

A Christ-centered community where we connect, learn, and serve.

# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost - September 21, 2025



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## Welcome! We're happy you're with us for worship today.

**IF YOU ARE VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME,** please take a moment to sign in at the podium at either sanctuary entrance. We pray your time with us strengthens your faith in the Lord. We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). You can find more information about our beliefs at LCMS.org/about/beliefs.

**IF YOU HAVE SMALL CHILDREN,** we understand that God made them wiggly and noisy at times, but we also believe they should be with us in worship. If you need a moment, we have a nursery available to you through the hallway to the right of the altar. Children's bags are also available in the Narthex for use during service.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated at Ascension Lutheran on each Sunday. We receive this Holy Sacrament in the glad confidence that our Lord Jesus, as His word says, gives not only bread and wine, but also His true Body and Blood for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Our Lord invites to His table those who, repenting of their sins, believe His word that His body and blood are truly present for the forgiveness of our sins. All baptized believers who hold our confession of faith and have examined themselves according to Scripture's guidance (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), are invited to receive His Sacrament. If you are not yet baptized or are visiting us for the first time, we invite you to come forth during communion and fold your arms over your heart for a blessing. Pastor would be happy to discuss receiving Holy Communion at Ascension with you.

**AFTER EACH SERVICE** from September to May, please join us for a brief time of **FELLOWSHIP** with coffee and treats downstairs in our Fellowship Hall briefly before we begin our **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** hour for those ages 2 and above.

If you have any questions, seek out Pastor, an usher, or a member with a name tag; they will be happy to help you out.

### **SERVING TODAY:**

**ELDER(S):** Kurt Dolph & Mike Fiffik LAY READER: N/A

**USHERS:** Ron Curcio & Elizabeth Russler

ACOLYTE: Juliette Schroeder

#### SERVING NEXT WEEK

ELDER(S): Dave Dille & Cooper Blake
LAY READER: Dave Dille
USHERS: Edie Krom & Jim Obringer

**ACOLYTE:** Hannah Koontz

# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

# Pre-Service - All the Way My Savior Leads Me

### Welcome

### **Prelude**

Our service today follows Divine Service Setting Two in the Lutheran Service Book starting on page 167.

## Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

 $label{eq:power_power_problem}$  In the name of the Father and of the orall Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

# **Hymn of Invocation - Jesus Your Mercy**

## Verse 1

Jesus Your mercy is all my plea
I have no defense my guilt runs too
deep
The best of my works
Pierced Your hands and Your feet
Jesus Your mercy is all my plea

### Verse 2

Jesus Your mercy is all my boast The goodness I claim the grounds of my hope

Whatever I lack it's still what I need most Jesus Your mercy is all my boast

### Chorus

Praise the King who bore my sin Took my place when I stood condemned Oh how good You've always been to me I will sing of (Your mercy)

#### Verse 3

Jesus Your mercy is all my rest When fears weigh me down and enemies press A comfort I cling to in life and in death Jesus Your mercy is all my rest (Chorus)

### Verse 4

Jesus Your mercy is all my joy Forever I'll lift my heart and my voice To sing of a treasure no pow'r can destroy

Jesus Your mercy is all my joy

(Chorus)

(Verse 4)

(Chorus x2)

Exhortation 1 John 1:8–9

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

## **Confession of Sins**

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

Absolution [John 20:19–23]

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the 

  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

## **Greeting of Peace**

Following the Absolution, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).

Stand

# Service of the Word

#### Introit

Psalm 119:137-140, 142; antiphon: v. 144

- P Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.
- Righteous are you, O LORD,

## and right are your just decrees.

- P You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.
- My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words.
- P Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.
- Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

Kyrie Mark 10:47

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

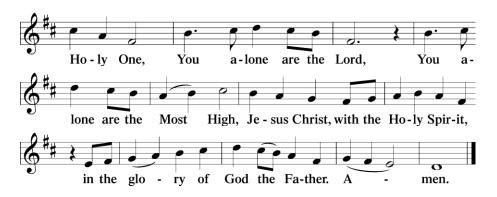


# Hymn of Praise - Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.





## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.



## P Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

# **Old Testament Reading**

Amos 8:4–7

<sup>4</sup>Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, <sup>5</sup>saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances,

<sup>6</sup>that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

<sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Psalm 113

- Praise the LORD!

  Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!
- Blessèd be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!
- P From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!
- The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!
- P Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high,
- who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?
- P He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
- to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.
- P He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the LORD!

