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committed to the ministry
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285 South 208 Street
(402)289-4058
www.facebook.com/st.augustine.omaha



The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Sunday, September 13th, 2026
8:30 AM

PRELUDE



1 Seek ye — first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,



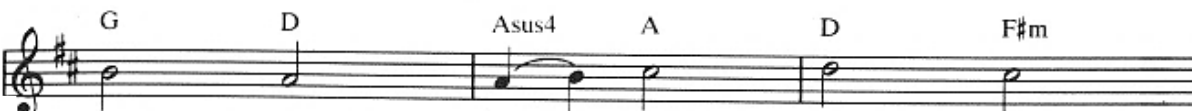
and its right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be
 seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be



add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia,



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



lu - ia! Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People Glory to God for ever and ever.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OPENING ANTHEM *Glory to God*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 30:1-8, 17-19

The people sit.

¹ Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid on the Negeb and on Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag, burned it down, ² and taken captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great; they killed none of them but carried them off and went their way. ³ When David and his men came to the city, they found it burned down and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. ⁴ Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep. ⁵ David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ⁶ David was in great danger, for the people spoke of stoning him because all the people were bitter in spirit for their sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.

⁷ David said to the priest Abiathar son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." So Abiathar brought the ephod to David. ⁸ David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I pursue this band? Shall I overtake them?" He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue."

¹⁷ David attacked them from twilight until the evening of the next day. Not one of them escaped, except four hundred young men, who mounted camels and

fled. ¹⁸ David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, and David rescued his two wives. ¹⁹ Nothing was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that had been taken; David brought back everything.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 13

Remain seated.

1 How long, O God?

Will you forget me for ever; *

how long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,

and grief in my heart, day after day; *

how long shall my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look upon me and answer me, O God, my God; *

give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

4 Lest my enemies say they have prevailed over me, *

and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

5 But I put my trust in your mercy; *

my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

6 I will sing to the Holy One, who has dealt with me richly; *

I will praise the Name of God Most High

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10–13

The people sit.

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee H 635

Unison or harmony

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in a key of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with chords often moving in parallel motion. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with line numbers 1 and 2 indicating different verses. The score is divided into four systems, each with a Treble and Bass staff. The final system ends with a double bar line.

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in him through
 2 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing; so do thine own part

all thy ways, he'll give thee strength what - e'er be - tide thee,
 faith - ful - ly, and trust his word, though un - de - serv - ing;

and bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in God's un -
 thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev - er yet for -

chang - ing love builds on a rock that nought can move.
 sook in need the soul that trust - ed him in - deed.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:10–14

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹⁰ “Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. ¹² What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Reverend Lisa Aguilar

THE CREED

All stand.

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Scott, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in God's Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray for John, Recia, Barbara, Elle, Brendan & children, Chris, Carol, Jill, Lorraine, Don, Geno & family, Irene, Tom, Carol, Norma, Kevin, Carla & family, Easton, Mike, Marie, Jean, Willie, Ralph, Jim, Jan, Hayden & family, and Emersyn. Are there any others who need our prayers?

Silence, the People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence, the People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God in heaven;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence, the People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant says:

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

God of all mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you,

opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other,

in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,

the evil we have done,

and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us

through our Savior Jesus Christ,

that we may abide in your love

and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: Hannah Early, Hondo Gallegos, Cade Poppe

Anniversaries: Trish and Jim Keepers

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalms 50:14*

OFFERTORY

The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy

S 130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.*

EPICLESIS

The Celebrant continues

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Lord God of our Mothers; God of Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving

DISTRIBUTION

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. *Amen.*

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. *Amen.*

The ministers receive the Sacrament and immediately deliver it to the people. All who are present are welcome to receive communion in bread and wine. Receiving either element (or both) is a full communion, and we have gluten free bread available on request. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, please cross your arms across your chest at the front altar. It is also perfectly respectful to remain seated if you do not wish to come forward.

COMMUNION HYMN *The King of Love my Shepherd is* H 645



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness
 2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed
 * 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 * 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear
 5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion
 6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness



1 fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if
 2 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant
3 love he sought me, and on his shoul-der
 4 Lord, be-side me; thy rod and staff my
 5 grace be-stow-eth; and oh, what trans-port
 6 fail-eth nev-er: Good Shep-herd, may I



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.
 2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-les-tial feed-eth.
3 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.
 4 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.
 5 of de-light from thy pure chal-ice flow-eth!
 6 sing thy praise with-in thy house for ev-er.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;



crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.



Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king-dom's
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, lest we miss thy king-dom's goal.
 dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September Special Collection: Episcopal Relief and Development

In September, our special collection (the wicker baskets in worship) goes to Episcopal Relief and Development. ERD is the Episcopal Church's organization that responds to major events, natural disasters, and ongoing cycles of poverty where intervention and resources can make a difference. We recognize and support ERD's work in September because they were the church's immediate response to the 9/11 attacks, and it is often a month in which we're aware of both fires from dry areas and storm seasons throughout our world. You can learn more about their work at <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>.

Thanks also for a very successful August collection, which raised a total of \$1,641 for The Furniture Project!

Outreach Notes from August

Our parish Outreach Committee met on Sunday, August 9th, after the late service. We discussed our upcoming events, including the Blood Drive on October 17th, the Holiday Marketplace in December, and COPE activities. We noted that our Saturday COPE breakfasts have been very enthusiastically received by the COPE clients, but that we need more volunteers if they are to continue. The Outreach Committee also needs a lay chair to send the monthly e-mail reminder convening the group, send notes to the vestry and these announcements, and write the end of year report. The next Outreach Committee meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 15^h at 6:30 pm.**

Office Hour Change

As we go into the program year our office hours will return to 9am-1pm, Monday – Thursday.

August Vestry Notes

The Vestry (the parish board) met on Sunday, August 16th. They reviewed and approved financial reports and an annual audit report, which showed no major issues, and included a recommendation to create a written description of parish financial policies and procedures. The vestry noted that we have a number of areas in which that would be a helpful tool. The Vestry also heard about an invitation to be considered as a site for the Munroe-Meyer Guild Garden Walk in June 2027; serving as a site would involve visitors to our garden throughout a Sunday. The Vestry voted to approve participation pending conversations with our local Property Owners Association and with a requirement that we do not cancel worship that Sunday; if we are selected as a site, we expect a team will discuss garden needs, traffic management through the day, and what hospitality we'd like to offer alongside the walk. In addition, the Vestry reviewed our Summer staffing changes and conversations, and noted that with a new administrator this Fall, we have a prime moment of opportunity to review various staff needs and goals, which our Finance Committee will also be participating in. The next Vestry meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 20th at noon**; meetings are always open to anyone who would like to participate. If you have something you would like the vestry to review or discuss, please let Fr Ben know a week ahead so it can be added to the agenda!

Camp Song Sunday – September 20th at 8:30 am service

As our Joyful Noise band leadership takes their show on the road for vacation weeks, Fr Ben will lead music on guitar for the early service on 8:30. If you're curious about some of the music our summer camp program uses, feel free to join us for some of the greatest hits from the Sunday worship side of the set list.

Sacred Ground

Tuesdays 6:30-8 pm, 9/29 to 12/15

Fr Ben and Barb Hall are convening a group to go through the Sacred Ground curriculum this fall. This 11-session workshop uses 2-3 hours of reading and video preparation for each session. This builds up a foundation for group conversations about the history of race in our country, our churches, and our communities. Our church setting invites us to bring a theology of God's vision of the whole human family to have a deeper awareness of where sin has divided us, and to discern what reconciliation and healing look like in our own lives and day and age. The curriculum has been updated, so previous registrants may find it valuable to participate again to review the material and experience the new offerings! The invitation is to sign up for the full 11 sessions, although it is fine to miss a week or two if necessary. For questions, please contact Fr Ben or Barb; contact info available through the parish office at 402-378-5690.

Book Club & Culture Club Joint Events

Over the course of the next month, the Elaine Randall Book Club will be reading *Our House* by Louise Candlish. The book is a 2018 psychological suspense novel about a woman who returns home to find strangers moving into her property, setting off a dangerous chain of events involving her missing husband and hidden secrets.

Join us on **September 22nd at 11:30 am** to discuss the book. The book Bag is available above the coat rack across from the kitchen. Please be sure to sign your book out.

Fall Adult Formation Opportunity

This fall, adult formation will be available on Thursdays at noon! All are welcome to join us for one week, one month, or all of these opportunities!

September 17, 24: Reading the Bible

During these studies, we will consider how to read Scripture faithfully. Is the Bible history? How do we read the bible in its literary context? How do we approach ethical issues in the Bible such as patriarchy, slavery and abuse of power? **Bible study meets Thursdays at noon.** A Zoom link is also available on the parish Google Calendar.

