

Full Service Bulletin

MISSION SERVICE

AUGUST 23, 2026

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BACKPACK BLESSING SUNDAY

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION *During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship, read the introduction, look up the Scripture readings and pray: Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of Your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship You with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

CHILDREN *of all ages are welcome! The Children's Library is available if a child needs a break during the service.*

LISTENING DEVICES *for the hearing impaired are available at the sound board (in the back of the sanctuary).*

INTRODUCTION *Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world, but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From our Lord's Day gathering we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.*



WELCOME AND MEDITATION

(Please rise.)

GATHERING HYMN "This Is the Spirit's Entry Now"

(RW # 164 - Text: Thomas E. Herbranson; Tune: Carl G. Gläser) →

1 This is the Spir-it's en-try now: the wa-ter and the Word,
 2 This mir-a-cle of life re-born comes from the Lord of breath;
 3 Let wa-ter be the sa-cred sign that we must die each day
 4 Re-new-ing Spir-it, hear our praise for your bap-tis-mal pow'r

the cross of Je-sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
 the per-fect man from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
 to rise a-gain by his de-sign as fol-l'wers of his way.
 that wash-es us through all our days. Lord, cleanse a-gain this hour.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

($\dagger$ = All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.)

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, $\dagger$ and Holy Spirit, one God, Who creates us and forms us, Who redeems us and calls us, Who unites us and sends us. **C: AMEN.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us acknowledge our need for mercy and give thanks for the gift of baptism.

(Please kneel. Silence is kept for self-examination.)

(Water is poured into the baptismal font at each mention of water.)

P: We give You thanks, O God, for in the beginning Your voice thundered over the waters and by Your Word You created light and all things, calling forth life in which You took delight.

Through the Flood You delivered Noah and his family. You saved Moses out of the water and used him to lead Your people Israel from slavery into freedom through the sea. At the river Your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. At the font You claim us as Your children, making us heirs of Your promise and servants of all.

C: We praise You for the gift of water that sustains life. We praise You for new life in Jesus Christ. By the baptism of His death and resurrection, Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise.

P: The Holy Spirit has been poured out, the baptized have been washed and clothed with Christ. Let us live by the Spirit in God's forgiveness, grace and love. **C: AMEN.**

GREETING *(Please rise.)*

P: The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the minister at the font. The assembly may join in the responses.

P: Through baptism we are called out of darkness into God's marvelous Light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with Him. Therefore I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church:

P: Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

Response: I reject them.

P: Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

Response: I renounce them.

P: Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and each other?

Response: I repent of them.

P: Do you turn to Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Response: In faith I turn to Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

L: With the whole worldwide church, let us profess our faith.
Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

(8:30 please sit; 11:00 service continues with the Hymn of Praise, p. 5.)

PRESENTATION OF ISABELA ADELA ZEINER (8:30)

P: God, Who is rich in mercy and love, gives us new birth into living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

The presiding minister addresses the parents, sponsors and the assembly:

P: Isabela, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

P: Stephen, as you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the Word of God and the Holy Supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed,
and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the Holy Scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,

so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

P: Do you promise to help Isabela continue to grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

P: Sponsors, do you promise to help nurture your godchild, Isabela, in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Isabela and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C: We do.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

P: Isabela Adela Zeiner, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Water is poured during each naming of a Person of the Trinity.

P: You now belong to Christ, in Whom you have been Baptized.

A gift may be presented, symbolic of being Clothed with Christ in Baptism.

The minister lays both hands on the head of the newly baptized.

P: Let us pray. We give You thanks, Father God, that through water and the Holy Spirit You give new birth, cleanse us from sin,

and raise us to eternal life. Sustain Isabela with the gift of Your Holy Spirit: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the Spirit of joy in Your Presence, both now and forever. Amen.

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the head of the baptized.

P: Isabela, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

A lighted candle is given to the newly baptized, handed to the sponsor.

