



The 18th Sunday after Pentecost, Lectionary 26
September 27, 2026 Worship at 9:30 a.m.
Gathering

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

We welcome you, whether you are joining us in-house or by social media. Our prayer is that worship today will be a blessing as we sing and pray and hear God's Word together. We welcome you to the Lord's Table this morning. Christ Church is a family of faith deeply rooted in our upper Bucks communities, supporting one another in faith, working together to serve God.

*Our worship order is contained in this booklet. The people's parts are indicated by **bold** type. The red hardback hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is our main worship resource for hymns and song. You can find hymns in the second half of the book and are numbered at the top of each hymn. We will celebrate Holy Communion today – all are welcome, and directions are included after the invitation to the Table. If you have trouble coming forward, or need gluten free bread and wine, there are element cups near the door for you to use. Occasionally, worship may veer from the printed bulletin – just follow the Spirit!*

Changes and additions to the prayer list are published every Sunday in the announcements. Please share your prayer concern with Pastor, or Cindy Carper, if you would like it included on the prayer list. Please take this weekly resource home with you – use it to take notes, jot down reminders, pray, remember dates. You can call (215.766.8730) or email (christpipersville@gmail.com) for prayer needs. In an emergency, please call the parsonage at 267-362-8129.

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

Please stand in body or spirit.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

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.

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 #524, WHAT IS THIS PLACE (ON NEXT PAGE)

1 What is this place where we are meet-ing? On - ly a house, the
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
 3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a
 earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,
 win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that lives
 sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem-ber and speak
 we are each oth-er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re-ceive
 when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
 a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem-ing word.
 what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

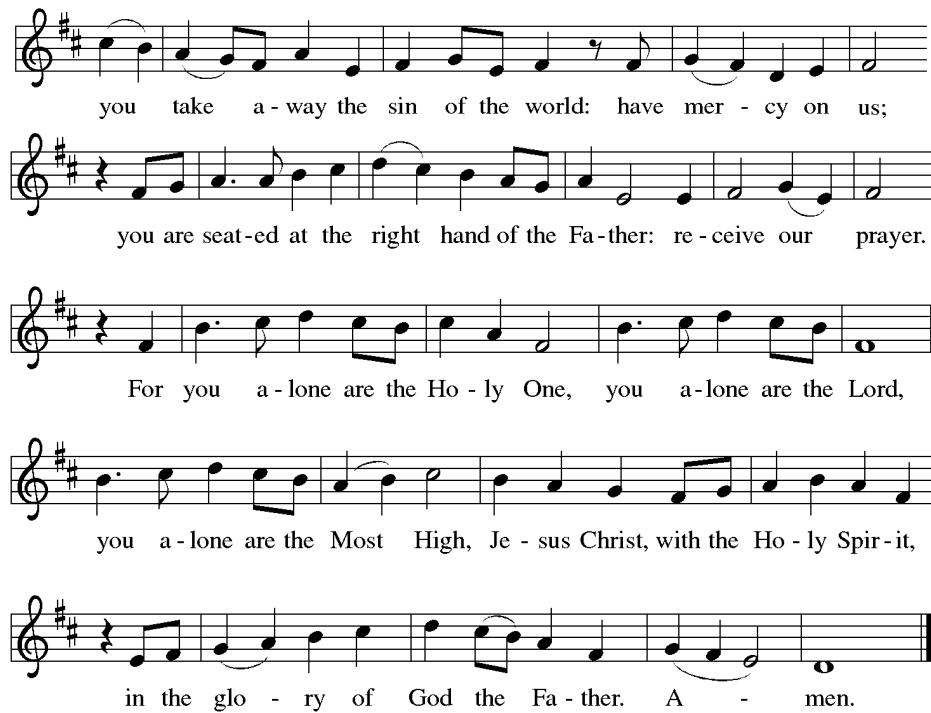
Text: Huub Oosterhuis, b. 1933; tr. David Smith, b. 1933
 Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626
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GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW P.148

Assisting minister
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
 All
 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we
 wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
 Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *Silence. The Prayer of the Day is offered as we join in our hearts.* The prayer concludes: ... our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Word

THE FIRST LESSON is from Ezekiel, the 18th chapter. (Ez. 18:1-4, 25-32)

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

+ *Silence* +

PSALM 25 is read responsively.

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

- ³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
- ⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**
- ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- ⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- ⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**
- ⁹ You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.
Amen.

THE SECOND READING is from Philippians, the 2nd chapter. (Phil. 2:1-13)

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Silence, then, please stand, in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #174



THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

(Mth 21:23-32)

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them,

“I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.”²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’”²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.”²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’”²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.” The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

The Alleluia Repeats. Following, please be seated.

