

# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00

24 AUGUST 2025

# THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

*We are a home away-from-home,  
with people from different places becoming sisters and brothers in Christ.  
Our members come from 40 countries and six continents. Some are in Geneva for  
decades, others for only a few months. All help the parish to be a community of  
shared beliefs, experiences and concerns. Opportunities for fellowship, spiritual  
growth and recreation bring families, friends and acquaintances together. Such  
bonds are precious in a city of so many welcomes and farewells.*

Read more about who we are at: [www.genevalutheran.church](http://www.genevalutheran.church)

**If you are worshipping with us for the first time** or if you have been here before and would like to know more about our community, please fill out a connection card. You can scan this QR code to submit one online, or you can fill out the card on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering basket or give it to one of the ushers.



*We are glad you are here—welcome!*

**Thank you** to those sharing in worship leadership this morning:

*Prayer leader:* Dinesh Suna

*Reader:* Bethany Rosenkrans

*Altar care:* Penuel Kiondo-Zanetti, Bethany Rosenkrans

*Assisting ministers:* Lusubilo Malakibungu, Ana Villanueva,  
Jelimo Yegon, Yatich Yegon

*Ushers:* Anotida Mtata, Naomi Mungure

*Offering counter:* Penuel Kiondo-Zanetti, Tom Taylor

*Flowers:* Hellen Msemu

*Videographers:* Ray Woodcock, Breanna Ndwiga

*Our congregation is committed to handling personal data in a responsible and transparent way  
and in compliance with Swiss law. You'll find our Data Privacy Notice at:  
<https://genevalutheran.church/data-privacy/>*

***Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva***  
***English-Speaking Congregation***  
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www.genevalutheran.church  
Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis  
Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost + 24 August 2025, 11h00

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle:  
*Liberia, Sierra Leone*

Welcome

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Greeting

To be set free from the bondages that would define us,  
***to shine like a noontday sun when all around is gloom,***  
to sing of mercy, grace, and steadfast love  
***when pointed fingers and evil speech gain most attention,***  
we gather to remember we belong to Jesus Christ,  
***who raises our eyes to see further than just the next step,***  
who touches us with a healing that reaches into silence,  
***who leads us into the living***  
***that praises God with all that we are and do.***

## Hymn

## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Catherin Winkworth adp. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh

Joachim Neander 1680, Germany



1. Lo - be den Her - ren den mäch - ti - gen Kö - nig der Eh - ren;  
 1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly reign - ing  
 3. Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
 4. Praise to the Lord! Oh let all that is in me a - dore him.



lob ihn, o See - le ver - eint mit den himm - li - schen  
 O my soul, praise him for he is your health and sal -  
 and, as on wings of an eag - le, up - lift - ing, sus -  
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at -  
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be -



Chö - ren. Kom - met zu - hauf; Psal - ter und Har - fe, wacht  
 va - tion! Let all who hear, now to his tem - ple draw  
 tain - ing. Have you not seen all that is need - ful has  
 tend you. Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can  
 fore him. Let the A - men sound from his peo - ple a -



auf. Las - set den Lob - ge - sang hö - ren.  
 near; join - ing in glad ad - o - a - tion!  
 been sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 do if with his love he be - friend you.  
 gain. Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.

Call to Prayer

## Prayer of Confession

God of steadfast love and mercy,  
for everything in us or around us that is not gracious or graceful,  
*forgive.*

For the limits fear puts around love,  
*forgive.*

For the brokenness about which we complain,  
but from which we often benefit,  
*forgive.*

For the blind eye that chooses not to see the hurt we inflict,  
*forgive.*

For the pointed fingers and the cursing tongues,  
*forgive.*

For our world bent low with greed and strife,  
*forgive.*

*We confess that we have not loved you with all we are.*

*We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.*

*We are not better than those we condemn.*

*We repent, and plead that Jesus Christ might touch us,  
so love reclaims us and makes us whole  
through your reconciling, healing Spirit.*

## Kyrie

Dinah Reindorf: Ghana

*Lento, espressivo*

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

## Words of Grace

# Hymn of Praise

## O ndamm

Ibou Ndiaye: Serere, Senegal

1. 3. O ndam-m O ndam-m O ndam a he-la Roog  
 2. Te - daa - nga Te - daa - nga Te - daa - nga he - la Roog

