



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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November 8, 2020

23rd Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE

Fugue in C

Dietrich Buxtehude

GATHERING

You call me to wait on You, Lord,

but I get tired of waiting.

Your answers to my prayers,

Your call for me to serve You,

the promise of Your coming Kingdom,

they all seem to take so long.

You tell me to watch for Your coming, Lord,

but I'm not sure how to prepare for...

a thief in the night, an undisclosed time,

and Your disconcerting habit of secrecy and mystery.

Yet, something inside whispers

that You're not all that hard to find;

That You're always coming to me,

and that both the waiting and the watching,

are more about being open to You now,

than about trying not to be surprised in the future.

And so I will keep waiting,

and I'll try to stay alert, so that I can catch the glimpses of Your glory

that fill my day, every day. Amen. *(by John van de Laar)*

CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, **we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation.** Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through ✝ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

O God of Love, O King of Peace

The musical score consists of three staves of music. The top staff uses a treble clef, the middle staff a bass clef, and the bottom staff a bass clef. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The first section of lyrics is:

1 O God of love, O King of peace, make wars through -
2 Re - mem - ber, Lord, your works of old, the won - ders
3 Whom shall we trust but you, O Lord? Where rest but
4 Where saints and an - gels dwell a - bove all hearts are

The second section of lyrics is:

out the world to cease; our greed and sin - ful wrath re - strain.
that our el - ders told; re - mem - ber not our sins' deep stain.
on your faith - ful word? None ev - er called on you in vain.
knit in ho - ly love; oh, bind us in that heav'n - ly chain.

The final section of lyrics is:

Give peace, O God, give peace a - gain.

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 - pas-sioned 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

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

Refrain

for your glo - ry. 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



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

Refrain



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



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



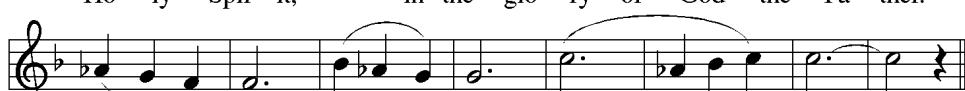
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



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.

Final refrain



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.

Prayer of the Day

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

Psalm: Psalm 70

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.
²Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.
⁴Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”
⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Gospel Acclamation

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below each staff. The lyrics are:

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 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.
[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

SERMON

God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

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.

Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt song. Sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who lead us in praise and prayer especially we pray for Steve Gustafson, Mark Lucas, our liturgists and pastor. Bless all those who offer their musical gifts in honor and glory to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation. We give you thanks for the colors of the leaves, the falling petals and the glorious sunrises and sunsets that remind us of your immense and ever abiding presence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail. We pray for the United States of America, that the office of President be held by a person whom you empower to honor and glorify all life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. We ask Holy Spirit to abide all who are personally affected by Covid-19: medical personnel, friends, family, and those infected with the virus. Let all who have need know your healing touch, that they might experience relief from physical and emotional pain, trauma, and indifference. Let your Spirit reign in the hearts and minds of all people that they might know your connective and Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Teacher, be with all who on campuses and through school districts are affected by the increase in the Covid-19 cases in our community. We pray that you would bless all administrators, all technology personnel, all teachers, students in their quest to learn and grow through such emotional and physical distractions. Build community in a new way, God, that we might continue to impart knowledge in meaningful ways. Bless guardians and parents who are facilitating this new way of learning. Give all of us grace to work together as we live into this new way of supporting one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom. 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

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.**

Invitation to Communion

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **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.**

Let Justice Flow like Streams

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar-kling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans-ing, sure.
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans-lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per-vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926
Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776
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DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata in F

Dietrich Buxtehude

Messiah Lutheran Church

10/31/2020

	Actual Oct-20	Actual Jan - Oct 20	Budget Jan - Oct 20
Revenue	\$10,888.22	\$134,277.77	\$123,550.00
Expenses	<u>11,190.96</u>	<u>128,746.99</u>	<u>137,325.26</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>-\$302.74</u>	<u>\$5,530.78</u>	<u>-\$13,775.26</u>
Reserve Balance	<u><u>\$75,828.88</u></u>		

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Roland 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 Stejskal	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	<u>Seminary</u>
		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:

Teddy Atkinson	11/9	Rylee Lawson	11/12
Marla Elmquist	11/14		

WIDER CHURCH NEWS: BY JEANNE AHLERS

One of the unfortunate side effects of the coronavirus pandemic is an increase in violence against women. As people quarantine or shelter in place, domestic violence has grown around the globe.

