



His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

*Matthew 25:21*

## **Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost**

November 15, 2020

*Shared on Augsburg Lutheran Church YouTube Channel*

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

*The mission of Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God  
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through  
worship, witness, education, service and fellowship.*

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting Four*

*The paraments are green during the season of Pentecost to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ.*

## **✠ GATHERING ✠**

### **ACCLAMATION**

Timothy Olsen

Alleluia. Abide in me as I abide in you;  
those who abide in me bear much fruit. Alleluia.  
*(John 15:4, 5)*

### **OPENING VOLUNTARY** Prelude in E-flat Major, BWV 552i

J.S. Bach

*Joshua Sobel, organ intern*

*We stand.*

### **RINGING OF THE BELL**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*We stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept 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.

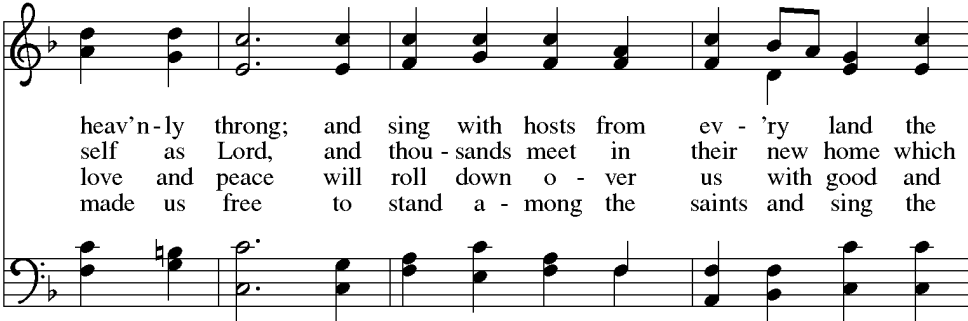
**Amen.**

*The assembly turns to face the cross as it enters the sanctuary, following the cross as we have followed Jesus into this holy place and time of corporate worship.*

GATHERING HYMN 441 Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the  
 2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -  
 3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and  
 4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has



heav'n - ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the  
 self as Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new home which  
 love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and  
 made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the



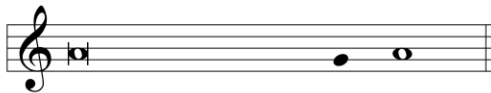
new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.  
 Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.  
 bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.  
 glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797–1866; tr. composite  
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561  
 Text st. 1 © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress; text sts. 2–4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

*After the prayer the assembly responds:* **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## WELCOME

# ✠ WORD ✠

### FIRST READING Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 90:1-8, 12**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

<sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,  
from age to age you are God.

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say,  
“Turn back, O children of earth.”

<sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
and like a watch in the night;

<sup>5</sup>you sweep them away like a dream,  
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

<sup>6</sup>in the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger;  
we are afraid because of your wrath.

<sup>8</sup>Our iniquities you have set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

<sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

**SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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

*We sit.*

# SERMON

Pastor Carter

*We stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY *With One Voice* 778 O Christ the Same

LONDONDERRY AIR

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—  
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing  
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;  
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;  
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,  
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing  
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:  
the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:  
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,  
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—  
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;  
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;  
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,  
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:  
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.  
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.  
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926  
Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

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## 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

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*Each portion of the prayers concludes:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

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

*We sit.*

# ✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

## OFFERING

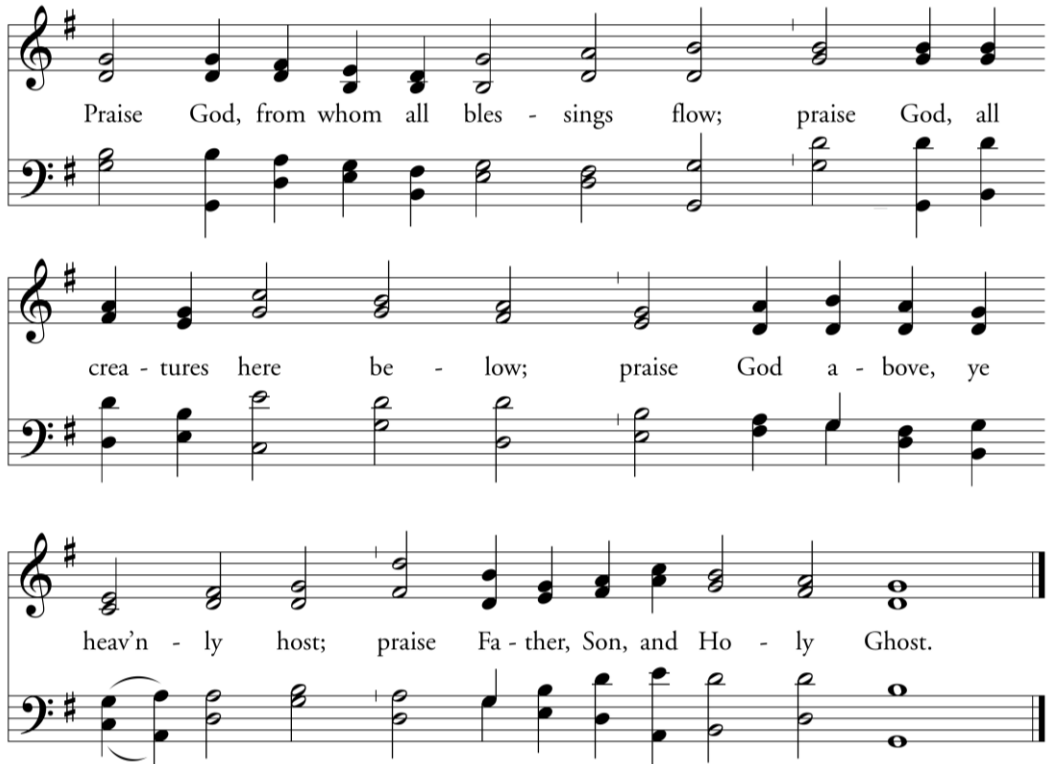
### OFFERTORY ANTHEM I to the Hills Lift Up Mine Eyes

