# Christ Lutheran Church 1222 Vocke Road, LaVale, MD. 21502-7519 Telephone 301-729-1010

Website: CLCLaVale.org

E-Mail: <a href="mailto:christlutheran@atlanticbbn.net">christlutheran@atlanticbbn.net</a>

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 2025

#### THE WORSHIP SERVICE - 10:00 AM In-Person & Zoom

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

#### WELCOME

Announcements & Prelude

# \* A Call to Worship

- P: The riches of the world are not worth comparing to the riches of God.
- C: Enrich us with your gifts, O God.
- P: While money may be valuable on this earth, a relationship with Christ is what matters most.
- C: Enrich us in our relationship with your Son, O God.
- P: While lots of delicious food may be what the wealthy here on earth take delight in, there is a holy Meal of bread and wine that provides us with exactly what we need.
- C: Enrich us with your forgiveness, O God, given to us through the body and blood of Christ Jesus.
- P: While the closets of the wealthy may be filled with many fancy clothes, one robe of righteousness is all that we need to be saved.
- C: Cover us with the righteousness purchased and won for us through the death and resurrection of your Son, O God.
- P: While elegant homes may bring joy to people here on earth, there is only one home that can bring us lasting joy.
- C: Take us at last to your home above, O God. Amen.

# \* Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

Rejoice over us as ones who were lost

and have been found.

Amen.

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found.

In the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

# \* Gathering Hymn 1097 (Bulletin Page 13) "Ten Thousand Reasons"

### \* 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.





### \* Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Lesson: *Amos 6:1a, 4-7*<sup>1a</sup> Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.

<sup>4</sup> Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall,

<sup>5</sup> who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music,

<sup>6</sup> who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

<sup>7</sup> Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup> Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

 $^2$  I will praise the LORD as long  $^{|}$  as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I  $^{|}$  have my being.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Put not your | trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there | is no help.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth, and in that day | their thoughts perish.

- <sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help, whose hope is in the | LORD their God;
- <sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that <sup>1</sup> is in them; who keeps promis- <sup>1</sup> es forever;
- <sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger. The LORD sets the | captive free.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down; the LORD | loves the righteous.
- <sup>9</sup> The LORD cares | for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.
- <sup>10</sup> The LORD shall | reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

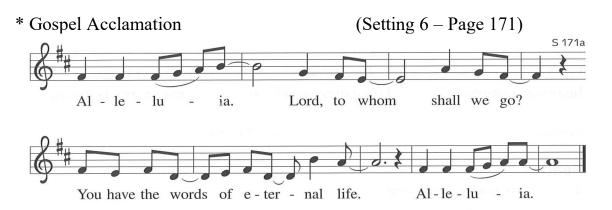
Second Lesson: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

<sup>6</sup> Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, <sup>8</sup> but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. <sup>9</sup> But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

<sup>11</sup> But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge

you <sup>14</sup> to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>16</sup> It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

<sup>17</sup> As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, <sup>19</sup> thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.** 



P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

[Jesus said:] 19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup> He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' <sup>30</sup> He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup> He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

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

Sermon

Pastor Daniel Swanson

**Hymn 1036** (Bulletin Page 14)

"Commonwealth is God's Commandment"

#### \* Apostles' 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.

The Prayer of the Church

\* Sharing of the Peace of the Lord

We Offer Our Gifts to the Lord Anthem

Organ Voluntary Chancel Choir

"They'll Know We Are Christians" Peter Scholtes, arr. By Mark Hayes

- \* Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
- \* The Offertory

Hymn "Bring a Gift of Love"--Mary Kay Bottens Bring a gift of love, bring a gift of love today. Bring an offering to our Lord and King, tell the world he is the Way! Bring a gift of love, bring a gift of love today. In this quiet hour of worship, bring a gift of love.

