

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026



Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church

1742 Dinkey Road
Lehigh, PA 18235
610-377-4242

www.dmlcashfield.com
Zoom ID: 586 370 219



Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*To all who are lonely and need fellowship; to all who are discouraged and need good news; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are tempted and need help; to all who are sinners and need forgiveness; to all who are complacent and need disturbing; to all who thirst for the water of life; to all who love Christ and would follow Christ, Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church opens its arms and bids you **welcome!***

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

GATHERING SONG *God Is Here!* (ELW 526)

GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

**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.

WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Ezekiel.

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

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.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (*Ps. 25:6*)

- 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. R**
- ⁵ Lead me in your | 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 compas- | sion 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
good- | ness, O LORD.
- ⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**
- ⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way. **R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Philippians.

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

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.

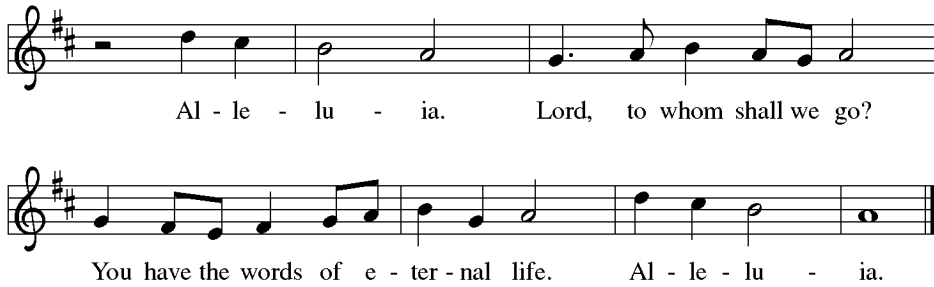
The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

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.”

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* (ELW 517)

APOSTLES 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 INTERCESSION

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 (*especially*). 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

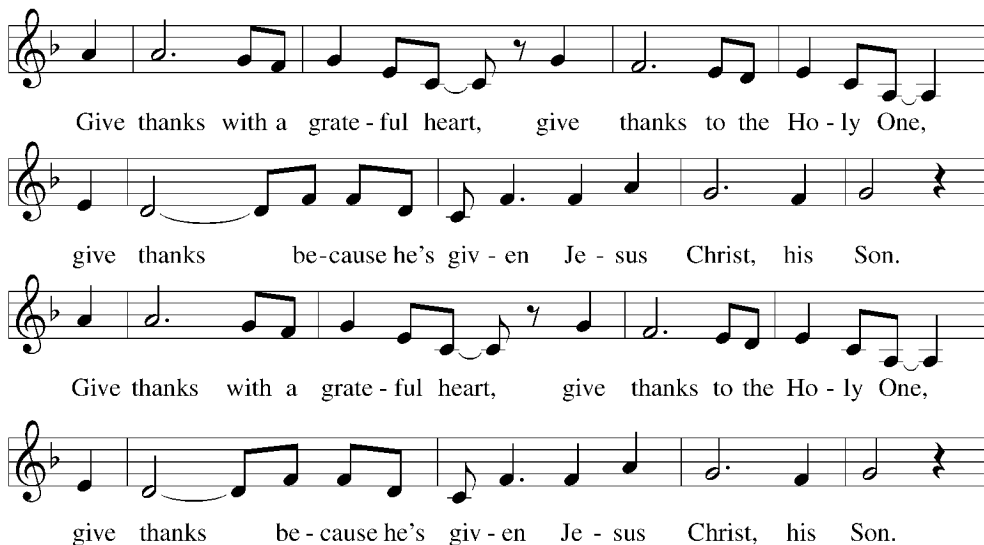
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**

OFFERING

Give Thanks



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

Text: Henry Smith

Music: GIVE THANKS. Henry Smith

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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.

SENDING

BLESSING

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 *O Master, Let Me Walk with You* (ELW 818)

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Let the service begin.

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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DINKEY MEMORIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 27, 2026

The Altar Flowers are sponsored today by Wanda Crostley in memory of Vincent Crostley.

The Bulletins are not sponsored today.

