

SERVICE OF THE WORD

**THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 10:15 AM

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

The **Bold Print** indicates responses spoken by all.

The ELW hymns are also found in the red hymnal located in the pew.

THE GATHERING

The Prelude *Amazing Grace* trad./Young

The Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **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.

Brief pause for self-reflection.

P Most merciful God,

**C 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.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C **Amen.**

THE GATHERING HYMN *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* ELW 807



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith - er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.
 Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

THE APOSTOLIC 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.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON—EXODUS 32:7-14

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND LESSON—1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

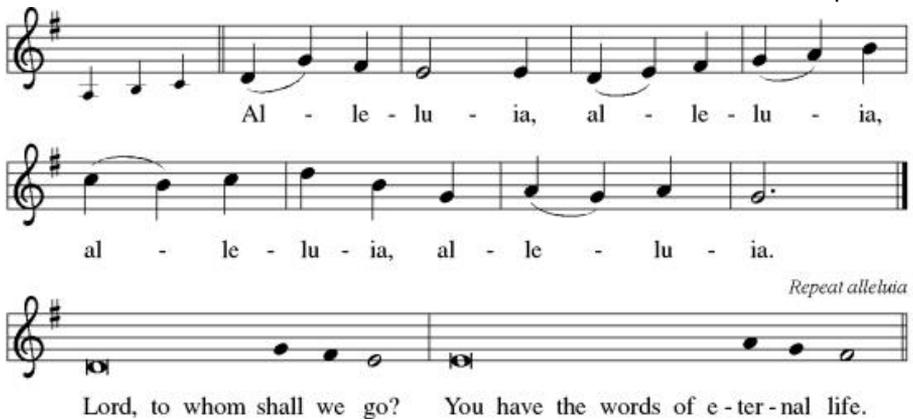
L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 102



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

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

THE HOLY GOSPEL—LUKE 15:1-10

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 15th chapter.

C **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and

losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

Rev. Robert Reier

THE HYMN OF THE DAY *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* ELW 779



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C 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 again 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world,
and all in need.

After each petition, please respond:

P ... God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

P We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus
Christ, our redeemer and friend.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you all.

C And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share a sign of peace with one another.

Please be seated.

THE THANKSGIVING

THE OFFERTORY

Meditation on "Bradbury"

arr. Broughton

THE ANTHEM

How Great Thou Art

Vocalists: Jamie Incorvaia & Harrison Williams

Please stand as you are able.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

Garnaas-Holmes

We give our gifts, O God, as branches of your vine. The
lives we live, the gifts we give spring from your grace di - vine.
So may we do your will, in all we say and do, the
fruits we bear the love we share, flow from our life in you.

Text: Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Music: TERRA BEATA, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

P 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.

C **Amen.**

THE THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C We give you thanks and praise.

P By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C We give you thanks and praise.

P Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C We give you thanks and praise.

P Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

**C 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.

THE SENDING

THE BENEDICTION

P 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.

C **(SUNG)** Amen. Amen. Amen.

THE SENDING HYMN *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* ELW 551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim, God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to sec.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, o.s.b. 1939
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820
 Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

A Celebration of Praise

Denton

SERVING OUR PARISH TODAY

Presiding	Rev. Robert Reier
Organist/Choir Director	Fawn Albert
Lector	Jackie Kuba
Acolyte / Bell Ringer	Jessica Rehrig
Ushers	Erin Snyder (DIC), Dennis Rehrig, & Ken Staller
Camera Operator	Jayden Rehrig
Altar Guild	Erin Snyder

COMMEMORATIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

The chancel flowers are presented to the Glory of God.

The bulletins are presented in honor of Our 46th Wedding Anniversary by Charles & Sandra Mauer.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Burlene Balliet, Janice Beck, Csala Beers, Dolly Cunfer, Kathleen Deibert, Janice Dormida, Linda Durback, Donnie George, Cheryl Hower, Tom Kuntz, Carol MacCrindle, Rick Merluzzi, Bartine Mummy, Gary Phillips, Preston Raber, Betsy Rauch, Veronica Redline, Hope Roberts, Doris Snyder, Colson Tkach, and Bill Yelland.

