

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00

28 SEPTEMBER 2025

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

*We are a parish of many cultures and traditions,
with deep Lutheran roots and wide ecumenical branches.*

Geneva is a crossroads city and our doors are open to people from all over the world. About half of our members come from Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Anglican and other traditions, and half have Lutheran links. The Lutheran Church of Geneva was started by German expatriates in the 18th century, and the English-Speaking Congregation was formed in the 1950s after the World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, World YWCA and United Nations agencies opened offices in Geneva.

Read more about who we are at: 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: Adela Bevan

Altar care: Bethany Rosenkrans

Assisting ministers: Filipa de Chassey, Monika Sandvik, Arnav Suna,
Ritu Suna

Ushers: Alessia de Chassey, Filipa de Chassey

Offering counter: Fulata Moyo, Ana Villanueva

Church school: Kiki Lawal, May Chin Long, Aneta Wierzynska,
Grete Willis

Flowers: German-Speaking Congregation

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/>

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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis
Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost + 28 September 2025, 11h00
Baptism of Aanyanwu Obianujuaku Talsma

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru*

Welcome

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Greeting

We gather as a people awaiting the dawn,
eager for the light from on high to break upon us.
Although the night seems long with dangers close at hand,
we trust the tender mercies of our God to sustain us.
In the grace of Jesus Christ,
we become free to follow the path of peace,
knowing we are made righteous in his love
and filled with the spirit of promise breaking into song.

Hymn

Blessed be the God of Israel

During the last verse the children are invited to go to church school.

Michael Perry

Hal H. Hopson: USA



1. Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
2. Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace is given;
3. On pris - on - ers of dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;



God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

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Call to Prayer

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,
the notables of the first of the nations,
to whom the house of Israel resorts!
Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and lounge on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall,
who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David improvise on instruments of music,
who drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Prayer of Confession

We would like to think we are not concerned by money,
God of the poor,
but we confess we are.

The dreams of riches are inescapable,
the promises of wealth omnipresent.

Our eyes are too often re-focused on glitter and gold,
rather than on Jesus, kneeling at our feet with a towel,
a plain one without a label.

If only we would trust your grace in Christ,
would we be less fearful and more loving?

If only we would better understand your great gift to us in Jesus,
would we become more giving?

If only we realized that we are brothers and sisters
in the body of Christ,
would we be better at welcoming those who are different from us?

Forgive us for not loving our neighbors as ourselves,
for sometimes not even wanting to love them.

Save us from putting ourselves first.

Turn us to loving you with all that we are and have.

*Disrupt the ease and luxury that attracts us,
so you might ease us into life, following Jesus Christ.*

Kyrie

Kyrie, tem piedade de nós ó Senhor

Simeí Monteiro: Brazil

Ky - ri - e. Tem pi - e - da - de de nós ó Sen - hor. E - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e. Tem pi - e - da - de de nós ó Sen - hor. E - le - i - son.

Music and Portuguese © Simeí Monteiro, World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland.

Words of Grace

Hymn of Praise

Gloria, gloria, gloria

Luke 2:14

Pablo Sosa: Argentina

Cueca E ♩ = 72

La, la, la

Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria

en las al - tu - ras a Dios. Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos
glo - ry to God on high. And on earth peace to the peo - ple in

que a - ma el Se - ñor. Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria.
whom God is well pleased.

For the ending repeat 2 times each time softer

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Epistle Reading

Galatians 2:15-21

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners, yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.

But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

Simeí Monteiro: Brazil

E B⁷ A E

A - le - lu - ia, A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia,

D E A E B⁷ E

A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia, A - le - lu - ia!

Music Simeí Monteiro, © 1996 GBGMusik , New York.

Gospel

Luke 16:19-31

Read in Igbo

The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 16.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said]: ‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in

agony in these flames.” But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.” He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.” Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.” ’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia

Sermon

Andy Willis

Hymn

I sought the Lord

Anonymous from around 1890

George W. Chadwick: USA

1. I sought the Lord, and af - ter-ward I knew He moved my
2. Thou didst reach forth Thy hand and mine en - fold; I walked and
3. I find, I walk, I love, but O, the whole of love is

soul to seek Him, seek - ing me; it was not I that
sank not on the storm - vexed sea; 'twas not so much that
but my ans - wer, Lord, to Thee! For Thou wert long be-



Baptism of Aanyanwu Obianujuaku Talsma

Presentation

Profession of Faith

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.*

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

*He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.*

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
 and was buried. He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*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.*

Thanksgiving at the Font

Baptism

Welcome

Song of Welcome

Ndum bu nke Chineke

M & Revelation: Nigeria

N - dum bu nke Chi - ne - ke I - he ni - le nkem nwe-
re Je - sus na - ni gi ri nw'o - tu - to, Ek - wen - su en
we - gi ike n'e - bem - no A - bum nwa nke Chu -
kwu Je - sus na - ni gi ri nw'o - tu - to.

My life belongs to God, everything that I have.

Jesus, only you deserve the praise.

The devil has no power over me. I am a child of God.

Jesus, only you deserve the praise.

Prayers of Intercession

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Peace

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

Igbo and Music by Obieli Udoka: Nigeria

*We ask you, we pray you, good God, receive our gifts.
Take them, bless them, make them, Lord, to be good,
worthy to be received by you.*

1. We offer you the sacrifice from the proceeds of the soil.

2. We cannot repay your goodness.

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.*

**Donate now with
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Confirm amount and
donation



Offertory

Bendice Señor, nuestro pan

Argentina

Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan, y da pan a los que tien-en
Lord, bless the bread you have given, and give bread to all who are

ham - bre y ham - bre de jus - ti - cia a los que tien - en
hun - gry, give hun - ger for jus - tice to those with

pan. Ben - di - ce Se - ñor nues - tro pan.
bread. Lord, bless the bread you have given.

English, Donald Wetherick

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sursum corda

Pastor *People*

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

Pastor *People*

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

Pastor

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Preface

Sanctus

Santo, santo, santo

Argentina

Flowing ♩ = 64

C G Am F G C

San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! ¡Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My

F G C Am F G C

co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e res Se - ñor!
heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the Word made flesh,
dwelling among us with truth and grace.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is Jesus Christ,
whose dying is love for us and the whole world,

whose rising is his living in us.

Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Remembering

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

Cordeiro de Deus

Traditional adapted by Simeí Monteiro

Simeí Monteiro: Brazil

C Andante

Cor-dei-ro de Deus que ti - ras o pe-ca-do do mun-do

tem pie-da-de de nós. Cor-dei-ro de Deus que ti - ras

o pe-ca-do do mun-do tem pie-da-de de nós. Tem pie

da-de de nós. Oh! Cor-dei-ro de Deus, vem e dá-nos a paz!

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Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us, O Lamb of God, come and give us peace.

Songs during Communion

Tua Palavra na vida

Simeí Monteiro: Brazil

1. Tu - a Pa - la - vra na vi - da é fon - te

1. Your word in our lives, e - ter - nal, it is a

2. Your word in our lives, e - ter - nal, seed of the

3. Your word in our lives, e - ter - nal, be - comes the

4. Your word in our lives, e - ter - nal, it is a

5. Your word in our lives, e - ter - nal, is light that

que ja - mais se - ca, á - gua que a - ni - ma e res -
 clear foun - tain flow - ing; wa - ter that gives strength and
 King - dom that's grow - ing; it be - comes bread for our
 mir - ror where we see the true re - flec - tion of
 sharp two - edged sword; di - vid - ing our lies from
 shines on the long road that leads us to the ho -

tau - ra to - dos que a quei - ram be - ber.
 cou - rage to all who draw near and drink.
 ta - bles, food for the feast with - out end.
 our - selves: child - ren and im - age of God.
 your truth, it's bring - ing new life to all.
 ri - zon and the bright King - dom of God.

2. Tua Palavra na vida é qual semente que brota;
 torna-se bom alimento, pão que não há de faltar.

3. Tua Palavra na vida é espelho que bem reflete,
 onde nos vemos, sinceros, como a imagem de Deus.

4. Tua Palavra na vida é espada tão penetrante
 que revelando as verdades vai renovando o viver.

5. Tua Palavra na vida é luz que os passos clareia,
 para que ao fim no horizonte se veja o Reino de Deus.

Portuguese and Music © Simeí Monteiro, Brazil. English Sonya Ingwersen © 1990 WCC.
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Somos pueblo

English Carolyn Jennings

Misa Popular Nicaragüense

E B B7 E

1. So - mos pue - blo que ca - mi - na por la sen - da del do - lor.
 1. We are peo - ple on a jour - ney; pain is with us all the way.
 2. God has sent the in - vi - ta - tion to the hum - ble and the poor.
 3. This is bread that God pro - vides us, nour - ish - ing our u - ni - ty.
 4. Christ is ev - er pres - ent with us to u - nite us all in love.
 5. All who tru - ly thirst for jus - tice seek their lib - er - a - tion here.

E A E B7 E

a - cu - da - mos ju - bi - lo - sos a la san - ta co - mu - ni - ón.
 Joy - ful - ly we come to - geth - er at the ho - ly feast of God.

English Carolyn Jennings © 1993 The Pilgrim Press. Used by permission.