### \* Offertory Prayer

L: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

# \* The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

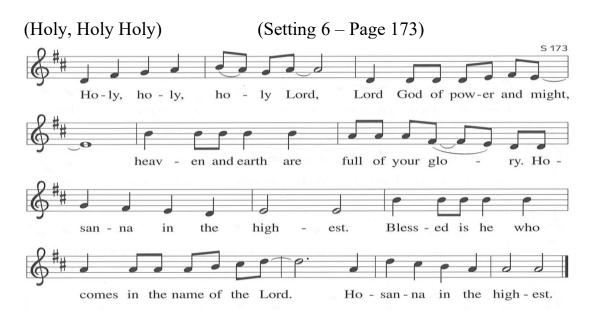
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right ......and join their unending hymn:



<sup>\*</sup> The Words of Institution

#### \* 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.

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

"Lamb of God"

Chancel Choir

Words and Music - Rob Temple

Distribution of the Sacrament

# \* Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

# \* The Prayer after Communion

L: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen

### \* Blessing

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

\* Sending Hymn 1000 (Bulletin Page 15) "God's Work, Our Hands"

#### \* Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

\* Postlude

In Bread and Wine our Lord Jesus meets us and we receive His Body and Blood given and shed for our forgiveness. It is a meal of love forgiveness and renewal. If you are visiting with us

for our forgiveness. It is a meal of love, forgiveness and renewal. If you are visiting with us today and are a baptized Christian and desire to commune, please do come to the table of the Lord. Children and youth who have not received instruction in the meaning of the Sacrament are cordially invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please come toward as directed by ushers by the center aisle and return by the side aisles.



#### "Commonwealth is God's Commandment" - ACS 1036



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835 Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

#### "God's Work, Our Hands" - ACS 1000



Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987 Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

#### **Lectors for our Services**

This Sunday, Sept 28 – Sally Buser Wednesday, Oct 1 – Lydia Martin Next Sunday, October 5 – Jack Murray Next Wednesday, Oct 8 – Rae Ann Smi

Sept Ushers – Mark Lathrop, Ken Wendell
Organist – Rae Ann Smith
A/V – Kathy, Dave, Joyce

Next Wednesday, Oct 8 – Rae Ann Smith October Ushers: Bill Bingman, Kameron Brooks

The Bulletins & the Communion Bread & Wine have been given to the glory of God in honor of Janet & Elwood Glass' 68th Wedding Anniversary.

The September Newsletter has been given to the glory of God in memory of parents, Kermit & Thelma Failinger by Ray & Dianne Short.

We have a hearing assistance system in the sanctuary. If you are having problems hearing our service, please ask the usher for a receiver.

Hope that you have picked up your name tags from the board in the main entrance. They are in alphabetical order. Please return to the board when leaving. Thanks

**New Bible Studies -** We are now studying women of the Bible on Sunday mornings, 11:30am. We begin a study on **Thursday mornings at 10:30am** on God and Suffering. Please come join us!



St. Francis

This Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – 6:30 p.m. – St Francis Day

Service/Blessing of Animals. No pet is too large, too small or too slimy to be included. Please come with your pets appropriately restrained (harnessed, caged, submerged, etc.) and have a great time praising God with all of God's creatures! We will meet on the pavilion by the side parking lot. (No Communion)

#### This week -

This Sunday – Worship - 10:00am followed by Adult SS in the upper kitchen Monday - Strategic Planning Committee – 6:30pm

Wednesday – Worship (Blessing of the Animals on the pavilion) – 6:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal – 7:30pm

Thursday – Bible Study – 10:30am "God's Suffering"

Friday - Crafts & Diane's Music classes 10:00am, Lady Birds - 11:00am

Saturday – Garden class - Garden changes, clean-up & prepare for winter

Next Sunday, Worship – 10:00am

Crop Walk – 2:00pm

Thanks to all who participated in the recent survey on giving that was conducted by the Mission and Generosity Committee. The committee wanted to share the conclusions that were presented to the Church Council:

First, the survey's findings suggest that there are many factors that influence people's decisions about their regular financial giving to Christ Lutheran Church. Future EMR campaigns need to speak to each of these multiple factors in order to be effective. For example, in deciding how much to give, people not only consider their own individual circumstances (income and expenses), but also the needs of the Church and the community (local, regional, and global).