October Midweek Study: Rule of St Benedict

On Thursdays in October, we'll be studying the Rule of St Benedict, led by Fr Benedict (no relation). The lives of monastic Christians have long been a model for contemplation and community, and the commitments made by monks, nuns, oblates, novices, and others were among the earliest examples of holding to a "rule of life" grounded in faith. For those who would like to read along further, Fr Ben will be using Joan Chittister's commentary, "The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century" to help guide this class. It is also a great chance to learn more about monastic practices as we prepare to welcome the Benedictine Way monastery community to lead our worship on Sunday, October 18th.

Red Cross Blood Drive in Honor of Amy Churchill

Our quarterly blood drive for the fall will be on Saturday, October 17! Our blood drives began with our friend Amy, who was battling Metastatic Breast Cancer. Her goal was to give back the amount of blood she had used through the course of her treatments. We believe she had done all of that and more in the many blood drives she hosted.

Amy's Blood Drives have become a core ministry for us at St Augustine's, so we will continue them in her honor. If you can help with this drive, or have friends who would like to give back to others by donating blood, please join us at St. Augustine on the 17th. The need for blood is dire right now, please be sure to share the blood drive, even if you are unable to give. We would love to exceed our goal! If you have any questions, please contact [Mary](#). Appointments are scheduled in 15 minute increments (Whole Blood) and on the hour (Power Red). To schedule, use the link in the newsletter or the paper copy near the bulletins.

COPE Breakfast Saturday, September 26 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

The neighbors at COPE very much appreciated the last breakfast, so we're doing it again! We're going to need your help to make this a success! There will be a sign up online, and on the table by the bulletins. Many hands make light work. The assumption is usually that there is more than enough help. The fact is, it's usually just a handful of dedicated helpers. If we want to continue offering this very appreciated event to our friends at COPE, we need as many hands as we can to make it a success. Thanks for any help you can give!

What can I do to be of service to my neighbors in need?

See the sign-up sheet outside the sanctuary or please contact Kate (ministries@sainta.net) if you'd like to help with this ministry.

Forming Some CLAY

(Children, Littles, And Youth) Our next meeting will be **Sunday, November 8th at 11:45 AM**. At our first meeting, we shared lots of ideas for strengthening ministry with children, youth, and families:

- **Reimagining VBS:** Keep an eye out for information regarding VBS next summer – we discussed a reimagined plan, aiming for more of a day camp style, offering a full week in early August, after many of the summer camps that working parents depend on have ended and families are preparing for back-to-school. If we do move forward with this plan, we hope to have registration open by February.
- **Faith Formation for Parents:** We talked about offering a Bible study for parents and asked when would be easiest for families to participate. Most parents felt that Sunday would be the most accessible day for a regular Bible study. We also discussed offering quarterly Sunday afternoon or evening classes on topics such as internet safety, parenting, and other areas that support families.
- **Fun & Fellowship:** There was also a desire for more opportunities for families to have fun and build community together — including board game nights and other “fun nights.” One idea is for youth to help play with younger children so that adults can enjoy some kid-free fellowship and conversation.
- **Sunday School & Nursery:** Our Sunday School teachers are interested in finding a curriculum for next year that is more closely aligned with our liturgical life. We may revisit Godly Play as one possibility and will continue those conversations. We also discussed ways to make nursery time more intentionally formational, with books, songs, and simple learning led by a teacher rather than having nursery be primarily open play.

Unplug The Christmas Machine

On **October 3rd** at St. Andrews Episcopal Church take an early opportunity to rest and reflect with Episcopalians from around the area, using materials from *Unplug the Christmas Machine*, a guidebook written by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli. We will meet from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM for a workshop led by Mother Kate Hennessy-Keimig and Father Ben Varnum. Lunch is included and childcare is available upon request. Thanks to underwriting from Bishop Barker, a registration fee of \$15 covers lunch and materials, with a suggested additional fee of \$15 for childcare through the event. Scholarships are available on request. Register for the event here: <https://alliance.wufoo.com/forms/zewmil51jbnqpe/> (link also available in weekly email).

Trivia Night — This Week!

