



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Twelfth Sunday in Pentecost*

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Sunday, August 31st

10:00 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg

RINGING OF THE BELL – *To allow all worshippers to reflect and prepare for the service, please observe silence during the prelude.*

PRELUDE - On Eagle's Wings Arr. by John Carter

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Jesus said, "Love one another, even as I have loved you."

P: Love is more powerful than fear; it is mightier than hatred.

L: Let the love which God has lavished upon us be poured out to those in need.

P: Help us, O Lord, to witness to you by the ways in which we care for others.

L: Remind us, Lord, that we are called to be your disciples.

P: As we worship this morning, heal our hearts and spirits and prepare us for service. AMEN.

HYMN #57 - O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

Through the ages, O God, you have called to us to follow. You led us to freedom, to hope and peace. Enter our hearts again today and lead us to your healing love that we might serve you joyfully in this world that you have loaned to us. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 2:4-13 - *Israel forsakes the Lord*

- 2:4 Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel.
- 2:5 Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me and went after worthless things and became worthless themselves?
- 2:6 They did not say, "Where is the LORD, who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?"
- 2:7 I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination.
- 2:8 The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit.
- 2:9 Therefore, once more I accuse you, says the LORD, and I accuse your children's children.
- 2:10 Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look; send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing.
- 2:11 Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit.
- 2:12 Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked; be utterly desolate, says the LORD,
- 2:13 for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

Psalm 81:1, 10-16 - *Honey from the rock (Psalter Lesson)* ***(Please read the bold text)***

- 81:1 Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob.
- 81:10 I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**
- 81:11 "But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.
- 81:12 So, I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.**
- 81:13 O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!
- 81:14 Then I would quickly subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes.**
- 81:15 Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, and their doom would last forever.
- 81:16 I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."**

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 - God is with us (Epistle Reading)

- 13:1 Let mutual affection continue.
- 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.
- 13:3 Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.
- 13:4 Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.
- 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."
- 13:6 So, we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"
- 13:7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.
- 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
- 13:15 Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.
- 13:16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Luke 14:1, 7-14 - Invite the poor to your banquet (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

- 14:1 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.
- 14:7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.
- 14:8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host,
- 14:9 and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.
- 14:10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.
- 14:11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."
- 14:12 He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

14:13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

14:14 And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(Let us offer our silent confessions.)*

Forgiving God,

***We know You journey with us in our confusion,
our doubts, our failings, our struggles,
we now come humbly to ask for mercy:***

***For the times we fail to offer hospitality
to those in our world who suffer injustice, oppression, and poverty, forgive us.***

***For the times we lack courage to address the causes
of injustice, oppression, and poverty, forgive us.***

***For the times we give in to despair and resignation
when confronted with the injustice of our world, forgive us.***

***For the times we allow our fears to triumph
over the call to solidarity, forgive us.***

Merciful God, receive our petitions.

***Heal the brokenness in our hearts and in our world
caused by injustice, indifference, selfishness, and fear.***

Open our hearts to hear the cries of your suffering people.

Support us as we seek to respond in mutual love and hospitality. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*You have lifted us and dusted us off, O Lord. You have claimed us as your own. Let us celebrate your love for us in lives of service to others; for you are with us always.
AMEN.*

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen!

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH # 881 (*The Apostles' Creed*)

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.***

HYMN #432 - Jesu, Jesu

OFFERTORY – Spirit of the Living God Arr. by John Carter

OFFERING

<https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches>

DOXOLOGY #94 - Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

(Please stand as you are able)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost***

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Faithful and Unchanging God, in a world that shifts and sways, you remain our firm foundation. You have called us into a life of mutual love, teaching us to serve, to welcome, and to give with generous hearts. Bless these gifts we offer today, that they may extend your love to those who hunger, who seek justice, and who long for hope. Shape us into a people whose generosity reflects your own, that through our giving, we may proclaim your unshakable kingdom. In the name of Jesus Christ, our constant and faithful guide. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #557 - Blest Be the Tie That Binds

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Arr. by John Carter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Kellie and Drew Prusiecki in loving honor of their first grandchild, Louise Perry Davis, born 8/11/25.

Guest Chaplain – Tyler Smith, M. Div

A warm welcome to Tyler Smith. Tyler is a hospice chaplain with CarePartners in Asheville. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary and was ordained in the Nazarene Church. He lives in Black Mountain with his wife and two children.

Potluck Dinner - September 15th at 6:00 PM

Our first potluck dinner will take place on Monday, September 15th at 6:00 PM and we are asking everyone to bring their favorite Fall dish. Sign-up sheets are available on the metal table in the kitchen. Please indicate the number of people coming as well as what you intend to bring. And brush up on your fall trivia! RSVP's can also be sent to Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org.

John Rinker Memorial Video – September 28th at 2:00 PM

Please join us in celebrating the life of John Rinker in watching his memorial service on Sunday, September 28th at 2:00 PM in the Dice Hall. Please RSVP by September 18th to the Rinker Foundation office at 561-471-8359.

Sanctuary Pew Frontals to be Removed

The Administrative Council unanimously approved the removal of the frontals or modesty rails from the front pews in order to provide better access to the chancel and altar. This also will allow the placement of an acoustic upright piano in the sanctuary which will provide a better instrument for worship. There are upgrades coming to the speaker system for the organ to enhance the congregational singing in praise to God and as a recital instrument. The Administrative Council has graciously accepted a financial gift to honor our organist, Robert Kintner, which will pay for these upgrades. To God Be the Glory! The plan is to consecrate these upgrades next Spring and to honor Bob's ministry of over a half of a century in church music and education/training.

Administrative Council Meeting

The last Administrative Council meeting for 2025 will be Friday, October 24th. The meeting will be at 10:00 AM in the Minnich conference room.

Outreach Committee Volunteers Needed

The Outreach Committee is looking for members to help plan future events at the church. If you are willing to help out, please contact Mandy Stahl at LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

Summer Bible Study

The summer Bible Study meets on Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM in the Minnich Conference room. All are welcome! This is a come as you can Bible Study and a study guide is provided. It is led by Don Henderson. Please reach out to him if you have questions at bacpac@comporium.net

Our Daily Bread Devotionals

The next quarter of Our Daily Bread devotionals are located at both entrances of the sanctuary and in the Dice Hall. Please help yourself.

Student Scholar Bookmarks

We have our 2025-2026 student scholar prayer bookmarks available at both entrances of the church. Our scholars appreciate your prayers and support.

The Prayer Ministry

They meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the church. Please e-mail prayer requests to LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

AA Meetings Thursday Nights

The weekly AA meeting is every Thursday at 4:45 PM in the Dice Hall. To honor anonymity please do not go to the Parish building from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions. We especially pray for Chip Dixon, Bob Palmer, Don Scholl, Doug & Sally Bailey.

Please pray for those having or had a surgery, acute illness or injury and their recovery.

Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the passing of a loved one.

Please continue to pray for our student scholars, our local students, teachers and staff for the new academic year.

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, marcus61dodson@gmail.com

Organist: Bob Kintner: 828-329-2457

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh: 469-569-2314, administrator@laketoxawayumc.org

Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 and Maria Buehler: 828-553-2128

Audio/Visual & Livestream: Joe Haraschak: 813-918-1916

Liturgist: Stephanie Taylor