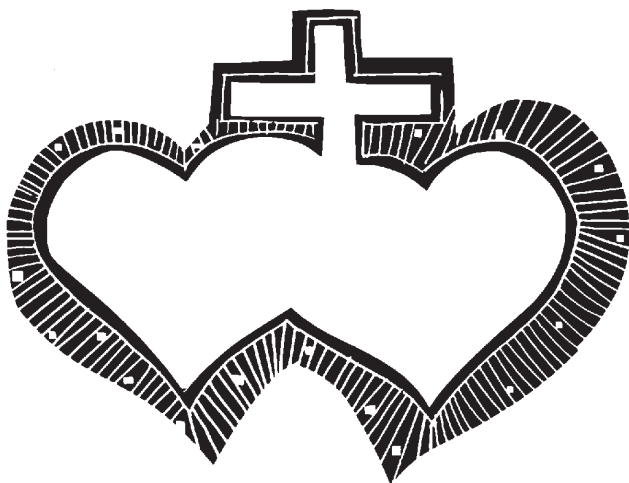


Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026



*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving
each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

“Pay it forward.” When someone is kind to you, you can’t always repay them directly, so you pass it on to someone else instead. Today, God applies that to forgiveness.

He forgave our countless sins at the cost of his own Son. We’ll never be able to repay that directly, nor does he want it. God never wrongs us, so we’ll never need the occasion to forgive him. But others wrong us. So when we forgive them, we’re passing along the forgiveness God has shown us. This is what God wants for his Church: people who forgive, because they’ve been forgiven.

This morning, we install five women to serve as our Sunday School teachers this year.

Hymn #623

O Bless the Lord, My Soul

Please stand for the last verse.



- 1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with-in me join and
- 2 O bless the Lord, my soul, nor let his mer - cies lie for -
- 3 'Tis he for - gives your sins, 'tis he re - lieves your pain, 'tis
- 4 He fills the poor with good; he gives the suf - f'ers rest. The
- 5 His won-drous works and ways he made by Mo - ses known but



aid my tongue to bless his name whose fa - vors are di - vine.
got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness and with - out prais - es die.
he that heals your sick - ness - es and makes you young a - gain.
Lord has judg-ments for the proud and jus - tice for th'op-pressed.
sent the world his truth and grace by his be - lov - ed Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

In the name of the Father and ✙ of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord Jesus, you were sent to heal the contrite. Lord, have mercy.



Christ Jesus, you came to call sinners. Christ have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you plead for us at the right hand of the Father. Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

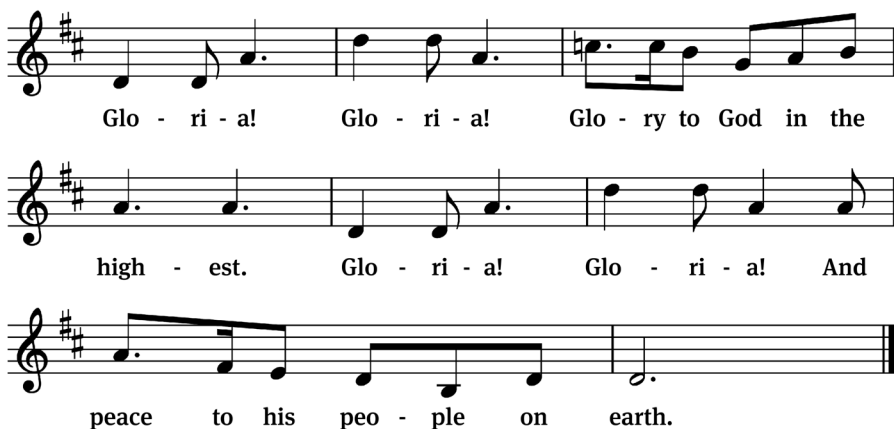
Absolution

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gloria! Gloria!

