

September 27, 2026—18th Sunday After Pentecost

University Lutheran Church & Lutheran Campus Ministry

10:00 AM Worship Service



340 East 15th Street
Tempe, AZ 85281

480-967-3543 † info@ulctempe.org † ulctempe.org

University Lutheran Church intends to provide a safe & welcoming environment for all of God's people, regardless of sexuality, gender identity, gender expression, life situation, race, family status, size, shape, & place in the world. We are committed to racial equity & justice for all God's children. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation registered with ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation. Thanks be to God for the blessings we have & the differences we share!



PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor José Valenzuela

Please rise... in body, or spirit, or both.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the presiding minister begins.

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

C Amen.

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

**C 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.**

P 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 HYMN

GOD IS HERE!



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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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.**

KYRIE

Vocal Lead top staff; Congregation bottom staff.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of five systems, each with a vocal lead staff (top) and a congregation staff (bottom). The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste, Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste.

System 1: Vocal lead starts with a whole rest, then a quarter note G, eighth note A, quarter note B. Congregation has whole rests.

System 2: Vocal lead has a quarter note G, eighth note A, quarter note B, then a whole rest. Congregation has a quarter note G, eighth note A, quarter note B, then a whole rest.

System 3: Vocal lead has a quarter note G, eighth note A, quarter note B, then a whole rest. Congregation has a quarter note G, eighth note A, quarter note B, then a whole rest.

System 4: Vocal lead has a quarter note G, eighth note A, quarter note B, then a whole rest. Congregation has a quarter note G, eighth note A, quarter note B, then a whole rest.

System 5: Vocal lead has a quarter note G, eighth note A, quarter note B, then a whole rest. Congregation has a quarter note G, eighth note A, quarter note B, then a whole rest.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste e -

Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste e -

Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Chri - ste e -

le - i - son.

Text: traditional
 Music copyright © 1996 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

GLORIA

E

Canon

1 Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a. Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a,

2 Glo - ria in ex - cel - sis De - o, in ex - cel - sis

3 - o, De - o, De - o, De - o, De - o in ex - cel - sis

glo - ri - a.

glo - ri - a. 3 De -

glo - ri - a.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

WELCOME TABLE

1 I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble,
 2 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
 3 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble, some of these days.
 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey, some of these days.
 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble,
 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



I'm goin' - a eat at the wel - come ta - ble, some of these days.
I'm goin' - a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey, some of these days.
I'm goin' - a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WELCOME TABLE, African American spiritual

Please be seated.

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.

PSALM 25:1-9

The Psalm will be sung responsively.



- 1 To ¹ you, O LORD, I lift ¹ up my soul.
- 2 **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be ¹ put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph ¹ over me.**
- 3 Let none who look to you be ¹ put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame ¹ who are treacherous.
- 4 **Show me your ¹ ways, O LORD, and teach ¹ 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 ¹ the day long.
- 6 **Remember, O LORD, your compas- ¹ sion and love,
for they are from ¹ everlasting.**
- 7 Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹ my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
good- ¹ ness, O LORD.
- 8 **You are gracious and up- ¹ right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners ¹ in your way.**
- 9 You lead the low- ¹ ly in justice, and teach the low- ¹ ly 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,

