

Pentecost 17

"So the
LAST
will be
FIRST,
and the
FIRST
will be
LAST."

MATTHEW 20:16, NRSV



September 24, 2023

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Hymn

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

ELW #583

Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 1 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee. *Refrain*
- 2 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. *Refrain*
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee. *Refrain*
- 4 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne. *Refrain*

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, adap.; Spanish text: Vicente Mendoza, 1875-1955

Call to Confession

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Forgiveness

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.


Greeting

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

“We Praise Your Holy Name”



The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and the second line of music corresponds to the second line of lyrics. The lyrics are: "We need you God to fill us with your ho-ly pre-sence. to be our You sent your Son who sa-cri-ficed His life to save us. to take a - hope when life is so un - sure. For peace with - in our hearts, way the sins_ of the world. We're here to wor - ship You."

11
com - fort to our souls. We pray for u - ni - ty.
here to give our thanks. We praise Your Ho - ly Name.

10
We praise your Ho - ly Name

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

3rd Grade Bible Milestone (8:30)

P: Let us pray,

C: Gracious God, you have blessed us with the gift of the Bible, your word to guide us through life. We ask that this Bible will strengthen these young people as they grow in faith. Guide our congregation to be advocates for our youth and their families as they travel the journey of faith. Give us your love, light, and hope in the pages of these Bibles, and help us to be blessings for the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Anthem (10:30)

Adult Choir

“Whoever Would Be Great Among You” – Nelson

Word

God Speaks to Us in Scripture Reading, Preaching, and Song.

Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: 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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, chapter twenty.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last

worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon

Pastor Heather Cularis

Hymn of the Day

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

ELW #765 vs 1,2,&4

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953

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Apostles’ Creed (8:30)

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.

Baptism of Holten Phillip Hale (10:30AM)

Holten is the son of Brandon and Bailey Hale. His baptismal sponsors are Ashley Polich and Ray Reinhart. May God's blessing be upon this child.

P: People of God, do you promise to support *Holten* and pray for *him* in *his* new life in Christ?

C: We do.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

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

C: I renounce them.

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

C: I renounce them.

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

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. Amen.

Hymn (10:30AM)

"Jesus Loves Me!"

ELW #595

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt

Prayers of the People

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Sharing God's Peace

Offertory – The *Noisy Offering* today benefits Pro Kinship Coats for Kids.



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

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Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray.

C: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Holy Communion

Today we celebrate Holy Communion: If you are a guest, please know you are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Jesus said that the body and blood are given "for you and for all people." For gluten-free wafers, ask the pastors. If you desire to commune while seated, please sit near an aisle and let an usher know. We will bring communion to you. Children not yet communing are invited forward to receive a blessing. If you would like to have grape juice instead of wine, please hold up your index finger when you reach a communion server.

P: The Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts,

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Communion Hymn

“The King of Love My Shepard Is”

ELW #502

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
thy rod and staff my comfort still;
thy cross before to guide me.
- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Communion Hymn

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

ELW #461

- 1 All who hunger gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.
Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

- 2 All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

- 3 All who hunger, sing together,
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table
live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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Communion Blessing and Prayer

Benediction

- 1 Rise up, O saints of God!
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.

- 2 Speak out, O saints of God!
Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
the word of hope proclaim.

- 5 Commit your hearts to seek
the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,
rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Furness, b. 1936

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Dismissal

P: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



WELCA Bazaar and Bake Sale

WELCA's Fall Bazaar is back! Join us on **Saturday, October 7th from 8:30AM to Noon!** Coffee cake and coffee will be available beginning at 8:30AM, and we will have frozen apple pies, apple crisp, lefse, and other baked goods for sale. If you would like to contribute, please bring your homemade baked goods

for the sale to the church by Friday, October 6th at Noon. We also need volunteers for the sale!

Women AND men of the church are invited to Apple Pie & Apple Crisp making on October 3rd from 9:00 AM – Noon, and to stay for lunch of sandwiches! Lefse making will be on October 5th from 9:00 AM – Noon.

Questions or want to volunteer? Please contact Marlys Zetah at (507) 351-6692, or Susie Hoban at (612) 516-6493.

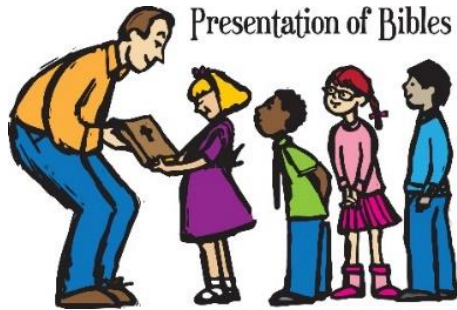


2023 Junior High Youth Gathering for Grades 6 – 9!

November 17th and 18th at the Wilmar Conference Center

From Friday after school (leaving approx. 4:00PM) – Saturday afternoon (arriving back approx. 2:00PM). Cost is \$80.00 per person, Deadline to register is October 10th!