The minister introduces the *Refrain*. The congregation repeats the *Refrain* and sings it after each verse.



Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Refrain

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

Refrain

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen, amen.

Refrain

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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading

Genesis 50:15–21

After years of suffering at his brothers' hands, Joseph held their lives in his hands with every reason to destroy them. Instead, he forgave them, seeing in their evil the hand of a God who was working good.

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm103B

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Psalm 103 shows us who God is by showing us what he does for us: he forgives our sin, heals us, and redeems our life from the pit.



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple
3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him



trib - ute bring. Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress. Praise him, still the same as ev - er,
frame he knows. In his hand he gent - ly bears us,
face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;



ev - er - more his prais - es sing; Al - le - lu - ia,
slow to chide, and swift to bless, Al - le - lu - ia,
res - cues us from all our foes; Al - le - lu - ia,
all who dwell in time and space, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
al - le - lu - ia! glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
al - le - lu - ia! wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows!
al - le - lu - ia! praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte
Tune: John Goss

Psalm 103

¹ Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

(verse 1)

² Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

(verse 2)

⁶ The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: ⁸ The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. ⁹ He will not always accuse, nor will he

harbor his anger forever; ¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

(verse 3)

¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; ¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. ¹⁵ The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; ¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. ¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children— ¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts. ¹⁹ The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

(verse 4)

²⁰ Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. ²¹ Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. ²² Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the Lord, my soul.

Second Reading

Ephesians 4:29–5:2

Kindness, compassion, and forgiveness are marks of God's Church.

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

¹Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Peter wrestles with the difficulty of forgiveness. The ability to forgive others comes from the Spirit enabling us to understand how much God has forgiven us.

²³Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²²Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

³⁰“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³²“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn #583

God Loves Me Dearly



All 1 God loves me dear - ly, grants me sal -
 Men 2 I was in slav - 'ry, sin, death, and
 Women 3 He sent forth Je - sus, my dear Re -
 All 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, him - self did
 All 5 Now I will praise you, O Love e -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing to make me free.
 deem - er, he sent forth Je - sus and set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; now I will praise you all my life long.



Refrain

All: There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. composite
 Tune: German

Sermon

Ephesians 4:29-5:2

As God forgave, so we forgive.

After the sermon, please stand for the creed.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

Installation of Sunday School Teachers

PreK-1	Lori Hayes & Alex Rathje
2-4; 5-6	Pam Croll, Kelly Olson, & Cassie Lacey

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Living Hope is transitioning to a new giving platform. Online offerings may now be given at subsplash.com/u/-MV95PX/give.

Offerings are one way that our members support our gospel ministry. Visitors should feel no obligation to contribute.



While the offering is being collected, we also bring the musical gifts of the congregation to the beauty and glory of God's name.

Lauren Nawrocki *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*

Offering Prayer

Holy Spirit, God and Lord, use our offerings to support the proclamation of the peace of your forgiveness here and around the world. Empty us of selfish pride, shake our sinful grip on that which does not save, and fill us with the joy of being participants in your glorious mission.

Amen.

Hymn #624

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your
made you, health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
fend you; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear now to his
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new what the Al -



tem - ple draw near, join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
failed of re - lief? Wings of his mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do as with his love he be - friends you.

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.

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor + and give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn #726

Love in Christ is Strong and Living



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, bind - ing faith - ful
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, clothed in Christ's hu -
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, faint - ing not when



hearts in one; love in Christ is true and giv - ing,
mil - i - ty, gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
ills at - tend; love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



may his will in us be done.
reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
shall en - dure un - til life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, b. 1934

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932

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Silent Prayer

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CW624 Love In Christ is Strong and Living

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang-Buchs, Stralsund, 1665, alt

Gathering around God's Word

Our regular Sunday education program resumes today!

At 10:30 am, children in Sunday School (PreK–6th grade) will gather in the entryway for 60-minutes of a bible lesson, crafts or activities, and songs. This is taught according to age level by our Sunday School teachers.