Our Inaugural Trivia Night is this coming week! You MAY still purchase a table with friends (see full announcement below). If trivia isn't your thing, but you would like to come help out on Friday evening to be part of the fun, you can contact Fr Ben about volunteering to help with prizes and taking up answer sheets — we still need 1-2 trustworthy judges to score the answers! If you would like to play trivia but don't have a full team, please contact Kate Kielion (ministries@sainta.net) to see about joining in with one of our parish-member teams that has an open seat. Questions? Ask Fr Ben at rector@sainta.net!

St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church is excited to host its Inaugural Trivia Night **on Friday, September 18**. The evening will bring together parish members, neighborhood families, friends, and local businesses for professionally hosted trivia, raffles, beverages, and friendly competition. **Doors open at 6:30, trivia begins at 7:00**. More importantly, this event is being created as an annual fundraiser for opportunities, leadership development,

service projects, faith formation, and other experiences that help our young people grow in faith and service.

To purchase a table for the night of the event online via credit card, please use the below QR code, to purchase at church and pay via check or cash, please contact Kate (ministries@sainta.net). There are 3 price points available for tables with different accommodations. Once your team has decided which table you would like to purchase, one person from the group will purchase for everyone. If you need a particularized tax receipt, we can take checks/cash separately once a table lead has collected the money from each team member. Please let the office know you would like a receipt. If one of your team members needs to pay separately online via credit card, please contact us for instructions.



OUR NEIGHBOR, THE EARTH

How She teaches us to heal

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT AGE 18+

Saturday, Oct. 10 - Monday, Oct. 12

PRAIRIEWOODS RETREAT CENTER

120 E Boyson Road, Hiawatha, IA 52233



How does God's Creation teach us to build God's Kingdom? What can we learn from nature to help us heal a world torn apart by violence and consumption? Young adults are invited to explore these questions amidst the beauty of the Prairiewoods Retreat Center, guided by the wisdom of Indigenous spirituality found in Robin Kimmerer's book, "The Serviceberry".

Scan the QR code to register or visit bit.ly/YARetreatFall26

HOSTED BY The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa + The Benedictine Way

Young Adult Retreat

Our Neighbor, The Earth is an overnight retreat **Oct. 10-12**, starting that Saturday afternoon at 2pm and ending on Indigenous Peoples' Day that Monday at 5pm. The theme is "Our Neighbor, The Earth: How She teaches us to heal". This retreat is a continuation of the joint young adult retreats that The Benedictine Way has held with the Diocese of Iowa. The age range is wider than the "Here I Am" retreat. You must be at least 18, and the program is designed for a mixed group of young adults in their 20s and 30s. **Registration Deadline: September 25, 2026**

Save the Date

September

Sunday, September 13th
Friday, September 18th
Saturday, September 26th
Sunday, September 27th

Sunday School Resumes
Trivia Night Fundraiser! Doors open 6:30
COPE Breakfast 9:00 am
Instructed Eucharist at both Services
Youth Service w/ Children's sermon 10:30 am

October

Saturday, October 3rd
Wednesday, October 7th
Saturday, October 17th
Sunday, October 18th
Sunday, October 25th

Wednesday, October 28th

Unplug the Xmas Machine Event – St Andrews
Blessing of Pets and Animals
Blood Drive w/ Red Cross
Worship led by The Benedictine Way
Stewardship Ingathering
Youth Worship w/ Children's Sermon 10:30 am
“Boo Bash” Halloween Party

November

Sunday, November 1st
Sunday November 8th
Friday, November 13th
Sunday, November 15th
Sunday, November 29th

All Saints Day
CLAY Meeting 11:45 am
Youth Lock-In
Chili Cook-Off
Youth Worship w/ Children's Sermon 10:30 am

Ministers of the Day	This Week 9/13/26	Next Week 9/20/26
Musicians 8:30am:	Mary Norton	Benedict Varnum
Musicians 10:30	Dirk Linder	Claire Eason
Deacon:	Rebecca Smith	Rebecca Smith
Liturgical Shepherd:	Jim Lewis	Pam Wright
Acolytes 10:30am:	Luke, Ben, Josie	Warren, Danica, Gage
10:30 am Greeter:	Jean Lahti	Jean Lahti
8:30 am Lector:	Judy Tomanek	Mary Jane Smith
10:30 am Lector	Jess Dixon	TBD
Altar Guild 8:30 am:	Mary Jane Smith	Charlene Freiberg
Altar Guild 10:30 am	Vicki Luther	Kathy Pospichal
A/V Tech 8:30 am	Rich Hill	Dave Wright
A/V Tech 10:30 am	Erin Vest and Rich Hill	Erin Vest and Dave Wright