

# Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 11, 10:00 AM

## Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the world.

# **GATHERING**

## PRELUDE—Reformation Bells

Land of Rest – American folk tune arr. Karen Thompson Fughetta in C Major – G. F. Handel arr. Bridges

#### WELCOME

Amen.

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the № Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

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.

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination may follow.

#### Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive 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.

Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.

Amen.

#### **GATHERING HYMN • ELW 556**

Morning Has Broken



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version Text ♥ Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates. Arr. ♥ 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

#### **GREETING**

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

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE • ELW 167**



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

# WORD

FIRST READING Hosea 5:15--6:6

Because the people have trusted in military powers and not God, God decides to withdraw from the scene until Israel acknowledges its guilt and seeks God's face. The response of the people does not acknowledge this guilt and is as fickle as fog or dew burned away quickly by the sun. God desires loyalty rather than words or meaningless deeds.

I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor:

"Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth."

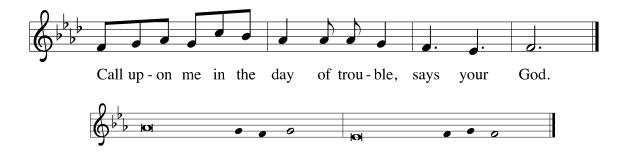
What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALMODY** Psalm 50:7-15

Please sing the refrain after the organ introduction. Please sing all the verses.



- "Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear wit- | ness against you; for I am | God, your God.
- <sup>8</sup>I do not accuse you because | of your sacrifices; your burnt offerings are al- | ways before me.
- 9I will not accept a calf | from your stalls, nor goats | from your pens; 10for all the wild animals of the for- | est are mine, the cattle on a | thousand hills. R
- 11I know every bird | of the mountains, and the creatures of the | fields are mine.
  12If I were hungry, I | would not tell you, for the whole world is mine and all | that is in it.



13Do you think I eat the | flesh of bulls, or drink the | blood of goats?
14Offer to God a sacrifice | of thanksgiving and make good your vows to | the Most High.

<sup>15</sup>Call upon me in the | day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall | honor me." R

SECOND READING Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as a living model of right relationships. For Abraham and for us, a right relationship with God involves trusting that God's promises will be fulfilled because God makes the dead alive and calls into existence what otherwise does not exist.

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION • ELW 169**



All: Alleluia. The Spi|rit of the Lord is upon me,\* and has anointed me to bring good news | to the poor. Alleluia. (Luke 4:18)

**GOSPEL** Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew, the ninth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** 

Jesus demonstrates God's mercy and power, accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

SERMON Pastor Miller

Please stand as you are able.

Please sing verse 3 & 4 in unison.



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923 Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM / RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

## INTRODUCTION

Dear friends, we give thanks to God for the gift of baptism, and for these persons, one with us in the body of Christ, who affirm their baptism, and also join this community of faith. In baptism God frees us from sin and death by uniting us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and we are commissioned for Christ's ministry of justice and peace.

#### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? 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.

Brothers and sisters, affirming your baptism, and joining this community of faith, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth? Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

#### RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

We rejoice with all of you today and welcome you also into this faith community. Do you intend to share your gifts, and be active participants in this life of this congregation? Response: We do.

Each member receives an Affirmation of Baptism candle, hearing the words they heard declared at their baptism, "[Name] let your light so shine before others."

#### WELCOME

Let us welcome these brothers and sisters.

We rejoice with you affirming your baptism. We also gladly receive you as disciples of this congregation. Join us as we give praise to God and bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

#### **PEACE**

The Peace is shared

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** 

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you**.

Please be seated.

# MEAL

#### **OFFERING**

We invite you to give your offering online at <u>saintlukegive.us</u> You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church 9100 Colesville Road Silver Spring, MD 20910

#### MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING—Reformation Bells

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Johann Sebastian Bach arr. Cheryl (Sutton) Baker

Please stand as you are able.