Epistle 1 Timothy 2:1–15

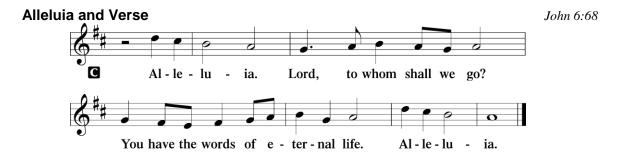
<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who

gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

<sup>8</sup>I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; <sup>9</sup>likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, <sup>10</sup>but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. <sup>11</sup>Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. <sup>12</sup>I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. <sup>13</sup>For Adam was formed first, then Eve; <sup>14</sup>and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. <sup>15</sup>Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand



Holy Gospel Luke 16:1–15

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup>And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' <sup>3</sup>And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my

master?' <sup>6</sup>He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' <sup>7</sup>Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' <sup>8</sup>The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

<sup>10</sup>"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? <sup>13</sup>No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

<sup>14</sup>The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

# **Children's Message**

Pastor Thompson

## Hymn of the Day - Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

LSB 793

# **Sermon** Pastor Thompson

Stand

## **Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God. begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man:

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead.

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and alorified.

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

# Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

After each prayer, the response will be:

- **P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- Hear our prayer.

Sit

# Offering

**Meditation Song - To God Alone** 

Praise Team

Stand



# Service of the Sacrament

## **Preface**

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

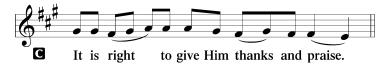
P The Lord be with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.

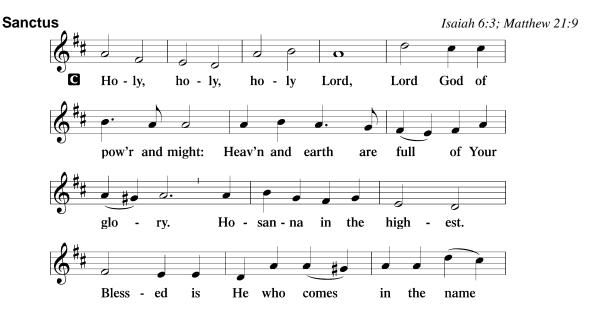


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



## **Proper Preface**

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:





## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

**The Words of Our Lord***Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;1 Corinthians 11:23–25* 

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My → body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **Proclamation of Christ**

1 Corinthians 11:26: Revelation 22:20

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13

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.

Pax Domini John 20:19

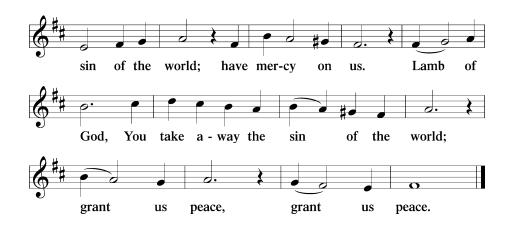
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



Sit

## **Holy Communion**

# **Distribution Hymns - Behold The Lamb**

## Verse 1

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away

Slain for us and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith

Find forgiveness at the cross So we share in this Bread of Life And we drink of His sacrifice As a sign of our bonds of peace Around the table of the King

#### Verse 2

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ Torn for you eat and remember The wounds that heal the death that brings us life Paid the price to make us one So we share in this Bread of Life And we drink of His sacrifice As a sign of our bonds of love Around the table of the King

### Verse 3

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin

Shed for you drink and remember He drained death's cup that all may enter in

To receive the life of God So we share in this Bread of Life And we drink of His sacrifice As a sign of our bonds of grace Around the table of the King

#### Verse 4

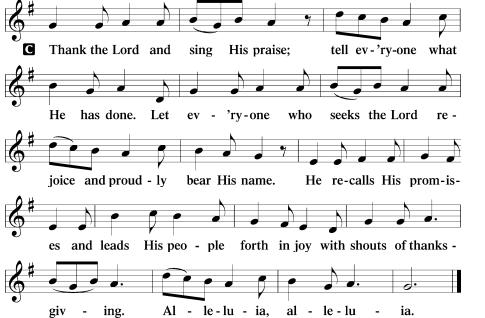
And so with thankfulness and faith we rise

To respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth
As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King

Seek Ye First LSB 712

Stand





## **Post-Communion Collect**

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction Numbers 6:24–26

The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and 

→ give you peace.



## **Closing Hymn - Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King**

### Verse 1

Come Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing Tune my heart to sing Thy grace Streams of mercy never ceasing Call for songs of loudest praise Teach me some melodious sonnet Sung by flaming tongues above Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it Mount of Thy redeeming love

### Verse 2

I was lost in utter darkness
'Til You came and rescued me
I was bound by all my sin when
Your love came and set me free
Now my soul can sing a new song
Now my heart has found a home
Now Your grace is always with me
And I'll never be alone

Sit

### Chorus

Come Thou Fount come Thou King Come Thou precious Prince of Peace Hear Your bride to You we sing Come Thou Fount of our blessing Come Thou Fount come Thou King Come Thou precious Prince of Peace Hear Your bride to You we sing Come Thou Fount of our blessing (Repeat)

## Verse 3

O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be Let Thy goodness like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee Prone to wander Lord I feel it Prone to leave the God I love Here's my heart Lord take and seal it Seal it for Thy courts above (Chorus x2)

## **Announcements**

**Memory Verse For The Week:** 1 Timothy 2:1-2 – "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way."

## Dismissal

- P Go in peace and
- Serve the Lord!

