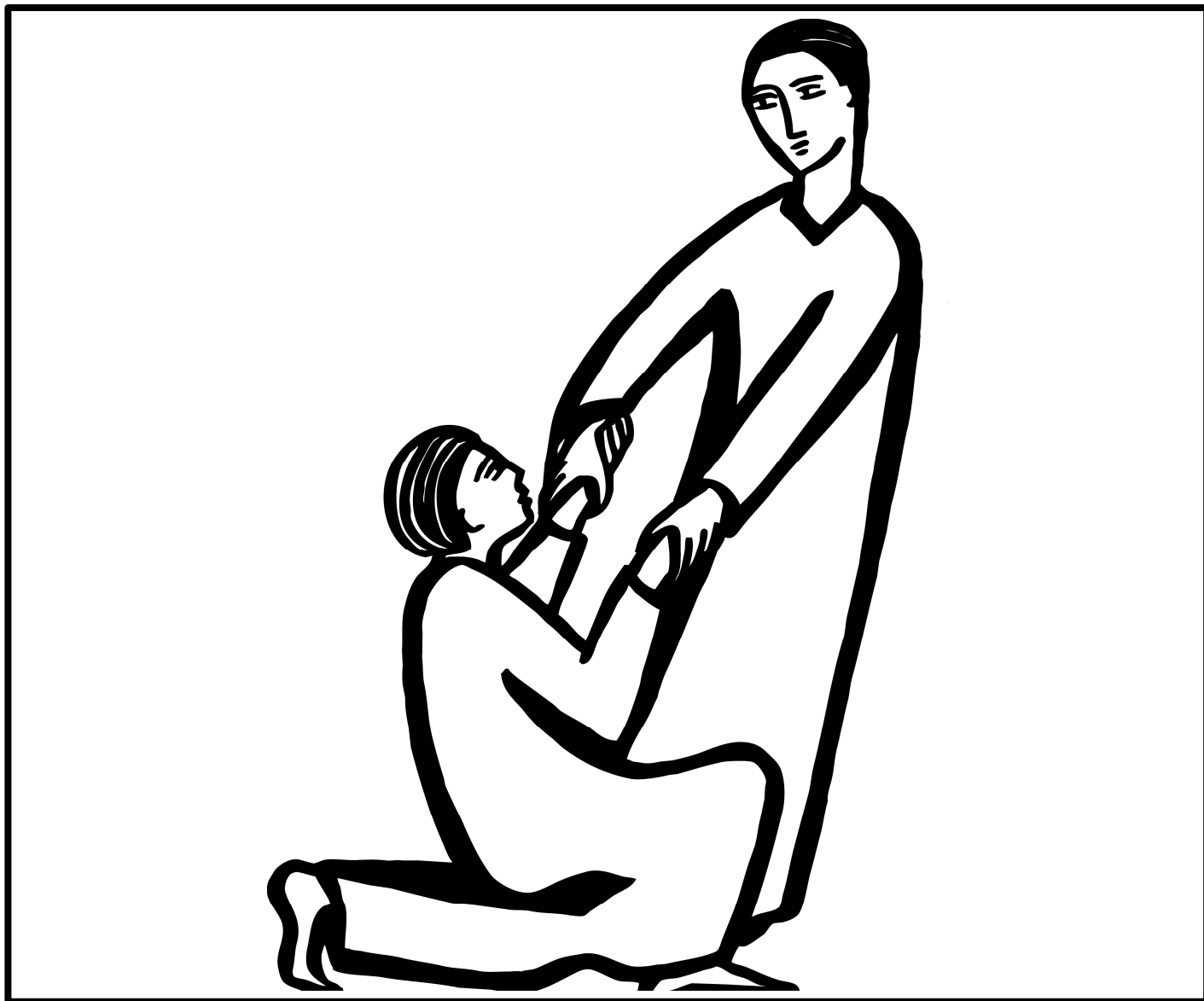


16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY
September 13, 2026



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

7809 Woodman Road

Richmond, VA 23228

(804) 266-5775

www.christlutheran.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

setting, Michael Burkhardt

*WELCOME

Whoever you are. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey.

You are welcome here.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Please kneel as you are able)

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

ELW 864

**1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; joyfully your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praises everlasting ring!**

**2 God be praised for grace and favor to our forebears in distress. God
be praised, the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!**

**3 Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;
but, as mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the great Eternal One!**

**4 Angels sing in adoration, in God's presence, face to face. Sun and
moon and all creation, all who dwell in time and space. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!**

***GREETING**

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.

