

# St. James Evangelical **Lutheran Church October 1, 2023** 18th Sunday after Pentecost Communion

Worship every Sunday 10:45 AM

# Welcome

We welcome all visitors who come to worship with us today. We are delighted that you have come to share in the prayer and praise of our Lord and invite you to return and add your voice to ours in holy celebration. If you have a special need or prayer write it on the prayer card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Before you leave us today, we ask that vou please sign our quest book.

Vice Pastor: Pastor Drew McCaffrey Church Organist/Choir Director: Patricia McConnell Administrative Assistant: Tim Surkovich

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# St. James Mission Statement: To make disciples of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament by the Holy Spirit.

Announcements: If you cannot read the hymns, you can turn to the hymn in the red ELW hymnal in the pew racks.

Prelude Soul, Adorn Thyself With Gladness Cruger/Busaro (We take this time to silently prepare our hearts and minds for worship)

PLEASE STAND

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign 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.

An extended silence may be kept.

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 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 the Son, and of the Holy Sprit. **Amen.** 

### We Gather

\*GATHERING SONG:

O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us

**ELW 431** 

#### O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us



Text: Delores Dufner, osn. b. 1939 Music: ALI, SAÍNTS NEW, Henry S. Cutler, 1824–1902 Text © 2001, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358, All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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#### \*GREETING:

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

# C: And also with you.



#### \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE





#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# We Listen to the Word

# First Reading:

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What 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"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know 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 that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet 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? <sup>26</sup>When 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. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet 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?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>31</sup>Cast 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? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 25:1-9

# <sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

# **Second Reading:**

Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Philippians.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁵who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁵but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁵he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

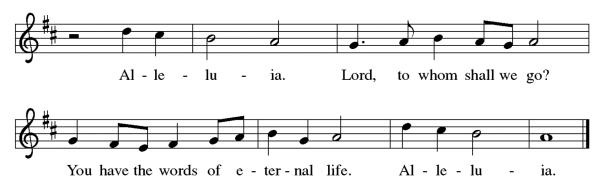
<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

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

The word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

# \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



\*GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Matthew 21:23-32



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?" <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> 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?' <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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."

### The Gospel of the Lord.



# We Respond to the Word

\*Hymn of the Day:

**ELW 666** 

#### What Wondrous Love Is This



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt. Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997, alt. Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

# \*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**

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

#### A brief silence.

We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness. Merciful God,

# receive our prayer.

Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation. Empower us to look to the interests of others as we make choices that impact the environment. Summon us to be advocates for healthy waterways, habitats, and air. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

Lead us in justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other positions of authority (*local and national leaders may be named*). Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs of others. We pray also for our enemies. Merciful God,

### receive our prayer.

Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way (*especially*). Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. Merciful God,

# receive our prayer.

Teach us your paths as we pray for this congregation. Be at work in us and unite us in your love as we labor together for the sake of the gospel. Merciful God,

### receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all the saints who died secure in the knowledge of salvation. Keep us fearless in our faith and certain of your resurrection. Merciful God,

# receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

#### Amen.

- \*Sharing of the Peace
- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

# We Offer Our Gifts

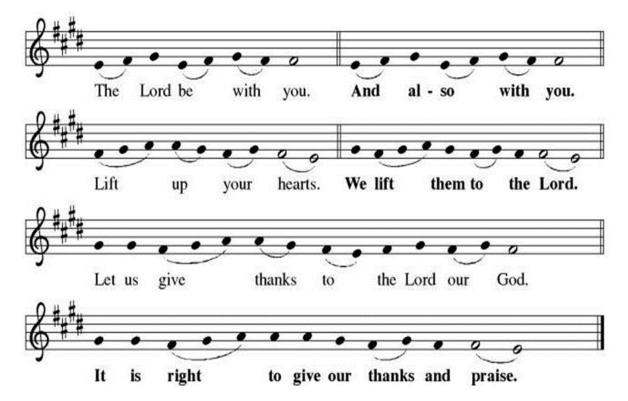
# \*Offering Prayer:

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.

