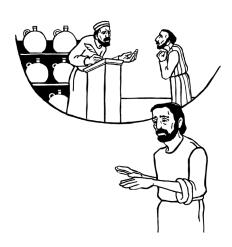


Sunday, September 21, 2025

15th Sunday after Pentecost



As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

Central Lutheran Church: Called to Share God's Love.

We're glad you are here! Help us welcome you by signing a Welcome to Worship pad.

Please give the name of each person attending worship, including children.

Visitors, may we have your complete address?

Children 5 years and under are welcome in our worship services or in the nursery in room 4.

"Be Thou My Vision"

arr. Larry Shackley Debbie Pankow

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You may face the baptismal font as the service begins. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

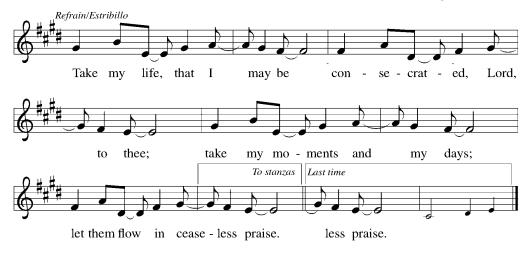
Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God, we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

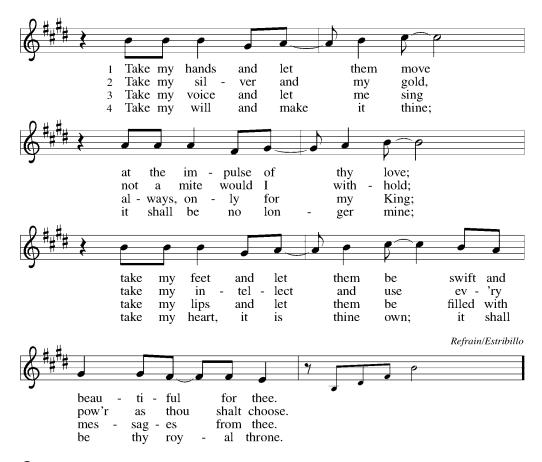
Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN ELW # 583

"Take My Life that I May Be"



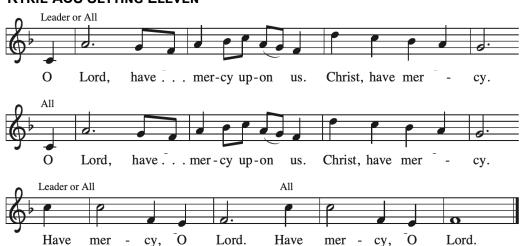
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GREETING

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

KYRIE ACS SETTING ELEVEN



CANTICLE OF PRAISE ACS SETTING ELEVEN



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, 5 saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶ buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat." ⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 113



¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD; | praise the name | of the LORD.

² Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth for- evermore.

From the rising of the sun to its | going down | let the name of the | LORD be praised.

The Lord is high a- | bove all nations; | God's glory a- | bove the heavens.

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God, who sits en- throned on high, but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out ^I of the dust || and lifts up the poor ^I from the ashes,

 8 enthroning them $^{||}$ with the rulers, ||| with the rulers $^{||}$ of the people.

⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. I Hallelujah!

SECOND READING 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, 4 who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is

one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Thanks Be To Thee"

by G. F. Handel directed by Kevin Griswold

Thanks be to Thee, O Lord, Thanks be to Thee, O Lord; Thou broughtest forth through the sea Israel, Israel through the sea; Thou broughtest forth safe through the sea, safe through the sea.

Lord, thou hast led us as a shepherd; Lord, with Thine hand tenderly in ages past Thy people hast led.

Thanks be to Thee, O Lord, Thanks be to Thee, O Lord; Thou broughtest forth through the sea Israel, Israel from the sea; Thou broughtest forth with mighty hand Israel safe through the sea.

Thou broughtest Israel safe through the sea.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW SETTING THREE

☐ Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

ELW p. 142
Please stand

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Called to Share God's Love

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION

Living out God's Grace and Love through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CORE VALUES

We are a congregation that

- is open to all,
- values a community of all ages,
- is grounded in scripture and sacrament.
- nurtures individual gifts,
- believes that everyone has something to offer,
- values involvement in the greater community,
- supports all in the challenges and celebrations of their lives, as God meets us where we are.

GOSPEL Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹He then told the ones who walked the road with him another story: "There was a man with so many possessions, he had to have someone to oversee them all. The rich man was told that his overseer was mishandling his possessions. ²He sent for the man and said to him, 'Why am I hearing these things about you? Give me an account of all I possess, for I can no longer trust you to oversee my belongings.' ³"The man said to himself, 'What will I do? I am too old to dig ditches and too proud to beg from others.'

