



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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November 1, 2020

All Saints Day

PRELUDE

“Rise Up, O Saints of God”

Seth Bingham

GATHERING

Praise the Lord, all you saints!

Praise him all you heavenly hosts!

Let us praise the name of the Lord:

For his name only is exalted!

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:

Isaiah, Jeremiah and all you Patriarchs and Prophets!

Miriam, Ruth and Naomi:

Elizabeth, Mary and all you Holy Women!

Matthew, Mark and Luke:

James and John and all you Evangelists and Apostles!

Stephen, Thomas, Peter and Paul:

Philip, Bartholomew and all you Holy Martyrs!

Praise the Lord!

O praise the name of the Lord!

These are the saints, washed white in the blood of the Lamb.

Praise the Lord!

We are the saints who are the living body of Christ, the Church on earth, Christ's hands and feet!

Praise the Lord! O praise the name of the Lord!

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.**

Opening Hymn

For All the Saints

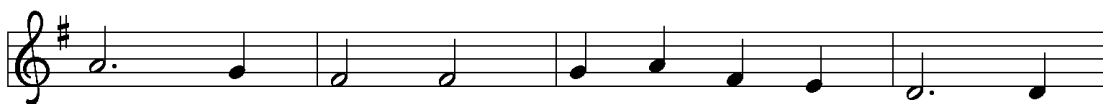
vs. 1, 3, 4, 6

#422

For All the Saints



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might; thou,
Stanzas 3-5 on facing page.
6 But then there breaks a yet more glo - rious day: the
7 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight; . . .
saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray; the
gates of pearl streams in the count - less host, . . .



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
King of glo - ry pass - es on his way.
sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

3 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine,
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
 5 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west;

we fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
 soon, soon to faith - ful ser - vants com - eth rest; . . .

all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain and arms are strong.
 sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.


Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

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,



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

Refrain

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you



for your glo - ry. *Refrain* Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

Canticle of Praise



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -



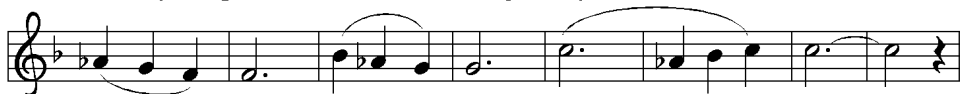
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



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



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's



peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Dedications of this Year

Blessed are we when we let go of possessions for the kingdom of God unfolds in open places.

Woe to us when we gather into barns for soon this life will be over.

Blessed are we who know the ache of hunger for the empty places in body and soul are the fertile soil for new growth. **Woe to us who fill our lives to capacity for we fail to recognize what is missing.**

Blessed are we who know sorrow for the ache of love lost is witness to the seed planted.

Woe to us who have yet to know the pain of grief for the fullness of love is woven with sorrow.

Blessed are we who know scorn for the rejection of humans keeps us mindful of that beyond.

Woe to us who depend on the approval of others because to dance with the Spirit appears foolish.

Blessed are we who live in the harmony of life in the Spirit,

For we will recognize abundance. Amen.

Today we remember our sisters in Christ, Eleanor Anderson, Dorothy Stout, and Louise Benson. Their faithfulness, their stories, their gifts through the Holy Spirit offer to us a strength and foundation in Christ that comes through no other means. Thanks be to God for the great cloud of witnesses who inform our faith!

Today we dedicate to the glory of God items given for our sound system in memory of Paul Gentine. We give thanks that our worship, in these times of greater creativity, can be enhanced with better microphones, stronger wifi, and focused recording systems.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

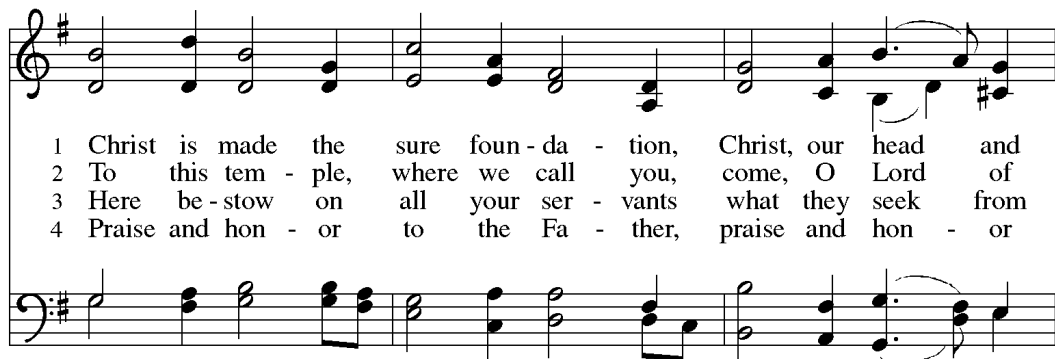
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all, we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

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!

