



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Sunday, September 14th

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 - Sonate pour Flute et Piano Francis Poulenc

II Cantilena

CALL TO WORSHIP

Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."

***We proclaim that God's presence is real
and alive and thriving!***

Evildoers declare through their actions,

"We go through life alone."

***But we see God's grace, faithfulness,
and steadfast love in our lives
and in the world around us.***

Praise be to God!

HYMN #98 - To God Be the Glory

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

God of abundant grace,

***may your Holy Spirit be with us now
as we worship you this day.***

***Open our eyes to truly see one another,
that we might discover your presence
in the smile of a neighbor.***

***Open our ears to the needs of the world,
that we might hear your wisdom
in the words spoken around us.***

***And open our hearts to your grace and love,
that we might find guidance
and strength for the journey,
for ourselves and for one another. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 - *Judgment against Jerusalem*

- 4:11 At that time, it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow or cleanse,
4:12 a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.
4:22 "For my people are foolish; they do not know me; they are stupid children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil, but do not know how to do good."
4:23 I looked on the earth, and it was complete chaos, and to the heavens, and they had no light.
4:24 I looked on the mountains, and they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.
4:25 I looked, and there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled.
4:26 I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger.
4:27 For thus says the LORD: The whole land shall be a desolation, yet I will not make a full end.
4:28 Because of this the earth shall mourn and the heavens above grow black, for I have spoken; I have purposed; I have not relented, nor will I turn back.

Psalms 14 - *God in the company of the righteous (Psalter Lesson)*

UMH 746 (Please read the bold text)

- 14:1 Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." **They are corrupt; they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.**
14:2 The LORD looks down from heaven on all people, to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.
14:3 They have all gone astray; they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one.
14:4 Have they no knowledge, the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the LORD?
14:5 There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous.
14:6 You would confound the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge.
14:7 O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion! When the LORD restores their fortunes, Jacob will rejoice; and Israel shall be glad.

1 Timothy 1:12-17 - Christ Jesus came for sinners (Epistle Reading)

- 1:12 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service,
1:13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,
1:14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
1:15 The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance; that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the foremost.
1:16 But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life.
1:17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luke 15:1-10 - Lost sheep and lost (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

- 15:1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.
15:2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."
15:3 So, he told them this parable:
15:4 "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?
15:5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices.
15:6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.'
15:7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.
15:8 "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?
15:9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'
15:10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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 #178 - Hope of the World

OFFERTORY – Sonata for Flute in b minor J. S. Bach

II Largo e dolce

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

Steadfast and sheltering God, you are our refuge in every age, our hope when foolishness abounds and justice seems far off. Even when the world disappoints, you call us to faithfulness, to community, to generosity that reflects your own heart. Receive these offerings as signs of our trust in you and our desire to live differently, to live redemptively, and to live hopefully. Use them—and us—for the good that ripples outward, for the healing of hearts and the strengthening of your people. We give not because all is well but because you are good. 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 #400 - Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Suite Modale

Ernest Bloch

III Allegro Glucoso

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers are given by Kay and Dan Johnson, to the glory of God and in memory of Dan's mother, Barbara Brasington.

Guest Flautist Hannah Sonnerberg

Give a warm welcome to flautist Hannah Sonnerberg, a talented senior at Brevard College studying with Dilshad Posnock. She was raised in St. Petersburg, Florida and has studied flute for 12 years. After graduation she plans to pursue a masters in Music Performance and Administration.

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 like potlucks 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: Brian Singleton