"Then an idea came to his mind. ⁴'I know what to do so that others will help me and give me a place to live.' ⁵He went to each person who was in debt to the rich man. "He said to the first one, 'How much do you owe?' ⁶'One hundred containers of oil,' the man answered. 'Make it to be fifty,' the overseer told him.

⁷"He then said to another, 'How much do you owe?' 'One hundred baskets of wheat,' he answered. 'Make it to be eighty,' the overseer said back to him.

⁸"When the rich man found out what the

dishonest overseer had done, he shook his head but admired the man's craftiness. "Do you see what this means?" Creator Sets Free (Jesus) asked. "The children of darkness are sometimes wiser in the ways of this world than the children of light are in the ways of the spirit-world above. "So then, use the possessions of this world to help others in need, who will become your friends. Then when possessions run out, these new friends of Creator's good road will always welcome

you into their homes. 10-12"If Creator cannot trust you with the possessions of this world, then how will he trust you with the treasures of the spiritworld above? But if you do well with the small things of this world, you will do well with the great things of the spirit-world above.

¹³"No one can be loyal to two rival chiefs. He will have to choose between them, for either he will hate one chief and love the other, or he will honor one and resent the other. You cannot be loyal to the Great Provider and to possessions at the same time."

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Zach Manzella

SERMON

Pastor Zach Manzella

READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 21 Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW # 588

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"



- 1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
- 2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and a prom-ised grace made good;
- 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our mind
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je sus; it is some-thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty. there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood. the E - ter - nal most won-der - ful - ly kind. and the heart of is great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cv through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n. There is grace e - nough for thou-sands of new worlds as great as this; But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own; Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind-ly judg-ment giv'n. there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up-per home of bliss. and we mag-ni - fy its strict-ness with a zeal God will not own. and our lives will be thanks-giv - ing for the good-ness of the Lord.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

We Ask Your Prayers for:

Alaska Native Lutheran; Immanuel Korean Presbyterian; Kingigin Lutheran Church, Wales; Gary Bergman, Wendy Bergman, Jan Beverlin, Al Boecker, Joe & Lisa Boecker, Lori Boecker, Yvonne Boecker, Harlan & Ella Braun, Erik Bryant, Sigi Bryant, Maria Bulkow, Betsy Cooper, Kathy Earhart, Emmels, Dixie Foley, Shannon Foley, Danny Harris, Robin Harris, Skyler Harris, Arlen Hattel, Dianne Hillemeyer, Mark Johnson, Nick Klescewski, Pete Kropidlowski, Dee Lambert, Arne & Norma Mjolsnes, Kurt and Anne Pasch, Marlene Rapp, Judy Schaefer, Kristina Slater, Lynn Soiseth, Lucile Sorenson, Remi Thrasher, Lee & Jackie van Horn, Andrea Vancil, Bob Voris, Eva Wissmann, Bobbi Whitmire, Mark Wohlgemuth, Mary Wolter, Kallen Young, Kariana, Michael, Hope

Please pray for the families of those who've died: the Nathan family, Sara Cummings

Each petition ends: God of grace, receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

MEAL

PEACE

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

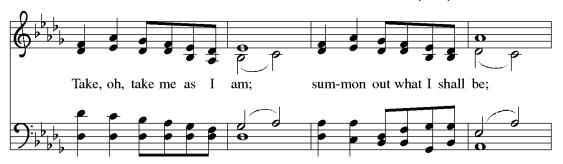
OFFERING

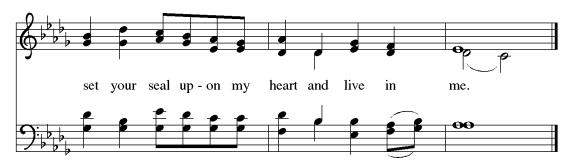
The offering plate is located on a table at the center back of the Sanctuary. We welcome your donations to support Central's ministries and beyond via cash, check, card via the Square app on the tablet at the table, or at our website at centluth.org. Thank you.

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OFFERTORY ELW #814

"Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am"





OFFERING PRAYER Please stand.

Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our 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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS ELW SETTING THREE

ELW p. 144

 □ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Lord gives us a meal and gives us a prayer. We pray together:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

† Invitation to the Meal †

This is not Central's table, not a Lutheran table; this is God's table, and you are all welcome.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table, whether you are a member or a guest. Today we commune in a walking style. If for any reason you would prefer to receive a blessing in lieu of receiving communion, please hold your hand over your heart. You are invited to take time for prayer at the altar rail after taking communion. Gluten-free wafers are available on the tray at the first pew. Pastor Zach Manzella is presiding at Holy Communion today with the permission of the bishop of the Alaska Synod.