TEACHING THE WORD (SERMON)

THE HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #765, LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS

1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
 Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
 let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

*A brief silence. We offer our prayers for the church, our community, neighbors and nation. Each petition concludes: ‘...in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**’. A time to offer our own petitions aloud or in silence follows the invitation ‘...for what else shall we pray’. The prayers conclude:*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Meal

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

We greet one another in peace saying, "Peace be with you" or similar words.

Feel free to step out of your pew! Following the peace, please be seated.

OFFERTORY, AS WE GATHER OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS / ANTHEM

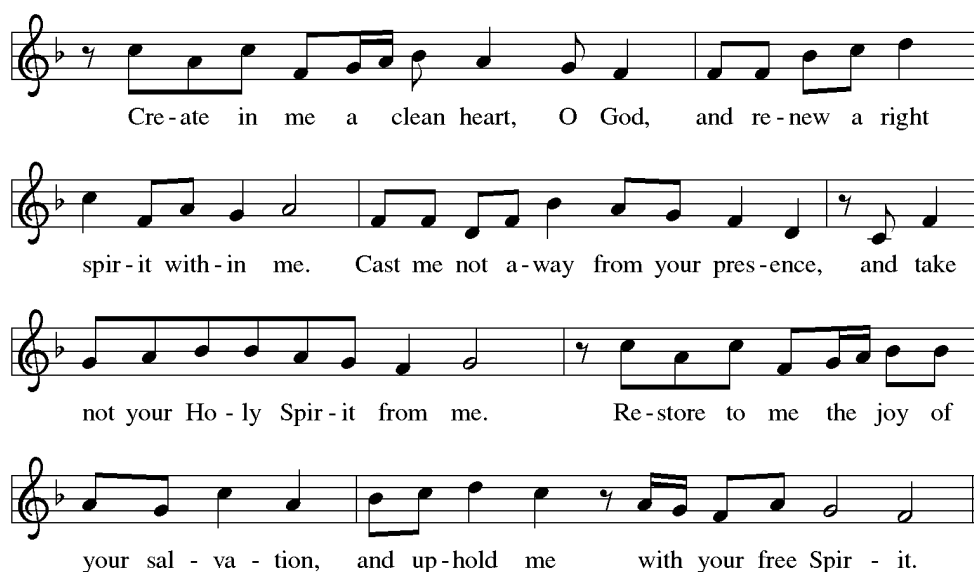
We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies.

In-House the offering is collected. If you are worshipping remotely, tithes and offerings may be gathered and given by mail, given online at christpipersville.org or using the QR code.



OFFERTORY RESPONSE CREATE IN ME ELW P. 186 (HILLERT)

Please stand in body or spirit.



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creating God:

**The fields and forest, sea and sky are the work of your hands
and we are blessed by their bounty.**

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 right and a joyful thing to give you thanks O God...

Pastor offers the Eucharistic prayer; we join in our hearts. The prayer concludes:

...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.

AGNUS DEI: O LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

These are the gifts of God for the people of God - come to the Table,
 for all is now ready. **We shall come with joy, alleluia, amen!**

Please be seated.

We believe Jesus Christ is truly present in the forms of bread and wine. You are welcome-this is the Lord's Table and He invites you! If you have taken an elements cup and prefer to commune where you are seated, please commune at any time after the invitation. The elements are offered with the words: "The Body of Christ given for you" and "The Blood of Christ shed for you". The recipient may respond "Amen".

Those online are communed, then the musicians. The congregation follows by the organ side, then the pulpit side. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the Host from Pastor. Then move towards the side aisle to receive the Wine by intinction, dipping the Host into the cup, and returning to the pew by the side aisle. Take your time - be in prayer, sing, pray as you come to the Table. The hymn during communion is ACS 981, All Who are Thirsty.



Text: Brian Wentzel, b. 1979
 Music: ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY, Brian Wentzel
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When all have communed, the Table is cleared. Please stand at Pastor's invitation.

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

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. *a brief silence*

**We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us
through the healing power of this gift of life.**

**In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift,
in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated for Mission & Ministry Announcements.

Sending

Please stand in body or spirit at Pastor's invitation.

THE BENEDICTION

The Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
Amen.

OUR SENDING SONG is hymn ELW #669, RISE UP, O SAINTS OF GOD



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

353 E. Dark Hollow Rd, Pipersville PA 18947
215. 766. 8730 office 267. 362. 8129 parsonage

The Rev. Marie L. Caron, pastor
the people of Christ Church, ministers
Mrs. Cindy Carper, Secretary
Mrs. Kimberly Campbell, Council President

WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

The ordo is the traditional liturgy of Holy Communion. ELW is Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP can be seen on Facebook Live and Zoom. Watch your email for links to the live-streamed service and the recorded service to be posted to YouTube and our website (www.christpipersville.org).