Second, the survey findings also suggest that the practice of inviting people to make an annual pledge to Christ Lutheran Church and the practice of distributing church envelopes are still valued and should be continued.

Third, because of the even split among respondents to the question on tithing, it may be useful for the Mission and Generosity Committee to revisit this idea by way of educating people and helping them to adopt tithing as an ongoing spiritual practice.

Finally, it may also be useful for both the Mission and Generosity Committee and the Church Council to revisit the Biblical foundations of giving. Although some respondents to the survey seemed to reflect the spirit of being a generous giver in response to the blessings that God has given to all people, other respondents seemed to reflect the idea of giving as a response to decisions that are made by the Pastor and/or the Church Council.

If you would like a full copy of the final report from the survey, they are available on the round table in the main narthex.

God's Work – Our Hands Event – every year the ELCA asks local congregations to become involved in an activity that reaches out to their community. The Mission and Generosity Committee believes that we should help the George's Creek area and to that end we have contacted the area rep of the Allegany County Public Schools. She suggested that we collect cleaning supplies as the need continues. The needed supplies include: paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, sponges and dish rags, all purpose cleaning spray, disinfecting wipes and aerosol spray, toilet bowl cleaner, and glass cleaner. We will place a box in the Narthex to begin to collect items. Rather than make this a "one day" event, we will make it a "one + month" event. We will collect through the month of October. Our neighbors in George's Creek continue to suffer from the flood. This is a way that we can do God's Work and share our love with them. Please bring your items to church. Should you prefer contributing cash/check, please place it in an envelope marked "George's Creek." Thank you for your "helping hands."

Church Yard Sale – Fundraising is planning a Christmas Yard sale on Friday, October 31st and Saturday, Nov 1st from 8-12pm. We need Christmas decorations, ornaments or anything Christmas for this sale. You may bring to church starting on Sunday, October 26th. Thanks again!

Thanks to everyone who has kept the donations coming for the LaVale Food Pantry! For the month of September, we'd like to encourage you to donate canned tuna. We also welcome any other unopened and unexpired non-perishable food items.

**CLC Archival Items & Artifacts** - To help us preserve and manage our collection with care, please follow these guidelines when interacting with the CLC Archives Room:

- Donating or Borrowing: Kindly sign the designated log sheet when donating or borrowing any items or artifacts.
- Dropping Off or Returning: Please place all items on the log sheet table so our archives team can properly process and store them.

Your cooperation ensures the integrity and organization of our archives—thank you for being part of it! The CLC Archivs Team

Stock the Shelves for Mission and Ministry – This is the final Sunday! Thank you to everyone who helped our 2025 budget expenses. Thanks

Christ Lutheran Church, with the help of community members, is building a memorial garden for use by our community for remembering loved ones, or just quiet contemplation and connection with nature. It will consist of a bench for resting, a memorial stone for experiencing artistic beauty, a tree (weeping redbud) for experiencing natural beauty, and a labyrinth for centering thoughts. It joins with our meadow meander - already developed – connecting with the beauty of nature through all five senses, and our community pantry garden and orchard that provides fresh produce along with companionship for neighbors who need it. If you're into rocks, or puzzling, join us to build Tuesday mornings 7-9am. Or come to visit anytime. Easy access is from Martz Lane behind the church - just park on the grass.

The CROP Walk will be on October 12. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the CBIZ parking lot downtown Cumberland. The walk will begin at 2:00 p.m. It is a 2-mile round-trip on the Great Allegany Passage. For more information, please see Rae Ann.

LAST WEEK'S REPORT – September 21, 2025

```
Attendance In-Person 10:00am = 44 Adult SCS = Zoom 10:00am = 14

Wed. Sept 17 In-Person 6:30pm = 10

Zoom 6:30pm = 2
```

<b>BUDGET OFFERINGS FOR 2025</b>		BUDGETED ACCOUNTS – JAN-AUGUST 2025
Received =	\$3,156.00	Actual Income = \$131,991.85
Needed weekly =	<u>4,044.04</u>	Actual Expenses = $(145,994.65)$
	(888.04)	(\$14,002.80)

#### From Our Church Council,

This message contains important updates regarding committee finances and operations at Christ Lutheran Church, LaVale, effective October 1, 2025. These changes, recommended by our recent audit and approved by the CLC Council, aim to improve transparency and efficiency in our financial processes.

#### \*\*Shipping of Church Supplies and Equipment:\*\*

To ensure clarity and accountability, we request that all committee supply and equipment orders be shipped directly to Christ Lutheran Church, 1222 Vocke Road, LaVale, MD, whenever feasible. This centralizes deliveries and simplifies our inventory management. If there are exceptional circumstances requiring delivery to a private address, please contact the church treasurer in advance for approval.

#### \*\*Reimbursement Procedures:\*\*

To streamline the reimbursement process, please submit all receipts for church-related purchases to the church secretary or treasurer by the 15th of the following month. Late submissions will unfortunately not be processed for reimbursement. To facilitate accurate processing, please ensure receipts clearly distinguish between expenses incurred for church use and personal expenses. Only receipts for church-related expenses should be submitted for reimbursement. If a single receipt contains both personal and church-related expenses, please separate these items into distinct submissions. We are happy to assist in clarifying expenses if needed.

#### \*\*October Council Meeting:\*\*

Please note that the October Council meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, October 6, 2025, at the usual time. Committee reports are required by noon on that day. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring timely submissions. We look forward to your active or written participation in the meeting.

Thank you for your continued dedication and service to Christ Lutheran Church. If you have any questions regarding these updates, please do not hesitate to contact a church council member.

Sincere thanks - Sally Buser CLC Council Secretary



# **Blessing of the Animals**

No pet is too large, too small or too slimy to be included. Please come with your pets appropriately restrained (harnessed, caged, submerged, etc.) and have a great time praising God with all of God's creatures!

WHERE: Christ Lutheran Church in the Pavilion

1222 Vocke Road

La Vale, MD 21502

**WHEN:** Wednesday ~ October 1, 2025 @ 6:30pm

**St. Francis of Assisi**—the patron saint of animals and the environment—could be viewed as the original Earth Day advocate. Francis' devotion to the Lord was expressed through his love for all of God's creation. St. Francis died in Portiuncula, Italy on October 4, 1226.

His love for God's creation has inspired nations to also proclaim this devotion by honoring an International Day of Action for animal rights and welfare, which is celebrated annually on the 4th of October. It is now respectfully called **World Animal Day**.

For this reason, on or around October 4th, we observe the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi by having a **Blessing of the Animals** service. Mark your calendars for the CLC service that will be held this year on **Wednesday, October 1st,** at the lighted pavilion. So, pack up your fuzzy, furry, and feathered friends and bring them to church to receive their blessing.

Research done by: Antoinette Royster - CLC Archives Committee

#### PRAYER LIST FOR SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

**PRAYER RECIPIENT - MEMBERS** 

Jane Miller Sherry Tedrow Jack Zealand Pam Mulligan Anna Bruck

Bill & MarySue Crawford

Gail Dawson Gary Llewellyn

Mitzie & Jerry Robinette

Patty Wilson
Ed Havens
Clem Dawson
Dave & Lisa Ahern
Kim Shoemaker
Fay Crawford
David LaBuda

