

August 21, 2022

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-0620

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .
..we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship
..we **Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life
..we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love
Youth & Education DirectorPam Williams
Pastor’s email:.....prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Church email:.....faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
Website:.....www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page:.....facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos
Guest Musician:.....Kathy Richardson

Introduction to the day

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord’s day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

PRELUDE

“Preamble”

Louis Vierne

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

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

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

Set us again on the path of life.

**Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.**

Amen.

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

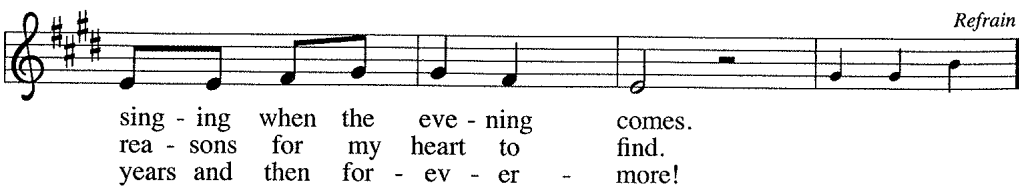
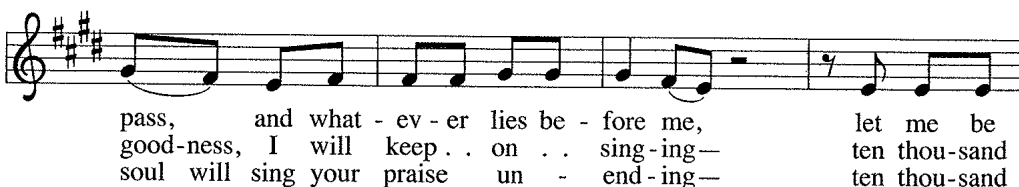
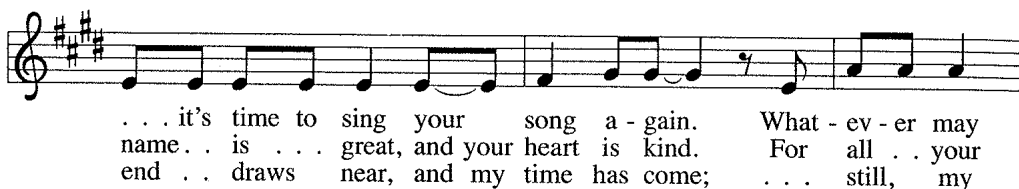
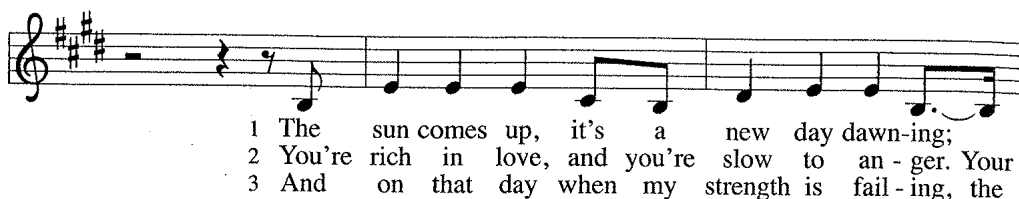
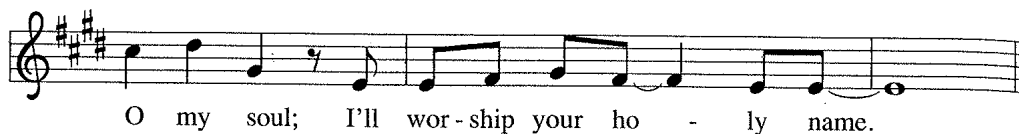
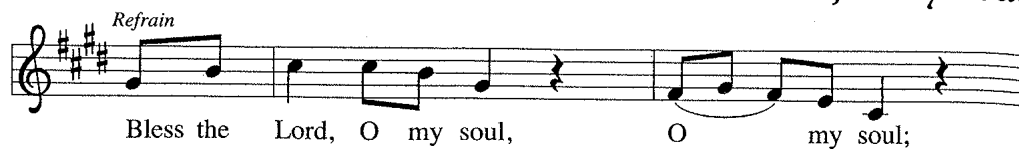
GATHERING HYMN

PRaise, THANKSGIVING

Ten Thousand Reasons

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

1097



Text: Matt Redman, b. 1974, and Jonas Myrin, b. 1982

Music: Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin

TEN THOUSAND REASONS

Text and music © 2011 Thankyou Music / Atlas Mountain Songs / worshiptogether.com Songs / sixsteps Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com

Irregular


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GREETING

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



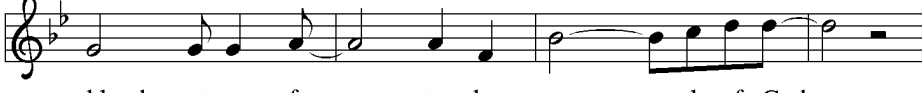
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.