Flower and bulletin charts for **2026** are on the bulletin board above the stairs. You may either sign up on the charts or by calling the office at 610-377-4242. It is appreciated if you pay for your sponsorship by the end of the month that you have sponsored. **All weeks are open for the Memorial Bowl.** *It is very important for flower sponsors to return the cans and plastic gold bowls that they take the flowers home in. Thank you very much for your cooperation.*

The Week Ahead:

Today	9:00AM	18 th Sunday after Pentecost Worship
	10:15AM	Sunday School
Thursday	6:30PM	Choir
Sunday	9:00AM	19 th Sunday after Pentecost Worship
	10:15AM	Sunday School

Office Hours:

Monday, Thursday, Friday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
(610)377-4242

Pastor Tony will be on vacation from September 24, 2026 through October 5, 2026. Please contact Kim Gerhard LLM (484)464-3295 for pastoral needs during Pastor's vacation.

Thank you: A special thank you to Kim Gerhard for leading our service today.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! September 27 to October 3

09/27 Michael Manogue	10/01 Faith Beck
09/27 Colby Solt	10/01 Sherri Hand
09/28 Cecelia Biehl	10/01 Courtney Schleicher
09/28 Mary Cressley	10/02 Courtney Kunkel
09/29 Penelope Spitzer	10/03 Michele Brown
09/29 Courtney Van Fossen	

Confirmation: Pr. Tony will once again offer confirmation classes for those in 7th grade or higher that are not yet confirmed. If you are interested for yourself or someone else, please contact him at prdinklc@ptd.net or 610-377-4242

Giant Gift Cards: If you would like to purchase any Giant Gift Cards please see Kathy Steigerwalt. We receive 5% from each gift card sold.

Fundraising: Dinkey is selling Streak free cloths; \$5 each. Please contact Jan in the office if interested.

Cookbooks: The Dinkey cookbooks have arrived and are ready for purchase, \$15 per cookbook. Please see Karen Schleicher.

Fundraising: Dinkey is selling Boscov's cards for \$5. On October 21, 2026, you will get 25% off everything you buy in store or online. Please see Karen Schleicher

Blessing of the Animals: Join us at St John's on Saturday, October 10, 2026 at 11:00 AM for Blessing of the Animals.

Crop Walk: The Carbon County Crop Walk will be held October 11, 2026 at 2:00 PM beginning at 600 Riverview Road, Lehighton.

Fall Bazaar: St John's Mahoning is having a Fall Bazaar on Friday, October 2, 2026 from 5:00 to 7:30 PM and Saturday, October 3, 2026 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Car Show: The October 4, 2026 Craft and Car Show at Trinity Lutheran Church has been cancelled.

MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM OR ASSOCIATED WITH DINKEY MEMORIAL

Noah K. Kunkel PSC41 Box 6927 APO AE 09464

1st Lt. Benjamin Cordova, 9300 Valencia St., Tucson, AZ 85747

Brendan Schleicher 11611 Dyer Street, Apt 1026 El Paso, Texas 79934

Private Seth Koch Cuba

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Darwin Berger
Arlene Bisbing
Sheila Flickinger
Tess Hinger
Stephen Hoffman
Linda Markell

Debbie Meckel
Gordon Scherer
Patty Schleicher
Alice Scitney
Darwin Strohl
Debra Strohl

SICK/HOSPITALIZED/SPECIAL NEEDS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Faith Beck
Sherri Bowman
Lauren Dugan
Candy Everett
Louise Everett
Ann German
Brenda German
Dick German
Joseph Gorman

Madisynn Hawk
Barbara Niehoff
Janco
Sandy Keller
Joe Kluk
Deb Koch
Jim Koch
Deb Lilly
Armell McFarland
Robert Miller

Emily Persinger
Barry Ruth
Karen Schleicher
Kenny Schleicher
Tanner Schleicher
Georgine Shupp
Carol Steber
Kathy Steigerwalt
Patti Walck
Jason Wetzel

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

<u>Ministers:</u>	The Congregation
<u>Pastor:</u>	Reverend Anthony Pagotto
<u>Licensed Lay Minister:</u>	Kimberly Gerhard

“Kimberly Gerhard, a Licensed Lay Minister, has been authorized by the Bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation.”

<u>Music Director:</u>	Colleen Rudelitsch
<u>Greeters:</u>	Wetzel
<u>Acolytes:</u>	Rylee Keller
<u>Lectors:</u>	Brad Kuehn

Worship Participants for October 4, 2026:

<u>Greeters:</u>	Bierman
<u>Acolytes:</u>	Evelyn Klotz Larkin Klotz
<u>Lectors:</u>	Brian Schell
<u>Communion Assistants:</u>	Kirsten Frankhouser Kurt Steigerwalt

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
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 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;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 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 -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 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 the preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 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.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 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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Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

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O Master, Let Me Walk with You

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.
 Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

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