In 1994, Congress created the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) with broad bipartisan support. This act has proven effective in combatting gender-based crimes including domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault and other forms of violence against women. VAWA funds shelters and crisis centers, offers support to survivors and supports a national hotline for victims. Law enforcement has been trained to better investigate violence against women.

In June 2019, the U.S. House passed a VAWA reauthorization, H.R. 1585, which also includes key provisions that strengthen protections for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women by including a provision to protect them by respecting tribal sovereignty and restoring jurisdiction over all perpetrators of violence in tribal communities. A 2016 National Institute of Justice research report indicates that more than half of these women have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.

The U.S. House has passed the reauthorization, but the Senate has yet to do so. The ELCA Advocacy urges members to encourage their senators to pass it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Olivia, the pastors, and Rachel Ann met through zoom on Wednesday to pray and carefully consider what to do about KICK in light of the recent local positive cases, quarantine, and school changes. We decided we felt it is best to postpone KICK until further notice. We are hopeful that we will be able to start KICK back up in January, but we will just have to wait and see. Please know we are sad to not have KICK right now. We were all very excited to start, but we feel this is the best way to love our neighbors and avoid passing the virus. We hope that you all stay safe and well. We send our love and a virtual big hug. May God's Peace be with you all during a tough year.

If you would still like to give a Thankoffering this year to Women of the ELCA, it is not too late. You may either mail your offering to the church or bring it in to the office.

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 on 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

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

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.

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 8, 2020
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST



Be alert and be glad for the Lord is coming.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	A parable of the ten bridesmaids
Monday	Amos 5:18-24	What the Lord requires
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	The coming of the Lord
Wednesday	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	The tribes renew the covenant
Thursday	Psalm 78:1-7	Tell the children God's word
Friday	Luke 21:29-37	Be always on the watch
Saturday	Psalm 70	God is wonderful
Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, “God is great!” **Psalm 70:4 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Righteous God, help us to be ready for the time Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead and to anticipate the end of the age with joy. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, help us to receive this food with thanksgiving and to serve those less fortunate with acts of love and service. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who promises you the great banquet feast bless you with peace and joy now and always.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

God of Grace and God of Glory

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 something that you do with focused attention.
- How does paying attention help you do your best?
- Jesus wants his followers to stay alert and be ready for his coming. How is this important to you and to others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 25:1-13.

This parable seems harsh. We might think we are to have mercy on the foolish and not lock them out. A more merciful approach is evident in the next chapter when Jesus' leadership team of disciples falls asleep while Jesus prays in the garden (26:36-46). Jesus chastises them without a sense of rejection. In this parable the church is reminded to live with the final victory of God in Christ in view. It is to impact our daily lives as we wait for Christ's second coming. However, unless there is a particular experience of suffering, we tend to live without paying much attention to Christ's coming again. Jesus is alerting his followers to the importance of watchfulness of the times and readiness to act faithfully at any given moment. That is when the church blesses, serves with justice, and offers salvation in Jesus' name. How might a conscious awareness of Christ's victory and return to "judge the living and the dead" (Apostles' Creed), impact your daily conduct?

Pray: **Come Lord Jesus, strengthen our lives of faith that we may anticipate your coming again with joy and serve our neighbor in love. Amen.**

SERVICE

According to Amos, worship without acts of justice for the needy is meaningless to God. During and after a worship service, take time to think about how God's acts of love and mercy for you and all humanity lead you to do acts of kindness and love for others.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The foolish bridesmaids in the parable did not have additional oil for their lamps. The light in their lamps could not shine. They were not ready. It is important to be ready and let the light of Jesus' love shine. We can do this by being ready to do God's work everyday. One way to be ready is to pray for others, read scripture, and bless others. Use this blessing daily during this week: **May the light of Christ shining through you show your readiness to do God's work.**

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