#### C: Amen.

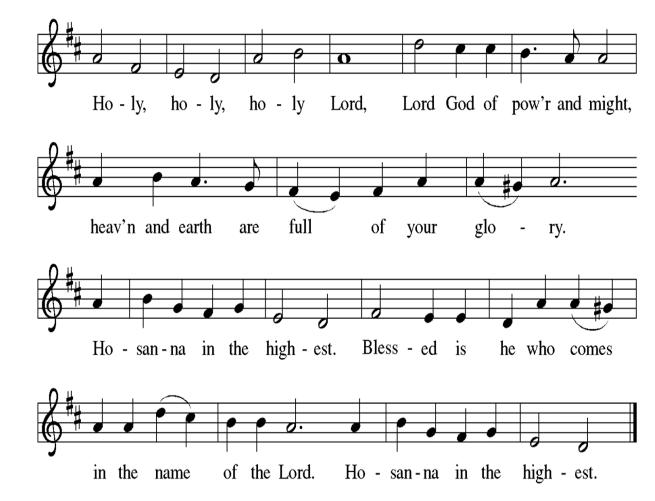
# We Share the Feast

\*Holy Communion



**P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# Holy, Holy, Holy



# \*Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world, you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we might receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

For it is our Lord Jesus, who in the night in which he was betrayed 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 the 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".

# \*The Lord's Prayer

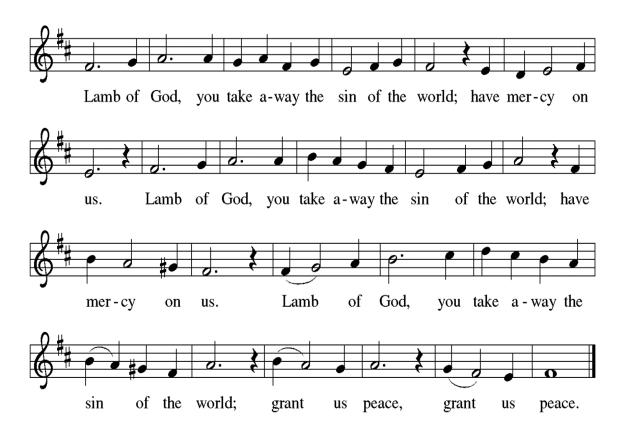
Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

#### \*Invitation to Communion

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

# Lamb of God



Communion Distribution — please come to the step before altar as led by the Spirit to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

<sup>\*</sup>Post-Communion Blessing

# \*Song after Communion:



Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom- is - es and leads his peo- ple forth in joy with



# \*Prayer after Communion

**P:** Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

### We Are Sent

\*Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

\*Sending Song: Come Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs ELW 847
NEXT PAGE

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

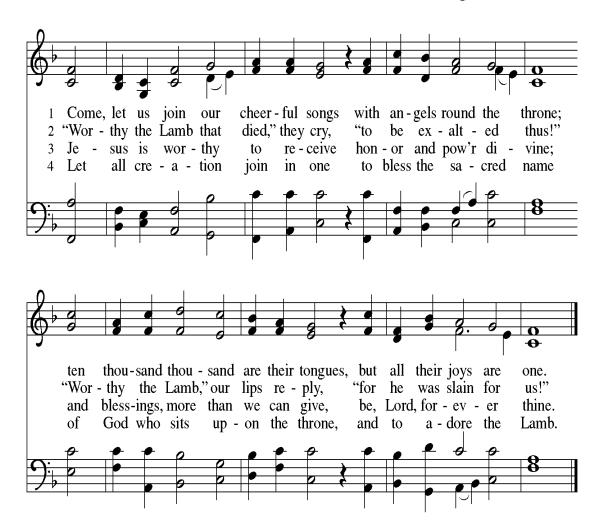
C: Thanks be to God!

Recessional: God Is Love R.C.Wilson





# Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: NUN DANKET ALL, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

# CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

# IN THE CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,

In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Pastor Drew McCaffery

Work: 814-944-7560 Cell: 814-538-9036 Email: pastordrew0604@gmail.com

The church office email is <a href="mailto:stjamesaltoona@gmail.com">stjamesaltoona@gmail.com</a> The church's website is <a href="mailto:www.stjamesaltoona.org">www.stjamesaltoona.org</a>

On Facebook—St. James Lutheran Church—Altoona, PA



#### **Our Prayer List:**

Tim Surkovich Debbie Thomas Jeff Bickel Bill Wilt
Staff Sgt John Hiles Donna Foster Jean Bickel Donna Wilt
Carolyn Feather Bill Dambeck Judy Dambeck

(Names for inclusion on our parish prayer list can be submitted to the church office. The name will remain on the list for one month. At the end of that period please advise the church office, if you would like the name to be continue for another month.)

Those serving in our military.

