



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 21

**September 27, 2026
10:00am**

**Woodsboro Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 27; 101 S. Main Street
Woodsboro, MD 21798
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Serving God and Community**

Reverend Sean DeLawder

Bernadette Harper Music Director



Welcome to Woodsboro Lutheran Church

WELCOME! We are delighted that you have joined us for worship today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, we invite you to sign our guest book at the entrance to the sanctuary. Our ushers are happy to assist you in any way. The Pastor would love to meet you so please introduce yourself. Woodsboro Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are blessed by your presence today.

The September bulletins are given to the glory of God and in honor of Sterling Lenhart by his loving family.

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Samuel Lookingbill's 11th birthday by his parents and family.

**Lay Reader: Robin Rippeon
Recording Assistant: Donna Droneburg
Usher: Robin Rippeon
Flower Coordinator: Michelle Burns and Suzanne Yusko**

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

GATHERING

**Please stand as able Congregation responses are in bold.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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**

#526 –God is Here!

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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

in unison

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.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² 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”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ 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 who shall die.

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

³⁰ 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. ³¹ 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? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks Be to God**

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-9

¹ To you, O LORD,

I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

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

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your ¹ truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness,

O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING:

Philippians 2:1-13

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

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

⁷ but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

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

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

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks Be to God**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains a series of eighth and quarter notes, with lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,' written below. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values and lyrics 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The piece concludes with a double bar line. The number 'S102' is printed in the upper right corner of the first staff.

***GOSPEL:**

Matthew 21:23-32

Glory to you, O Lord

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’” ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’” ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Sean

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

#416 – At the Name of Jesus

***APOSTLE’S 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 THE PEOPLE**

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

OUR OFFERING FOR GOD'S WORK

SPECIAL MUSIC

What a Beautiful Name

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

in unison

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

***SENDING SONG**

#772– Oh That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WOODSBORO LUTHERAN PRAYER LIST

Carolyn Abrecht, Arvella (Artie) Anders, Kelli Angleberger,
Shirley Baker, Larry Beard, Mack Burdette, Donna Carbone, Christie, Nancy
and Donald Creager, Ruby Darner, Doug Eaves, Shari Eby, Luke Gavin,
Evgeni Gevezovski, Richard Harper, Philip Hockman, Faye Hollaway, Bob
Hyde, Jana Inskeep, Chris Johnson, Tom and Terri Johnson, Barbara Keyser,
Doris Lenhart, Rev. Dale Lind, Cathy Long, Sandy Measell, Mark Moler,
Patrick Moseley, Genie Neugebauer, Darren Poindexter, Marla Potts, Patricia
Ramsburg, Kevin Riffle, Connie Michaels Sloniger, Gary Smith, Greg Smith,
Mike Stottlemeyer, Lois Summers, Donald and Peggy Trimmer, Emily Vietti,
Jeff Wisner, and Tom Yealey

WELC ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTE: In order to keep your membership active, you must take communion,
and complete and submit a card once per year.

Pastor Sean's Weekly Office Hours – Every Thursday from 10:00am-2:00pm. Please
feel free to stop by to say hello, give feedback or if you need pastoral care. As always,
Pastor Sean can be reached throughout the week at welcpastorsean@gmail.com or
301-606-3632.

Worship Service Social – Join us for coffee, snacks, and fellowship on the 1st and 3rd
Sunday of each month prior to our worship service.

Free Community Dinner The next dinner is October 6th from 5-6:30. All are welcome so invite your family and friends. Volunteers are always needed. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Sean.

The 2026 Flower Chart is posted in the narthex. Please consider volunteering to furnish flowers for Sunday worship. Contact Michelle Burns 301-788-7734 or Suzanne Yusko 301-471-1539.

Year-to-Date Offerings – Thank you very much for your continued support. The updated year to date offering as of September 9th 2026, is \$94,731.16 with an annual budgeted amount of \$169,000.00. Again, we appreciate your financial contributions and ongoing support. If you would like a copy of the financial statement please contact Robin Rippeon at robinrnest@comcast.net.

Council Meeting October 20th at 7pm in the conference room. To request a copy of minutes please contact Suzanne Yusko at smy196914@gmail.com. If anyone would like a copy of the financial report, please email Robin Rippeon at robinrnest@comcast.net.

Caring Closet will be collecting items for their program. October's focus will be on instant mashed potatoes, soup, spaghetti noodles. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

WLC Food Collection – The Latest from the GVCS Food Bank - All donations are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the food bank at 301-845-4229 (Leave a message and your call will be returned.) or email at GVFB21w@gmail.com. Thank all of you for your continued support!

Currently, the greatest needs are:		
Kid's Cereal	Spaghetti Noodles	Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Beans	Boxed Crackers	Baked Beans

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Woodsboro Lunch Bunch Meeting – Wednesday, October 21st, at 11:30 am, we are planning to go to Bollinger's Restaurant at 210 North Church Street, Thurmont, MD. Invite a friend. If you are interested in going, please call Doris at 301-676-8742. New members are always welcome.

September Birthdays

23-Sep	Cheryl Lenhart
25-Sep	Brenda Lenhart
	Kenneth Stitely
26-Sep	Sam Lookingbill
27-Sep	Brittany Ray
29-Sep	Erin Hub

September Anniversaries

21-Sep	Mike and Holly Stottlemeyer
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Upcoming Events

Fall Yard Sale and Food - Friday and Saturday, October 16th and 17th until 2pm each day. Donations for the yard sale can be dropped off in one of the Sunday school rooms, you can coordinate with Robin Delauter. Food preparation for the yard sale will be on Thursday, the 15th in the morning, please let Roger know if you can help.

Bingo - Our Fall bingo will be held on Saturday, October 24th at the Woodsboro Legion, doors open at noon. Contact Peggy Esworthy to reserve a spot. As we did in the Spring, we are looking for sponsorships to help defray the cost, please let Roger Myers know if you can sponsor. Regular game payouts are \$50, Special game payouts are \$150 and the jackpot is \$500. Sponsorships are due by October 18.

Pot - pie Carryout - October 31 – pick up from 11-2. Please order by October 25th. Help is needed on both the 30th and 31st. Contact Brian Rippeon for more information.