

PANDEMIC JOINT WORSHIP IN SWENSSON PARK SHELTER

October 4, 2020

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE All Glory Be to God on High settings by several 18th century Lutheran composers

GATHERING

God, our Beloved, we come to worship you!

You have entrusted to us the vineyard

A planting of fine vines, filled with that which we need

to flourish and grow, to produce fruits which are pleasing to you.

Today, the vineyard needs your healing touch.

We are not the stewards you have called us to be.

We are not consistent in the practices of tending the vines.

We are not consistent in the practices of tilling the soil.

We are not consistent in the practices of caring for the gifts you have given us.

We struggle to allow you to lead us.

We struggle to allow you to reap the harvest you deserve.

You have entrusted to us the vineyard.

We come to hear your word of forgiveness and mercy.

We come to hear your word of healing.

We come to sing your praises beyond our understanding.

God, our Beloved, we come to worship you!

CONFESSION 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.**


You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Gift of Finest Wheat

Refrain




You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



- 1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



Refrain

so when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav'n-ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996
Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

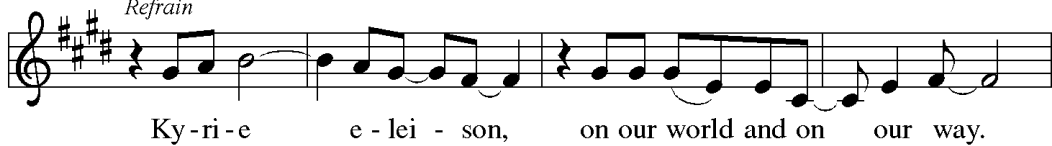
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GREETING

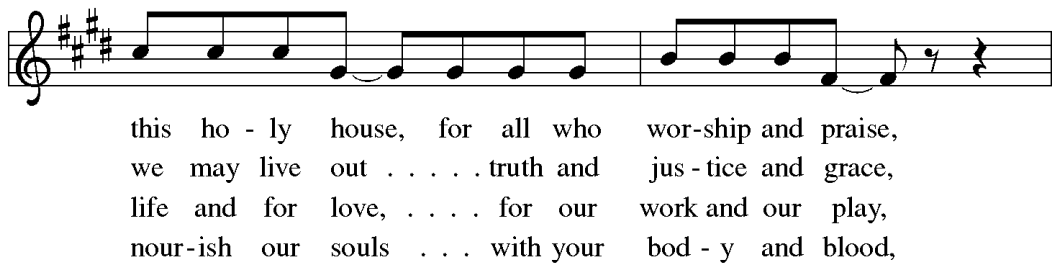
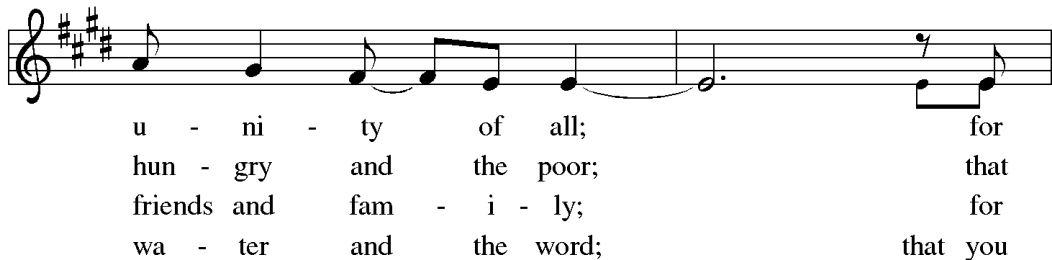
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

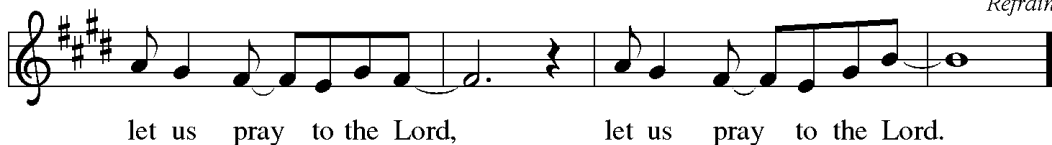
Refrain



- 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



Refrain



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

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured. I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

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

Psalm: Psalm 80:7-15

Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸**You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰**The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

¹²**Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴**Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**

¹⁵behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be

found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Gospel Acclamation.