*THIS IS THE FEAST



[C] This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! [I] Wor - thy is



Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



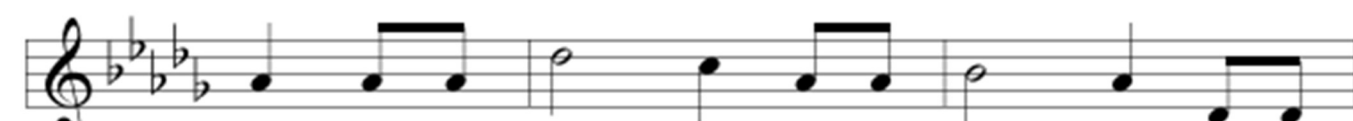
peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



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



his. [C] This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia. [II] Sing with all the peo - ple of



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy One, you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the

wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 103:8-13

⁸ Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
⁹ **you will not always accuse us,**
nor will you keep your anger forever.
¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth,**
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
¹² As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
¹³ **As a father has compassion for his children,**
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those

who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

2

[A] Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. [C] Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

"Our Father, We Have Wandered"

ELW 606

1 Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face; in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace. But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame, as, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.

2 And now at length discerning the evil that we do, behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you. In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring, in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

3 O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored, compassionate, forgiving, and ever-caring Lord, grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease. Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

CELEBRATION OF VOCATION AND BLESSING OF HANDS FOR MINISTRY

We are called to proclaim the good news:

God is at work!

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

God is at work in the world still today!

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work.

When we offer a helping hand, God is praised.

When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world.

God is at work in us!

In our service today and in our daily lives, let us live out what God has called us to in baptism.

God is at work through our hands!

God bless your hands and your work, that through you God's love may be known.

Amen.

***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

Trusting God at work in and among us, we raise our hearts and voices in prayer for the needs of the world.

For your work in the church, we give thanks. Plant and tend relationships among faith communities, both ecumenical and interfaith, that in faithful listening, speech, and action, our hands work to bear fruit for the sake of all in need. God of grace, we pray,

hear us when we call.

For your work in creation, we give thanks. Sustain peoples and places affected by climate change, ecological devastation and natural disasters. Prosper the work of creation-care ministries locally and globally, that with our minds and hearts opened, our hands work to lovingly care for the earth. God of life, we pray,

hear us when we call.

For your work among the nations, we give thanks. Direct leaders in paths of honest service, that both their words and actions are carried out on behalf of those whom they serve. God of righteousness, we pray,

hear us when we call.

For your work in places of need, we give thanks. Sustain all who are wearied by unemployment or lack of adequate food or housing, that we advocate for relief and just policy. Bring healing to all who are sick through the skillful hands and compassionate hearts of physicians, nurses, therapists and caregivers. We pray especially for Brooke Meisel, Ann Marie Farnsworth, George & Jeannine Springer, Vincent Baltor, Kitsy Cochran, Jennifer Whitesides, James Conway, Jamie Glendenning, Marietta Julianne, Avery Small, Sally Stevens, Leslie Reppard, Tenny Walsh, Christy Mayes, Donna Ruggles, Willy Carey, Sherry Clements, Kathy Harman, Shirley Kitchen, Susan Merkle, Austin Hobson, Hailee Singleton, Charlie Peterson, the Phillips family, Denise Derer, the Gilliam family, Len Manganello Mary Lisa Laches and we also lift up to you Pastor Hector and the people of Renovación Apostolica Casa de Dios. God of restoration, we pray,

hear us when we call.

For your work in our neighborhoods, towns and cities, we give thanks. Guide our common life together so that children, youth and adults of all ages flourish. Teach us to listen attentively to our neighbors, that any new

endeavors consider those who may be left out or underserved. God of wisdom, we pray,

hear us when we call.

For your work in this worshiping community, we give thanks. Bless the service projects of this day and throughout the year. Foster deeper connections among those who serve and a spirit of accompaniment as we work alongside those in our community. Strengthen our faith, that we trust God moving in and among us. God of love, we pray,

hear us when we call.

Here other intercessions composed for the local community or related to a local service project may be added.

For your work among those who came before us, we give thanks. We remember those who have died and are held forever in your loving hands. Hold us in your presence now and always. God of heaven and earth,

hear us when we call.

Receive these and all our prayers, gracious God. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERTORY

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

arr. Craig Curry

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world. **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.

***PREFACE**

***SANCTUS**



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te_a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to_e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Embolden by this meal let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

AGNUS DEI



(Organ) [C] Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy up - on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Just As Jesus Told Us"



1 Just as Je - sus told us, we will break this bread.
2 Just as Je - sus told us, we will pour this wine.
3 Just as Je - sus told us, pass the bread a - round.