Chords: Bb, Dm, Gm, F, Gm, C

na moos boo moos O ndam a he-la Roog O ndam a he-la Roog  
 na moos boo moos Te - daa - nga he - la Roog Te - daa - nga he - la Roog

Chords: F, C, Bb, Dm, Bb/F

O ndam a he - la Roog na moos boo moos Wo i si-ma-taa too  
 Te - daa - nga he - la Roog na moos boo moos

Chords: Gm, F, Gm, C, F, Bb, Bb, C, Bb

wo i ta-ga-saa, wo Ki-ris-taa Mbaal o-nqe Roog na wat-naa pa-kaad ad - na.

Chords: C, Bb, C, Dm, F, C, Dm, Bb, F, Bb

Words and Music © 2002, Ibou Ndiaya. Transcription by Nicolas Ng. Sarr.

1. and 3. *Glory to God forever and ever.*  
*It is to you that we give praise, O Christ.*
2. *You are the Lamb of God, who takes away our sins.*

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you,  
*and also with you.*

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.  
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,  
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;  
if you call the sabbath a delight  
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;  
if you honor it, not going your own ways,  
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;  
then you shall take delight in the LORD,  
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;  
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

This is the word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 103:1-8

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
***and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.***  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
***and do not forget all God's benefits—***  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
***who heals all your diseases,***  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
***who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,***

who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
*so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*  
 The LORD works vindication  
*and justice for all who are oppressed.*  
 He made his ways known to Moses,  
*his acts to the people of Israel.*  
 The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
*slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

## Alleluia

Dinah Reindorf: Ghana

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

© Dinah Reindorf, P.O. Box 13060, Accra, Ghana.

## Gospel

Luke 13:10-17

The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 13.  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, 'Woman, you are set free from your ailment.' When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.' But the Lord answered him and said, 'You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?' When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.



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

Sermon

Andy Willis

Hymn

**Hear the voice of God, so tender**

Lavon Bayler

Skinner Chavez-Melo



1. Hear the voice of God, so ten - der, gath-ering
2. God is heal - ing and for - giv - ing crea-tures
3. Lis-tening to the Spir-it's guid - ing, breath be-
4. Shed the old win - skins of war - fare for the



us in righ - teous - ness, giv - ing, as our sure de -  
who are sore dis - tressed. O-pen-ing doors to hope-ful  
yond the writ - ten code. We, in cov - e - nant a -  
fresh new wines of peace, know-ing God sus - tains our



fend - er, stead-fast love and faith - ful - ness. Bless God's  
liv - ing, as, by love, we're dai - ly blessed. Bless God's  
bid - ing, seek to write our let - ters bold. Bless God's  
wel - fare with a love that will not cease. Bless God's



ho - ly name to-geth - er as the Spir-it brings new life. Giv - ing,  
ho - ly name to-geth - er as the Spir-it brings new life. O - pening  
ho - ly name to-geth - er as the Spir-it brings new life. We, in  
ho - ly name to-geth - er as the Spir-it brings new life, know-ing



as our sure de-fend - er, stead-fast love and faith - ful - ness.  
doors to hope-ful liv - ing, as, by love, we're dai - ly blessed.  
cov - e - nant a - bid - ing, seek to write our let - ters bold.  
God sus - tains our wel - fare with a love that will not cease.

## 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 again 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

God, in your mercy,  
*hear our prayer.*

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.  
*And also with you.*

## Gathering of Gifts

*Shackles (Praise You)*

*By Warryn Campbell, Erica Atkins and Trecina Atkins*

*Sung by Maureen Gumbé*

*Take the shackles off my feet so I can dance.  
I just wanna praise you, I just wanna praise you.  
You broke the chains, now I can lift my hands  
And I'm gonna praise you, I'm gonna praise you.*

*In the corners of my mind I just can't seem to find  
a reason to believe that I can break free.  
'Cause you see I have been down for so long, feel like all hope is gone  
But as I lift my hands, I understand  
That I should praise you through my circumstance.*

*Everything that could go wrong all went wrong at one time.  
So much pressure fell on me I thought I was gon' lose my mind.  
Lord, I know you wanna see if I will hold on through these trials,  
But I need You to lift this load 'Cause I can't take it anymore.*

*Been through the fire and the rain, bound in every kind of way.  
But God has broken every chain, so let me go right now.*

***Your gifts are essential to our congregation's ministry.***

*You can give in several ways: by placing money in the offering bag,  
by bank transfer (details on the back of the bulletin), or by TWINT.*

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TWINT!**



Scan the QR code with the  
TWINT app



Confirm amount and  
donation



## Offertory

## Tout est fait pour la gloire de Dieu

Abel Nkuinki: Cameroon



1. Tout est fait pour la gloire de Dieu. A - men. A - men.
2. La vie c'est pour la gloire de Dieu. A - men.
3. Le culte est pour la gloire de Dieu. A - men.



Tout dépend de ce que tu en fais. A - men. A -



men. A-men. A - men. A - men.



1. Tout est fait pour la gloire de Dieu, A - men. A - men.
2. La vie c'est
3. Le culte est

# Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Pastor* *People* Sursum corda

The Lord be with you. *And* al - so with you.

*Pastor* *People*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

*Pastor* *People*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

## Preface

### Sanctus

### You are holy

Per Harling: Sweden

*Samba*

Dm Gm C7 Fmaj7

Du är he - lig, Du är hel. Du är all - tid myck - et mer,  
You are ho - ly. You are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more

Bb Gm A(sus4) A7

än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, Du är nä - ra än - då.  
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.

Dm Gm C7 Fmaj7

Väl sig - nad va - re Du, Som kom - mer hit just nu,  
Bless - ed are you com ing near. Bless - ed are you com ing here

Bb Gm A7 Dm

Väl sig - nan - de vår jord, Blir till bröd på vår jord.  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

**Part 2**

Gm C7 Fmaj7 Bb

Du är he - lig, Du är hel - het, Du är när - het,  
You are ho - ly. You are whole - ness. You are pre - sent,

He - la kos - mos lo - var Dig! Ho - si - an - na!  
let the cos - mos praise you, Lord! Sing Ho - san - na

Ho - si - an - na! Ho - si - an - na! Ho - si - an - na vår Gud.  
in the high - est. Sing Ho - san - na. Sing Ho - san - na to God.

*First time unison. Second time women start at the beginning while the men start at Part 2.*

Swedish, English and Music © Per Harling, Sweden

## Eucharistic Prayer

### Words of Institution

### Remembering

Touching this bread and wine around this table,  
we remember we become body and blood of Christ  
when we eat and drink together.

We proclaim the mystery of our faith.

***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

### Lord's Prayer

*in our many languages*

***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.***

# Agnus Dei

# Oi, Jumalan

Matti Rantatalo: Finland

Oi, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa, jo - ka pois o - tat maa - il - man  
 O, Lamb of God, given for us, all the sin of the world you are  
 syn - nin, ar - mah - da mei - tä, ar - mah - da mei - tä.  
 bear - ing. Grant us your mer - cy, grant us your mer - cy.  
 Oi Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa, io - ka pois o - tat maa il - man syn - nin,  
 O, Lamb of God, given for us, all the sin of the world you are bear - ing.  
 an - na meil - le rau - ha - si ja siu - na - uk - se - si.  
 Peace, we ask you, peace and jus - tice. Grant us your own true peace.

© 1992 Matti Rantatalo, Rautkallionkatu 12 A 14, FI-01360 Vantaa, Finland. English, Terry MacArthur.

## Invitation to Communion

## Songs during Communion

### We are coming, Lord, to the table

Sierra Leone arranged by Greg Scheer

We are com - ing, Lord, to the ta - ble. We are com - ing, Lord,  
 to the ta - ble. 1. With the gift of bread, we are com - ing, Lord.  
 2. To re - ceive the bread, we are com - ing, Lord.

*Leader*

Oh, sing it o - ver.

With the gift of wine, we are com-ing, Lord. Oh,  
To re-ceive the wine, we are com-ing, Lord.