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, **you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

Psalm: Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD; for those who fear the LORD lack nothing. (Ps. 34:9)

¹I will bless the LORD at all times; the praise of God shall ever be | in my mouth.

²**I will glory in the LORD; let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

³Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; let us exalt God's name together.

⁴**I sought the LORD, who answered me and delivered me from all my terrors.**

⁵Look upon the LORD and be radiant, and let not your faces be ashamed.

⁶**I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me and saved me from all my troubles.**

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD and delivers them.

⁸**Taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are they who take refuge in God!**

⁹Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD, for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

¹⁰**The lions are in want and suffer hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

²²O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely

on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

SERMON

Hymn of the Day

Blest Are They



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -
3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
4 Blest are they who seek peace; . . they are the
5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -



king - dom of God. Blest are they,
her - it the earth. Blest are they who
shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the
chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,



full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
pure of heart; they shall see God.
suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain

All



Re - joice and be glad!

Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!

Re - joice and be glad!

Yours is the king - dom of God!

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

Music: BLEST ARE THEY, David Haas

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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.

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Lord of all the saints, we praise you for evangelists and martyrs whose sacrifices witness to your gospel across time and space. Inspire us by their courage to carry our faith to new people and places around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every place, the universe proclaims your greatness from generation to generation. Bless the work of naturalists, conservationists, and park rangers who train our attention to the wonders of the world you have made. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every nation, guide this country—red states and blue states, rural voters and urban voters, young and old—as we share in another national election. Kindle hearts eager to understand our common needs and seek our common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every blessing, your Son's blessing came to those living with poverty, grief, hunger, thirst, and persecution. Shape our vision of the saints to match his own. Awaken in us your call to serve all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every venture, anoint us with the missionary spirit of the early church. Bless all new missions of our synod (*especially*). Empower testimony from new communities of faith to shape a diverse witness to your saving power. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Lord of every time, countless are the multitudes you have called by name and gathered to yourself. Comfort us as we grieve those who have died in the past year (*here the names of those who have died in the previous year may be read*). In faith, may we join with them in ceaseless praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

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.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