PLEASE PRAY for the Frantz family in the passing of Elaine’s husband, Francis on Wednesday.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: Church (10:15 A.M.) —67
Sunday School (9:00 A.M.)—40

OFFERING LAST WEEK: \$1,610.00

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES:

Today	8:00 AM—Youth Gathering Parent, Student, & Chaperone Meeting in church office 9:00 AM—Sunday School / Confirmation 10:15 AM—Service of the Word 11:15 AM—W.I.S.H. Meeting 7:00 PM—Zoom Meeting for Youth Gathering group who could not attend morning meeting in person 8:00 PM—A.A.
Monday	6:30 PM—Slatington Women's Club OCTOBER/NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
Wednesday	8:00 AM—Sunday School Clean-up 10:00 AM—Chair Yoga 7:00 PM—Choir
Thursday	8:00 PM—A.A.
Saturday	9:00-11:00 AM—Soup and Sandwich Pick-up

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO: Emma Farrell, Karen Kistler, Dwight Miller Jr., Chelsy Rehrig, Paige Reph, Robert Reph, and Brandy Ziegler.

HAPPY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK TO: Albert Barney, Brinley Funk, Victoria Halkias, and Dawson Newhard.

THANK YOU to Rev. Robert Reier for leading worship this morning.

SIGN THE PUZZLE – To illustrate our theme of “Be a Part of the St. John’s Puzzle”, the Sunday School children have assembled a church puzzle in the Fellowship Hall of the different activities and organizations here at St. John’s. If you are a member of any of these groups, please sign the corresponding puzzle piece(s) with the markers provided.

W.I.S.H. MEETING – There will be a W.I.S.H. meeting this morning after the 10:15 service to discuss this year’s basket social. All women of the church are invited to attend.

SEPTEMBER FOOD SALE ORDERS DUE TODAY! The Catering Committee is sponsoring a soup, sandwich, and baked meat lasagna dinner sale for September. The order forms are gold and due back *TODAY*. Pick-up will be on Saturday (September 20) from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. The sandwich choice is a triple stacker sandwich. Soup choices are: bacon cheeseburger chowder, home-style cream of mushroom, and Manhattan clam chowder. You can also order baked meat lasagna dinners. Return order forms to Harrison Williams. You can also call your order into Harrison at 610-216-4284 or e-mail him at williamshj2514@msn.com.

BACKPACK PRAYER – Copies of the “Blessing for my Backpack Prayers” are available on the usher table in the rear of the church. Please feel free to take one.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the October/November newsletter are due in the church office by **TOMORROW**. Pink sheets for submitting your information are in the tract rack outside the church office.

SENIOR SINGLES will meet here at St. John's on Thursday (September 18). (rain date is September 25) at 1:00 P.M. to carpool to the Lehigh Valley Zoo. They will go for an early dinner after the tour of the zoo.

CALL PROCESS QUESTIONS – There is a form that will be in your bulletins for the month of September that the synod needs completed as part of the call process. Please check what you feel are the top five ministry tasks you are looking for in a new pastor and the gifts for ministry on the reverse side. The answers to the questions will be used in making our ministry site profile. You can place the form in the offering plate, drop off in the church office, or mail it back to the church. Please return the survey form by Tuesday, September 30.

CHRIST IN YOUR HOME booklets for October through December can be picked up on the rear windowsills.

FALL WORSHIP TIME – Since we will continue having supply pastors leading worship until we are able to get an interim pastor, we will have one worship service at 10:15 A.M. each Sunday. We will go back to two worship services at 8:00 and 10:15 A.M. once we have an interim pastor.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN PACKING – Union UCC in Neffs is again going to host MobilePack for Feed My Starving Children. Packing shifts are two hours each and 80 volunteers are needed for each shift. Volunteers are needed to help on the packing dates/times below:

- Friday, October 10 – 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.
- Saturday, October 11 – 9:00 to 11:00 A.M.
 - 12:00 to 2:00 P.M.
 - 3:00 to 5:00 P.M.
 - 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.
- Sunday, October 12 – 12:00 to 2:00 P.M.

If you can help, please pick up a form from the rear radiator. You can register online at unionucc.org or contact them at 610-767-6961. Those who helped last packing event, had a fun, rewarding time.

COFFEE HOURS – We plan to resume coffee hours again this fall. The first coffee hour will be held on Sunday, October 5, at 9:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee hours will be held the first Sunday of the month if there are people willing to bake. Hosts and hostesses are needed each month. Please sign the coffee hour sign-up sheet at the rear of the church if you are willing to help provide baked goods for one of the coffee hours. The coffee and paper products for the coffee hours are provided by the Catering Committee.