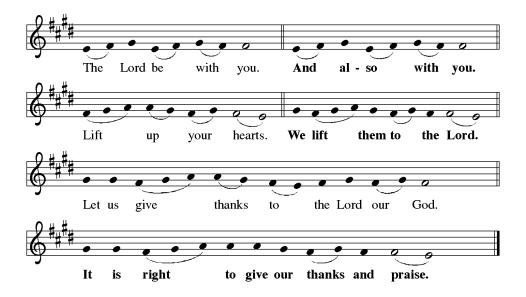
#### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

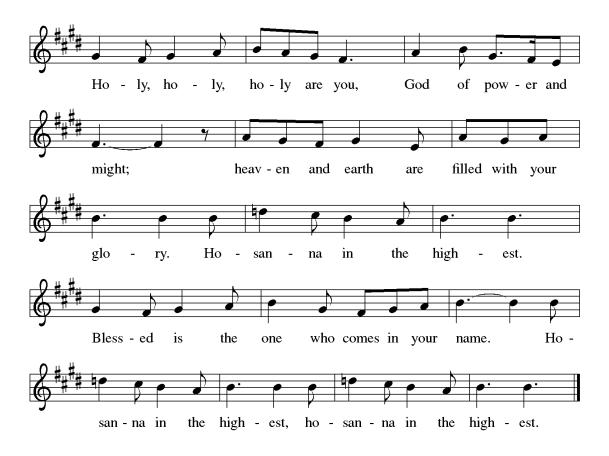
God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



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:



Music: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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 life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.



Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.



#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray in your own preferred language.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga a nosostros tu reino, hagase tu voluntad, asi en la tierra como en el cielo.

Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia; perdona nuestras ofensas, como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden; y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion, mas libranos del mal.

Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria, por los siglos de los siglos. Amen

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good. **Thanks be to God.** 

Please be seated.

#### **COMMUNION**

All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are two stations at the foot of the chancel steps. Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ. (Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server) Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
The communicant may say:
Amen.



Come to the ta-ble of mer-cy, pre-pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun-gry and thirst-y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re-ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

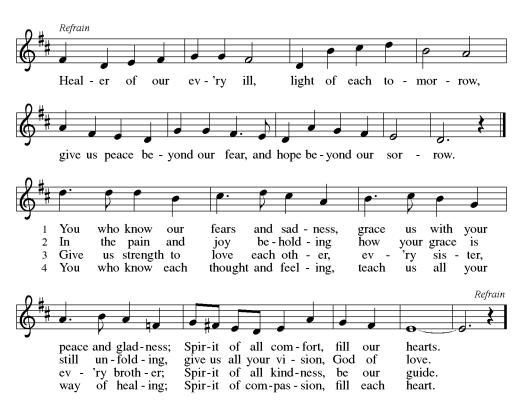
Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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#### **COMMUNION HYMN• ELW 612**

Healer Of Our Every Ill



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen
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#### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

#### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE • ELW 208



Text and music: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

# **SENDING**

## **BLESSING**

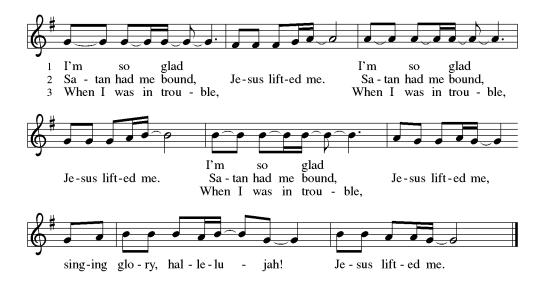
Amen.