Special music by Jeanne Lucas, "His eye is on the sparrow", by Patti Drennan

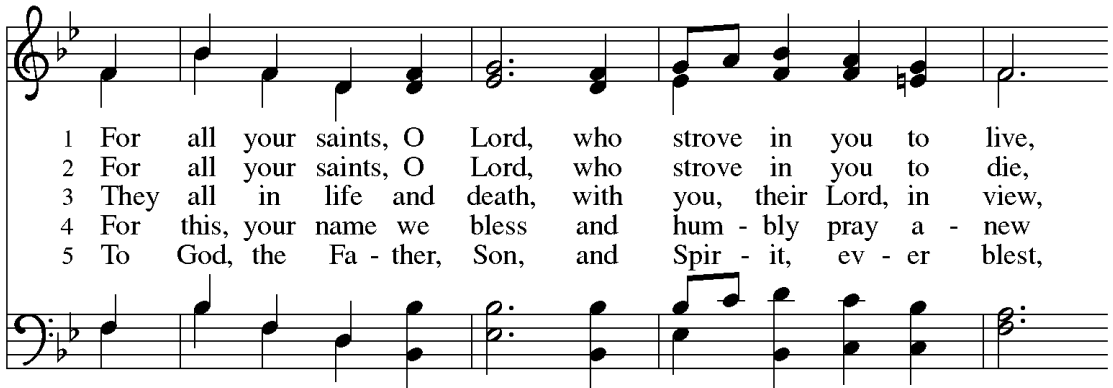
Offering Prayer

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **Amen.**

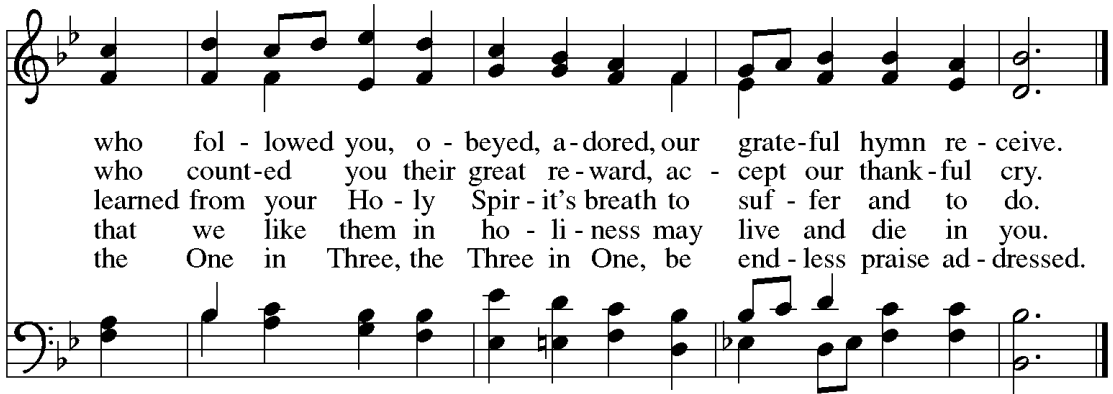
BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

For All Your Saints, O Lord



1 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to live,
2 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to die,
3 They all in life and death, with you, their Lord, in view,
4 For this, your name we bless and hum - bly pray a - new
5 To God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, ev - er blest,



who fol - lowed you, o - beyed, a - dored, our grate - ful hymn re - ceive.
who count - ed you their great re - ward, ac - cept our thank - ful cry.
learned from your Ho - ly Spir - it's breath to suf - fer and to do.
that we like them in ho - li - ness may live and die in you.
the One in Three, the Three in One, be end - less praise ad - dressed.

Text: Richard Mant, 1776–1848, alt.
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

DISMISSAL

You Saints of God, go into the wider world;

We go to serve Christ freely and gladly, day by day.

In each moment realize that you are not alone.

We are surrounded by the saints in Light and filled with the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Hark! A Voice Saith, All Are Mortal”

J.S. Bach

Messiah Lutheran Church

9/30/2020

	Actual Sep 20	Actual Jan – Sep 20	Budget Jan – Sep 20
Revenue	\$11,759.25	\$123,389.55	\$111,195.00
Expenses	<u>11,407.81</u>	<u>117,556.03</u>	<u>123,672.72</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$351.44</u>	<u>\$5,833.52</u>	<u>-\$12,477.72</u>
Reserve Balance	<u>\$76,131.62</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, we hold in prayer family and friends of 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	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah	Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
Erin Erb	Friend of Sherry Peterson	Meghan Presley	John & Margaret Presley's daughter
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe'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

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:

Jeanne Ahlers	11/2	Doris Carlson	11/5
Sharon Doughty	11/6	Bo Atkinson	11/7
Cayson Lindquist	11/7		

WIDER CHURCH NEWS: BY JEANNE AHLERS

We take clean water for granted. We drink it, bathe in it, wash our clothes in it, and don't give it a second thought. But that isn't the case everywhere.

For instance, there is the Brahmaputra River. It's one of India's great waterways, flowing from the state of Assam into Bangladesh. But that doesn't mean that the people living along that river have access to water they can use. The people of Konasaigaon, for instance, have always had to walk a great distance from home even to get water. And that water isn't safe. Drinking it can cause gastrointestinal diseases, which often can be fatal.

To gain access to the best water supply meant bringing in equipment, which in turn meant building roads into the hills to get it there. Pipes had to be laid to reach the villagers. Work began in mid-May, with the project managed by a young volunteer named Cholita. Within days workers struck pure water at around 800 feet below ground.