Refrain



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9b-14

God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

A reading from Isaiah.

- ^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you,
 the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
 and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
 then your light shall rise in the darkness
 and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,

and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

¹³If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;

¹⁴then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-8

Psalm is read responsively

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

- ⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
- ⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- ⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

A reading from Hebrews.

- ¹⁸You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.") ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
- ²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not

escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven!

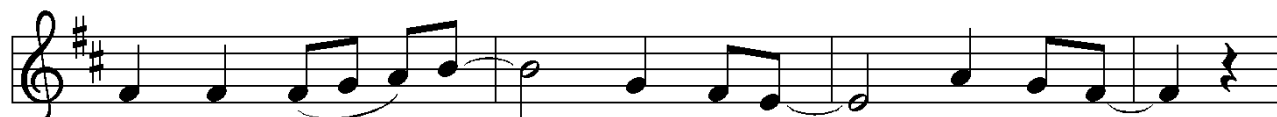
²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” ²⁷This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; ²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

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.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding “sabbath work” to include setting people free from bondage.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁰Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.

¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.” ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

By Grace We Have Been Saved



1 By grace we have been saved through faith and
2 For all have sinned and fall - en short. God's
3 God gave to earth a per - fect love through
4 We know the wage of sin is death; thank
5 Set free, we now have peace with God. Sal -



not by keep - ing law. God's saints be - lieved by
plan, not one o - beyed. Christ has for all ful -
Je - sus on the cross. While we were foes, Christ
God, we shall re - vive. For just as Je - sus
va - tion is se - cured. How beau - ti - ful the



what they heard and not by what they saw.
filled the law. Be - lieve, con - fess, be saved.
died for us. We gained by God's own loss.
rose a - gain, we too are made a - live.
feet of those who share this gos - pel word.

Refrain



Oh, how I love Je - sus! Oh, how I love Je - sus!



Oh, how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!

Text: Rusty Edwards, stanzas; Frederick Whitfield, refrain
Music: OH, HOW I LOVE JESUS. North American traditional

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Blessing of the Backpacks

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

(Students of ALL ages are invited to come forward with their backpacks, bags, briefcases, etc.)

Let us pray. God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for schools, classrooms and offices and for the teachers, students, and workers who fill them each day. We thank you for this new beginning, for new books and new ideas. We thank you for sharpened pencils, pointy crayons, and crisp blank pages waiting to be filled. We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again. Help us remember that asking the right questions is often as important as giving the right answers. Today we give you thanks for these your beloved children (and adults), and we ask you to bless them with curiosity, understanding and respect. May their backpacks be a sign to them that they have everything they need to learn and grow. May they be guided by your love. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed us his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for us.

Amen.

On behalf of all of us at Faith Lutheran Church, we present you with these crosses for you to attach to your backpacks and bags. This way, you can look at it, a reminder to students of their baptism every day throughout the year, remember this blessing and be reminded of God's presence with you at all times and in all places. May you share that love with others, caring for and helping those you meet.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition, the assembly responds: Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Conrad Cocher, Arr. Teresa Wilhelmi

