

## Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 25, 10:00 AM

#### Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

### **GATHERING**

#### **PRELUDE**

Les Folies D'Espagne

Marin Marais (1616-1728) transcription by Jean-Paul Lécot

#### **WELCOME**

#### 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.

Amen.

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination may follow.

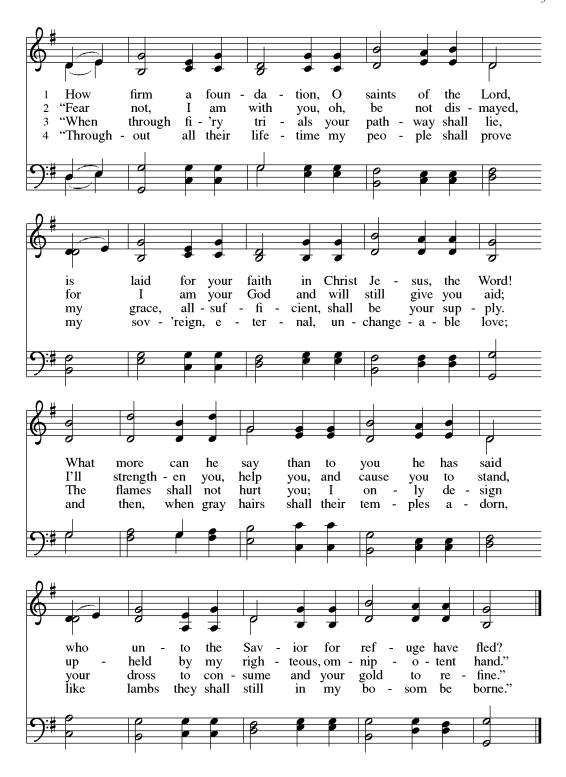
#### Most merciful God,

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  $\maltese$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

#### **GATHERING HYMN ● ELW 796**

How firm a foundation



Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt. Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

#### **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.** 

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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

Amen.

Please be seated.

### Word

FIRST READING Jeremiah 20:7-13

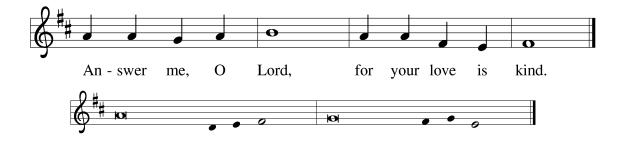
Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him." But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALMODY** Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18



7Surely, for your sake I have suf- | fered reproach, and shame has cov- | ered my face.

- 8I have become a stranger to 1 my own kindred, an alien to my | mother's children.
- <sup>9</sup>Zeal for your house has eat- | en me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fall- | en upon me.
- <sup>10</sup>I humbled my- | self with fasting, but that was turned to | my reproach. R
- <sup>16</sup>Answer me, O LORD, for your | love is kind; in your great compassion, | turn to me.
- <sup>17</sup>Hide not your face | from your servant; be swift and answer me, for I am | in distress.
- <sup>18</sup>Draw near to me | and redeem me; because of my enemies de- | liver me. R

SECOND READING Romans 6:1b-11

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

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

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ● ELW 169**



All: Alleluia. Jesus | says, The Spirit of the Lord will testify on my behalf,\* and you also | are to testify. Alleluia. (Mark 1:15)

GOSPEL Matthew 10:24-39

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew, the tenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

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

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

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

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father,

and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Morales

Please stand as you are able.



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958 Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

#### 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. Amen.

#### Installation of Vacation Bible Staff

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

#### **PEACE**

Jesus says: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also 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

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Text Numbers 6: 24-26 Music: John Rutter (b. 1945)

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**

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

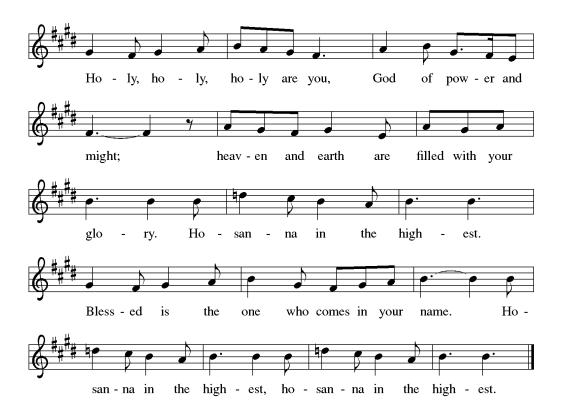
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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
Music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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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.

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

Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos,

#### 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

Text and music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music; and Word Music.

