



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
OCTOBER 4, 2026



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Visiting today? Welcome!

October 4, 2026

Notes for Today's Service

We hope that you will be able to join with us in worship in person. More information at templelutheran.org

We will be taking pictures of this worship service, your likeness may be shown on Temple's website and mailings.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS – *After today's sermon, some of our ministers will be moving around the worship space offering a blessing for your animal(s). With the blessing, dogs and cats will receive edible treats. If there are any dietary restrictions we should be aware of, please alert the minister at the time of the blessing. We are also happy to offer you a medal of St. Francis, which you are free to fasten to your animal's collar, leash, carrying case, or anywhere else you'd like!*

OFFERING - *During today's service, an offering will be gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. At Temple Lutheran Church, we acknowledge financial stewardship to be an act of discipleship, done in response to the Good News of God's love. As you hear God's Word today and consider the ways God has blessed you, we invite you to share only what God is calling you to share. We thank you for your generous gifts, and assure you that your donations will help to change lives as we transform church, our neighborhood, and God's world in the name of Jesus.*

Please consider e-giving as a way to continue meeting your pledge to Temple. Please contact our Financial Secretary for information or the form to do this at finsecretary@templelutheran.org.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 6-8 PM

Dinner Celebration

Birthday Party for Kids



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 10 AM

**Special Anniversary Worship
with Bishop Bryan Penman**



Please email the office if you aren't subscribed to our emails as an evite for the Anniversary Dinner will be sent out soon.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR CREATION

Let us give thanks to God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the One who brings life out of nothing and calls it good.

We thank You, O Lord, for all Your creation.

For the light that dawns each morning and the darkness that brings rest, for the sun and moon, for seasons and years,

We thank You, O Lord.

For the waters of the earth: oceans and rivers, rain and snow, for the waters that sustain every living thing,

We thank You, O Lord.

For the waters of baptism where You have claimed us as Your own, washed us in mercy, and raised us to new life,

We thank You, O Lord, for making us Your children.

For the land and all that grows from it fields and forests, gardens and harvests, for the work of hands that plant and tend and gather,

We thank You, O Lord.

For the bread that nourishes us, fruit from the earth and the work of human hands, and for the cup that brings joy and gladness,

We thank You, O Lord.

For the bread and cup you make holy by Your promise, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins,

We thank You, O Lord, for feeding us with grace.

For creatures of every kind those that roam and fly and swim, and for the wonder and joy they bring,

We thank You, O Lord.

For the air we breathe and the breath of life within us, for voices that sing and hearts that praise,

We thank You, O Lord.

For placing us within Your creation, not as masters, but as stewards,
to care for what You have entrusted to us,

We thank You, O Lord, and ask for faithful hearts.

For all that sustains us each day, and for the promise that in Christ all
creation is being made new,

We thank You, O Lord.

To You, O God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all thanks and praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Morning Has Broken

ELW 556

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965; Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version. Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates; Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

GREETING

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.

God, our Creator, **help us to love all creatures as our kin, all animals as our partners on Earth, all birds as messengers of praise, all small beings as expressions of your mysterious design, and all frogs as voices of hope. Amen.**

LET US READ PSALM 148 RESPONSIVELY

Congregation, please read bold text.

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

²Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

³Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴Praise him, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for he commanded and they were created.

⁶He established them forever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸fire and hail, snow and frost,

stormy wind fulfilling his command!

⁹Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰**Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹²**Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴**He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!**

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

LITANY OF BLESSING

Spirit of Life, for all the beautiful, loving, loved animals we see before us,
we ask,

May they be blessed, as they have blessed us.

For all the animals who bring loveliness and happiness into our lives,
though they are not here today—for their long lives and good health, we
ask,

May they be blessed, as they have blessed us.

We lift up the names of animals we have loved and lost:
Of their memories, we ask,

May they be blessed, as they have blessed us.

For all the animals who live in fields and on farms, in the seas and on the
desert, who depend on human kindness for their well-being and on our
foresight for their habitats and homes—for all the species we have yet to
discover, in the amazing diversity of life with which they grace our world,

May they be blessed, as they have blessed us.

For animals large and small, beautiful to our eyes and not-so-beautiful,
cuddly and creepy, we ask,

May they be blessed, as they have blessed us.

And we ask this blessing for ourselves as well, in the words attributed to
Albert Schweitzer: “Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals, and
so to share the blessings of the merciful.”

Amen.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SONG OF THE DAY: Come to Me

Text and Music by Aaron Shust CCLI Song # 4991461

© 2007 Bridge Building Music, Inc.; White Spot Publishing

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart.

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me;
you will find rest for your souls.

You will find rest for your souls.

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart.

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me;
you will find rest for your souls.

You will find rest for your souls.

For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.
For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING SONG: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Text and Music by Sebastian Temple. Text and Music © 1967 OCP Publications



1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.



Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;
Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;
It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,

Last time to coda ⊕



where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;
where there is dark - ness, on - ly light;
in giv - ing of our - selves that we re -



and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.

2

3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so

much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be

un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be

D.C. (stanza 4) al coda

loved as to love with all my soul.

Coda

ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 and forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Like children in the arms of Jesus, receive this blessing:
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: Jesus Loves Me!

Text: Anna V. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.; Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves contain the main verse, and the last two staves contain the refrain. The refrain is marked with the word 'Refrain' above the first staff of the section.

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
Refrain
Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,
yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, Celebrate Growth!