The new water source directly affects 300 villagers, and indirectly some 10,000, including those attending church trainings, meetings and seminars at church mission points there. Bishop Ichahak Muchalary of the Bodo Evangelical Lutheran Church commented, "It's a great day of blessing to those living in that place. Hallelujah!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KICK (Kids in Christ's Kingdom) for K-6th grade begins Wednesday, November 4. We will have 2 groups (a younger and older) that rotate each week. This semester we are meeting at Bethany Lutheran Church. Please contact Rachel Ann Atkinson (785) 212-0113 or Olivia Peterson (785) 769-6165 for more information on how to register or volunteer to help.

A candlelight election vigil will be held at the Bethany College Amphitheatre on Monday, November 2nd at 6:30pm. This is an invitation to all people of faith to pray for our election and light a candle in hope for our nation.

Bill and Carolyn Brock would like to thank everyone for the prayers, phone calls, and concern for their son Chip, after his August 17th accident. The thoughts and prayers of so many were vital to his recovery. They share the good news that he is finally home in Alaska as recuperating continues.

Advent at Bethany: Journey of the Magi

A Festival of Discovery through Hymns, Scripture, & Reflections

Sunday, Nov. 15, 2020, 4pm, Pearson Chapel

Due to COVID-19, this event will only be available through a livestream at bethanylb.edu/live

A program will be available for download featuring:

Bethany College Handbell Ensemble

Dr. Hentus van Rooyen, organist

Campus Pastor Amy Truhe, reflections

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.

Every year at the TACOL Thanksgiving service and offering is taken to fund the Community Christmas Basket ministry. This ministry provides extra food to families in the greatest need in the Smoky Valley. Because we are not able to have the TACOL Thanksgiving service this year, and will therefore be unable to take our annual offering, we are asking each church in TACOL to consider taking a special offering for the Community Christmas Basket ministry.

If you would like to donate we ask that you designate it to the Christmas Basket fund and send the money to:

Shirley Reissig

PO Box 41

Lindsborg, KS 67456

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.

NOVEMBER 1, 2020 ALL SAINTS
SUNDAY

*God promises glory and peace
forevermore.*



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	The beatitudes
Monday	Revelation 7:9-17	God will wipe away tears
Tuesday	1 John 3:1-3	Our hope in God
Wednesday	Joshua 3:7-17	Crossing over the Jordan River
Thursday	Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Friday	John 11:17-27	The resurrection and life
Saturday	Psalms 34:1-10, 22	Honor the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	A parable of the ten bridesmaids

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“[F]or the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Revelation 7:17 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for joining us to the saints throughout the ages through our shepherd, Jesus Christ the Lamb of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food as we taste and see that you are good. Amen.
(Psalm 34:8)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord of glory and honor and power and might bless you now and forever more.
(Revelation 7:12)

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Behold the Host

Arrayed in White

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:

- Tell or think about someone who has died and who was a loving gift to you.
- Describe or think about what being a saint means to you.
- What is your vision of heaven and how is that important to your daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 7:9-17.

The seer of this heavenly vision allows us to imagine the future of loved ones who have died, especially those who have shaped our own lives of faith with their living witness. Most likely they did not experience the kind of persecution envisioned in Revelation, but all lives know the pain and turmoil of daily struggles. In the end, what remains of their—and our—sufferings and disappointments are swept up in a larger reality, one that sees the Lamb at the center. This is Christ, our shepherd, who suffered and died and through whose blood our lives are purified that we all may stand before the throne of God. The truth of the reign of God through the Good Shepherd is that all our sorrows will be wiped away. We look to a future where there are no more tears, no more sadness to overcome. Yes, there is a great victory in life, it is the victory of the Lamb who was slain and now begins his reign of “[b]lessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and power and might . . . to our God forever and ever! Amen” (v. 12). How does this text give you comfort for loved ones who have died? How does it bring comfort for your own life?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, we thank you for the promise of life and love and peace for all the saints—past, present, and future—through Christ our shepherd. Amen.**

SERVICE

In the Bible, we learn about the disciples, the first followers of Jesus. They are set apart by God to witness to Christ and are called saints. All Christians are saints. In what ways do you witness to Christ through acts of service to others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

All Saints Day is a time to remember all the saints in our lives, both the living and the dead. Take a white, plastic tablecloth, cover the table with it, and write on the tablecloth the names of those who have blessed your life. Place a candle in the center. Light the candle and pray: **Dear God, thank you for the witnesses who have touched my life with faith, love, and hope. I thank you for (read the names) through Christ, the Lamb of God. Amen.**

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