

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

9:00 AM; 6:00 PM

Shared on Augsburg Lutheran Church YouTube Channel

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

*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 HOLY COMMUNION

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting IV

The paraments are white during the season of Easter suggesting the joy of the resurrection.

In-person worship rubrics will be found in bold italics.

✠ GATHERING ✠

OPENING VOLUNTARY Victimae Paschali Laudes

Margaret Sandresky

ACCLAMATION

Bruce W. Tippet

Alleluia. I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit. Alleluia.
(John 15:5)

We stand.

RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace we have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ,
our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

In-person worship: The quartet will offer a portion of the hymn as 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 379 Now the Green Blade Rises

NOËL NOUVELET



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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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 mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

In-person worship: The quartet will offer the Hymn of Praise.

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 Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

In-person worship: The quartet will chant the Psalm.

PSALM 22:25-31

Setting by Mark Mummert

- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.
- ²⁶The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.
- ²⁸For dominion belongs | to the LORD,
who rules o- | ver the nations.
- ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.
- ³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.
- ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL John 15:1-8

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

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor Wollner

We stand.

In-person worship: The Cantor will offer an improvisation on the Hymn of the Day while the assembly reflects upon the text.

HYMN OF THE DAY 881 Let All Things Now Living

THE ASH GROVE



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Each portion of the prayers concludes:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM O Blessed Spring

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

(online only)

Music: Robert Buckley Farlee

O blessed spring, where Word and sing Embrace us into Christ the Vine,
Here Christ enjoins each one to be A branch of this life-giving Tree.
Through summer heat of youthful years, Uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
Sustained by Christ's infusing rain, The boughs will shout for joy again.
When autumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their heavy harvest hold,
Then through us, warm, the Christ will move With gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.
As winter comes, as winters must, We breathe our last, return to dust;
Still held in Christ, our souls take wing And trust the promise of the spring.
Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree, Be praise for this blest mystery:
That Word and water thus revive And join us to your Tree of Life.

OFFERTORY HYMN



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord and fill to the brim our cup of bles-sing.



Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the



bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your



pres - ence and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:

our selves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered,

in feeding the world with your love,

through the one who gave himself for us,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

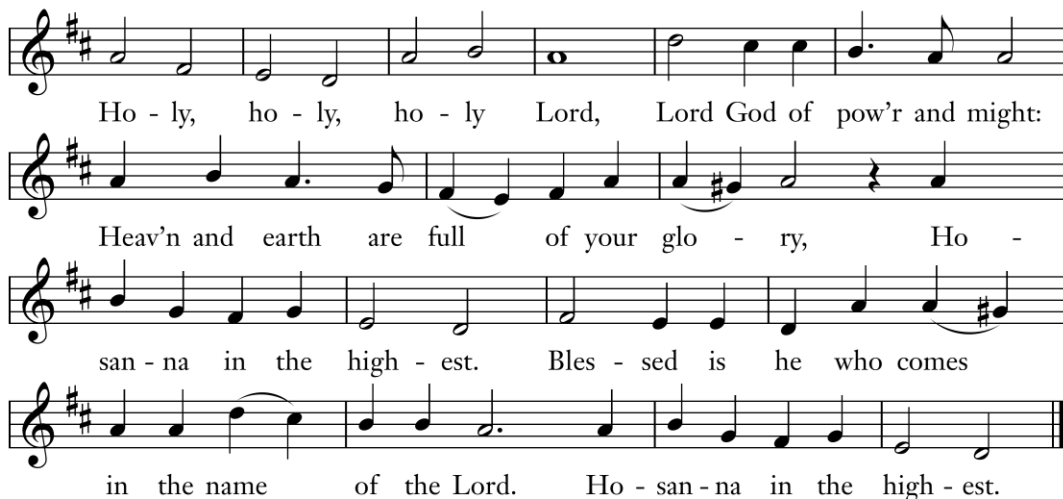
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

In-person worship: The quartet will offer the Sanctus.

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,
one God, now and 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.**

The presiding minister lifts the bread and cup and says

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

The assembly responds

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

In-person worship: The quartet will offer the Agnus Dei.

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 sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

✠ SENDING ✠

THE BENEDICTION

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

In-person worship: The quartet will offer a portion of the Sending Hymn as the assembly faces the cross as it leaves the sanctuary, following the cross as we follow Jesus into the world. All remain facing the cross for the dismissal.