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed

▶ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

#### **SENDING HYMN • ELW 860**

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



Text: African American spiritual Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

#### **POSTLUDE**

Variations from Organ Concerto Set 1, Op. 4, No. 1

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

#### PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski, Confirmation Pastor

### ASSISTING MINISTER

Deacon Kyle Warfield, Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries

#### **COMMUNION SERVER**

Melissa Groen, Director of Children's Ministries

#### **READER**

Charles Helling

#### **MUSICIANS**

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist* Edie Venit, *Director of Reformation Bells* Reformation Bells

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## This week at Saint Luke Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, June 11—2nd Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 Holy Communion

11:00 AM Reception

5:00 PM San Lucas Misa Español

MONDAY, June 12

6:00 PM Yoga

**TUESDAY**, June 13

10:00 AM Mary/Martha Circle (Hybrid)

4:30 PM Piano Lessons 7:00 PM Girl Scouts

WEDNESDAY, June 14

7:00 AM Zoom Faith Connections 10:00 AM Women in Community

7:30 PM AA

THURSDAY, June 15

7:30 PM Centering Prayer (Zoom)

FRIDAY, June 16

SATURDAY, June 17

9:00 AM Quilters

9:30 AM AA

11:00 AM Al-Anon

# **Upcoming Commemorations**

Barnabas, Apostle

Sunday, June 11, 2023

Barnabas was not numbered among the twelve apostles, but the book of Acts gives him that title. After Paul was converted to Christianity, Barnabas welcomed him to Jerusalem, and later the two traveled together on missionary journeys.

Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, died 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, died around 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, died around 389; Macrina, teacher, died around 379

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

The Cappadocian fathers, as the three men in this group are known, explored the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Basil's monastic rule forms the basis for Eastern monastic life. Gregory of Nazianzus defended orthodox Christianity in Constantinople. Gregory of Nyssa, Basil's younger brother, wrote on the spiritual life. Macrina, older sister of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa, was the leader of a community dedicated to asceticism, meditation, and prayer.

SUNDAY, June 18—3rd Sunday after Pentecost

**10:00** Holy Communion

11:00 AM Reception

3:00 PM San Lucas Gospel Meditation online

NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed

# Emanuel Nine, martyrs, died 2015 *Saturday, June 17, 2023*

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a selfprofessed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

# Saint Luke Update 6/11/2023 Edition

#### **WELCOME DISCIPLES!**

This morning we welcome new disciples into Saint Luke membership. We rejoice with these people who affirm their baptism and join this community of faith. Those we receive are Cynthia Bonilla Alfaro, Suleyma Alfaro, Juan Bonilla, Brooke Linsenbardt and Hans Linsenbardt. How we give thanks for these disciples!

#### STRAWBERRIES AND ICE CREAM!!

This morning after worship let us enjoy some summer fellowship. Strawberries and ice cream will be served. Come and enjoy, and meet our new members.

#### **SUMMER WORSHIP**

Today we begin the summer schedule with morning worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by fellowship and refreshments. The 5:00 p.m. service on Sunday in Spanish, Misa Español, is today as well and will continue on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Thank you for spreading the word.



It is all about "45 Alive." Have you seen the videos showing the ministry and mission outreach of Saint Luke? It is amazing! As we look to a new fiscal year, the Stewardship Committee is asking each giving unit, household, to increase giving each month by \$45. Inflation is a very big factor. We have slimmed down the budget to have major cost savings and done the math—\$45 extra will greatly help to balance the budget. Some may not be able to do this but others may consider giving extra for those who cannot. We hope to begin this with the fiscal year starting August 1. Thank you for prayerfully considering "45 Alive." We can do it!

#### CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

We are so blessed with such a wonderful school. Enrollment is happening for fall. Spots are still available.

Thank you for helping pass the word. Thank you for helping pass this word through your social media, neighborhood listservs and the like. To learn more and apply on-line, visit <a href="www.saintlukekids.org">www.saintlukekids.org</a>. Students will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Call to schedule a tour today, 301-588-3866. Again thanks for passing this information along.

# Saint Luke Update, Continued 6/11/2023 Edition

#### GIFT AND RECEPTION FOR PASTOR MORALES

On Sunday, June 25, we will say thank you to Pastor Morales. We are sad to see him and his family go, but we are so glad for him as he moves on to this new opportunity. We will give thanks at a special reception after worship. Also, just a reminder, we will be giving him a cash gift. You can contribute by going to <a href="https://www.saintukegive.us">www.saintukegive.us</a> and clicking *Pastor Morales Gift*, or checks may be sent to Saint uke or put in the offering plate. Please note for *Pastor Morales Gift*. Deadline for contributions is Saturday, June 24. Thank you.

#### SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS—FELOWSHIP HOUR

Can you help one Sunday, with putting out the coffee, refreshments and the like and helping with clean-up? We have some very faithful people who help but they deserve a break now and then. Can you help one Sunday? If so, please contact Kathy Bergeron at <a href="mailto:bergeron25@gmail.com">bergeron25@gmail.com</a>

#### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: ITEMS NEEDED

Needed items are canned beans, vegetables and/or fruit, rice/pasta, cereal, peanut butter, granola bars, antiseptic and/or alcohol wipes, band-aids, gauze pads, stretch medical wrap, and full-size toothpaste tubes. Donated items can be placed in the blue bins in the Fireside Room through June, preferably by early June. Monetary donations can also be given to VBS Service Projects online at <a href="www.saintlukegive.us">www.saintlukegive.us</a>. If you have questions, contact Melissa Groen at <a href="majority">mgroen@saintluke.us</a>

## SAINT LUKE WORSHIP AT LEISURE WORLD

Do you live in Leisure World or know people who do? Please pass the word. Saint Luke will have a Vespers/Holy Communion service there at the Inter-Faith Chapel, Tuesday, June 20, 3:30 p.m. The Caring Ministries team from Saint Luke, pastors, deacon, musician, will be there to lead and share in this time together. All are welcome. Bring family and friends. See you June 20.

# Today's Music

Sometimes the secular world helps make a sacred song popular, and this is the case with "Morning Has Broken." The Gaelic melody first appeared with a Christmas text, "Child in a manger," but was the source of inspiration for the morning text by Eleanor Farjeon, who wrote nursery hymns and singing games for children. How marvelous it is to think that the dawn of each new day is just as fresh and full of opportunities as was the first day of creation. God is always giving us another chance! – Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

"We Come to You for Healing, Lord" is included in Herman Stuempfle's Wondrous Love Has Called Us! (2006), but no commentary is included with it. Evangelical Lutheran Worship has a slightly altered version. In the second stanza "we know you come" was changed to "come, risen Christ." The change was made by Stuempfle. He talked about it to Cheryl Dieter, the Renewing Worship coordinator who assembled materials in preparation for the new worship book. As she recalls, "he made the change to maintain the intercessory nature of the hymn throughout the first four stanzas. The assurance/faith that Christ will come with healing is held off until the last stanza. This hymn speaks to all those "in pain" who have "wakefulness" at night and "days when strength runs low," who know "physicians" skills," "nurses' care," and "the love of faithful friends who lift their lives in prayer" – and through it all the "risen Christ among us still." – ELW Hymnal Companion

According to Marty Haugen (b. 1950), "Healer of Our Every Ill" "was written during the winter of 1985-86 while my family was residing at Holden Village, a retreat center in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. On January 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger crashed shortly after take-off. In addition to the loss of seven astronauts, it was a symbolic loss for Americans. At Holden we had very infrequent communication with the outside world, so that we did not know of the disaster for a couple of days. When we got some information, we held a service in the evening, and "Healer of Our Every Ill" was written as an expression for our community to grieve together." - ELW Hymnal Companion

The sending hymn "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" is a classic call-and-response piece. A leader sings the call in the first measure with the words improvised to any rhythm she or he chooses. The printed page is only an approximation. The assembly responds in the next measure. Suzanne Flandreau of the Center for Black Music Research in Chicago clarifies that "it is not totally unheard-of for a traditional spiritual to have survived in oral traditions without being published until fairly recently....sometimes the distinctions between gospel songs and spirituals have blurred. Gospel songs are sometimes called traditional when they really aren't, and many supposedly black gospel songs originated in the little paperback hymnals published by the several gospel song publishers."