Rosey & Becky McIntyre Jonathan and Danielle Ahern

Tammy Faulkner Pam & Dave Judy David Tibbetts Joyce DeMonbrun

Kathy Powell

Sharon McKenzie

Mary Lou Rowles Donna Yaider Laura Murray PRAYER RECIPIENT

Requested by Elwood & Janet Glass

Christina Puffinburger Elwood & Janet Gl Raymond Garthwait, Stephen Overtoom Gail Dawson Charles Johnson, Barbara Williams Sharon M

Joe Kunsman, Linda Nines, Ellen Hill Mitzie & Jerry Brittney Meyers, Talot Omar, Terry Baker Mitzie & Jerry Nathan Winters Dianne Short

Charlotte & Ed Troutman, Arlene Simmons. Amy, Jacie Fairall Barb Simmons

Carl Chiarenza, Karen Mackert
Elise & Henry Jack Balber
Cheryl Trusler
Cheri Bielen
Jane Miller

Baby Whetzel, Kevin Mistretta, Carolyn Farr, Kendra Morriss, Paula Rose Diane

Dan Moore, Graham Tower, Lisa Storm, Jaime Pletcher, Karen Ford Diane K

Richard Clark, Zachary Sutterfield, Alexis Smith Anne DeVaughn
Diane Davis, Nancy Smith, James Flynn Antoinette Royster
Joy Kroeger-Mappes Carmen and Lance Jackson Antoinette Royster

Bob Aman, Susie Spiker
Gretchen Burke
Sally, Roger, James Tibbets
Andy Cocco
Shirley & Jim Smith
Val & Gary Llewellyn
Dave Tibbetts
John Cocco

Marie Turnbull, Steven Suzindlak, Taylor Neumann Lita Havens

Dan Carr, Matt Doman Steven Hansrote
Michele Jones, Lois Shunk Sherry T

Don Ringer, Stephanie Georgiane
Mary Lou Dorsey
Vic Werner

Sheffy 1

Kristan Fazenbaker

Trina Firey

Barbara Martin

Belinda Keller Linda McCagh
Madeline Lopes Al James

Barbara Blough Janice & Dave LaBuda

Galen Dean Krepps Lisa Ahern

Jared McGensie, Chris Twigg Patty Wilson and Rosey

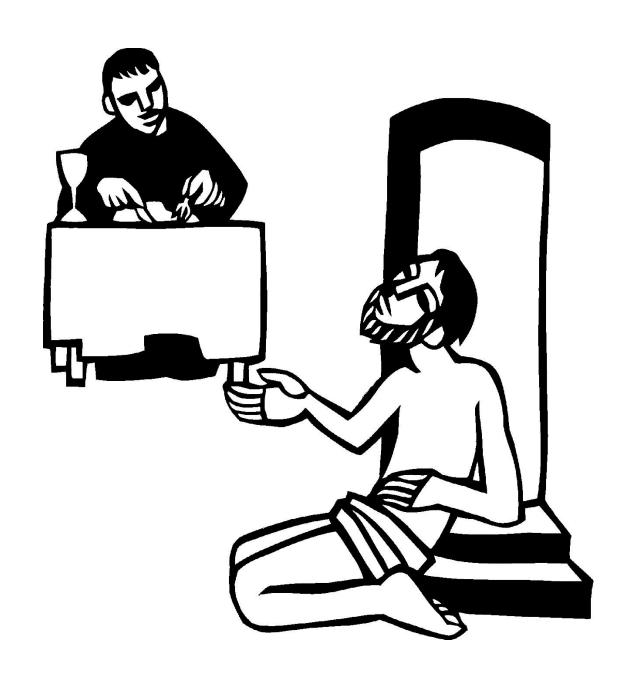
Please keep us updated

<sup>-</sup>all people affected by the wildfires and other disasters

<sup>-</sup>all people of the Ukraine and all affected by the war

<sup>-</sup>all elected officials

<sup>-</sup>those who serve in our nation's armed forces including Rick Rounds, Tom Forrest



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 28, 2025