Votive candles are available to light in memory of loved ones in the stand on the left side of the altar. Please use the Oil Candle Lighter. It is the small metal box with two removable metal wands. Each wand has a wick on one end that is kept moist with oil from inside the box. Light the wick end of the wand from an already lit votive candle. After lighting a new votive candle, blow out the flame on the wand and place it back into the container, which will re-wet the wick with new oil. Please do not let the wick burn for a long time, as it will use up the oil in the wand and the wick will actually start to burn (which we do not want). Please do not pick up the votive candles to light them. Let each worshipper re-light and extinguish the wand at their turn; do not pass the burning wand to another person.

LAMB OF GOD ELW SETTING THREE

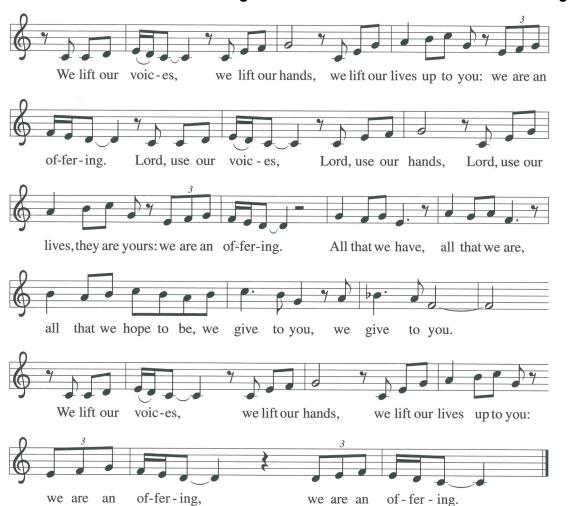
ELW p. 146

□ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 □ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 □ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

The offering plate is located on a table at the center back of the Sanctuary. We welcome your donations to support Central's ministries and beyond via cash, check, card via the Square app on the tablet at the table, or at our website at centluth.org. You are invited to make your contribution during a hymn or the passing of the peace. The offering plate will be delivered to the altar at the offertory time. Thank you.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW # 692 sing three times

"We Are An Offering"



Thank you to our worship leaders today:

Worship leader: Pastor Zach Manzella

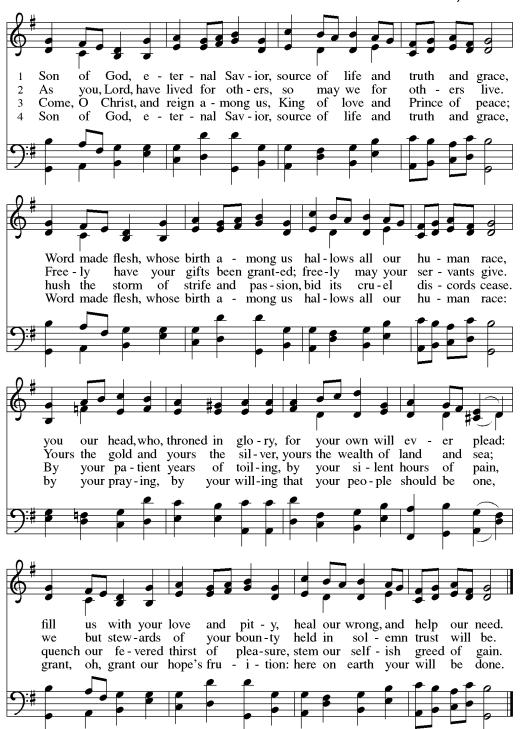
Musician:Debbie PankowAssisting Minister:Sharon JonesProjectionist:Helen Posposil

A/V Wrangler: volunteer

Lector: Annette Iverson

COMMUNION HYMN ELW # 655

"Son of God, Eternal Savior"

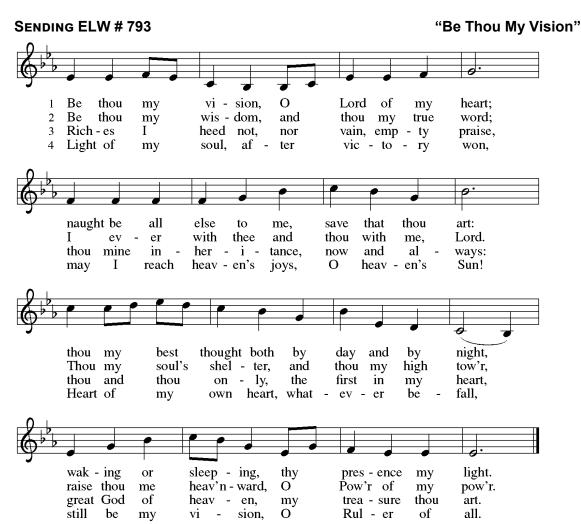


The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace and peace. **Amen.**

SENDING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



BLESSING

Please face the baptismal font

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"I Am With You Always"

arr. Susanna Keeney Debbie Pankow

Do you get our weekly **eNews** email? Contact our office to read more details on all the news briefs here.

