

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

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 who 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.

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

¹ To | 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. R

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 compas- | sion 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 good- |
ness, O Lord.

⁸ You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.

⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

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

⁶who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

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

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

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

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

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

* Gospel Acclamation (all singing...)



*** Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32**

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When [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?” ²⁴ Jesus 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.

²⁵ Did 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?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So 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.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which 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. ³² For 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.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Service Announcements – September 27, 2026

The Neighborhood Thrift Shop – The regular operating hours for the thrift shop will be Wednesday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Adult Ed Class - Jerry Jordan hosts an Adult Education opportunity every Sunday after worship. See Jerry or Pastor Amy for more information.

Community Dinner – St. Luke’s Community Dinner will take place on October 15, 2026 from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Hands are at the back of the church.

Quilting & Sewing Group - The Quilting and Sewing Group will be meeting from 6:00p.m. – 8:30 p.m. on October 21, 2026.

Yoga Class - On October 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m, we will be hosting our second Yoga Class. Classes will be offered every 4th Thursday of the month at \$15 per person, per class. No experience necessary.

Trunk or Treat- St Luke’s will host its Trunk or Treat on October 25, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. If you are interested in decorating a trunk please let reach out to Tanya.

PRAYER REQUESTS – September 27, 2026

Members Of Saint Luke's Church

Rosemarie Bliss, Spencer Brothers, Gail Faust, Kristiana Heinz, Barry Isett, Dan Pulcher, Robert Pulcher, Chris Quigg, Roger Rhoads, Nancy Schodde, Ron Sekellick, David Semmens, Henry Stetler, Carol Welch, Stewart Young

Friends Of Saint Luke's Church

Morris, Harvey
Cousins of Chris Quigg
Gen Adams
Great-grandson of Judy Hunsberger
Glenn Argue
Friend of Doug & Sharon Killough
Beth & family
Friend of Carol & Joe Langton
Angela Boyer
Daughter of Audrey Reinhart
Rose Brendlinger
Friend of Merlyn Jordan
Steve & Debbie Buckner
Friends of St. Luke's
Chris Campbell
Friend of Rob Bickelman
Chris & Shaina & daughter,
Charlotte
Friends of Brendan Greer
Garrett Coyne
Friend of Ian Kratz
Dawn Curran
Friend of Kristin Bauer
Diane Davidheiser
Friend of Brenda Foose
Corey Delong, Heidi Delong
Friends of Jerry & Merlyn Jordan
Mary Doughty
Sister of Peggy Brendlinger

Joan
Friend of Pat & Dick Stonerook
Dan Hogan
Friend of Rob Bickelman
Ken & Marie Hunsberger
Stepson & his wife of Judy Hunsberger
Andy Hunter and Hallie
Koenig
Friends of Dennis Faust
Grant & Nancy Karsner
Friends of Dennis & Gail Faust
Kimberly (Krupp) Keim
Step-sister of Brenda Foose
Sandi Kelly
Friend of St. Luke's
Sue Labbe & family
Aunt of Nicole Greer
Lila Lundborg
Sister of Jerry Jordan
Will Marks
Grandson Of Judy Moyer
Linda McLaughlin
Friend of Carol Langton
Jim Miller & family
Nephew of Carol Welch
Michael & Rita Natalini
Friends of Rob & Paula Bickelman

Jackie
Sister of Kay Badman
Tim Overholtzer
Brother-in-law of Pat Stonerook
Jim & Holly Parmer
Sister & brother-in-law of Gwen Semmens
Scott Randolph
Friend of Rob Bickelman
Marily King
Mother of Brenda Foose
Dennis Ritchie
Requested by Doug & Sharon Killough
Calvin Dietrich Savage
Grandson of Dennis & Gail Faust
Pastor Sellers
Friend of Pastor Amy
JoEllen Shaub
Cousin of Joyce Brothers and Spencer Brothers
Chris Slater
Friend of Rob & Paula Bickelman
Wendy Speilman
Friend of Deneen Kratz
Amy Sheppard
Aunt of Brenda Foose

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