## **Acknowledgments**

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Looking Ahead - Next Week's Verses: Amos 6:1-7; Psalm 146; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Luke 16:19-31

# This week we pray for:

- Barb, Jackie Dolph's sister, as she undergoes treatment for cancer, that the treatments are effective.
- Thanksgiving that Kim Detore, daughter of Cheryl Saffa, was able to get a 2nd opinion and has another surgery scheduled. Prayers for relief from pain.
- Eileen Vogel in thanksgiving for her safe return home and for continued swift recovery.
- We give thanks for the progress Jim Obringer Sr. has made recovering from his stroke. We pray you continue to grant him a return to even more mobility.
- Shirley Waselko, thanksgiving for successful operation and for a blessed and smooth recovery.

Altar

This week's altar flowers are given by Paul and Ruth Redondo in honor of their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary today.

**Church News & Announcements:** 

Happy Birthday to: Kristin Mayes September 21st

Mike Fiffik September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Juliette Schroeder September 24<sup>th</sup>
Blythe Letters September 26<sup>th</sup>
Lora Koontz September 27<sup>th</sup>

**Happy Anniversary to:** Paul & Ruth Redondo September 21<sup>st</sup>

<u>Christian Education Hour -</u> Join us at 11am (after some tasty treats in the Fellowship Hall) for one of our Bible Classes and Sunday School! Options are available for those aged 2 and above. See the Learn bulletin board in the Narthex for more info and about future classes and offerings.

<u>Sunday School-</u> Sunday school meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the education room and is divided into three classes: PreK taught by Mrs. Fleishauer; K-2<sup>nd</sup> taught by Mrs. Lopresto and 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> taught by Mrs. Koontz. There are signs located outside of each classroom.

Youth Group (7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)- Join Janine Nicolette in the Youth Room as she will present Children & Teen Study.

# **Adult Bible Class-**

• <u>The Chosen-</u> Join Pastor after church as we breakdown The Chosen series. We will be going over Season 1 Episode 5 of the hit series The Chosen. Please come to the session having already watched the episode; we will watch small clips of important parts, but not the whole episode.

<u>Prayer and Praise:</u> We are meeting this Wednesday at 10am for Prayer & Praise! We meet in the Fireside Room at church or we have an online option via Zoom. If you have questions or need prayer, please contact Bob Booth at 808-295-1835.

<u>A/V Booth Helpers Needed:</u> We are looking for volunteers to help in the A/V Booth. If interested, please reach out to me at <u>pastor@ascensionpgh.com</u>.

Men's Retreat - Time to Recharge!: Just wanted to remind you about an upcoming men's retreat this Friday September 26th to Saturday 27th! We're planning an overnight getaway for the fellas of the church, a chance to relax, connect, and recharge. We'll have some great activities planned, good food, and plenty of opportunities to just hang out and chat. It's a fantastic way to strengthen

our bonds as a group and get away from the daily grind for a bit. The retreat will be held at Deep Creek Lake, MD. We'll be kicking things off on Friday at 3PM and wrapping up on Saturday around 4PM. You can still attempt to call and reserve a room if you still wish to attend the retreat. Hope to see you there!

<u>Women's Event Winter: Ornament Painting -</u> We would like to schedule a little painting party at Dots & Doodles on Sunday, November 2 from 1-3pm. We do need to know in advance how many might be interested in coming. Please view more info and sign up in the Narthex. Questions? See Elizabeth Russler

Speaker: Heart Health and Diabetic Nutrition and Prevention - The Outreach Committee is sponsoring an educational presentation on nutrition for heart health and diabetic issues. This will be held in Fellowship Hall this Thursday, September 25, from 10 to 11 AM. The speaker is Shoshana Genack, MS, RD, CDN, CDCES, who is a Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist at UPMC Passavant. Please invite friends and family. Light refreshments will be served. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

<u>Pumpkin Fest/Flea Market Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> 8am-1pm</u> - Please check out the sign-up sheet in the narthex under the Serve board. There are many opportunities for you to volunteer with kitchen duties, event clean up and pie baking. We really can use your help! Apple Pie Making is **this Thursday**, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9am to 4pm and Pumpkin Pie Making is October 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm.

<u>Pie Orders –</u> If you would like to pre-order pies before the Pumpkin Fest, please contact Cheryl Sedar at 412-400-4392. You can pay for them when you pick them up. Choices are apple, dutch apple or pumpkin and they are \$12 each. Yum!

This week at Ascension Lutheran Church:		
Sunday 09/21	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
Tuesday	Apple Pie Making	9:00 AM-4:00 PM
Wednesday	Prayer & Praise Confirmation Class	10:00 AM 7:00 PM
Thursday	Speaker Series-Nutritionist	10:00 AM
Friday- Saturday	Men's Retreat	
Sunday 09/28	Divine Service Christian Education Hour	9:30 AM 11:00 AM