Homewood

Sylvia Malsatzki

Allegheny Lutheran Home: In their own homes:

Janet Kauffman Deborah Manbeck







# **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

SWEETS AND TREATS TODAY OCT 1 10 AM BLESSING OF PETS TODAY OCT 1 4 PM

\*Bethany Lutheran Parking Lot

ASWO COVENTION REGISTRATION DUE OCT 2

\*Registration Form in the bulletin

COUNCIL MEETING OCT 8 12 PM

ASWO CONVENTION OCT 21

OCTOBERFEST OCT 22 12 PM

WELCA MEETING OCT 28 9:30AM

\*Donut Shop 11th Avenue Altoona (See Insert)

REFORMATION SUNDAY OCT 29

ALLEGHENY CHORALE CONCERT DEC 3 3 PM





# NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

**October 8, 2023** 



# THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

OUR NEXT SWEETS AND TREATS
WILL BE TODAY
OCTOBER 1, 2023

\* We are always looking for volunteers to sponsor Sweets and Treats. If you're interested there is a sign up sheet in the Sunday School Room. Your support is appreciated!

The Allegheny Chorale presents their 39th Season Christmas Concert



St. James Lutheran Church December 3, 2023

3PM

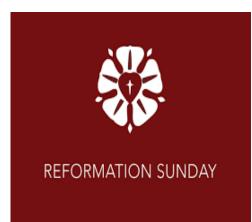


# **Bible Study Update**

Faith on Tap (NEW SERIES ALERT)- We just finished our series by Kate Bowler. We are switching gears to do a book study on Richard Rohr's Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life. A description about Rohr's book-In the first half of life, we are naturally preoccupied with establishing ourselves; climbing, achieving, and performing. But as we grow older and encounter challenges and mistakes, we need to see ourselves in a different and more life-giving way. This message of falling down - that is in fact moving upward - is the most resisted and counterintuitive of messages in the world's religions. Join us on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month at Marzoni's in Greenwood at 6p.

Wednesday Bible Study: We are continuing our series on the Gospel of John. Join us at 1pm on Wednesdays, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall!

We hope you will take part in our various Bible Study offerings.



# Reformation Sunday is around the corner. Wear Red on Oct 29<sup>th</sup>.

Reformation Sunday is a special day for those of us in the Lutheran Church. We as Lutherans and many Protestant Churches celebrate on the Last Sunday of October "Reformation Sunday" where Martin Lutheran called for a conversation of the Church. We celebrate this moving of the Holy Spirit by wearing RED for

the day. See you on October 29<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the Spirit which continues to move in the Church.



# Blessing of the Pets: Oct 1st

On Sunday, October 1st at 4:00 p.m. in Bethany's church parking lot, we will celebrate The Blessing of the Animals and commemorate the memory of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals. This is especially special because St. Francis of Assisi is celebrated on October 4<sup>th</sup> every year!! Because of this, we will celebrate The Blessing of the Animals and commemorate them. Bring your furry, scaly, or fishy friend for a blessing and short liturgy. We ask that pets are either in crates or on a leash. Even though, snakes are Pastor's least favorite animal (no offense), he will bless them as well. If your pet has problems with other animals, please be sure you can control them or you are welcome to bring a photo of your pet for blessing.

# Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization Thirty-fourth Annual Convention

Newry Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1030 Shamrock Lane, Newry, PA

Saturday, October 21, 2023 - Registration Begins at 8:30 a.m.

# **REGISTRATION FORM**

(Please complete a separate form for each person attending. Make copies as needed.)

# ALL REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE OCTOBER 2, 2023

Name (First)		(Last)	
Mailing Address			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
TELEPHONE	EMAIL		
Congregation Cong. #			
City	Conference		_
Check all categories that apply	to registrant:		
Voting Member Alt. Voting	Member Guest	OfficerBoard	First Time Attende
Registration fee \$15.00			
Please send check or money ord	ler (payable to Allegi	heny SWO) to the	
Registrar: Donna C 188 Graybill Rd Osterburg, PA			
Specify any dietary restrict	ions/special needs	·	
I am willing to serve in wor ReaderAcolyte,		_as needed	





# October 22, 2023

Dinner will be served following the Worship Service.
Dinner to include Sauerkraut, Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Kneadles (German Bread Dumpling) with Gravy, Hot German Potato Salad, Hot Dogs & Rolls, applesauce and drinks.

We are asking members to bring a side dish, vegetable or dessert.

Hosted By: Robin and John Kessler



# St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.