



# Union Lutheran Church

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www.ulcsalisbury.org



## 14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

*(Please stand when indicated by \*)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal

With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

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Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Lift High the Cross* (Busarow)

### GATHERING

- \* Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness LBW p. 56
- \* Hymn: *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* LBW# 104
- \* Greeting & Kyrie (*Hymn of Praise is omitted this week.*) LBW p. 57-58
- \* Salutation LBW p. 62
- \* Prayer of the Day

### WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 15:15-21

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. <sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. <sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? <sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. <sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD. <sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 26 *read responsively*

L <sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;  
I have trusted in the Lord and | have not faltered.

C <sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart and my mind.**

L <sup>3</sup>For your love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you.

C <sup>4</sup>**I have not sat with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

L I have hated the company of evildoers;  
I will not sit down with the wicked.

C <sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

L <sup>7</sup>Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

C <sup>8</sup>**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.**

L <sup>9</sup>Do not sweep me away with sinners,  
nor my life with those who thirst for blood,

C <sup>10</sup>**Whose hands are full of evil plots,  
and their right hand full of bribes.**

L <sup>11</sup>As for me, I will live with integrity;  
redeem me, O LORD, and have pity on me.

C <sup>12</sup>**My foot stands on level ground;  
in the full assembly I will bless the LORD.**

New Testament Lesson: Romans 12:9-21

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

<sup>11</sup>Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the LORD." <sup>20</sup>To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L Here ends the reading.

Children's Message with Sam Nguyen

\* Gospel Acclamation (“*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go...*”) LBW p. 62

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 16th chapter.

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

\* Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

<sup>21</sup>Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” <sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? <sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. <sup>28</sup>Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: *A Cross-less Gospel*

Pastor Heidi Punt

\* Hymn: *Lift High the Cross*

LBW# 377

\* Apostles’ Creed

LBW p. 65

\* Prayer of the Church & Sharing of the Peace

LBW p. 65-66

Offering *The Offering is received as the Lord’s Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards the Social Ministry Fund. During the month of September, the Benevolence Teaching Moment is on Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.*

Anthem: *Amazing Grace* (Johns)

Chancel Choir

## MEAL

\* Offertory (“*Let the Vineyards be fruitful Lord...*”) LBW p. 66

\* Offertory Prayer LBW p. 67

\* Great Thanksgiving LBW p. 68

\* Sanctus (“*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord...*”) LBW p. 69

\* Words of Institution LBW p. 69

\* Lord’s Prayer LBW p. 71

Lamb of God (“*Lamb of God, you take away...*”) LBW p. 72

Distribution of Communion

*At Union Lutheran Church the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper are invited to commune. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out the*

*communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.*

- \* Blessing LBW p. 72
- \* Post-Communion Canticle (“*Thank the Lord...*”) LBW p. 72-73
- \* Post-Communion Prayer LBW p. 74

SENDING

- \* Benediction LBW p. 74
- \* Hymn: *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* LBW# 259
- \* Sending

P You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations

**C Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

**C Amen, amen, amen**

Postlude: *Lift High the Cross* (Burkhardt)

*The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Wyatt J. Thompson on his 4<sup>th</sup> birthday, September 2, by Sonya Leazer.*

**Those Serving in September**

**Altar Guild, Acolytes, Lay Readers, Communion Assistants:**  
Jennifer & Scott Curlee

**Altar Guild, Lay Reader, Communion Assistant:** Cathy Painter

**Ushers:**

Phil Cauble (HU), Larry Barringer, Morgan Deaton & Adam Thompson

**Offering Counters:**

Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt, Sonya Mulkey, & Vivian Sprinkle

*If you are unable to serve on a Sunday scheduled, please find a replacement and contact the church office by the Wednesday before with the name.*

*In the weekly bulletin & news, names are listed of those serving because it's a gentle reminder and helps connect names and faces!*

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1 (p. 56-76)

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# Union News

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## **Sunday, September 3**

**9:30 a.m.** Summer Sunday School

God's Plan of Salvation Completed ~ Luke 23:26, 32-46

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9)

Adult Sunday School Class

Jesus Confronts Hypocrisy ~ 1 Samuel 15:1-23; Luke 11:37-44

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon: *A Cross-less Gospel*

We are excited to have Sam Nguyen sharing his musical talents with us during the worship service.

*No Beginner Bells or Middle/High School Youth meeting today in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.*

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### **This Weeks' Activities:**

Monday, Sept. 4

Church Office is closed in observance of Labor Day.

Tuesday, Sept. 5

Union is hosting a **Retreat** for the **Piedmont-East Clergy**. How can you help, please contact Pastor Heidi? What's needed? Paper, pens, light breakfast items and drinks for around 20 persons. After the retreat the group will eat lunch at Lakeview Restaurant.

Christian Ed, Sunday School & Youth will meet **Tuesday, September 5, at 5:30 p.m.** to prepare for the upcoming 2023-2024 Sunday School Year.

6:30 p.m. 90 Days (food provided)

Wednesday, Sept. 6

10:30 a.m. 90 Days (food provided)

2:00 p.m. Autumn Care Chapel Time

A parents and confirmands meeting will be held **Wednesday, September 6, at 6:00 p.m.** The meeting will focus on expectations and schedule. Confirmation is a 2-year discipleship and faith formation journey.

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, Sept. 7

11:00 a.m. Haiti Pastors Bible Study online

12:30 p.m. A group of Sunday School Teachers will ride to Boone and look at the Bible Book Store there. Interested in going? Contact the church office.

Friday, Sept. 8-Sunday, Sept. 10 Carolinas Mission Retreats at Laurel Ridge.

*All participants are asked to be at the church by 4:30 p.m. to leave for Laurel Ridge.*

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**Sunday, September 10**

**9:30 a.m.** Summer Sunday School

Jesus Conquers Death ~ John 20:11-18

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)*

Adult Sunday School Class

Jesus Silences Critics ~ Hebrew 4:1-10; Luke 14:1-6

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 32:1-7; Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 18:1-20

Sermon: *Rejoice in the Lord*

**12 noon** Kesler Family Reunion in the large Fellowship Hall

Children, Youth, and Parents will be returning from their weekend retreat.

*Kesler Family has reserved the Altar Flowers for September 10.*

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*All women are invited to participate in the **Mary & Martha Circle's** next meeting on **Tuesday, September 12, at 2:00 p.m.** in the **Drew Wise Sunday School classroom.***

*Genevieve Baker will be sharing an interactive program.*

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On **Thursday, September 14, at 10:00 a.m.** the **Good Timers** will meet in the small fellowship hall concluding the series of Salisbury's Miss North Carolina 1934 connection with Union Church History and FDR 32nd President of the U.S.

Thank you to Steven Arey for facilitating this fascinating program.

The group will eat lunch at Lakeview Restaurant.

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*The **Worship & Music Committee** will meet on **Thursday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m.** to review, discuss, and plan upcoming worship services and any other business brought forward.*

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**Sunday, September 17**

**9:30 a.m.** Sunday School Open House

Adult Sunday School Class

Jesus Glorifies God ~Psalm 119:113-128, John 7:14-24

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:1-12, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon: *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

**10:30 a.m.** Installation of Sunday School Teachers & Officers

**12 noon** Cauble Family Reunion (both fellowship halls)

**1:30 p.m.** Executive Committee

**2:00 p.m.** Church Council

**2:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Beginner Bells**

*Deadline for October articles.*

*The Cauble Family has reserved the Altar Flowers for Sunday, September 17.*

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**2023-2024 Sunday School**

Sunday, September 17, at 9:30 a.m.

The Sunday School Teachers and Education Team of Union Lutheran Church invites everyone to an **Open House** on **Sunday, September 17, at 9:30 am** to meet their teachers, discover their classrooms, and review curriculum.

The **theme** for our **Christian Education program** this year is **“Enduring Faith.”** As students progress through the program, they learn all about their Savior, Jesus Christ, what their Savior means for them, how to defend their faith, and how to teach the faith to others. Lessons spiral to help students go deeper each time they reencounter a Bible passage. Age-appropriate activities build skills to strengthen Bible learning. Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum traces God’s plan of salvation throughout the entire Bible—pointing students to Jesus, their Savior. The curriculum supports members at whatever stage of life they are to sustain faith that endures for a lifetime.

**Classes will take place every week before Sunday worship at 9:35 a.m.**

Join us for our fun **Open House** on **September 17 at 9:35 a.m.**

2023-2024 Sunday School Teachers & Officers will be installed during the worship service on September 17.

We need YOUR help to teach, train, and equip our children, youth, and adults! Contact Pastor Heidi or Sonya Mulkey for more information.

*Registration form for 2023-2024 Sunday School Classes for Pre-school-12<sup>th</sup> grade is located in the Narthex, from the church office, or enclosed in the September Messenger. Each year this information is filled out to assist with safety and record keeping.*

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**Finance Committee** will meet **Monday, September 18, at 6:00 p.m.** to discuss final preparations of the 2024 Ministry Support Plan and other business brought forward.