CHRISTMAS EVE SURVEY – We are planning our Christmas Eve services for 2025. We are looking into alternative times for these services and would like the congregation’s input on this matter. Please indicate your preference for service times. The choices are as follows:

- 5:00 and 8:00 P.M.
- 6:00 and 9:00 P.M.
- 7:00 and 10:00 P.M.

Other suggestions on enhancing the services would be appreciated. Pick up a sheet in the back of the church and select your preference, leave a message with Sharon in the church office (610-767-6361), or email us at stjohnslatington@gmail.com. Please return the survey by Sunday, October 12.

SPONSORS are needed for a couple Sundays in October. Open sponsor dates are:

Bulletin sponsors for October 12, 19, & 26. Bulletins are \$25.00 per date.

Flower sponsors for October 19 & 26. Flowers are \$35.00 per date.

Sign up for any open dates on the sponsor charts outside the church office or call 610-767-6361.

ORGAN REPAIRS – The church’s Moeller pipe organ is in need of major repairs. The cost for the repairs will be over \$125,000. Repair work will begin once the parts are received. Anyone wishing to donate towards the organ repairs may do so – just mark on your envelope – “organ repairs” – and the money will go into the Organ Fund towards the pending repairs.

PLEASE CALL the church office (610-767-6361) whenever a family member, neighbor, or friend who is a member of St. John’s is hospitalized or moves from one hospital to another. Please give our church code “290” to the hospitals when being admitted. As the two hospital networks have grown, we often do not get names even when calling with our church code. Please call the church to keep us informed of any hospitalizations so we can keep people in our prayers.

BUILDING HOURS – The church office is open daily Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. (except for holidays or vacation days). The church building is unlocked Monday through Saturday from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and in the evenings when there are meetings in the church building. The church also will be open Sunday mornings for the church service. Anyone needing to get into the church building other than the above times should call the church office at 610-767-6361. When Sharon is alone in the office, the front doors will be locked. Just ring the bell to gain access to the building.

MASTER CALENDAR – A master calendar of all events held on the church premises is retained in the church office to avoid double booking the rooms in the church and ensure the building is unlocked. Please make sure all meetings that your committee/group holds in the church are reserved with the office. Contact Sharon in the church office at 610-767-6361 to reserve space in the church for your meeting or event.

REDNERS TAPES – Thank you to everyone who turns in their tapes from Redner’s Markets for the Sav-A-Tape program. The money earned from this program helps to fund the cost of supplies for the Social Ministry baskets. If you do not have a Sav-A-Tape card, you can get one on your next visit to any Redner’s store. The same card is scanned for the Sav-A-Tape program and the gas points. Please continue to support the Sav-A-Tape program by turning in your entire Redner’s receipts.

ALUMINUM TABS – Aluminum tabs that are collected here at St. John’s Lutheran Church benefit the Shriners Hospital for Children which provides free medical care. No child is turned away because of the inability to pay at a Shriners Hospital. If you know of a child that needs medical care, contact any Shriner for more information. Please continue to bring the tabs to St. John’s for pick up. Clarence Smith collects tabs for Shriners Hospital.

LIVESTREAM NOTICE — Our 10:15 AM service is streamed live online every week on Facebook. The front of the sanctuary, which includes the space for holy communion and children’s messages are included in the video. By being in this space, you may be included in the livestream and/or the recorded video posted on our website.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

40 2nd Street, Slatington, Pennsylvania 18080

St. John's Lutheran Church is located in the heart of Slatington, Pennsylvania and has served the Lehigh Valley since 1868.

CHURCH STAFF

Sharon Stehly, *Church Administrator*
Fawn Albert, *Organist and Choir Director*
Harrison Williams, *Sexton*

CONTACT

Phone (610)767-6361
Email stjohnslatington@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 AM

BUILDING HOURS

Weekdays 9 AM to 3 PM
Saturday 9 AM to 3 PM
Sunday 8 AM to 12 PM

Visit us online at stjohnslatington.org
and follow us on **Facebook**

ONLINE GIVING

For your convenience, St. John's Lutheran Church accepts online offerings through Vanco, an online payment processing service.

With Vanco, you can choose to give a one-time offering, or you can create an account to schedule weekly or monthly tithes.

To give today, scan the QR Code above by opening your cell phone's camera. This will direct you to the church's online giving website.



Liturgy and image from Sundays and Seasons.com © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SB168044. Hymns from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 and All Creation Sings © 2020. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under OneLicense #739824-A and CCLI #5636894. New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989. Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.