Individuals 7th grade and up will meet in the sanctuary at the same time for a bible study with a pastor. This fall's series studies the 12 Minor Prophets: 'The Book of the Twelve: Answers to Modern Questions from Ancient Texts.'

After classes, ice cream and special treats will be served by the Women of Hope to mark the return of our Sunday education program.

Sunday School

Today: *David and Goliath*. Kids in PreK–6th grade begin the year with David and Goliath. While King Saul and the army freeze in fear, David steps up in faith in the God who delivers what is promised.

Next Sunday: *David shows kindness to Saul*. David was chosen to be Israel's next king in place of Saul. Though he has the chance to kill Saul and take the throne for himself, David spares Saul and waits for the Lord.

Bible Class

Today: *The Book of the Twelve*. In the Hebrew Bible, the last twelve Old Testament books, referred to as the "minor" prophets, were read as a single scroll. It was one book with a singular message.

We begin with an overview of the Book of the Twelve.

Next Sunday: *Hosea*. *Just how forgiving is God?* God orchestrates an arranged marriage between his prophet Hosea and a woman who will be unfaithful to him. Hosea illustrates God's sorrow and anger at Israel's unfaithfulness and his drastically patient love.

Youth Catechism Class

Begins this Tuesday; 5:30-6:45pm

Parents of students grades 7-8 will meet immediately after Bible Class today to coordinate expectations for the year.

This week at Living Hope

Today

10am	Refreshments
10:30am	Sunday School & Bible Class
11:30am	Back to School Ice Cream Social

Monday

5pm	Worship Committee Meeting
8pm	Bible Reading Plan - Zoom

Tuesday

10am	Pastors Circuit Meeting <i>James River Circuit - Zoom</i>
1:30pm	Assisted-living Service at Brandermill Woods
5:30pm	Youth Catechism BEGINS

Thursday

7pm	Building Committee Meeting
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Next Sunday

9am	Worship <i>with Communion</i>
9am	Assisted Living Services
10am	Refreshments
10:30am	Sunday School & Bible Class

Announcements

Building Committee: Interviews Update

Last Thursday, the BPMEC and ex officio members conducted two separate interviews with two construction contracting companies (*Fastrac General Contractors and Leipertz Construction*) who have submitted bids for our project. Our goals was to receive from each company the all-in costs, supply lead times, and construction timelines for the scope of our project. We received realistic start dates that each company could begin construction, pending, of course, congregational buy-in and approval.

The BPMEC will meet this Thursday to review and consolidate the information. They will package this information and more to be shared at the September 27 Special Voters meeting.

The goals of our voters meeting are to approve a final round of additional funds to complete this planning process, and to provide this comprehensive update on the project and answer outstanding questions. The exact figure of the additional funds and their intended purpose will be communicated to the congregation in advance of the 27th.

Serving in worship today & next Sunday

Musicians

Morris Hayes
Alex Rathje

Ushers

Curt Roby & Bob Harrison
Greg Six & Josh Clark

Acolyte

William Pahl
Cora Lacey

Church Cleaning

Lacey Family
still needed

After-worship Snacks

Women of Hope/Ice Cream Social
still needed

Livestream

Saur Family
Lacey Family

Offering Caretakers

Donna Bosma & Morris Hayes
Beverley Henley & Barbara Byrd

Bulletins

Kathryn Haddon
Kristine Gill

Mowing

Curt Roby & Morris Hayes
Pastor Lindemann & Scott Swoboda

Assisted-living Leader

Livestreamed
Ken Dunaway

Please join us for refreshments after the service. We would love to get to know you better!

To our guests: Thank you for worshiping with us! We would appreciate the opportunity to connect with you. Please share your contact information with us by scanning the code with your phone or speaking with an usher in the back.



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LivingHopeWELS.com

God has given us new birth into a *Living Hope*.

- 1 Peter 1:3

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