

+DIVINE SERVICE IV+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+LWML SUNDAY+01 OCTOBER 2023+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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tgslcms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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 - ❖ Mr. Jose Lopez, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

A Note From The Organist:

John Behnke's setting of My Hope is Built on Nothing Less features a highly ornamented version of the melody, played on the Cornet, a combination of 5 flute ranks with a penetrating sound, a combination which was developed very early in the organ's history. The original melody is then stated on a solo reed, after which the original ornamentation returns.

Wilbur Held's setting of "Abbot's Leigh" is among his last works, published in 2011. It features his usual sense of color, using the principal choruses and reeds, with a contrasting middle section using strings.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

644 The Church's One Foundation



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
 By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
 And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
 Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
 And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
 And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
 That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Hymn

791 All People That on Earth Do Dwell



1	All	peo - ple	that	on	earth	do	dwell,	Sing	to	the
2	Know	that	the	Lord	is	God	in - deed;	With - out	our	
3	O	en - ter	then	His	gates	with	praise;	Ap - proach	with	
4	For	why?	The	Lord	our	God	is good;	His	mer - cy	
△ 5	To	Fa - ther,	Son,	and	Ho - ly	Ghost,	The	God	whom	

Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with mirth, His
aid He did us make. We are His folk, He
joy His courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless His
is for - ev - er - sure. His truth at all times
heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the

praise forth - tell; Come ye be - fore Him and re - joice.
doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.
name al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood And shall from age to age en - dure.
an - gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1593, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You did not spare Your own Son but gave Him up for us all. Grant that by faith we may trust in Your promises and live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

The Mountain of the LORD

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,

³and many peoples shall come, and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,

that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.
⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 24:7–10

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates! And be
lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

**⁸Who is this King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty, the
LORD, mighty in battle!**

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift
them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

**¹⁰Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts, He is the King
of glory!**

Epistle

1 Peter 2:4–10

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God
chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a
spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to
God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:25–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

Come to Me, and I Will Give You Rest

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

G I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

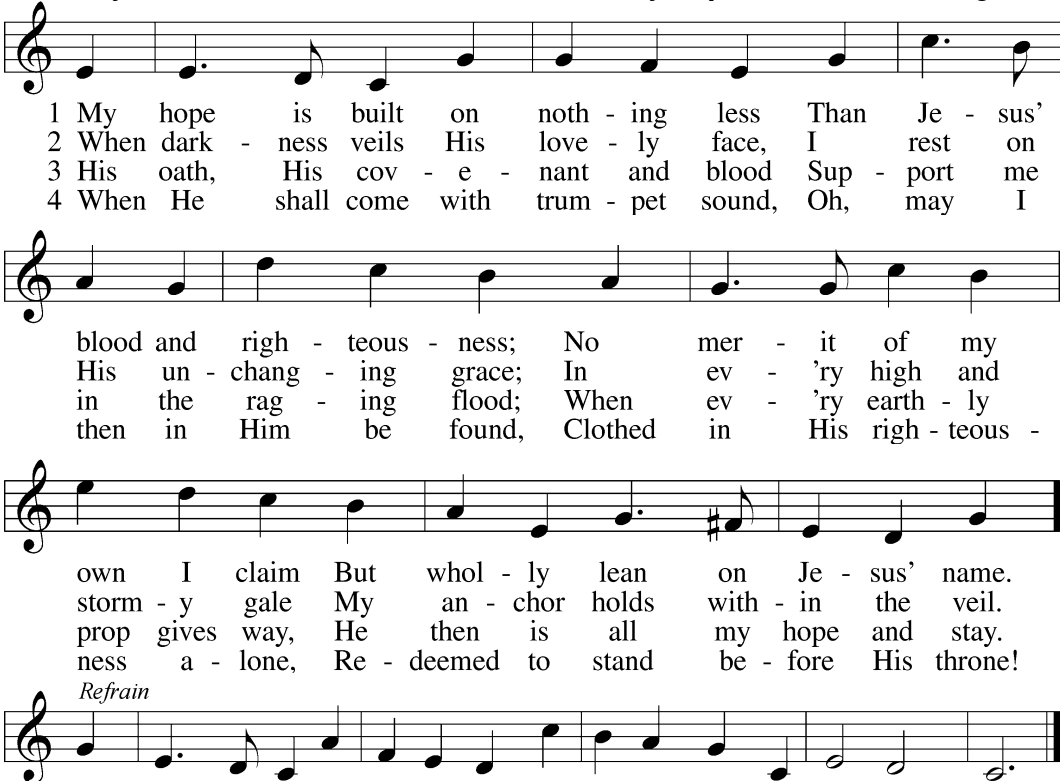
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less




1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
 2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
 3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
 4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I

blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
 His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
 in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
 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.
 prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



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

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

LWML Pledge *Women of the LWML stand and recite pledge together.*

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is "Hear our prayer".