THE SEPTEMBER WEB SITE is sponsored by Amy Zearfoss and Debbie Davis in loving memory of our beautiful mother Gail Zearfoss.

GREETER: LB Lindquist

LECTOR: Delana Woodward

FELLOWSHIP:

WE WELCOME Rich Spotts as our organist this morning and thank him for his musical leadership.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. In addition, please remember Paul Gruver (H,St,R). Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

TODAY is our 5th Sunday offering. In order to help prevent a budget deficit from occurring, members are encouraged to give an extra offering, if you are able.

GREETERS: We need volunteers to welcome everyone to worship on Sunday mornings and distribute bulletins. There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to select a week that's convenient for you.

FELLOWSHIP PERIOD hosts are needed. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

UPCOMING BOOK, BAKE & SOUP SALE is scheduled for October 16, 17, 23 & 24 in the parish hall. Donations of baked goods and soup will be needed, especially for October 16th & 17th. Volunteers will also be needed to staff the kitchen. See the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for volunteers to staff the kitchen as well as for donations of soup and baked goods. Contact Kathy Brown (267-370-2765) with any questions or to volunteer to help during the sale. You may place your book donations at the back of the parish hall prior to October 10th. Please try to have your books sorted by type (children's, fiction, trade paperbacks, etc.) to help the library volunteers in the set-up process. Thank you.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: Sponsors are needed for our participation in the National Wreaths Across America Day on December 19th to place wreaths on the graves of veterans at our Lower Tinicum Union Cemetery. Wreaths are \$17 each. Please see Steve Gruver to be a sponsor. All donations need to be in by Nov. 15th. There will be a short ceremony at the cemetery on December 19th at 2 p.m.

LET'S HELP CELEBRATE Paul and Ruth Gruver's 68th wedding anniversary on October 4th by sending a card. Their mailing address is 49 Gruver Rd, Pipersville, PA 18947.

LECTORS: Volunteers would be appreciated to read the lessons each Sunday. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board & copies of the lessons are available at least a week in advance.

BULLETIN/WEB SITE SPONSORS: You may sponsor the Sunday bulletin or the church website in honor or memory of a loved one and we'll list your gift in the bulletin as well as social media and our website. The requested donation is \$20/week for the bulletin and \$25/month for the website. Sponsorship envelopes and a sign-up sheet are posted on the bulletin board for your convenience. There are openings for bulletin sponsors in September.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR Sunday School teachers for our all-in-one class held on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month beginning in October. You can sign up on the Sunday School bulletin board at the top of the stairs at the parking lot entrance doors for one or more Sundays and lessons can be picked up in advance. Please see Cindy Carper with any questions.

DID YOU KNOW...Many Thrivent policy holders are eligible to designate "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to a charity of their choice. Christ Lutheran Church is one of those options. We received \$1,337.00 through this program in 2025 and \$1,549.00 to date in 2026.

GIANT GIFT CARDS can be purchased after worship (see Cindy Carper or Kim Szymanowski) or during the week from the church office. Gift cards are available in \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 & \$100 denominations. Checks should be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church. (*Gift cards may not be used to purchase other gift cards.*) Giant gives 5% back to the church for every card purchased. We raised \$2,600 in 2025 and \$2,400 to date in 2026.

THE LORD'S PANTRY has a continuing need for donations. During the month of September we are collecting pasta and sauces, but all types of canned/dry goods are welcome (fruit, juices, tuna, cereal, soup, condiments, etc.). Donations may be placed in the pantry cabinet by the parking lot doors or contact the church office to make drop off arrangements. You may also purchase Giant gift cards to be provided to The Lord's Pantry.

TABOR HOME SUPPORT – We have an ongoing collection of diapers (any size, except newborn, but sizes 4, 5 & 6 are preferred) for Tabor Home. Diapers may be placed under the coat rack and will be delivered periodically to Tabor Home.

SIMPLY GIVING is a program that enables you to financially support our ministry easily, securely and faithfully. You choose the amount and the schedule: weekly, bimonthly, or monthly. You can easily change the amount or timing. You can be a blessing! Contact the church office with any questions.

The Week of September 27th at a Glance

Sun. 09/27 The 18th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
10:30AM Fellowship Period
Mon. 09/28 Happy Birthday, Larry Hafler!
Wed. 09/30 11:00AM Ensemble Rehearsal
Thur. 10/01 7:00AM Morning Prayer, 9:00AM Bible Study
Fri. 10/02 Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
Happy Birthday, Susan Bechtold!
Happy Anniversary, Josh & Beth Kelly!
Sun. 10/04 The 19th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship, Sunday School
10:30AM Fellowship Period
Happy 68th Anniversary, Paul & Ruth Gruver!