



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

WHITE OAK,
PENNSYLVANIA

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Lectionary 22

August 31, 2025

Did You Get the Invitation?



Choosing the invitation design for an important event can be nerve-wracking. But deciding whom to invite? Whittling down the list of desired attendees can be even more difficult than choosing the invitation itself. So much stress.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus uses a dinner party as a teaching opportunity. In the ancient world, being invited to such an occasion was an honor, but figuring out where to sit once you arrived required a whole other stress-inducing decision. How embarrassing it would be to choose a place of prominence, only to discover you're not that important and have to move down the table. How disappointing it would be to invite someone to your party but not receive an invitation to their next gathering. (Is that why you invited them, anyway?) So many of these social games we continue to play.

You might say that Jesus takes the stress out of party-planning because he encourages us to take an honest and humble view of it all: the view from God's vantage point. In the realm of God, the last in the eyes of the world are first, and the first, last.

In the kingdom of God, roles are reversed, orders are disrupted, and convention is thrown out the window so all may know the grace, peace, and love of God. The divine Host throws amazing parties and desires everyone, especially those overlooked by the party-throwers and powerbrokers of the world, to have a chance to enjoy them.

Today's gospel reading reminds us that at God's table, everyone is invited and no one goes away empty. The party is freely offered and not a setting for social games. The table has no head and no foot but, rather, is a cloud of witnesses gathered around the life of the Crucified and Risen One.

The eucharist is the prime example of this feast. Did you get the invitation? Because you're invited!

August 24, 2025: \$1220.00

Announcements:

Understanding Church Podcast

<https://www.belc.org/podcast/>

Next Council Meeting: September 18, 2025, at 12:30 pm

Flea Market: Saturday September 27, 2025, from 9am-2pm. Bring items September 22-25. Someone will be here from 10am- 2pm and 6pm-8pm. Will need volunteers for sorting during the previously stated hours.

Paint Party: Sunday September 28, 2025, from 4-7pm in church social hall.

Bible Storytelling News for the Upcoming Week:

Every Tuesday at 10 am we will be following along with the Our Daily Bread devotionals until we resume the book of Hebrews at a later date. Come join us!

Prayer List July - September 2025

<u>Nikki</u> Amhurst	<u>Teresa</u> M	<u>Dolores</u> Winters
<u>Becky</u> Ball	<u>Cindy</u> Mains	<u>Theresa</u> Zell
<u>Jean</u> Bickerstaff	<u>Vervaine</u> Mains	
<u>Jean</u> Bodenlos	<u>Birdie</u> McMillan	
<u>Barry</u> D	<u>George</u> McMarlin	
<u>Jamie</u> Cummings	<u>Helen</u> Pula	
<u>Bill</u> Grimm	<u>Mark</u> Scott	
<u>Shelley</u> Gessner	<u>Tracy</u> Scott	
<u>Eric</u> Harshman	<u>Maxine</u> Smith	
<u>Jim</u> Hoffman	<u>Fran</u> Thompson	
<u>Renee</u> K	<u>Corey</u> Rhodes	
<u>Ellio</u> Keiser	<u>Doris</u> Vaniel	
<u>Nancy</u> Kimling		
<u>Bill</u> Kimling		

***The prayer list is updated every quarter. If you want your loved ones listed, please fill out a prayer request and drop it off at the secretary office. Prayer request forms are located in the lobby at the bulletin board.**

Synod Weekly Announcements:

Bishop Installation Service

Saturday, October 18: 1 PM

Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church

517 Sangree Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15237

By the grace of Almighty God, your prayers and presence are requested at a celebration of the rite of installation for Pastor Melissa Stoller into the ministry of Synod Bishop.

Join the Choir: Volunteer to be a part of the synod-wide choir at the installation service by [signing up here](#).

Pray Without Ceasing Initiative

Some members of the ELCA have launched a beautiful new initiative: Pray Without Ceasing — an opportunity for the people of God to unite in prayer at a shared time each week. [Please use this sheet](#) to list the prayer gatherings you currently host or attend. Once collected, this living resource will be made available for all in our synod to explore and participate in. Whether you: host a weekly Zoom prayer meeting, gather in person for prayer, or observe a designated prayer time during the week We invite you to share these opportunities with others across our synod. Let us join together in lifting up our voices — for ourselves, our communities, our country, and our world. We are a praying people, and through this initiative, others will be empowered to join that prayer with joy and thanksgiving.

Women of the ELCA's 2025 Retreat at Camp Lutherlyn is set for September 26-28 — remember to register by August 29. This year's in-kind collection supports Robin's Home, serving female veterans in Western PA. Check out the [full newsletter](#) for updates, prayer schedules, and stories of hope and service.

Upcoming Commemorations

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872
Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.