Just as Je - sus told us, we shall all be fed;
Just as Je - sus told us, we will come and dine;
Just as Je - sus told us, more wine can be found;



and we will re - member what he did and said, and
and we will re - member how he lived in time, and
and we do re - member— bread and wine a - bound. So



how he goes on liv - ing in the bread.
how he goes on liv - ing in the wine.
break the loaf and pass the cup a - round.

*TABLE BLESSING

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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others.

Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

God who sets forth the law of love, Jesus who fulfills the law for you,
and the Spirit through whom you are called to love, + bless you this day,
that you may be God's hands and heart and voice
at work in the world.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG**

"God's Work, Our Hands"

ACS 1000

**1 God's work, our hands: working together, building a future,
repairing the world, raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold. Bless, God, our hands as
we work in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.**

**2 God's work, our feet: trav'ling together, following Jesus to places
unknown, walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the
race with God's future the goal. Bless, God, our feet as we follow
your way, sharing the good news of your gospel.**

**3 God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to
all who will hear, praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming
God's love for the lost and the least. Bless, God, our voice as we
speak in your name, sharing the good news of your gospel.**

**4 God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and
bread's on the rise! Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love. Bless, God, our lives as
we answer your call, sharing the good news of your gospel.**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"When in Our Music God Is Glorified"

Sue Mitchell Wallace

Prayer List Relationships

CLC Members – Bob Bocclair, Jim Pickels, Linda Pickels, Frannie Kirkpatrick, Brooke Meisel, George & Jeannine Springer, Vincent Baltor, Ann Marie Farnsworth, Cheryl Glaubinger, Willy Carey and Donna Ruggles, Susan Merkle, Charlie Peterson.

Family Members and Friends – Kitsy Cochran (wife of member John), Jennifer Whitesides (Jim and Edith Ingraham's daughter), James Conway (grandson of Pam & Barry Kintzer and Suzanne & Doug Conway), Marietta Julienne (Mari Julienne's mother), Jamie Glendenning (Pauline Glendenning's daughter-in-law), Avery Cooper Small (Diane Ransone's grandson), Sally Stevens, Leslie Reppard (friend of Bob & Sandra Bocclair), Tenny Walsh (Trenton Hizer's sister), Christy Mayes (friend of Cathy Lantz), Mary Lisa Laches (Friend of Laura Greenday) and Kathy Harman (friend of Pam and Barry Kintzer), Sherry Clements (daughter of Virginia Hanky, niece of Ann Marie Farnsworth.), Shirley Kitchen (mother of Pam Kintzer), Austin Hobson (Faith Hobson's son), Hailee Singleton (friend of the Jim and Edith Ingraham) Phillips family (friends of Tinky Keen), Denise Derer (sister of Jennifer John), Gilliam family, (friends of Faith Hobson), Darlene Tignor (sister of Suzanne Conway, Len Manganello (friend of Jim Ingraham), Renovacion Apostolica Casa de Dios's pastor and congregation.

This Sunday is the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost.

Bible Quest Note: In last week's Gospel, Jesus taught the disciples about binding and loosening of the law within the membership of the Church. In this week's reading, Matthew recounts Peter's follow-up question, which is, how often are we to forgive another church member if they sin against us. This question leads to the parable of the Unforgiving Servant, who once he has his debt forgiven, then refuses to forgive the debt others owe him. And, the results are not very pleasant!

This Week's Scripture Readings:

First Reading:	Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm	Psalm 103:8-13
Second Reading	Romans 14:1-12
Gospel	Matthew 18:21-35

Next Week: From Matthew 20:1-16, Jesus tells the parable of the Laborers in the vineyard.

Music Notes

Our Chancel Choir is back to help us begin a new season—hooray! They will sing very joyful arrangement of Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee. Other music in the service will reflect the theme of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. With the choir's help, we will also begin using a different setting of Holy Communion music by Michael Burkhardt. We used it several years ago, so it should come back to you quickly.

Calendar

September 15: LAMB's Basket Volunteer Day, 9:00 a.m.

September 17: 100 Men Day, Virginia Randolph Center, 8:00 a.m.

SERVING THE CHURCH THIS WEEK

Music Director Linda Keener	Disciples People of Christ Lutheran	Pastor Rev. Liz Radtke
Bulletin, Inserts, Newsletter Carol Jones Diane Kellogg Jim Ingraham Carol York	Streaming Media Fred Riedl Kayley Greenday Diane Kellogg	Lector/Worship Assistant Trenton Hizer