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Merciful Lord, You founded Your Church upon the proclamation of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Purify the tongues of Your servants, that the tongues of the wicked may be silenced. Turn them from their evil ways, that their sins may be washed away. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, encourage us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may not lose heart. Make us to be of one mind and will, that we may serve You with gladness, doing the works of Your kingdom here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Merciful Lord, sustain all fathers, mothers and children; husbands and wives; friends and neighbors; laborers and employers; and teachers and students. Enable us all to serve our neighbors in godly vocations, delighting in the Lord's lovingkindness. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Merciful Lord, all the might of man is nothing before You, yet You have appointed earthly realms and rulers to punish evil and honor good. Give us faithful leaders who will serve honorably and well. Bless also those who serve in the armed forces to defend us and protect our liberty. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Merciful Lord, grant the encouragement of Christ and the comfort of His love to those who suffer especially *Alice, Cynthia, Gene, Johnathan, Lynette, Marion and her family, and Timothy*. In every affliction, prove Yourself a ready and worthy Savior, especially to those who believe. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Merciful Lord, the name of Jesus stands above all names. Before it we bow our knees and confess Him as Lord and God. Inspire in us true devotion and worship as we approach His altar to receive our humble Savior in these humble means of bread and wine for our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** Merciful Lord, in You there is no shadow due to change. Enkindle Your divine light in us, that we may stand united as Christ's own body, holding fast to the word of life and shining brightly in the midst of this world's darkness; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

- 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 Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus

1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;
He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.
I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;
Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
Like fra-grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

Distribution Hymn

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.
 Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn to Depart

646 Church of God, Elect and Glorious



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, Ho - ly
2 God has called you out of dark - ness In - to
3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, Strang - ers
4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, Be the



na - tion, cho - sen race; Called as God's own
His most mar - v'lous light; Brought His truth to
to God's heart of love; But He brought you
peo - ple He in - tends; Strong in faith and



spe - cial peo - ple, Roy - al priests and heirs of
life with - in you, Turned your blind - ness in - to
home in mer - cy, Cit - i - zens of heav'n a -
swift to an - swer Each com - mand your Mas - ter



grace: Know the pur - pose of your call - ing,
sight. Let your light so shine a - round you
bove. Let His love flow out to oth - ers,
sends: Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing



Show to all His might - y deeds; Tell of love that
That God's name is glo - ri - fied And all find fresh
Let them feel a Fa - ther's care; That they too may
Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer; Give your lives in



knows no lim - its, Grace that meets all hu - man needs.
hope and pur - pose In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
know His wel - come And His count - less bless - ings share.
joy - ful ser - vice— Sing His praise, His love de - clare.

Text: James Edward Seddon, 1915–83

Tune: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–92

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Church of God, Elect and Glorious

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Acknowledgments

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✠ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✠

Announcements

+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 34

+ Altar Guild Set Up: October 1st Gayle

October 8th Marie

Cleanup for October: Marie and Susie

+ Ushers for October: Jose Lopez and Johnathan Raelison

+ LWML will be assembling Hygiene Kits to donate to Lutheran Social Services. If you have an extra hand to lend, the more hands we have the quicker the assembly will go. Pizza and ice cream will be provided!

+ October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

+ Join us for Wednesday Evening Virtual Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom.

October Birthdays!

Marie Knox 9th

Denzie Cotton 10th

Maira Killian 14th

Pastor Killian 25th

Mark Thorn 26th

LWML Celebration Sunday!

Lutheran Women in Mission praise the Lord for opportunities to share His message and love with people from all walks of life throughout our community and the world. Today the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) invites you to join us in celebrating the joy of serving the Lord with gladness in this congregation. Together, we will offer our praise using the theme,

"The King is Coming", Psalm 24:7-10

Lift up your heads, O gates!

*And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

Who is this King of glory?

*The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!*

Lift up your heads, O gates!

*And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

Who is this King of glory?

*The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory!*



Throughout human history, God pictured the coming redemptive King through various images of His promise, providence, provision, and protection for His people. We could easily become down and out because of the evil of our world, and quickly give up because of the constant bad news; but hope, peace, joy, and love is the promise of our God for His people. Christ is the King of Glory! The Gospel is our only hope, as the King of glory comes in, with, and through the Gospel, as we were buried with Him in Baptism and raised with Him to a new life!

We invite you to learn more about the mission and ministry of the Lutheran Women in Mission by asking a member or going to the LWML website, www.lwml.org. Thank you for supporting the LWML through your mite offerings and prayers.

Harvest Time – Ready! Set! Go!

LWML Devotion

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (Galatians: 6:9). When you think of autumn what comes to your mind? The lovely gold and red of the season? The cascade of the colorful leaves that make a delightful crunch under your feet when you go for a walk? The harvest of the last of the fall crop from the garden? Reflecting on the beauty of the harvest season, there is also the reminder that just as the days are growing shorter, so too is the time before the Lord of the harvest will return to gather to Him all of His believers. While this brings comfort and joy to the followers of Jesus, it also points to the urgent need to continue with the world He commanded us to do. “He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation” (Mark 16:15). Every day it is important to remember that there are those people God places in your path who still need to hear the good news of salvation that comes from faith in Jesus. It may be the neighbor you politely wave to, but with whom you rarely speak. It may be the member of your family you wish you had the courage to tell about your faith. Perhaps it is the co-worker who shares a life challenge over a workday lunch. Don’t wait till tomorrow. Today is a perfect day to step out and boldly begin the dialogue. There is no special training required. No purchase necessary. No test to pass. No license needed. God has provided all that is needed for the task — His Word ready to be freely shared. The only thing essential is an open heart and willing spirit to always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have (1 Peter 3:15). The hard work has been accomplished by Christ when He paid the price for the sins of all by dying on the cross. In the glory of His resurrection, He assured eternal life for all who, through the work of the Holy Spirit, come to believe in Him. Wow! What a privilege to know that God allows you the joy of telling the urgent message of salvation to those He daily places in your life. Ready, set, go! Christ made everything ready! The path is set for the work ahead! Go and tell!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the daily reminders of all You have done for me, from the beauty of all the seasons of the year, to the provision for me for all of eternity through faith in Your beloved Son, my Savior, Jesus. Please keep me mindful of Christ’s command to go and tell others of what He has done to provide them with a hope and future through belief in Him. I humbly ask You to show me ways to boldly share the greatest love the world has ever known — Your love shown through the sacrifice of your only Son, Jesus. In Christ’s holy and precious name. Amen.

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