

PANDEMIC JOINT WORSHIP IN SWENSSON PARK SHELTER
September 27, 2020

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Prairie Sunrise Meditation

John Leavitt

GATHERING

Jesus invites us to a way of celebration, meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus beckons us to a way of risk, letting go of our security.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus challenges us to listen to the voices of those who have nothing to lose.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus points us to a way of self-giving, where power and status are overturned.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross, where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

Let us walk his way with joy.

We lift up our souls to you, Holy God.

We trust the Lord with our past, present, and future.

Teach us, Lord, that we may know your ways.

Guide our every move, Holy One, that we may walk in your paths of love and mercy.

Let us worship the One who leads us in what is right.

Together, let us worship God!

CONFESS AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of **✚** Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

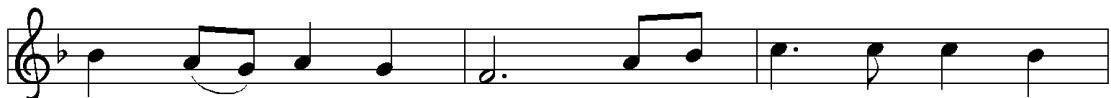
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quiet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -

Refrain

Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:

all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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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.

KYRIE

Refrain

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev 'ry day.

- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you

 this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain
 let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

 Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be
 peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of
 vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -
 le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the
 Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your

ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Holy Scripture, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to
your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now

in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Holy Scripture, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G clef. The first staff contains the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the". The second staff contains "words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.". The third staff contains "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.". The fourth staff contains "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia."

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON

Hymn of the Day

Wade in the Water

Refrain

All

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,
wade in the wa - ter, God's a-goin'-a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader

All

- 1 See that host all dressed in white,
- 2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a-goin'-a trou - ble the
- 3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
- 4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader

wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.
looks like the band that . . Mo - ses led.
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com-ing on me.
just fol - low me down to . . Jor - dan's stream.

Refrain

All

God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - - ter.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,

Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions (*especially*), change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community (*especially*); make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Tyler Atkinson will play on the pedal steel guitar, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" by Martin Luther and arranged by Bill Keith.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

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.

I Received the Living God

Refrain

I re - ceived the liv-ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

I re - ceived the liv-ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

1 Je-sus said: I am the bread, knead-ed long to give you life;
2 Je-sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
3 Je-sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
4 Je-sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,

Refrain

you who will par-take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

Text: Anonymous
Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Mothering God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

All Praise to Thee, Eternal God

Paul Manz

Messiah Lutheran Church

8/31/2020

	Actual Aug-20	Actual Jan - Aug 20	Budget Jan - Aug 20
Revenue	\$16,663.34	\$111,630.30	\$98,840.00
Expenses	<u>\$13,870.00</u>	<u>\$106,148.22</u>	<u>\$110,020.18</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$2,793.34</u>	<u>\$5,482.08</u>	<u>-\$11,180.18</u>
Reserve Balance		<u>\$75,780.18</u>	

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Har Shogren, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth, Gretchen Norland, Louise Benson

Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejskal	Daniels' friend	Erin Erb	Friend of Sherry Peterson
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter	Orin Shogren	Har's brother
CJ Griffith's	Carla Wilson and Corey	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's granddaughter
	Griffith's brother	VanDeVyvere	Mary Jo Roch
Bryan Otte	Chris Reinert's brother	Bruce Butler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Chip Brock	Bill and Caroline Brock's son	Krista Bahler	Sharon Hoffman's friend
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah	Betty Finney	John & Margaret Presley's daughter
		Meghan Presley	

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
Luke Hammontree	Daniel's grandson	T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child

Serving the U.S.A. Overseas

Daniel & Miranda Norland Randy/Gretchen's son & wife

Seminary

Kaylie Ines

Please pray for all affected by Covid-19: Healthcare workers/administration/staff, residential staff and residents, those who seem unaffected and those who are currently aware they are infected and are fighting the virus. Also, we pray for all who are being negatively affected by the virus and it's social disruption.

Birthdays:

Rita Hilt	9/18	Bryn Swisher	9/23
Janie Nyquist	9/25	Bob D'Andrea	9/25
Kolton Crowther	9/25	Jaxon Rogers	9/26
Earl Ahlstedt	9/27	Joy Janis	9/27

George Keffer	9/27	Lynnda Olson	9/27
Bill Gusenius	9/29	Harley Brodin	9/29
Don Anderson	9/30	Linda Lewis	9/30
Kira Haxton	10/1	Vic Strufert	10/1
Brian Anderson	10/2		

WIDER CHURCH NEWS: BY JEANNE AHLERS

Lutheran World Relief has been named an official partner of the Global Resilience Partnership. This organization brings together more than 65 diverse and influential agencies concerned with building resilience in vulnerable communities around the world.

"Lutheran World Relief is proud to join the Global Resilience Partnership," said Wendi Bevins, LWR resilience technical advisor. "As a partner, we will be able to engage with like-minded organizations in knowledge-sharing and advocacy as we work to build the resilience of vulnerable communities around the world."

For instance, the Global Resilience Partnership has supported LWR's Transboundary Resilience Project, a cross-border initiative that helped river basin communities in Nepal and India to better prepare for, respond to and recover from deadly annual monsoon flooding. The project collaborated with local partners in the two countries, bringing together communities across the border to establish their own early warning systems to communicate news of impending flooding.

Lutheran World Relief was founded in 1945, and makes a point of collaborating with local partners to grow inclusive and climate-resilient rural economies, reduce poverty, and respond to emergencies and humanitarian crises. It works in concert with Corus International, an ensemble of faith-based organizations working together in the world's most fragile settings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The American Red Cross is having a blood drive Monday, September 28 from 12:00pm to 6pm. To schedule your appointment visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Lindsborg or call 1-800-Red-Cross. Give blood and help save lives.

Thank you to everyone who helped us reach our goal for Lutheran World Relief School Kits! Extra school supplies will go to our local schools or the Dala Pantry.

FCA invites you to 'See you at the Pole!' High schoolers and middle schoolers- please join us at the tennis courts in front of the High School on Wednesday, September 30th around 7:45am. We will be praying for our schools, community, and much more, (.....there might even be a donut. ☺). We can't wait to get together with you all. See you there!

Bethany Church is collecting individually wrapped bars of soap for Lutheran World Relief. We will celebrate Lutheran World Relief Sunday on October 4, 2020. Pastor Chris will bless our quilts, kits and bars of soap. Donations be dropped off in the blue buckets inside Trinity Hall.

Volunteers are needed on October 7 at 9:00 am to tape the boxes for LWR. Two pick up trucks are needed to deliver the boxes to Salina at 9:00 am on Thursday, October 8. Contact Bethany Lutheran Church at 785-227-2167 office to sign up and help.

Hospice of Salina annual Pumpkins for Patients Sale is happening Saturday, October 3 from 8:30 to 2:30. This is a drive through pumpkin and mum picking event. All proceeds benefit patients and their families. Call 785-825-1717 for more information.

Please **pray for Bethany College, the students, faculty, administrators, and staff**, that all remain healthy and mindful of best health practices, that learning be deep and strong, and that all might live into their vocation.

Please pray for **USD 400 and all teachers, students, administrators, and staff**, that they might remain healthy and mindful of best health practices, that learning be deep and strong, and the all might benefit from the community of learning.

KICK (Kids in Christ's Kingdom) will be on hold for the fall until we see how the virus remains contained or spreads. If you have innovative ideas about how our congregation might engage our youth or any other population in the community or congregation, please talk with Rachel Ann Atkinson or leave a message at the office. Ideas about how we are to be Church in this time are welcome, even as we see people being Church to one another through small actions and thoughtful gestures.

Dala Pantry – Remember that Messiah Lutheran members are asked to provide the following items for the Dala Pantry donations – canned chicken, tuna, pickles, vienna sausages, peanut butter & jelly; Bethany is asked to bring single serving macaroni and cheese, ravioli, applesauce, fruit cups and canned tuna.

The Dala Pantry has gained a few new volunteers but is still looking for people to be of assistance from time to time. Please let Logan know if you are interested! ☺ daweslm@bethanyl.edu.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST



God directs our ways.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons
Monday	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	God's ways are fair
Tuesday	Philippians 2:1-13	Christ shows us humility
Wednesday	Exodus 17:1-17	Water from the rock
Thursday	Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16	What God has done
Friday	James 1:19-27	Hearing and doing God's word
Saturday	Psalm 25:1-9	Prayer for guidance and help
Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard tenants

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"[W]ork out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure." **Philippians 2:12b-13 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, teach us to know your ways and to do them with humility and compassion for all that you have created through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 25:4)

Mealtime Prayer:

Good and gracious God, we thank you for providing for our every need, including the gift of this food; we pray through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God guide you in the way of truth and guard your life with steadfast love and faithfulness.
(Psalm 25)

HYMN OF THE WEEK

We Are All One in Mission

WEEKLY MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Do you ask for help sometimes when making decisions? Why or why not?
- Is there a time when you asked for God's help in making a decision? If so, tell about it.
- How does reading the Bible and having conversations with other believers help guide your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Philippians 2:1-13.

The Apostle Paul speaks to the church at Philippi and encourages the people to live with others with humility (vv. 3-4). He uses Christ as our model for this way of life as Christ Jesus took on our human existence and "humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death" (v. 8). With this as a guide, Paul exhorts believers to pursue the Christian life because it matters to others, to the world, and to God. Knowing how hard it is to live this life faithfully, he states, "work out our salvation in fear and trembling" (v. 12b). But this is not a fear that prevents us from acting. It is actually a sense of awe and reverence that frees us to live and act because God is with us, behind and in front of us in both our actions and our very desire to do the will of God (v. 13). It can be overwhelming to wonder how to live as a Christian. Paul encourages us to go forth with humility to love others and trust God. Think of a situation that is hard for you to know what you should do. When this happens, pray to God for wisdom and faith to act with love and humility.

Pray: **God of justice and mercy, guide our days and our deeds in the peace of Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

In Philippians 2, Paul is asking us to imitate Jesus by being of the same mind and showing compassion, love, and humility to others. Showing interest in others by listening and praying for them is one way to be compassionate. Be mindful of listening closely to the conversations you have with others.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Lifting our hands is one way to show praise to God. In the Old Testament there are people (like Leah and Moses) who lift their hands in praise to God. This is an ancient pose of prayer and a motion used to open a person to receiving God's blessing. Lift your hands and pray daily this week: **To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust. Amen.** (Psalm 25:1-2a)

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool.

Go to: www.milestonesministry.org