P: Jesus said, I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will have the Light of Life. Receive this symbol of the Light of Christ now within Isabela entrusted to you as sponsor.

The newly baptized is presented to the assembly.

L: Let us welcome Isabela into the Community of Faith.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share! Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming Word to all the world. *(Those gathered at the font return to their places.)*

WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

HYMN OF PRAISE *(Please rise.)*

"Built on a Rock" (LBW # 365 verses 1-4)

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
2 Not in our tem - ples made with hands God, the Al - might - y, is
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, built for his own hab - i -
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is
fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
dwell - ing; high in the heav'n's his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our
chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
life and sal - va - tion. Were two or three to seek his face, he in their
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with
souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
midst would show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.
L: Let us pray together: C: We praise You, O God, the
 rock of our life. As You gather disciples from all na-
 tions, count us also among those who boldly confess
 Your Son Jesus Christ as Lord. Be our strong founda-
 tion and form us into the body of Your Son, that we
 may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus
 Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.

RESPONSIVE READING....Psalm 124 (congregation: *indented*)

If the LORD had not been on our side—let Israel say—

if the LORD had not been on our side

when men attacked us,

when their anger flared against us,

they would have swallowed us alive;

the flood would have engulfed us,

the torrent would have swept over us,

the raging waters would have swept us away.

Praise be to the LORD, Who has not let us be torn by their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird out of the fowler's snare;

the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the LORD,

the Maker of heaven and earth.

PRAISE SONG (Please sit.) “Wade in the Water”

(ELW # 459 verses 1-3 - African- American Spiritual)

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn "Wade in the Water". It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff is marked "All" and "Refrain". The lyrics under the first staff are "Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics "wade in the wa - ter, God's a-goin'-a trou-ble the wa - ter." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Leader All

1 See that host all dressed in white,
 2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a-goin' - a trou-ble the
 3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?

Leader

wa - ter; the lead - er looks like the Is - ra - 'lite,
 looks like the band that . . Mo - ses led,
 the Ho - ly Ghost a - com-ing on me,

All Refrain

God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSONExodus 1:8-2:10.....Pew Bible p. 88

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSONRomans 12:1-8.....p. 1763

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

COLLECT FOR CHILDREN *(When children are present.)*

P: We will dismiss for Children's Church after the Gospel reading.

Let us pray the Collect for Children together: **C: Lord, we lift up to You the children of our church, asking for Your protection, guidance, and blessings over their lives.**

May they grow in faith, wisdom, and love, finding their identity in You and walking in the purpose You have for them. Surround them with Your grace, strengthen their families, and raise them to be lights in this world for Your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Please rise.)*

"We Are an Offering" (ELW # 692 - Dwight Liles) →



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPELMatthew 16:13-20.....p. 1524

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be seated. Young children may go to Children's Church.)

SERMON *(See space for sermon notes in Announcements insert.)*

"The Exodus, Part 1: Slavery and the Birth of a Deliverer"

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please rise.)*

"Onward Christian Soldiers" (Maj # 600 - favorite) →

1 On-ward, Chris-tian sol - diers, march-ing as to war, With the cross of
 2 Like a might-y ar - my moves the Church of God; Broth-ers, we are
 3 Crowns and thrones may per-ish, king - doms rise and wane, But the Church of
 4 On-ward, then, ye peo - ple, join our hap-py throng; Blend with ours your

1 Je - sus go - ing on be - fore. Christ, the roy - al Mas - ter, leads a -
 2 tread - ing where the saints have trod. We are not di - vid - ed, all one
 3 Je - sus con-stant will re - main. Gates of hell can nev - er 'gainst that
 4 voic - es in the tri - umph song. Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or un - to

1 gainst the foe; For - ward in - to bat - tle, see His ban-ners go.
 2 bod - y we: One in hope and doc - trine, one in char - i - ty.
 3 Church pre-vail; We have Christ's own prom - ise, and that can - not fail.
 4 Christ the King: This through count-less a - ges men and an - gels sing.