Featuring: Music by Rachel Kurtz; Speakers: Rachel Kurtz and Pastor Jodi Houge; YOUTH LED Mass Gatherings and a service project, worship, singing, growing in faith, student faith talks, building relationships, and hanging out with other youth for our own Synod. Nightlife includes swimming, games, food, and dancing!



Presentation of Bibles

Third Grade Bible Milestone

Karin Barka

Adam & Trista Barka

Raylyn Boelter

Ryan & Jessica Boelter

Grady Brooks

Glenn & Jennifer Brooks

Hunter Brown

Steven & Brittany Brown

Brooklyn Hacker

Eric & Lisa Hacker

Gavin Haynes

Brad & Anna Haynes

Isaac Hillmann

Scott & Laila Hillmann

Sophia Hoffmann

Justin Hoffmann & Crystal Rader

Joslin Huerta

Jenna Rubey

Hannah Hutchens

Lee & Rebecca Hutchens

Grayson Johnson

Troy & Molly Johnson

Caleb Kilmer

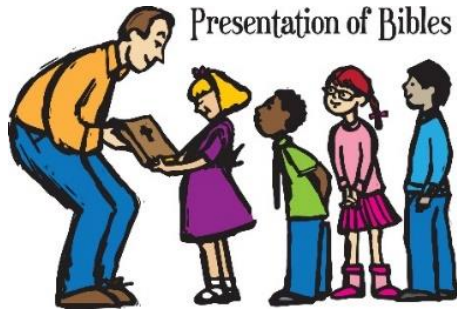
David & Shanda Kilmer

Brenton Kimsey

Trevor & Erica Kimsey

Benjamin Leslie

Greg & Sarah Leslie



Presentation of Bibles

Third Grade Bible Milestone

Hunter Lindmeyer

Nathan & Brenda Lindmeyer

Marvin Neidecker

Ryan & Amanda Neidecker

Charley Nelson

Shane & Callie Nelson

Lillen Roman

Whitney Schaefer

Vera Ruch

Nick & Nikki Ruch

Reese Schmiesing

Brandon & Nicole Schmiesing

Clara Seery

Jared & Rachel Seery

Jaxston Suess

Tom & Heidi Suess

Taylor Teske

Matt & Bobbi Teske

Railynn Traulich

Justin Traulich & Megan Grams

Isabelah Woratschka

Gary & Afton Woratschka



Senior Pastor: Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner	Associate Pastor: Dave Nissen
Education Ministries Coordinator: Lindsay Medina	Office Administrator: Jen Geiger
Business Administrator: Caryn Nelson	Facilities Manager: Scott Kathman
Director of Music Ministries: Tom Maidl	Organist/Pianist: Tom Maidl
Choir Director: Madeline Cacciatore-Warta	A/V: Jeff Julien
Deacon: (8:30) Linda Postel	(10:30) Coryn Enck
Acolytes: (8:30) Zoey Zins, Makayla Borchert	
(10:30) Javen Nachreiner, Brenton Nachreiner	
Communion Server: (8:30) Mary Jo Solberg	(10:30) Marlys Zetah
Lector: (8:30) Amanda Neidecker	(10:30) Deb Geland
Ushers: (8:30) Jim Hulke	(10:30)
P/P: (8:30) Dyan Miller	(10:30)

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	Weekly Offering	YTD Offering	YTD Budget
9/17 General Offering	\$ 7,362.28	\$ 317,150.32	\$ 386,082.28
9/17 Building Fund	\$ 830.00	\$ 35,250.50	\$ 40,192.22
TOTAL:	\$ 8,192.28	\$ 352,400.82	\$ 426,274.50
9/17 World Hunger	\$ 70.00	\$ 4,974.00	

ATTENDANCE	10:00AM Sun.	7:30PM Wed.
9/17/23	258	109

In Our Prayers This Week:

Audrey Broste, Russ Brown, Eloise Finstad, Dixie Flitter, Marj Frederickson, Brenda Gruenhagen, Brad Haynes, Sharon Hulke, Mike Hysten, Joyce Jobe, Ken Johnson, Lyndon Jones, Mavis Jones, Dave Marsh, Treacy Meyer, George Putnam, Karyl Putnam, Brian Reker, Pam Riebe, Sharon Riser, Gabrielle Rolloff, Ruth Skoglund