SENDING HYMN 389 Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

TRURO

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
 Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789
 Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In-person worship: Please wait to be dismissed by an usher.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Allegro assai vivace*

Felix Mendelssohn

(from Sonata I)

In person worship: upon being dismissed, the assembly is invited to gather on the front plaza to sing the Doxology together. (Please remain masked.)

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.

Soli Deo Gloria

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Announcements

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of our dear friend, Mme Annette Koeningswerther, by Don and Kathie Eppert and Lara Eppert Carter.

This week we keep in prayer Marylynn Sloop, 118 North Harbor Watch Drive, Statesville, NC 28677-2483. Please send **Marylynn** a note.

In person worship registration for the upcoming Sunday begins each Sunday prior to the next week's worship service. You will receive an invitation via email each Sunday evening at **8:00 p.m.** There will be two worship services – 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. If you are unable to access a computer, you may call the church office beginning Monday morning to register.

As part of a new partnership with The Dwelling, Augsburg is sponsoring a “Shower Day” one Saturday morning each month to offer persons experiencing homelessness the opportunity to be washed and renewed. Two or three volunteers are needed for this upcoming **Saturday, May 8**. Volunteers will receive the training they need on site. Please consider sharing three hours of your time to help bring hope and healing. Contact Joanna Britt at 336-418-1876.

Drive Through Communion will continue for those who are not ready or able to return to in-person worship at this time. The next communion will take place on **Sunday, May 9, from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** at the portico on the back side of the church. There will be a registration form sent the week prior that is **different than the registration for in-person worship**.

In preparation for in person worship, we need ushers and communion assistants. If you are interested in volunteering as an usher, please contact Mark Galchutt at markgalchutt@gmail.com or Joel Myers at joelmyerssales@gmail.com. If you can help as a communion assistant, please contact Diane Evans at devans12@triad.rr.com.

Christ's Beloved Community Food Pantry has a special need for volunteers to unload and shelve large shipments and donations on **Tuesday, May 11** from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and **Thursday, May 20** from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Volunteers may sign up [here!](#)

Mark your calendars for the next Food Drive for Christ's Beloved Community Food Pantry, **Thursday, May 20** from 12:00-4:00 p.m. Non-perishable food items will be collected at the portico at Augsburg. Our brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Paul's Episcopal will be collecting diapers and wipes for CBC so Augsburg members can focus on non-perishable foods.

Altar Flower Dedication. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the beautiful altar flowers each week. If you are interested in dedicating flowers as a memorial or in honor of a loved one, please contact Betty Covington at covingtonbet@gmail.com. The cost is \$80.00. We currently have an open slot for **June 27**.

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 for the simple instructions.

Happy 100th birthday to Margaret Sandresky (on this past Wednesday, April 28), a local composer, organist, church musician, and college music faculty emerita. Today's opening voluntary is a piece that she composed merely months ago. We give praise for her contributions to sacred music.

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 send them an email. Pastor Paul is seniorpastor@alcws.org and Pastor Lori is pastoralassociate@alcws.org

Readings for next week: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Worship attendance for services last week: 219 views on **YouTube**.

Providing Service Today

Bulletin Cover Artist

Elisa Barger

Greeters

Stephen, Emily & Marlowe Andrews

Ushers

(9:00) Nick Seeba, Damion Richardson, Lara Carter, Carrol Epting

(6:00) Phil Martin, Jim Crozier, John Bandle, Rick Brant

Lead Ushers

Don Eppert, Mark Galchutt & Joel Myers

Communion Assistants

(9:00) Shari Dominguez & Jeff Fowler

(6:00) Claire Wynnemer & Lisa Crozier

Assisting Minister

Pastor Carter

Preaching and Presiding

Pastor Wollner

Quartet

(9:00) Daniele Olsen, Bill Stevens, Bruce Tippet, Jan Wiles

(6:00) Spencer DesChenes, Bruce Tippet

**We have an extra page in our bulletin today.
You are invited to use it to take sermon notes, jot prayer concerns, or doodle.**



AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod

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Rev. Katie Bryant, Rostered Minister for Youth & Emerging Ministries Dr. Timothy Olsen, Cantor

Rev. Lori H. Carter, Pastoral Associate for Congregational Care Kathy Barnes, Executive Assistant

Nancy Carbone, Parish Administrator

Bruce Tippette, Youth Music and Handbell Dir.

Leigh Anna Voigt, Dir. of Faith Formation

Paul Anders, WFU Divinity Student Intern

Robin Welch, Youth Coordinator

Reggie Jackson, Lead Sexton

Hannah Norem, Communications Assistant

Carl Davis and John Stepney, Sextons

Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation