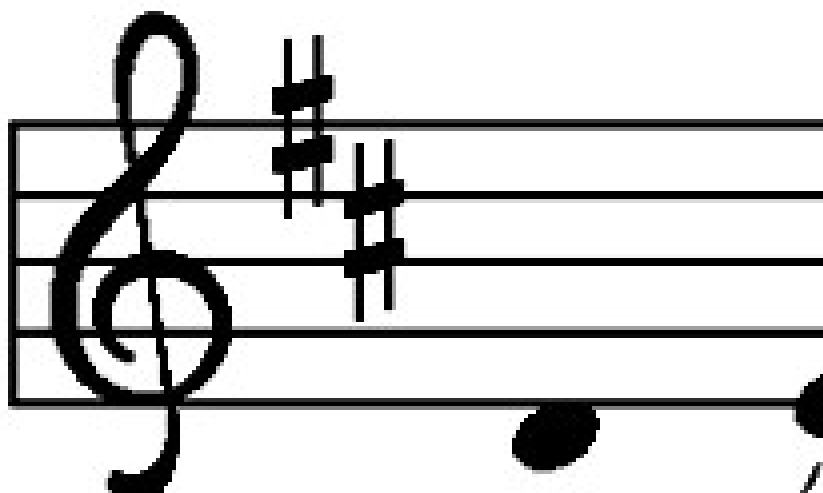
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

1 Corinthians 10:16 & John 6:35

+ The Prayer

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—
our selves , our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious
love. Receive them for the sake of him who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+ The Great Thanksgiving



P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who rose beyond the bounds of death and, [on this day,] as he had promised, poured out your Spirit of life and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exults in boundless joy. And so, with the Church on earth and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Isaiah 6:3 & Matthew 21:9

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. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Matthew 26:26-28, Luke 22:17-20
Mark 14:22-24, 1Corinthians 11:23-26

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish, but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.

+The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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**

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, grant us peace.

The Holy Communion

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

Music during the Communion:

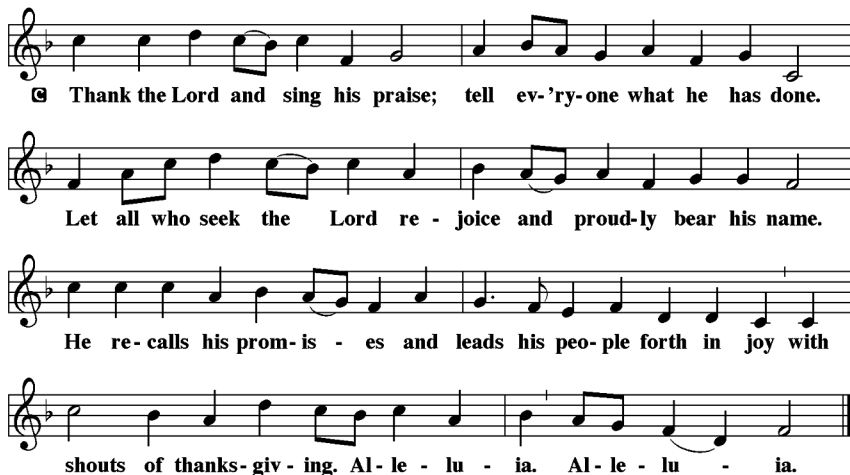
Stand

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

C **Amen**

+ Post-Communion Canticle

Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

+ Post Communion Prayer

Romans 5:5

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

+ The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
 +In the of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

+ Closing Hymn *Lift High the Cross*
Please use your Green LBW Hymnal for hymn #377.

#377

+ Dismissal

P	Go in peace.
Children	Serve the Lord.
C	Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+Stand as you are able

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SERVING TODAY

Organist
Worship Assistant
Lay Reader
Prayer Leader
Greeter
Acolytes
Altar Committee
Council President

Leigh Ann Henry
Vivian Riffel
Vivian Riffel
Vivian Riffel

Wendy Queen, Julie Gleim
Rick Williams

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH. We are pleased you are here. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign our guest book in the entrance area. We hope you will join us again very soon.

THIS MORNING WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION. St John observes open communion. Christians of all Churches and all denominations are invited and encouraged to join us at our Lord's table. You may drink from either the Common Cup or individual cups. Grape juice is offered as an alternative for those who wish it. Young children who have not yet gone through Preparation for Communion may be brought forward for a blessing.

These are the words of Martin Luther from The Small Catechism.

The benefits of this sacrament are pointed out by the words, **given and shed for you for the remission of sins.** The words assure us that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

It is not eating and drinking that does this, but the words, **given and shed for you for the remission of sins.** These words, along with eating and drinking, are the main thing in the sacrament. And whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, forgiveness of sins.

LET US PRAY FOR: Dale Ramey, Emily Smith, Peggy Butler, Roberta Sommer, Patricia Cavendish, Jim Skipworth, Galen Gleim, Grace Mootz, Marcella Mootz, Kay Staker, Kimberly Tolliver, Bill Murphy, Linda Martin, Melaine Hawk, Nicholas Young, Jason Pierce, Beth Miller, Jane Staker, Rod Schneider, Ed Hughes, Brenda Moore, Ken Staker, Greg Piguett, Mary McQuay, Chris Parish, Charles Ricketts, Chris Young,, Ginger Setvenson, Tom Bussler, Kendra Hughes, Jeff Dettwiller, Virginia Nickel, Luke White, Jack Clevenger, Bob Rase, Glenn Rase, Jim Webb, Leah Willis, Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Vacation Bible school begins tomorrow evening! Plans are already in place, and we need your help! The dates are June 22 through the 26th from 5:30 to 8:15 pm. Again this year we will be having a kid friendly light supper for children and families.

Our theme this year is Rainforest Falls - Exploring the Nature of God!

If you are interested in helping in any way, please let Vivian know! (740.464.1914) We are looking forward to another fun filled successful year of VBS with our children!



This Week at St. John

Today—*Fourth Sunday of Pentecost*

10:00 a.m. **Worship**—*Holy Communion*

Monday-Friday

5:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School

Next Sunday—*Fifth Sunday of Pentecost*

10:00 a.m. **Worship**—VBS Closing

Attendance

2026 Average 65

2025 Average 62

Serving Next Sunday, June 28

Organist

Leigh Ann Henry

Lay Reader

Prayer Leader

Greeter

James & Kym Hayman

Acolytes

Altar Committee

Wendy Queen, Julie Gleim

Council President

Rick Williams

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Arabella Ruggles, Jessica Miller, James Larter

BAPTISMS: Jerry Willis, Dale Ramey, Owen Ramey, Alex Smith, Cole Long, Callie Long, Colin Long, Lisa Long

ANNIVERSARIES: Cheryl & John Crank, Brenda & George Moore

IF WE MISSED ANYONE please let Vicki Bradley know so we can add you to the list.

Coming Events

Sunday, June 22-26 at 5:30 p.m. –8:15 p.m. Vacation Bible School
Kid friendly light supper for children and families.

Sunday, July 19 at 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Vacation Bible School Rainforest Falls

June 22 –26

Kid friendly light supper for children and families.

VBS Program June 28 during worship

Vacation Bible School Closing Program

Sunday, June 28 during worship