Worship:

Sundays 9:30 am worship services

Installation of ELCA Presiding Bishop Rev. Yehiel Curry live stream in our Sanctuary, Saturday, October 4, 11 am

Study:

Weekly Noon lectionary text study meets Noon Tuesdays - we'll have the coffee.

The **Early Risers Study** is 7 am Tuesdays via Zoom.us, reading <u>A Prayer for the Crown-Shy</u> by Becky Chambers.

Adult education class meets Sundays at 11 am to study Exodus

Multi-generational Sunday School is an ALL AGES monthly potluck dinner on third Sundays at 4:30 pm - *TODAY* we look at the Creation story.

Fellowship:

Central Seniors and friends - **coffee klatsche** every Wednesday at 8:30 am at Kaladi Brothers Coffee on Brayton Drive.

Join our all ages & skill level **pickleball** players. Tuesday evenings at Central.

Serve:

Our **Anchorage Farmers Market** meets 9 am - 2 pm Saturdays. Four weeks left — can YOU bring treats or smiles?

Donations welcomed:

Year-round, we collect shelf-stable **foods for LSSA Food Pantry**. Our September focus will be canned meats and beans.

Clean clothes, outdoor gear, SOCKS, shoes & boots, backpacks, blankets & more for Helping Hands Clothing Closet

News:

Our Sanctuary hosts the **Anchorage Festival of Music's Basically Bach concert** 7:30 pm Saturday, September 27
Tickets \$45 at centertix.com

Pet Blessing Saturday, October 4, 11 am - 2 pm, near our playground. Drop in with leashed pets or a photo of them

Our **Local Organizing Ministry** will be calling many of us for one-to-one conversations on quality of life issues regarding the church, the neighborhood, and the greater community.

Fellowship planning Noon Monday 9/22 @ Yak & Yeti near Title Wave

In Our Backyard Winterization Garden Work Party Weds 9/24, 4 - 7 pm

Sunday 9/21

- 9:30 am WORSHIP SERVICE with Pastor Zach Manzella (Sanctuary) or via centluth.org
- 11 am **Adult Ed class** (Sanctuary)
- 11 am KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel, Community Room)
- 2 pm ANLC WORSHIP SERVICE (Sanctuary)
- 4:30 pm Multi-generational Sunday School Potluck (Fellowship Hall)

Monday 9/22

Russian tutoring meets Monday - Saturday in rooms 3 - 4, varied hours

- Noon Fellowship Committee @ Yak & Yeti by Title Wave
- 5 7 pm Shoshin Ryu Martial Arts (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 9 pm Anchorage Concert Chorus (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 9:30 pm ANLC Beading (Community Room or Rooms 5-6)

Tuesday 9/23

7 am Éarly Risers Study of <u>A Prayer for the Crown Shy</u> via zoom.us

- Noon 1 pm Noon Lectionary Text Study (Cordova Room)
 1 3 pm Helping Hands Clothing Closet open (HH Closet)
- 3 4 pm Local Organizing Ministry / AFACT (Cordova Room)
- 4:45 6:15 pm Pickleball (Fellowship Hall / lower parking lot)

Wednesday 9/24

- 8:30 10 am Coffee Klatsch @ Kaladi Bros. on Brayton
- 2 pm KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel)
- 4 7 pm In Our Backyard Garden Winterization Work Party @ IOBY5 7 pm Shoshin Ryu Martial Arts (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:45 pm Bell Choir rehearsals new folks welcome! (Sanctuary)
- 7 pm Chancel Choir rehearsals new folks welcome! (Sanctuary)

Thursday 9/25

by 3 pm volunteers deliver evening meal to Clare House

- 10 am 3 pm Log Cabin Quilters (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30 8:30 pm Nome-Wales Dancing Community (Fellowship Hall)

Friday 9/26

- 2 pm KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel)
- 2:30 pm Caring Ministers meeting @ Dahna's home evening Rehearsal for Basically Bach (Sanctuary)

Saturday 9/27

all day Rehearsal and Set up for Basically Bach (Sanctuary)

- 9 am 2 pm Anchorage Farmers Market & our hospitality booth (upper parking lot)
- 9:30 10:30 am WW Meeting (Community Room)
- 11:30 am 1:30 pm NAMI (Community Room)
- 7:30 pm Anchorage Festival of Music presents Basically Bach concert (Sanctuary)

Sunday 9/28

- 9:30 am WORSHIP SERVICE with Pastor Zach Manzella (Sanctuary) or via centluth.org
- 11 am **Adult Ed class** (Sanctuary)
- 11 am KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIP SERVICE (Small Chapel, Community Room)
- 2 pm ANLC WORSHIP SERVICE (Sanctuary)

Bible studies & meetings Zoom.us meeting ID 963 8911 9335

Worship online via centluth.org

Save the date:
4 pm Sunday, October 12
Ordination and
Installation of
Pastor Zach

and reception to follow