Jean Berger

I to the hills lift up mine eyes, from where shall come mine aid.  
Mine help doth from Jehovah come, which heaven and earth hath made.  
He will not let thy foot be moved, nor slumber that thee keeps.  
Lo he that keepeth Israel, he slumbereth not nor sleeps.  
The Lord thy keeper is, the Lord on thy right hand the shade.  
The sun by day, nor moon by night, shall thee by stroke invade.  
The Lord shall keep thee from all ill thy soul he keeps always,  
Thy going out, and thy income, the Lord keeps now and aye. Amen.

*We stand.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all  
creatures here below; praise God above, ye  
heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## ✠ SENDING ✠

### BLESSING

The Lord bless you...and ✠ give you peace.



SENDING HYMN 826 Thine the Amen

THINE



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise  
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be  
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest  
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise  
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread  
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee  
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be  
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways  
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup  
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry  
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war  
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least  
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.  
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.  
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.  
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
 Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY** Festival Voluntary

Flor Peeters

## ***Soli Deo Gloria***

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# Announcements

**The altar flowers today are dedicated to the glory of God** and in thanksgiving for the love, patience, and wisdom of Katherine Wollner by her husband and four sons in recognition of her milestone birthday this coming week.

**This week we keep in prayer Linnea Bagby**, 3810 Lakeview Drive, Pfafftown, NC 27040-9533. Please send **Linnea** a note.

**Reminder that The Annual Meeting (Part 2) of Augsburg Lutheran Church** will take place on **November 22 at 11:00 a.m.** via Zoom.

**Please remember to bring in items for the Shepherd's Center gift bags** now through November 24. Collection bins are just inside the church office entry. For the list of items needed, please refer to the Flocknote, "Christmas Gift Bags!" that was sent on Nov. 10. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Lori.

**November Bible study concludes this Tuesday, November 17** with week three of Pastor Paul's and Intern Paul's exploration of how the Psalms were differently used by their original recipients, the Hebrew people. A Zoom link to this 2:00 p.m. study will be sent via Flocknote. As always, everyone is welcome and no preparation is required.

**Remember Augsburg's Food Drive on Thursday, Nov. 19.** Stop one, the Old K-Mart in Clemmons 10:00-11:00 a.m.; stop two, Harris Teeter at Robinhood and Peacehaven roads-11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and stop three, American National Bank & Trust (next to Publix, 22 Miller St.) 1:00-2:30 p.m. You can also bring items to CBC from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

**If you have items for the December Beacon**, please email them to Kathy Barnes at [kathy@alcws](mailto:kathy@alcws) before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 23.

**Virtual Greeting for Augsburg Services** – We want to see you! Art Kainz invites you to provide a video greeting. Contact Art at [arthurkainz@gmail.com](mailto:arthurkainz@gmail.com) for the simple instructions.

**If you have not submitted your photo for the Augsburg Directory**, please do so as time is running out to be included. Email them to Kathy Barnes at [kathy@alcws.org](mailto:kathy@alcws.org).

**Please remember to return your 2021 Statement of Intent card as soon as possible!** You may fill it out online at [www.alcws.org/intent2021](http://www.alcws.org/intent2021), mail it in, or drop it off at the office.

**We keep you in prayer during our time apart.** Our pastors continue to be available for your pastoral care needs. If you would like to reach a pastor, please call their cell phones, send them a text, or an email. Pastor Paul is 803-331-5970 or [seniorpastor@alcws.org](mailto:seniorpastor@alcws.org) and Pastor Lori is 336-414-2838 or [pastoralassociate@alcws.org](mailto:pastoralassociate@alcws.org)



**God's work continues at Augsburg,** and while we can't gather in person, our hands can still help carry out that work wherever we are through our love and our resources. Because important ministries continue during our facilities closure, offerings can still be shared through any of these suggested options: drop it in the mail, use the bill pay services that your bank offers, or use Realm to give online. Visit our website—[www.augsburglutheran-ws.org](http://www.augsburglutheran-ws.org)—and click on “Give Now” for more information. Thank you for all the ways that you support God's work at Augsburg, your Stewardship Team.

**Readings for next week:** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

**Worship attendance for services last week: 175 views on YouTube.**

### **Providing Service Today**

*Bulletin Cover Artist*

Sandy Beard

*Reader*

Maria Fortin

*Preaching*

Pastor Carter

*Quartet*

Karen Kooken, Daniele Olsen, Timothy Olsen, Bruce Tippet

*Anthem Choir*

Karen Kooken, Robert Matthews, Daniele Olsen, Cantor Olsen, Rob Ulery, Stan Whitley, Jan Wiles

*Greeter*

Diane Evans

*Assisting Minister*

Paul Anders



## AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Paul A. Wollner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Lori H. Carter, Pastoral Associate for Congregational Care

Dr. Timothy Olsen, Cantor

Nancy Carbone, Parish Administrator

Kathy Barnes, Executive Assistant

Leigh Anna Voigt, Dir. of Faith Formation

Bruce Tippetts, Youth Music and Handbell Dir.

Robin Welch, Youth Coordinator

Paul Anders, WFU Divinity Student Intern

Hannah Norem, Communications Assistant

Reggie Jackson, Lead Sexton

Carl Davis and John Stepney, Sextons

*Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*