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." ⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?


⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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


SERMON

Hymn of the Day


As Rain from the Clouds




1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812–1896

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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.

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you call us to work for peace and justice in your vineyard. Refresh the church with your life, that we may bear fruit through work and service. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Thank you for the abundant harvest of the earth. Bless and care for those whose hands bring the fruits of the earth to the tables of all who hunger. May we be inspired by your servants who cared deeply for your creation (*especially Francis of Assisi, whom we commemorate today*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Curb the impulses of greed and pride that lead us to take advantage of others. Grant that world leaders (*especially*) seek the fruits of the kingdom for the good and welfare of all people. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sustain all who suffer with the promise of new life. Assured of your presence, heal our pain and suffering, and equip us to embrace all bodies aching for wholeness of mind, body, and soul. We call to mind those who are struggling today (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for all managers in our community and for all who seek employment. Give hope and a future to those who lack meaningful work, those who have been marginalized or abused in the workplace, and those who desire new opportunities. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard (*especially Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society*). May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

Tom Nelson will be playing, "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place" arranged by Tom Fettke.

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.

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

The Peace of the Lord

La paz del Señor



1 *La paz del Se - ñor, la paz del Se - ñor, la*
 1 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 2 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 3 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the



paz del Re - su - ci - ta - do: la paz del Se -
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the



ñor a ti y a mí, a to - dos al - can - za -
 Lord is for you and for me, and al - so for all of God's
 Lord is a - mong us right now, so o - pen your - selves to re -
 Lord kept with - in can - not live, so o - pen your - selves now to



rá; la paz del Se - ñor a ti y a
 chil - dren. The peace of the Lord is for you and for
 ceive it. The peace of the Lord is a - mong us right
 share it. The peace of the Lord kept with - in can - not



mí, a to - dos al - can - za - rá.
 me, and al - so for all of God's chil - dren.
 now, so o - pen your - selves to re - ceive it.
 live, so o - pen your - selves now to share it.

2 *La paz del Señor, la paz del Señor,
 la paz del Resucitado:
 se hace presente ahora y aquí
 apréstate a recibirla;
 se hace presente ahora y aquí
 apréstate a recibirla.*

3 *La paz del Señor, la paz del Señor,
 la paz del Resucitado:
 no puede vivir encerrada en sí,
 apréstate a compartirla;
 no puede vivir encerrada en sí,
 apréstate a compartirla.*

Text: Anders Ruuth; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923

Music: LA PAZ DEL SEÑOR, Anders Ruuth

Spanish text and tune © Anders Ruuth, admin. Augsburg Fortress. English text © Lutheran World Federation.

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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.**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -

own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE Chorale and Variation “Let the Whole Creation Cry, Glory Be to God on High” Johann Pachelbel

Messiah Lutheran Church

8/31/2020

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

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, Louise Benson

Friends of Messiah

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

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

Bethany Church Members:

<u>Anita Nelson</u>	Maridene Lundstrom	Eralene Johnson
Lou Swenson	Jolene Reese	Elly Ostlind
Gladys Anderson	Jim Attleson	Allyn & Sue Gillberg
Jane Brunsell	Rev. Elwin Bergstraesser	Heath Harris
Joan Hopp	Dolores & Walter Pelz	Betty Finney
Keo O'Rourke	Mija Stockman	Marilyn Cooper
Lois Howe	Mary Parker	Isaiah Ruble
Clarice Eckstrom	Toni & Lloyd Haukom	Dave & Beth Crouse
Clifford Carlson	Mary Swenson	Marvin Anderson
Fred & Elly Briggs	Mark Dahlsten	Harry & Ann Ylander

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 This Week:

Joel Prater	10/4	Louise Benson	10/6
Tyler Breneman	10/8	Kenneth Swisher	10/8

WIDER CHURCH NEWS: BY JEANNE AHLERS

The Central States Synod has formed a racial justice team to engage congregations and ministries more fully in this field. The church is for all people; we have no right to sort, divide, categorize or exclude. By putting us in the thick of life, God wants us to participate in His healing and restoring, insisting on justice and upholding human dignity for the inclusion of all.

The Racial Justice Ministries of the ELCA are dedicated to serving as catalysts and bridge builders. Some of their commitments are equipping leaders to recognize and understand the complexity and implications of racism; training and education in anti-racism and racial justice for leaders in partnership with synods, congregations, associations and oppression; building alliances across the barriers of racism and oppression; and creating ecumenical networks that call for and help equip the church to be a multiracial and multicultural community.

Confronting racism and moving toward fairness and justice in the church and society benefits us all. The ELCA social statement, "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture," offers theological reflection on the church's commitment to undo racism and move toward reconciliation, healing and embracing all people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

15 School Kits and 8 quilts for Lutheran World Relief will be taken to Salina this Thursday, October 8. Thanks again to all Messiah members who had a part in making this happen. Excess supplies have been taken to Dala Pantry and Soderstrom School, and were very much appreciated.

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@bethanylb.edu.

OCTOBER 4, 2020

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



We want to know Christ Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard tenants
Monday	Isaiah 5:1-7	A song about a vineyard
Tuesday	Philippians 3:4b-14	To know Christ
Wednesday	Exodus 20:1-20	The Ten Commandments
Thursday	Psalms 19	The wonders of God
Friday	1 Peter 2:1-10	A chosen people
Saturday	Psalms 80:7-15	Prayer for Israel's deliverance
Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death. **Philippians 3:10 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to trust that in your death there is eternal life and in suffering there is the power of love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Nurturing God, we thank you for this food; help us to use food wisely so that others may have enough to eat. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. (Philippians 3:10)

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Come and Fill Our Hearts

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:

- Describe or think about what you feel are the characteristics of a good friend.
- Are you a good friend? How would others describe you?
- How does your faith in Jesus free you to care for—even feel the pain of—others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Philippians 3:4b-14.

We don't get it. According to research on American religious views, we want to be saved by God because we are "good people." We prefer to rely on our own merits rather than trust the power of Christ's death and resurrection that conquers our sin. Perhaps this is part of the sinful self-centeredness that Christ comes to cleanse us of. Paul writes to the church at Philippi and points out that if anyone has a claim to self-righteousness based on the law that measures our goodness, Paul would be pretty unbeatable; he would be "blameless" (v. 6). But he counts all of his religious success as "loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (v. 8). The truly amazing part of his testimony is that knowing Christ does not free him from suffering; he is not concerned about why "bad things happen to good people." Paul announces his freedom to suffer with Christ. This "theology of the cross" sees life in death, sees joy in suffering and sees hope in despair. Paul presses "on to make it my own" (v. 12). He is announcing a view of life, and this way of life sees Christ as the source of all our hopes of salvation. How is freedom from judging our own goodness important to our salvation? *Pray:* **Dear God, help us to know Jesus; may we focus our attention on the needs of others and to care for them through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Grapevines and vineyards are written about more than any other plant in the Bible. They were important in Biblical times and part of the culture. They were often used as symbols of producing fruit. In this context, fruit means one's actions that come from the heart. Place grapes in a bowl and as you eat them, think about what it means for you to produce good fruits (take positive actions). What positive actions can you take to care for others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Philippians 3, Paul talks about pressing towards the goal to reach the prize of knowing Christ Jesus. Think about a time you tried to reach a goal. What happened? Whether we reach the goal or not, God is always with us. *Pray:* **Lord, help us to keep our eye on the goal, the prize of the "heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Amen.**

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