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*Property, Cemetery, & Columbarium Committee will meet Thursday, September 21, at 6:30 p.m.*

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**Carolinas Mission Region ~ 1st Annual Men’s Retreat**

September 22-24, 2023

Join us for our first annual Men’s Retreat! This will be wonderful time of faith and fellowship. The theme will be, “Living Faith,” by Brack East.

The cost is **\$125. Reservations and a \$25 deposit are due by August 31.**

Please contact Bruce Zander if you have any questions: bzander5@att.net.

The church office has the registration form for those interested in attending.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

**Nursing Home Residents** – Brenda Mahaley, Pat Miller, Ruth Monroe & Jean Ray (Autumn Care)

**Homebound Members** – Arnold Cauble, Rachel Earnhardt, Tommy Kerns, Jean Kluttz, Frances Norris, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

**Sick/Surgery/Recovery** – Larry Barringer, Ashley Deaton, Duane Eagle, Nancy Kesler, Joan Kerns, John Knight, Sharon Moore, William & Doris Page, Doug Peeler, Sylvia Peeler, Effie Vellines, Wayne Vellines & Pat Wiles

**Continual Prayer** – Braxton (grandson of the Blue Waters Roseman Family), Evonne Batten, Nancy Ballew (Kat Clifton's mother), Pr. George Bradshaw (Junior Morgan's Pastor Friend), Bill Broadway, Glenn Eagle, Earleene Goodman (Tommy Goodman's mother), Nickie Hedrick (Cathy Painther's friend & co-worker), Terry Holt (Frank & Dawn Merrell's friend), Pat Kluttz, Glenn & Betty Sue Lowder, Della Morgan (Pam Vellines' mother), Tim Shue (Larry & Karen Barringer's friend), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, Slovakia, and Haiti), & those affected by natural or political disasters especially the people in Hawaii

**Confirmation Students:** Caylea Cline & Mallory Eagle

### *Stewardship Update*

*Sunday School (8/27)*

39

*Worship & Holy Communion (8/27)*

112

*Current Fund Offering for August 27 will be included in next week's news.*

*2023 Weekly offering needed to meet our Ministry Support plan \$6,482.37*

## How Can You Serve in September?

**Two** opportunities during the month of September to **serve** the community.

The **Sunday School Classes** invites the congregation to serve the W.G. (Bill) Hefner Salisbury Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Items needed: snacks, sugar, and cream for their three coffee shops. Please place items in the Service Project Supply Closet in the small fellowship hall.

The **Social Ministries Committee** invites the congregation to assist the Salvation Army by donating canned goods (popped lids is a plus), peanut butter, non-perishable foods, or money. *Please place items on the front pew of the Sanctuary.*

### **Section 1: Absolution (...the announcement of forgiveness to the penitent sinner.)**

*Our Lord declares through the mouth of His servant, the pastor, that by His grace and mercy our sins are forgiven. The Absolution speaks the Gospel into our ears in a personal way. Through these Gospel words we receive the salvation earned by Christ upon the cross of Calvary; every sin is covered by His blessed death.*

*"{Jesus} breathed on them and said to them. 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.' "* John 20:22-23

(A Simple Explanation of the Church Service, Concordia Publishing House, page 6)





Union Lutheran Church has experienced global pandemics, wars, and other historic events. Next year, Union will meet a huge milestone by celebrating 250 years of service in Rowan County and the world!

We need YOUR help to make our celebration a success!

What's needed: (Please include your name.)

- Items to display (pictures, newspaper articles, etc.)
- Share your favorite Bible verse and what it means to you
- How has Union touched your life?
- Share feedback with the committee on ideas to implement

Please turn in items and information to a member of the committee or email the church office.

As the celebration approaches participation will be greatly appreciated. Can we call on you?

Thank you in advance!

250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Kay Morgan and Dusty Morgan, Sr., Co-Chairs, Frank Merrell, Susan Knight, Tara Davis, Elbert Kluttz, and Pastor Heidi Punt

*This will be an all-year-round celebration with former Pastors or Sons and Daughters from our congregation coming to lead worship with us about every other month.*

*Rev. Judson Merrell will be our first guest on Sunday, September 24.*

**Following worship on Sunday, September 24,**

Union will enjoy a Punch and Pound Cake Pounding under the trees, weather permitting. Everyone is invited to bring a pound cake or dessert to share! Don't forget to bring a lounge chair.