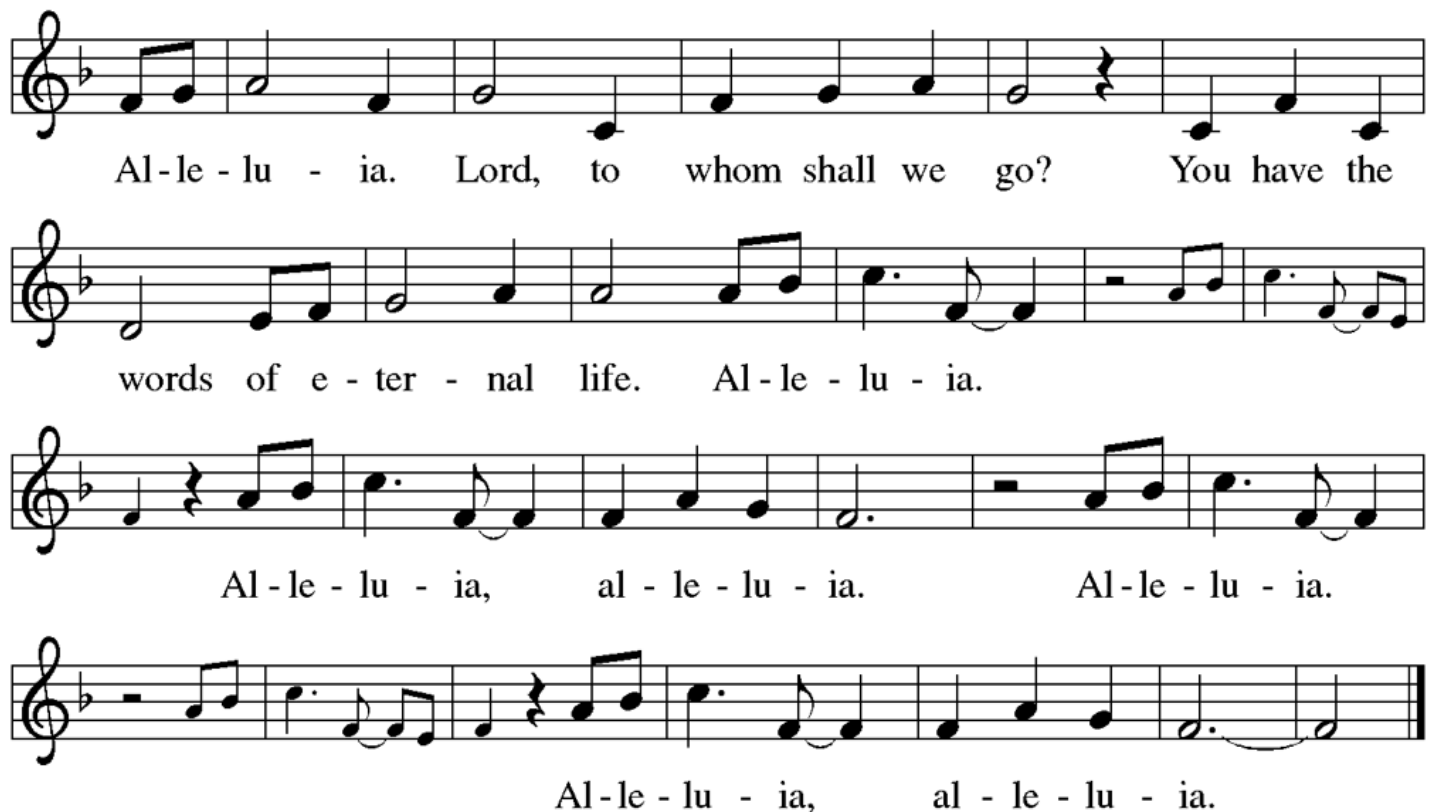
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

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.

Please rise... in body, or spirit, or both.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 21:23-32

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the twenty-first chapter.

C 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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor José Valenzuela

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Please rise in body, or spirit, or both when the Hymn of the Day begins.

HYMN OF THE DAY

WE ALL ARE ONE IN MISSION



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

APOSTLES' CREED

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 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

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

A brief silence. After each portion of the prayers, the Pastor says:

P Hear us, O God.

The congregation responds:

C Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

P 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.**

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

Please rise, in body, or spirit, or both.

MEAL

OFFERING

We invite all followers of Jesus to give an offering for the mission of the church through our website at ulctempe.org or by placing it in the offering box near the entrance of the Sanctuary.

OFFERING PRAYER

C 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, & our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty & our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now & forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Please be seated.