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

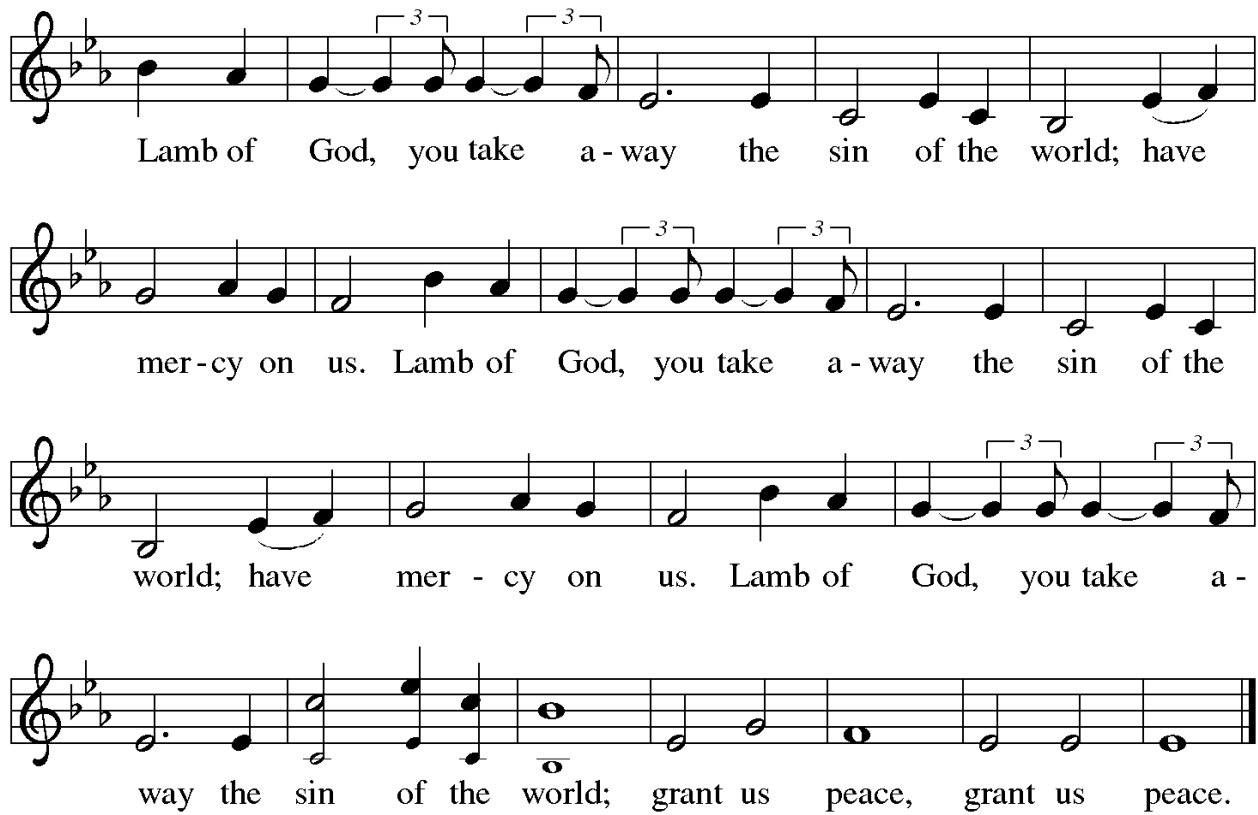
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Arr. Carol Tornquist

Please stand if you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

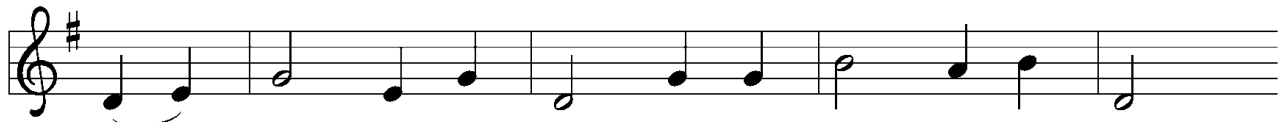
Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

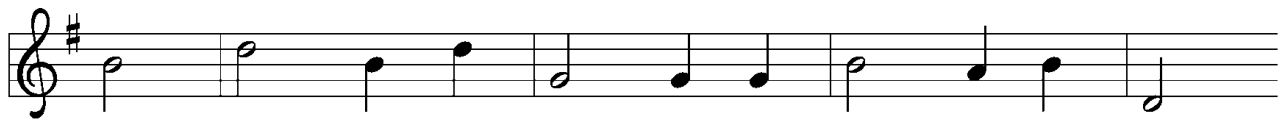
How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Prelude in a Classic Style”

Gordon Young

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Altar Care: Cecelia Kramer

Reader: Lois Neves

Lay Assistant: Rich Weingartner

Ushers: Jon & Elaine Harrison

Coffee Hour: Paul & Laurie Hereza

Year to Date January 1- July 31st, 2022

Income	\$171,553.00
Expenses	<u>\$190,435.00</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(18,882.00)