1. We of - fer you the gift of bread. We  
2. We're com-ing to re-ceive the bread. We're

we are com - ing, Lord. Oh, we are com - ing,

of - fer you the gift of wine.  
com - ing to re-ceive the wine.

Lord. Oh, we are com - ing,

Oh, sing it o - ver.

Lord. Oh, we are com - ing, Lord.

## Just a closer walk with Thee

### Refrain



Just a clo-ser walk with Thee, Grant it, Je-sus, is my plea.



Dai-ly walk-ing close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



1. I am weak but Thou art strong; Je - sus, keep me from all
2. Through this world of toil and snares, If I fal - ter, Lord, who
3. When my fee - ble life is o'er, Time for me will be no



wrong;  
cares?  
more;

I'll be sa - tis - fied as  
Who with me my bur - den  
Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly



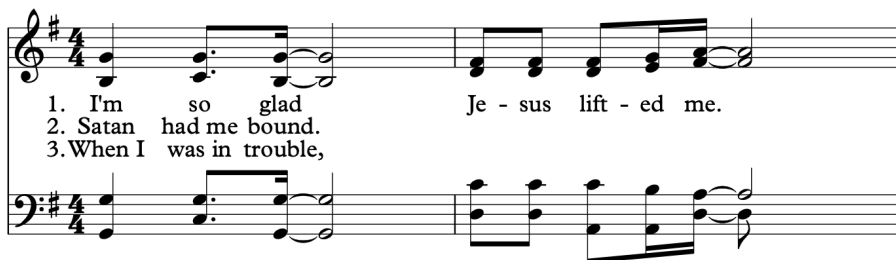
long  
shares?  
o'er

As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.  
To Thy king - dom shore, to Thy shore.

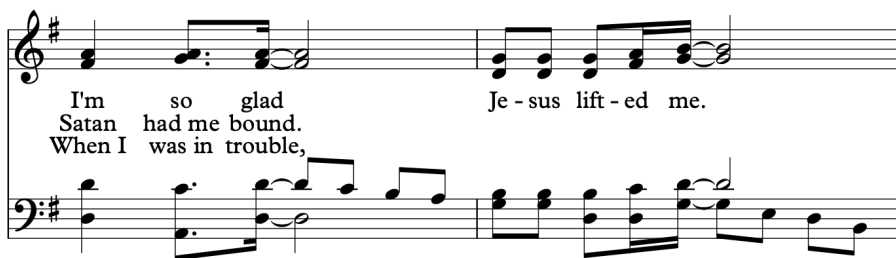


# I'm so glad Jesus lifted me

African-American spiritual



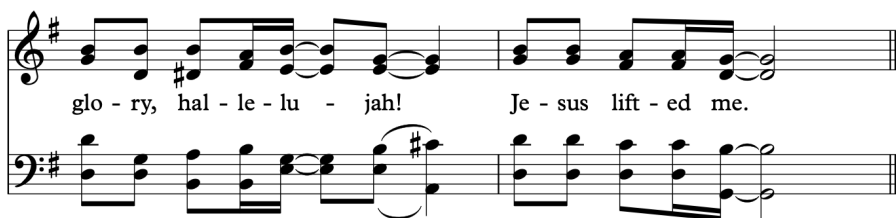
1. I'm so glad Je - sus lift - ed me.  
2. Satan had me bound.  
3. When I was in trouble,



I'm so glad Je - sus lift - ed me.  
Satan had me bound.  
When I was in trouble,



I'm so glad Je - sus lift - ed me, sing - ing  
Satan had me bound.  
When I was in trouble,



glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Sending Forth and Blessings

## Song

## Ubi Caritas



U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor. U - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.

*Where charity and love are, God is there.*

## Benediction

## Introduction of Visitors and Announcements

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **NEW DATE - Congregational Retreat on Saturday 20 September**

On Saturday 20 September (please note the new date), our congregation will gather for a day-retreat to visit the ruins of the 12<sup>th</sup> century Carthusian monastery of Oujon. The ruins are located near Arzier (not far from St-Cergue). The day will involve group time at a picnic and playground area, plus a walk through the ruins. Mark your calendar and plan to join—all ages welcome!