On - ward, Chris-tian sol - diers, march-ing as to war,

With the cross of Je - sus go - ing on be - fore.

OFFERING *We no longer pass the plate, but your offerings are needed more than ever. The plate is located at the back of the center aisle. Please place your offering and your Communication Card there as you come in or go out. Thank You!*

MISSION MOMENT *(Please sit.)*

Child Evangelism Fellowship - Rev. Dave Henry

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel as you are able.)*

(Response: L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

THE 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.

WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

(Please sit. Students come forward wearing their backpacks.)

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

P: Lord, bless these backpacks and the students, teachers and others who will use them. We ask You to bless them with curiosity, understanding and respect. May their backpacks be a sign to them that they are loved by You and have everything they need to learn and grow in wisdom and maturity. Be ever-present with them in the classroom, on the school bus, on the playground, at work or at home. May they feel Your loving care in all they do. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, Who as a child in the Temple showed His longing to learn about You, and as an adult taught by story and example Your great love for us.

C: AMEN.

BLESSING

P: God gives rest to all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Ih Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you, this day and forevermore.

C: AMEN.

SENDING HYMN *(Please rise.) "At the Cross"*

(Maj # 417 - favorite - Text: Isaac Watts; Tune: Ralph E. Hobson) →

1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov - reign die?
 2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?
 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in
 4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears;
 5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;

Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
 A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un - known, and love be - yond de - gree!
 when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.
 dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.
 here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: it's all that I can do.

Refrain
 At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light, and the
 bur - den of my heart rolled a - way: it was there by faith I re -
 ceived my sight, and now I am hap - py all the day.

PASSING THE PEACE

L: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit,
 let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we
 have received. The peace of the Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS *Everyone is invited to remain for fellowship and refreshments. Snacks, coffee and hot water are available in the Gathering Place. You can brew your own coffee/tea using the Keurig® in the Parlor.*

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE SPONSORED BY:

*Earl & Adele Zeiner
 blessing Isabela Zeiner's baptism.*

BULLETINS ARE SPONSORED BY:

*Irene & Gary Graham
 in honor of grandson Logan's birthday*

AUGUST 23, 2026

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SERVANTS OF THE LORD THIS WEEK

COVER ART: Holy Cross Chrismon Photo

GREETER: 8:30-Sharon Wagner | 11:00-Sharon Branigan

SOUND: 8:30-Seth Miller | 11:00-**Volunteer needed**

LIVESTREAM: 8:30-Jan Stryker

SONG LEADER: Pastor David

LITURGIST: 8:30-Karen Brown | 11:00-Lyn Stryker

LECTOR: 8:30-Ruthann Kistler | 11:00-Kathy Ballek

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Ruthann Kistler

ALTAR GUILD: Sharon Branigan & Irene Graham

COUNTERS: Jan Stryker, Karen Brown

GRASS CUTTERS (8/17-22): Nick Wechsler, Mike Miller

HOSPITALITY: Holy Cross Social Ministry

SEXTON: **Volunteers needed**

PHONETREE: Stephen Zeiner

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Stephen Zeiner

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church



a congregation of the
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



2700 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017
Office/Pastor (610) 867-6231 † Holycrossoffice@rcn.com
Holycrosspastor@rcn.com † Preschool (610) 867-9735
www.holycrossbethlehem.com

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*
Nancy Cook, *Organist* † Karen Brown, *Secretary*
Volunteers Needed, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*
Lisa Wechsler, *Bookkeeper* † Stephen Zeiner, *Webmaster*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM
(Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts)

Hymns used by permission of OneLicense.net #A-714282.
Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible NIV. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.
Liturgy adapted from With One Voice Copyright 1995 by Augsburg Fortress,
and Sundays and Seasons Copyright 2009 by Augsburg Fortress.