8/7/22

Loose Cash	\$ 65.00
General Fund	\$ 1,145.00
LWR School Kits	\$ 50.00
Break Bags	\$ 120.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 226.00
VBS	<u>\$ 95.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,701.00
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 3,485.00
Building	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
Total	\$ 5,211.00

8/14/22

Loose Cash	\$ 105.00
General Fund	\$ 1,610.00
MRH Golf Sponsor	\$ 100.00
Roof Fund	\$ 1,432.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 216.05
Parish House	\$ 75.00
Rosie's Heart Walk	\$ 30.00
Youth	<u>\$ 96.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 3,664.05
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 907.00
Total	\$ 4,571.05

Rally Day: Sunday, September 11th

9:00 a.m. - Downstairs Fellowship Hall (Continental Breakfast)

All kids' preschool through 5th grade, their families and all the Sunday School helpers!

Parents will meet the teachers, learn how Sunday School will be run this year and fill out permission slips. Students will then go onto an activity while the parents have time to talk and ask questions and hear what Pastor has planned for the 9:00 hour. They will end in their classrooms where you will get them at 9:45.

Sunday School will be at 9:00 A.M. this school year.



All-Church Potluck

All-Church Potluck Following Worship

The entire congregation is invited to an all-church potluck on Sunday, September 11th following worship. Hot dogs will be provided.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS PROJECT – Sunday, September 11, 2:00 PM

On the afternoon of Sunday, September 11, we will gather at the Historical Village in Meridian Township at 2:00 PM. Once there, we will meet up with Emma Campbell, Environmental Stewardship & Volunteer Coordinator for Meridian Township. Our project this year will be *litter cleanup*. Volunteers will monitor and clean up litter along the Marketplace on the Green, the Historical Village area, Central Park South, and the area near the MSU Credit Union which is always quite littered. *Picking up this litter is a simple task that just takes some walking around and looking out for any trash, but it is very important to the health of the local wetlands, which receive a lot of the trash once it blows out of the area.*



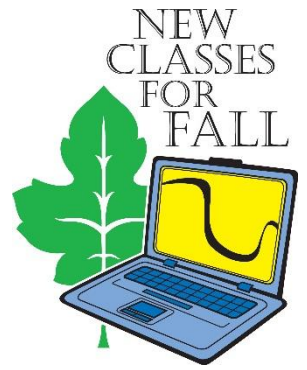
We ask that you bring gloves, dress appropriately for the weather, and wear proper footwear for this effort. When you meet up with Emma at 2:00 PM, you will receive your assignments. **Emma will provide trash pickers, buckets, bags, safety vests for volunteers to use, and some gloves if needed.**

Emma said that over the past two years they have removed thousands of pounds in total of trash from that area, so this kind of community help is really needed. She said it is fun for the group to see the total amount of accumulated trash at the end, and they always do a **fun competition for whoever finds the weirdest/coolest trash!**

Join us as we again live into God's Work using Our Hands in this community!

Starting Sunday, September 18th

Sunday morning 9:00 AM Continental Breakfast & Christian Education for adults



Beginning on Sunday morning, September 18, Pastor Ellen will host a continental breakfast and education time downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for any interested adults. Join her for donuts, coffee & juice and be taken to a deeper place in your faith journey.

For the first 3-6 weeks, we will use a curriculum entitled ***Confronting Christian Nationalism***. This three-session curriculum examines the threat of Christian nationalism in our country. Because discussions may take longer than the time provided before worship, Pastor Ellen is providing flexibility as we look at this three-session course, allowing up to six weeks (*if needed*) to complete the discussions.

After completing our time of learning regarding the topic of Christian nationalism, we will then focus on ***How Lutherans Interpret the Bible***. Each of these sessions will begin with a video by Dr. Mark Allan Powell, a Lutheran pastor and seminary Bible professor. Each video, designed as a teaching tool for congregational use, will be followed by a time for group discussion. The seven sessions are:

- Session 1: The Word of God
- Session 2: What Lutherans Say About the Bible
- Session 3: Where the Bible Comes From
- Session 4: Interpreting the Bible in Context
- Session 5: Determining Right from Wrong
- Session 6: The Many Meanings of the Bible
- Session 7: Devotional Bible Reading

All adults are welcome to participate in this education experience. If you have children attending Sunday School, drop them off for 9:00 AM Sunday School then come join us in the Fellowship Hall.