## **Creative Writing Group – Tuesday, 26 August at 19h00**

Everyone who loves to write is invited to join a new creative writing group, meeting in the Gemeinderaum at the church, once a month on Tuesday evening, 19h00 - 20h30. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 26 August at 19h00. Bites will be provided. All welcome! Please contact Cynthia Wilbers or the church office for further info.

## **Choir Rehearsals – Thursday Evenings, Starting 28 August**

The choir of the English-Speaking Congregation is open to anyone—we meet on Thursday evenings from 19h30 until 21h00 to learn the music for the upcoming Sunday worship service and work on additional pieces. The first rehearsal of the season will take place on Thursday 28 August and will be led by our music director, Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg. Come and sing!

## Confirmation Class Beginning Shortly

During the academic year, our congregation offers confirmation classes for young people—an opportunity to study key topics of the Bible and Christian faith and to begin claiming the faith as one's own. Students typically begin classes at around 13 or 14 years old, though there is room for some flexibility when it comes to ages. This year's classes will be beginning shortly—if your son or daughter is interested in joining this year, please contact Andy Willis now at [pastor@genevalutheran.ch](mailto:pastor@genevalutheran.ch) or 079 544 70 12.

## Women's Circle Invitation

Ladies, come and join our Women's Circle! We gather in our church, our village, on one Saturday each month from 10am to 12pm for coffee and croissants and for fellowship and fun. All women church members and regular attendees are welcome. Dates for the coming months: **13 September**. Please contact Marit Bauer-Moore, Cynthia Wilbers, Margaret Kehoe-Winkler or the office for more information.

## Church School Teachers and Assistants – Meeting Next Sunday

Church school is offered each Sunday for children from 3 years old to confirmation age. The new year of classes will be starting in September, and we are looking for some additional teachers and assistants. We follow a rotation model, so signing up means committing to teach or assist about one Sunday per month. Please consider whether this might be a way you can serve in our community this year! An information meeting will take place next Sunday, 31 August – all are welcome. You can also contact the church office for more information.

## Serving at the Soup Kitchen – 6 September

Our congregation will be serving at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday, 6 September 2025. It takes place from 8h00 until about 13h00 at Le Jardin de Montbrillant (Rue de Montbrillant 3) just behind Geneva Cornavin train station. All are welcome to sign up and help prepare and serve a warm meal. Contact the church office or Elisabeth Benn ([chriselis\\_benn@bluewin.ch](mailto:chriselis_benn@bluewin.ch)) for more information.

## Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

Our congregation holds a simple coffee hour after worship each Sunday. Preparation for coffee hour is by neighborhood groups:

31 August – Group B	7 September – Group C
14 September – Group D	21 September – Group E

*If you can help on a week when your group is assigned,  
please let your group's coordinator know*

Cover Image: Photo by [Lars Kuczynski](#) on [Unsplash](#)

**This Week's Schedule:**

<b>Tues, 26 August</b>	<b>19h00</b>	Creative writing group
<b>Thurs, 28 August</b>	<b>19h30</b>	Choir practice
<b>Sun, 31 August</b>	<b>9h45</b>	Confirmation class orientation
	<b>11h00</b>	Worship
	<b>12h30</b>	Church school teachers' meeting
<i>Office hours: Tuesday 9h30-17h30, Thursday 9h30-17h30, Friday 9h30-13h30</i>		

**Our church is entirely self-supporting.** Our ministry is entirely funded by the contributions of members and friends of the congregation. There are three ways you can donate today:

**By bank transfer:** Using the banking app on your phone, scan one of the QR codes below:



Banque Cantonale de Genève  
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Post Finance  
CH13 0900 0000 1200 9677 6

**By cash:** Place your contribution in the offering bags during worship.  
**By U.S. dollar check:** Make the check payable to “Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” and on the memo portion, write “GMG 0858”.

*Thank you for your support of our ministry together!*

\*\*\*\*\*

**If you are a guest in our congregation today,** *please fill out the connection card below—you can place it in the offering bag or hand it to the pastor or one of the ushers. We’d love to be in touch and answer any questions you might have about the church.*

**ELCG Connection Card**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
New to Geneva? Y/N \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_