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- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid-dle a ges of your life, not too old, no lon ger young,



I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un-fold. you were raised to praise the liv-ing Lord, to whom you now be-long. I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be-gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one, When the eve-ning gent-ly clos-es in and you shut your wea-ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell." I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun." I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.

#### 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.

Pastor Morales: Thank You

## **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

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.

Amen.

#### SENDING HYMN • ELW 810

O Jesus, I Have Promised



#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God.** 

#### **POSTLUDE**

Toccata, BuwWV 165

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)



#### WORSHIP LEADERS

#### PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, Senior Pastor The Rev. Franklin Morales, Associate Pastor

#### COMMUNION SERVER

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski, Confirmation Pastor

#### ASSISTING MINISTER

Deacon Kyle Warfield, Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries

#### **READERS**

Carlos Esquivel Yenny Morales

#### **MUSICIANS**

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist* Members from Schola Cantorum

THE FLOWERS ABOUT THE ALTAR are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for Pastor Morales, Yenny and Sarah Morales, by the Saint Luke staff.

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### This week at Saint Luke Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, June 25—4th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM Holy Communion

11:00 AM Reception

5:00 PM San Lucas Misa Español/

Santo Bautismo

MONDAY, June 26 9:00 AM VBS 6:00 PM Yoga

TUESDAY, June 27

9:00 AM VBS

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

WEDNESDAY, June 28

9:00 AM VBS

7:00 AM Zoom Faith Connections

7:30 PM AA

THURSDAY, June 29

9:00 AM VBS

7:00 PM VBS Celebration

7:30 PM Centering Prayer (Zoom)

FRIDAY, June 30

9:00 AM VBS

SATURDAY, July 1

9:30 AM AA

11:00 AM Al-Anon

SUNDAY, July 2—5th Sunday after Pentecost

**10:00 AM** Holy Communion

11:00 AM Reception

NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed

### **Upcoming Commemorations**

## Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530 *Sunday, June 25, 2023*

On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Emperor Charles of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melanchthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

## Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, died 1560 *Sunday, June 25, 2023*

Though he died on April 19, Philipp Melanchthon is commemorated today because of his connection with the Augsburg Confession. Colleague and co-reformer with Martin Luther, Melanchthon was a brilliant scholar, known as "the teacher of Germany."

## Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, died 444 *Tuesday, June 27, 2023*

Cyril defended the orthodox teachings about the person of Christ. After a conflict involving all of the major Christian leaders of the time, it was decided that Cyril's interpretation, that Christ's person included both divine and human natures, was correct.

## Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202 *Wednesday, June 28, 2023*

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.

## Peter and Paul, Apostles *Thursday*, *June 29*, 2023

These two strong-willed apostles are the pillars of the church in the first generation after Christ. Peter was one of the Twelve, one who both offered a glorious confession of faith and later denied knowing Jesus. Paul once led the persecution of Christians, then was converted and helped bring the faith to non-Jewish people.

# Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; hymn translators

Saturday, July 1, 2023

Neale was an English priest who specialized in the translation of Latin and Greek hymns into English. Winkworth lived in Manchester, England, and devoted herself to translating German hymns. Almost all English-speaking hymnals include many of their translations.

# Saint Luke Update 6/25/2023 Edition

#### THANK YOU PASTOR MORALES

This morning we honor Pastor Morales. We give thanks for him, Yenny and Sarah and wish them God's blessings as they prepare for their move.

As you know, Pastor Morales has accepted a call to serve in the Episcopal diocese in North Carolina, overseeing the Latino/Hispanic ministries. This is a wonderful opportunity and we are so proud of him. This also affords Yenny a place to be surrounded by medical schools, as she works on getting licensed to practice medicine in the United States. We are certainly sad to see Pastor, Yenny and Sarah go. We are glad though, for this opportunity for them.

We are presenting a cash gift to Pastor Morales this morning. If you have not yet been able to contribute and would like to do so, we will keep the link up for another week. To contribute, please go to <a href="https://www.saintukegive.us">www.saintukegive.us</a> and click *Pastor Morales Gift*, or you may mail checks to Saint Luke or place in the offering plate. Thank you.

#### SPECIAL RECEPTION THIS MORNING

Following worship make sure to come to a grand reception in the Fireside Room for the Morales family. Let us enjoy fellowship, give thanks for Pastor, Yenny and Sarah, and wish them all of God's blessings.

#### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THIS WEEK

Thank you to the following installed this morning, giving of their time and talent this week for Vacation Bible school:

#### Adults:

Laura Clement, Sara Burnett. Erika Hutko, Linda Sorrell, Jennifer Meyer, Kayley Sorrell, Ashlie Webb, Andrew Vigliotta, Annika Dodrill, Pastor Zawistoski, Pastor Miller, Pastor Morales, Natalie Ugarte, Arturo Villarroel, Melissa Groen, Lisa Myers, Monya Hudsick-Obando, Yenny Morales, Taylor Kampia

#### Teens:

Theo Heinle, Diana Dicello, Margaret Megosh, Hannah Montgomery, Maya Garnett, Georgia Schwartz, Finn Westgard, Audrey Holmes. Tenley Obando, Carly Allen-Myers, Ben Hinojosa, Cooper Treat, Emily Treat, Bennett Webb, Matthew Ugarte, Shane Swartzendruber, Eleanor Stewart, Karla Lopez, Sayra Lopez

Thank you for your prayers and support for this amazing week. The theme this year is *Operation Restoration: Mending God's World*.

You might notice this morning the decorations beginning to go up in the worship area and the narthex. Enjoy! During the week, over five days, students will learn about how we do five things to mend God's world: Feed, Heal, Forgive, Pray and Rest.

A special Closing Program will happen Thursday evening, 7:00 p.m. Come and be part of a terrific evening. All invited!

# Saint Luke Update, Continued 6/25/2023 Edition

#### 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.

#### 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>



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!

Free Subscriptions: Check These Out

#### **Living Lutheran E-Digest**

Get personalized stories delivered to your inbox weekly, biweekly or monthly. <a href="https://www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/">https://www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/</a>

#### **Lutheran World Federation newsletter**

News from Lutherans worldwide delivered to your inbox each Friday morning https://www.lutheranworld.org/newsletter

### Today's Music

The Parisian Marin Marais's (1656–1728) Folies d'Espagne appeared in his second book of Pièces de Viole. Since the preparation and engraving of that volume took some time, it was long in coming to press, which it eventually did in 1701, the year after Corelli's Opus 5 was published. It seems probable, therefore, that Marais used the tune first. Perhaps he got the idea from Lully with whom he was closely associated at the French Court. Instead of Corelli's twenty-three variations Marais has thirty-two, but there is a similar integration of the bass part with the solo, and full use is made of the viol's superior chordal possibilities. Marais must have known that the original dance was Iberian in origin (hence his title) and on more than one occasion he imbues variations with Hispanic flair, hinting occasionally at the strumming of guitars. — Tim Crawford

Today the organ transcription was realized by Jean-Paul Lécot. Only thirteen variations that lend themselves to be played on the organ were transcribed.

Since Richard Keen was the precentor (song leader) in Dr. Rippon's church in London, it is reasonable to assume that he was the author of "How firm a foundation." There are many Scriptural references: Isaiah 43:1-5, 12; II Timothy 2:19, and Hebrews 13:5. It is basically about the promises of God, and hymnals use quotation marks for all of the stanzas in which various promises are quoted. The last line, "I'll never, no never, no, never forsake!" is a triumphant conclusion.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

Caroline Sandell Berg (1832-1903) known as the Fanny Crosby of Sweden, began writing hymns as a result of the drowning of her father in 1858. She wrote around 1650 pieces in a warm, personal, evangelical, revival style. "Children of the heavenly Father" is her most famous work in American hymnals and owes much of its popularity to the simple, child-like folk melody to which it is set. — Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

John Ylvisaker (1937-2017) wrote both the text and the music for "Borning Cry." In 1985 he was working for the Media Services Center of the American Lutheran Church. In a series on baptism called "Reflections," he began a song with a "dance-like beat and fast rhythm" before he saw any footage of the video. When he saw the "gentle scenes depicted on the screen," he realized "the lyrics were on target, but not the music." He left the studio that day and says, "Thus began the most arduous task any composer can face – changing a completed work into something else. However, the original 'false labor' later gave way to the 'birth' of 'Borning Cry' which is now included in songbooks and hymnals around the world." – ELW Hymnal Companion

Based on Luke 9:57, "Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest," "O Jesus, I have promised" was written by John Ernest Bode (1816-1874) for the confirmation of his three children. But it says much more and is a prayer for Christ's presence at all times – in the struggle against sin, in the midst of the world's temptations, and the struggles with the "storms of passion." Jesus has promised us to be with him in glory, but we must also promise to follow and serve him to the end. – Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

The Toccata, BuxWV 165 is one of several free manualiter works, which, perhaps because they could be played on instruments found in the home, offer some of Buxtehude's lightest and most playful music. The toccata opens with a free section. The single fugue dissolves not into a completely free section but into a quasi-ostinato passage, with the repeated pattern varying between six and eight beats. irregularities such as this are a mark of the stylus phantasticus.- Kerala J. Snyder