Convite ao compromisso

After a poem by Elsa Tamez: Costa Rica

Flavio Irala: Brazil

C *Freely, thoughtful* G A Dm G

1. Come for cel - e - brat - ing the sup - per of the Lord. To -
 2. Quick - ly we should fol - low the re - ci - pe of Christ. To -

Dm G Dm G7

geth - er we will bake an e - nor - mous loaf of bread. We make
 geth - er we will knead the dough with lov - ing hands. We will

Bb Dm G C

wine that ov - er - flows like in Ca - na long a - go.
 watch with joy - ful eyes - the ris - ing of the bread.

with rhythm Bb Dm G

Sure - ly the wo - men won't for - get the salt; and the

Dm G F Dm G

men will glad - ly bring the yeast. Let's send out man - y in - vi - ta -

tions to the blind, the wound-ed, the out - cast, the poor. Let's

send out man - y in - vi - ta - tions to the blind, the

wound - ed, the out - cast, the poor.

3. So this ver - y day we cel - e - brate. Je - sus meets us face to face.

Now as Christ's own bo - dy we com - mit our lives to God's king - dom.

No more will a child be hun - gry. No more will a man be
Nin - guém fi - ca - rá com fo - me, Nin - guém fi - ca - rá com

hun - gry No more, will a wo - man be
fo - me, Nin - guém fi - ca - rá com

hun - gry. No more. No more.
fo - me, nin - guém. nin - guém

English, Terry MacArthur

1. Venhan, celebremos a ceia do Senhor. Façamos todos juntos um enorme pão; preparemos muito vinho, como em Caná.

Que as mulheres não esqueçam o sal e os homens tragam o fermento.
Que venham muitos convidados: cegos, surdos, coxos, presos, pobres.
Que venham muitos convidados: cegos, surdos, coxos, presos, pobres.

Sending Forth

Benediction

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Forum Today – Recent Sharing Projects in Guinea and Chad

Our congregation designates a portion of our income to our sharing fund; from this fund we offer support to other organizations and churches engaged in important work today. This Sunday, 28 September, there will be a forum after worship (during coffee hour) focused on two projects our church has recently supported. All are welcome to stay after worship today to learn more about the good work our community is supporting and the local contexts in which it is taking place.

Next Sunday, 5 October – Contemplative Worship at 17h30

On the first Sunday of each month, our congregation worships at 17h30 instead of 11h00. This autumn, the evening service will be simpler than what we normally have in the morning, quieter in mood, and with intentional moments for silence. In a world of screens full of zap and bang, we will try to slow down, reflect rather than just react, reinvigorate the parts of the brain that are not sparked by constantly moving images, but are essential for spiritual growth and health. Because of its simplicity, this would be a good moment to invite friends or neighbors, who might not be used to church, but who might appreciate such a service. Welcome others into a communion restful, absorbing, refreshing.

Young Adults Group – next Friday, 3 October

If you're 18-30, you have a place here! Join our young adults group to grow in faith, build friendships, and walk with Christ. We'll be meeting up one Friday and one Saturday per month at church (top floor). To get connected, please text or approach Naomi (+41762146607), Olivia (+41764493137), or Ano (+41795502633).

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: **11 October, 8 November**. Please contact Marit Bauer-Moore, Cynthia Wilbers, Margaret Kehoe-Winkler or the office for more information.

Church School Now in Session!

We meet each Sunday during the school year (except on the first of each month, when worship is in the evening, and during school vacations). Children begin the worship service with their families and return to the sanctuary in time for Communion. Questions? Contact the church office.

Monthly Teens' Gathering – Starting 12 October

This fall, there will be a monthly get-together for teens (age 13-19), meeting on the second Sunday of each month after worship. This will be a time for kids to get to know one another better, share in fun activities, and grow in faith together. The activities will vary from month to month, and it promises to be a great space for our congregation's teenagers. Three young adults from the congregation—Gareth Kit, Marianna Lukas, and Nanah Naingola—are leading the group. The first gathering (with pizza and group activities) will take place on Sunday 12 October at 13h00. Contact Nanah (nanah.naingola@gmail.com) or the church office with any questions.

Choir Rehearsals – Thursday Evenings

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 rehearsals will be led by our music director, Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg. Come and sing!

Being With Course – Starting in October

The Being With course, developed by St Martin-in-the-Fields church in London, is an invitation into Christian life—for those who are new to the faith, and for those who wish to continue their journey. Unlike many introduction to Christianity classes, this one is not much focused on doctrine or Bible study—instead, it's “an immersive experience of learning how to be with ourselves, with others and the world around us, and learning how to be with God.” Fulata Moyo and Andy Willis will be offering the course in our congregation this October-December. To sign up, or for more information, contact the church office: office@genevalutheran.ch / 022 310 50 89.

Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

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

5 October – Group B
19 October – Group D

12 October – Group C
26 October – 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 [Todd Diemer](#) on [Unsplash](#)

This Week’s Schedule:

Tues, 30 Sept.	19h00	Congregation Council meeting
Thurs, 2 Oct.	19h30	Choir rehearsal
Fri, 3 Oct.	19h00	Young adults
Sun, 5 Oct.	17h30	Contemplative worship service
<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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- 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	_____
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Comments	_____
New to Geneva? Y/N	Date _____