Thanks be to God.

Need to contact the Pastor?

The Rev. Timothy Johansen,
by calling (610) 446-3270
or by emailing pastor@templelutheran.org
Emergency Phone Number (516) 592-0412



TL4C YOUTH GROUP
Middle School – 10/4
High School – 10/11

Middle Schoolers - 1st Sunday of the month, 5:30 pm

High Schoolers – 2nd Sunday of the month, 6:00 pm

Continue to read your TL4C emails! If you would like to receive emails, please email Jennifer Pruski, TLC's Youth Minister, at TL4Cyouthleader@gmail.com.



FAIR ACRES CHRISTMAS GIFT SIGNUP

Signup today in the narthex or email the office with the number of residents of Fair Acres you would like to give a gift for Christmas this year. We will receive the tags with gift requests in November.



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

It is time to collect donations for our fall care packages we send to our **20 college youth**. The collection box for college care packages is in the narthex. Please place small nonperishable snacks and items in the box. Due by October 18th.



TLC FOOD PANTRY
Saturday, October 24

Open every 4th Saturday of the month from 12:30-2:30 pm. If you'd like more information, contact Joe Mittleman at jjmittleman@gmail.com.

Donations needed for the October 24th Service Day:

Honey (plastic jars only, please)
Aluminum Foil
Zip-top Bags (sandwich & 1-gallon size)

Please remember the Food Pantry when you go food shopping and pick up something you can drop in our bins. **We do not accept glass or expired items for the safety of our patrons and volunteers.**

GIVING TO TEMPLE

TLC is dedicated to transforming our church, our neighborhood, and God's world. Your contributions drastically affect the impact we can have on our community and beyond. It's because of your generosity that this is a growing, thriving, multi-generational community of people dedicated to living out our values of Inclusion, Service, and Community.

There are now many ways you can financially contribute regularly to TLC's Mission:

- Mail a check to the church office
501 Brookline Blvd, Havertown, PA 19083
- Authorize payment through your bank
- Sign up for electronic giving with Celia Engman

Questions? Contact [Celia Engman](#)

Use this [PayPal link](#) or QR Code



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS COMING WEEK:

For Healing and Encouragement: Lexi Amici, Spiros Angelos, Susan Best, Mike Bruss, Jack Byers, Joan Clarke, Linda Cohen, Pat Colflesh, Coralisha and family, Jane Corso, Bobbie Delaney, Sheryl Dichter, Julie Diehl, Diane Donnelly, Jeanne Donofrio, Natalie Duff, Michael Ewing, Gavin Farnsworth, Michelle Filler, Lois Ann Forgess-Oler, Kelly Gallagher, Margie Gallagher, Michael Gallagher, Susan Gallagher and family, Gary, Roger Gasper, Todd Gasper, Evin Gerofsky, Thomas Gibson (Gibby), Roy Hallowell, Greg Hallquist, Elizabeth Haslam, Florence Homer, Nicholas Hughes, Boyce Johnson, Cheryl Johnson, Melissa Johnson, Ted Johnson, Sandy Johnson, Em Johnston, Cindy Jones, Chris Keislar, Kailyn Kilfoyle, Calvin Lawler, Jean Long, Bernadette Luciani and TJ, Lori Lutz, Lisa McCullen, Bob M, Jim M, Susie Margarite and family, Janet Marinari, Tricia McGee, Wayne Meider, Lino Mescia, Justin Messina, Cadence Monroe, Jane Mooney, Eliana Nicholson, Kate Osborn, Carmen Palacios, Tonya Parker, Toni Rossi, Gary Routzahn, Vivi Shea, Brian Sinclair, Chris Smith, Merry Snyder, Patricia Snyder, Sunny, Karen Spangler, Toni Stifano, Phil Strybuc, Chaplain Dr. Eileen Teel, Dick Torti, Steve and Sue Voccola, Lily Walker, Barbara Ward, Philip White, Leah Wilhjem, Linda Wilke, and Chloe Gorby Zarko.

CALENDAR OF REGULAR MEETINGS AND REHEARSALS

Tuesdays	7:15 p.m.	Handbell Choir
	8:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
Friday	7:30 p.m.	I Am Responsible [AA meeting]
Saturdays	9:30 a.m.	Bryn Mawr Early Birds [AA meeting]
Sundays	8:15 a.m.	Early Worship
	9:00 a.m.	Adult Café
	10:00 a.m.	In-person, Live Streamed Worship Sunday School held during worship
	11:15 a.m.	Chancel Choir

12-Step meetings are held regularly at the church, but not all of them are posted, at the request of each group's leadership.

Please contact Pastor Tim if you have an addiction and need help.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October	4	Blessing of the Animals
	16	110 th Anniversary Dinner
	18	110 th Anniversary Worship with Bishop Bryan Penman
	24	TLC Food Pantry 12:30-2:30 PM
	25	Reformation / Confirmation Sunday – Wear Red
November	1	All Saints Sunday

Partners in Ministry

Ministers	People of Temple Lutheran Church
Pastor	The Rev. Timothy B. Johansen
Congregation Council President	Amy Mensch
Director of Music Ministries	Florrie Marks
Director of Discipleship	Rob Mannix
Parish Administrator	Darcy Mannion
Director of Sunday School	Jeanne Daniels
Youth Minister	Jennifer Pruski
Children's Minister	Sierra Keen
Custodian	Delaney Mannion



ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



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