

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for a long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)

¹²⁹ Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
¹³⁰ When your word is opened | it gives light;
it gives understanding | to the simple.
¹³¹ I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.
¹³² Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,
as you always do to those who | love your name.
¹³³ Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.
¹³⁴ Rescue me from those | who oppress me,
and I will keep | your commandments.
¹³⁵ Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.
¹³⁶ My eyes shed | streams of tears,
because people do not | keep your teaching.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches

hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*** Gospel Acclamation (all singing...)**



*** Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Service Announcements – July 26, 2026

Mission Support – We are excited to announce that the Buckners (Steve & Debbie) are joining St. Luke’s in worship today. We have been collecting items for them to take back to Honduras. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Community Dinner - Our next Community Dinner is Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. Bring your family, invite your neighbors, and come enjoy an evening of food and fellowship.

Welcome Center – Thank you to those of you who volunteered to help with the Welcome Center. If you would like to help, you may sign the volunteer sheet that is on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center.

Redner’s Tapes - Do you grocery shop at Redner's? Using your "save-a-tape" card and turning in your receipt at St Luke's earns us 1% of receipt totals. It also earns you gas/food discounts. This is an easy way to help yourself and St. Luke's missions. All receipts must be originals, not reprints or copies. Contact Doug Killough at 610-390-7127 with questions and concerns.

PRAYER REQUESTS – July 26, 2026

Members Of Saint Luke's Church

Rosemarie Bliss, Spencer Brothers, Lily Greer, Barry Isett, Merrill Mest, Judy Moyer, Dan Pulcher, Robert Pulcher, Chris Quigg, Roger Rhoads, Nancy Schodle, Ron Sekellick, David Semmens, Jeff & Julene Steigelmann, Henry Stetler, Mike Way, Carol Welch, Stewart Young

Friends Of Saint Luke's Church

Aaron, Brandon <i>Sons of Chris Quigg</i>	Mary Doughty <i>Sister of Peggy Brendlinger</i>	Michael & Rita Natalini <i>Friends of Rob & Paula Bickelman</i>
Gen Adams <i>Great-grandson of Judy Hunsberger</i>	Brian & Diane Eyes <i>Friends of Barry Mertz</i>	Tim Overholtzer <i>Brother-in-law of Pat Stonerook</i>
Glenn Argue <i>Friend of Doug & Sharon Killough</i>	Jackie <i>Sister of Kay Badman</i>	Jim & Holly Parmer <i>Sister & brother-in-law of Gwen Semmens</i>
Chris Bean, & mother, Barbara <i>Friends of St. Luke's</i>	Joan <i>Friend of Pat & Dick Stonerook</i>	Wayne Rachel & little Dax <i>Nephew of Barry Mertz</i>
Beth & family <i>Friend of Carol & Joe Langton</i>	Dan Hogan <i>Friend of Rob Bickelman</i>	Scott Randolph <i>Friend of Rob Bickelman</i>
Angela Boyer <i>Daughter of Audrey Reinhart</i>	Ken & Marie Hunsberger <i>Stepson & his wife of Judy Hunsberger</i>	David Renninger <i>Sexton at St. Luke's</i>
Rose Brendlinger <i>Friend of Merlyn Jordan</i>	Grant & Nancy Karsner <i>Friends of Dennis & Gail Faust</i>	Dennis Ritchie <i>Requested by Doug & Sharon Killough</i>
Chris Campbell <i>Friend of Rob Bickelman</i>	Kimberly (Krupp) Keim <i>Step-sister of Brenda Foose</i>	Calvin Dietrich Savage <i>Grandson of Dennis & Gail Faust</i>
Chris & Shaina & daughter, Charlotte <i>Friends of Brendan Greer</i>	Sandi Kelly <i>Friend of St. Luke's</i>	Chris Slater <i>Friend of Rob & Paula Bickelman</i>
Garrett Coyne <i>Friend of Ian Kratz</i>	Sue Labbe & family <i>Aunt of Nicole Greer</i>	Wendy Spielman <i>Friend of Deneen Kratz</i>
Dawn Curran <i>Friend of Kristin Bauer</i>	Lila Lundborg <i>Sister of Jerry Jordan</i>	Lauren Weaver <i>Daughter-in-law of Barry Mertz</i>
Diane Davidheiser <i>Friend of Brenda Foose</i>	Linda McLaughlin <i>Friend of Carol Langton</i>	
Corey Delong, Heidi Delong <i>Friends of Jerry & Merlyn Jordan</i>	Jim Miller & family <i>Nephew of Carol Welch</i>	

Experiencing Grief

Family and friends of Leroy Ackerman, who died July 4, 2026 (age: 100 years)

Persons In Military Service

Joseph P. Breidor, John P Carmelo, IV, Lt. Darby Driscoll, Capt. Ian Driscoll, Ens. Leah Duff, Jared Kirk, JD & his Unit, Greg Kunkle, Andrew Matsko, Guy Row, Kevin Row, Preston Schoenly, Corey Stonerook, Philip Washington

Prayer Ministry: Gwen Semmens is the Prayer Ministry Coordinator. Please call Gwen (215-872-1046) or send an email (hawksmer@comcast).