We invite to the Table of the Lord all followers of Jesus. Lutherans affirm that around this table through bread and wine Christ Jesus is present with us. We offer communion with individual cups for wine or white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers also available.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

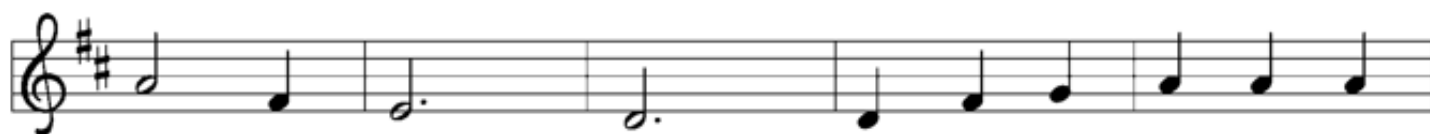
THE DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN

I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

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

C **Amen.**

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

C **Amen.**

P The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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SENDING

P Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C Thanks be to God.

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TODAY IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Rev. José Valenzuela
Music Director	Elizabeth Tombouljian
Vocal Lead	TBA
Altar Care	Erin Crawford
Greeter	Gail Fisher
Reader	Lori Zurcher
Communion Assistants	Erin Crawford Lori Zurcher
Livestream	Alexander Webber
Coffee & Refreshments	Katherine Stevens

OFFERING

For your convenience, an offering box is located near the church entrance for your financial gifts to the ministry of Christ through University Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry.

You can also donate online on our website: **ulctempe.org**
ULC also has text giving!
Text your donation to:
480-878-7977. Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & CAMPUS MINISTRY

Sun, Sep 27	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary/Livestream)
	11:00 AM	Coffee & Refreshments (Campus Center)
	11:00 AM	Free Student Lunch (Campus Center)
Tue, Sep 29	8:00 PM	AA (Campus Center)
Wed, Sep 30	5:00 PM	LCM Bible Study (Campus Center Library)
	5:30 PM	Free Student Dinner (Campus Center)
	6:30 PM	Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)
Thu, Oct 1		Office Closed
	12:00 PM	Page Turners' Book Club (Campus Center Library)
	8:00 PM	AA (Campus Center)
Fri, Oct 2		Office Closed
Sat, Oct 3	8:00 AM	Young Adults Volunteering at Pitchfork Pantry
Sun, Oct 4	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary/Livestream)
	11:00 AM	Coffee & Refreshments (Campus Center)
	11:00 AM	Free Student Lunch (Campus Center)
	11:15 AM	Constitution & Bylaws Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary/Zoom)

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY

After over two years, the combined Constitution and Bylaws are ready for review! We will meet to approve these changes to our governing documents **next Sunday, October 4, following worship at 11:15 AM. Participation is welcome in person and over Zoom.** Please watch your email for the Zoom link arriving sometime early this week.

Check your inbox! A congregation-wide email with the proposed changes and relevant documents was sent out on August 31. Please let Amanda know if you did not receive it at info@ulctempe.org or 480-967-3543.

YOUNG ADULTS VOLUNTEER EVENT AT PITCHFORK PANTRY THIS SATURDAY

Join @gathervalleyofthesun as we volunteer with @pitchforkpantry for their monthly food and clothing distribution! Pitchfork Pantry at ASU provides fresh and non-perishable food items, as well as essential hygiene and clothing items to students in need on campus. Details below:

Date/Time: **Saturday, Oct 3rd, arrival at 8 AM**

(8:15-10:15 AM shift)

*Optional brunch and devotional after!

Location: **Tempe First United Methodist Church**

(215 E University Dr, Tempe, AZ 85281)

RSVP: DM and follow @gathervalleyofthesun on Instagram.



Blood Drive

Sunday, October 11, 2026

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

University Lutheran Church

Campus Center

340 E 15th St

Tempe, AZ 85281

For an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

ULC Prayer List

Lynn & Family

Kristin

Layna

Will

Ana

Chris

Adam & Family

Spencer

Al

Hilliary

Diane & Gary

Viv

David & Linda

Larry

Brian

Stephen

Rhys

Dorothy & Katherine

Ken, Julia, & Dwight

Madlyn

Pedro

Katy

Diane & Lori J

Roseanna

Faye

Jason & Daughters

Ruth

Sarah & Family