

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

HELLERTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

August 30, 2026

~ The Reverend Philip C. Spohn ~

10:00am

*This Morning's Altar Flowers are Presented in Loving Memory of Our Son, Eric
by Donna & Bill Bergstresser and Family*

♪ **Summer Music Series 2026 Guest Musicians, The Frank DiBussolo Trio** ♪

Frank DiBussolo on Guitar and Vocals, Gary Staples on Organ, and Dave Willard on Drums
Special Guest Vocalist, Amy Kares

Order of Worship

Anniversary Sunday

Prelude: *Song for My Father (Instrumental)* Horace Silver (1928-2014)

No matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey, **you are welcome here!**

Welcome & Announcements

Passing of the Peace

We are gathered and ready and aware of God's presence.

Chime~ Silence~ Prayer~

Opening Song: *Over the Rainbow* Music: Harold Arlen (1905-1986)
Amy Kares, Song Leader Lyrics: E.Y. Harburg (1896-1981)

Somewhere over the rainbow,
Way up high
There's a land that I heard of
Once in a lullaby.

Somewhere over the rainbow,
Bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow
Why, then, oh why can't I?

Somewhere over the rainbow,
Skies are blue
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really do come true.

If happy little bluebirds fly
Beyond the rainbow
Why, oh, why can't I?

Someday I'll wish upon a star
And wake up where the clouds are far behind me,
Where troubles melt like lemon drops
Away above the chimney tops
That's where you'll find me.

Time for All Ages

Josh Gulotta

1st Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-18

Tim Brown

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

2nd Reading: Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord."

²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you."

²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Help us God, as we seek to interpret what this means for our lives.

Message

Reception of Tithes & Offerings

Anthem:

Be Okay

Amy Kares, Soloist

Ellie Holcomb (b.1982)

Lauren Daigle (b.1991)

*You're gonna be okay
You're, you're gonna be okay
Oh, the sun will keep on risin' in that old familiar way
And every little thing is gonna be okay*

*You're gonna be alright
Darlin', you're, you're gonna be alright
'Cause the stars'll keep on shinin'
through the darkest night
And you can know you're gonna be alright*

*Lift your eyes to the hills
Remember where your help comes from
Lift your eyes to the hills
You'll never face a valley alone
'Cause even when your heart is breakin'
And you've gone and lost your way
You're, you're gonna be okay*

*You're gonna be okay
I know that you're, you're gonna be okay
Not a care in this whole world can take that truth away
You're, you're gonna be okay*

*You're gonna be alright
Darlin', you're, you're gonna be alright
At the end of all our breath,
when we're beckoned on to the light
Love'll meet you there, you're gonna be alright*

*Oh, the end of all our breath is the beginning of new life
You're, you're gonna be alright*

Prayers of the Church

Tiffany Wilten

After each petition: God before us, **to guide us.** God behind us, **to guard us.**

Nic, Shannon, Gail Varady, Christopher Mann, Jenny Canning, Ellede D'Andrea, Kathryn Achey, Sheila, Beth Hinchliffe, Wendy Ernst, Mel Jones, Elaine Rogers, Tiffany Weddle, Leona, Richard, George Suarez, Helen & Bill Tone, Kyle

Finally, and together: **Grateful for your provisions and trusting in your goodness, we share all our cares with you, through the abundant grace of Jesus, whom we love and follow. Amen.**

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 and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: *Soon and Very Soon* **ELW #439**
Amy Kares, Hymn Leader

Benediction

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: *All the Things You Are (Instrumental)* Jerome Kern (1885-1945)
Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960)

Frank DiBussolo has been a professional musician since 1965. During this time he has worked with Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Diana Ross, Diahann Carroll, Vikki Carr, Bob Hope, George Burns and Dom DeLuise and others. As a soloist he has been featured with the bands of Buddy Rich, Dizzy Gillespie, Art Blakey, Bucky Pizzarelli, Howard Alden, Lester Lannin and more. He is a graduate of Widener University and the Combs College of Music where he earned the Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees. He has served on the faculties of Swarthmore College, Moravian College, Lehigh University and the Combs College of Music. Dr. DiBussolo has recorded extensively and has been nominated eight times for The Grammy Award in various categories.

Gary Staples has been playing and performing since an early age on Hammond B3 organ and piano. He studied jazz at Berklee Conservatory of Music in Boston, and has performed all over the country and in Europe with his own ensembles as well as working with such notables as guitarist George Benson. Gary is known for his complex, yet tasteful interpretations and his uncanny sense of accompaniment. He continues to stay on the top of studios and players' 'first call' list as well being in demand as a group leader.

Dave Willard is a member of Christ Lutheran Church. He has been playing drums for more than five decades, performing in bands of various genres: jazz, rock, soul, and country. Dave was a founding member of Peripheral Vision, the Olympus corporate band. He performed seven times with the Simon Mulligan Trio in the Jazz Upstairs series at Miller Symphony Hall. This is Dave's ninth performance with a Frank DiBussolo-led group at Christ Lutheran.

Amy Kares has been a member of Christ Lutheran for 21 years as well as a member of the Praise Team where she sings and plays the flute. This is her first time performing with the Frank DiBussolo Trio. Amy says she is "thrilled to be a special guest of this talented group" on this, the last Sunday of our 2026 Summer Music Series.