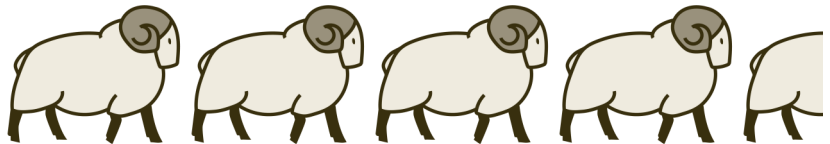


**September 8, 2024**  
**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**THE NEED FOR**



**FOLLOWERSHIP**

**Prepare for Worship**

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.

Amen.

## 619 Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him



1 Praise the Al - might - y; my soul, a - dore him!  
 2 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,  
 3 Trust not in princ - es, they are but mor - tal;  
 4 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud him un - til death. With songs and  
 par - don and peace from him ob - tain; ev - er the  
 earth-born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their  
 of him who does such won-drous things! All that has



an - thems I'll come be - fore him as long as  
 wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, their faith - ful  
 coun - sels at life's last por - tal when the dark  
 be - ing, to praise him sole - ly, with hap - py



he al - lows me breath. From him my life and  
 God he will re - main. He helps his chil - dren  
 grave will claim its prey. Since, then, no one can  
 heart its a - men sings! Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; bless, O my soul, his ho - ly  
 in dis - tress, the wid - ows and the fa - ther -  
 help af - ford, trust on - ly Christ, our God and  
 an - gel host praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



name. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 less. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ghost! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Stand

## Invocation

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

## Confession

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.  
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

## Absolution

CW 172

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176



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



peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



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



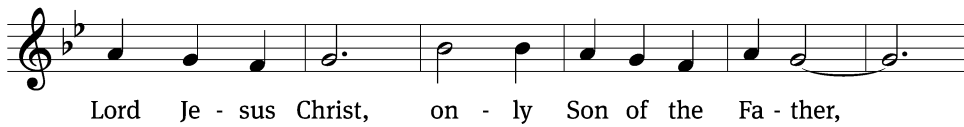
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



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



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



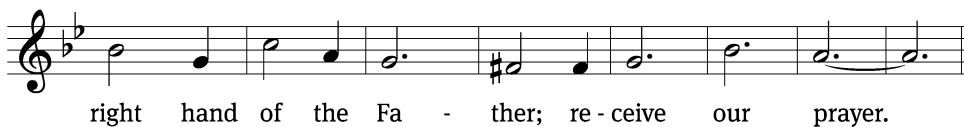
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



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



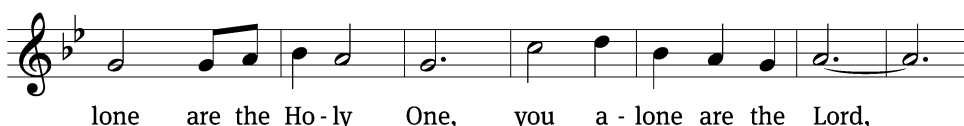
right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



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



peo - ple on earth. 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.

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

peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518

# The Word

## Salutation

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

***Isaiah 35:4–7a***

Tell those who have a fearful heart:

Be strong. Do not be afraid. Look! Your God will come with vengeance.

With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.

<sup>6</sup>The crippled will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.

Waters will flow in the wilderness, and streams in the wasteland.

<sup>7</sup>The burning sand will become a pool, and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 146A I Will Praise the Lord All My Life

### Refrain

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.

### Tone

I will praise the LORD / all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long / as I live.  
Do not put your trust in / princes,  
in human beings, who / cannot save.  
Blessed are those whose help is the God of / Jacob,  
whose hope is in the / LORD their God. *Refrain*

He upholds the cause of / the oppressed  
and gives food to the / hungry.  
The LORD sets / pris'ners free,  
the LORD gives sight / to the blind.  
The LORD reigns for- / ever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations. / Praise the LORD.  
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Tune: Henry V. Gerike  
Setting: Henry V. Gerike  
Music: © 2002 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: License no. 130000787



## Second Reading

## Acts 3:1–10

Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, an hour of prayer. <sup>2</sup>A certain man who was lame from birth was carried there every day and placed at the temple gate, which is called Beautiful, so that he could beg for donations from those entering the temple. <sup>3</sup>When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple, he asked them for a donation.

<sup>4</sup>Peter looked directly at him, as did John. Peter said, “Look at us.” <sup>5</sup>So the man paid close attention to them, expecting to receive something from them.

<sup>6</sup>But Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I will give you. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!” <sup>7</sup>Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately the man's feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup>Jumping up, he stood and began to walk. He entered the temple courts with them, walking, jumping, and praising God.

<sup>9</sup>All the people saw him walking and praising God. <sup>10</sup>They recognized him as the one who used to sit begging for money at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

CW 179

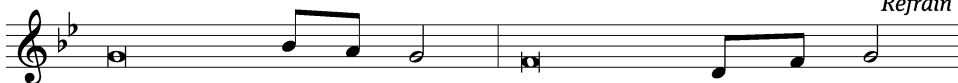


*Refrain*



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

*Tone*



Your words are my joy and my heart's de - light.

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## Gospel

**Mark 7:31–37**

Jesus left the region of Tyre again and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of the Decapolis.

<sup>32</sup>They brought a man to him who was deaf and had a speech impediment. They pleaded with Jesus to place his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. <sup>34</sup>After he looked up to heaven, he sighed and said, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!")

<sup>35</sup>Immediately the man's ears were opened, his tongue was set free, and he began to speak plainly. <sup>36</sup>Jesus gave the people strict orders to tell no one, but the more he did so, the more they kept proclaiming it. <sup>37</sup>They were amazed beyond measure and said, "He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Installation of Sunday School Teachers**

## 537 Word of God, Come Down on Earth



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, speak and heal our  
4 Word that speaks your Fa - ther's love, one with him be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
mor - tal blind - ness; deaf we are; our heal - er be;  
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the  
loose our tongues to tell your kind - ness. Be our Word in  
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.  
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.  
pit - y spo - ken, heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.  
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010 Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673, alt.

Text: © 1969 James Quinn, SJ, admin. OCP Publications. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518 Tune: Public domain

## Sermon Followers of Christ See the True Purpose of His Power Mark 7:31-37

Stand

## Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

**Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.**

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

**Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.**

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

**Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.**

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

**Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.**

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

**Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.**

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

**Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## Good News for Kids/Offering

# The Sacrament

*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. The Lord's Supper makes a second statement. It says, "We are one in all that we do." We don't know if this type of bond exists with our guests, so we ask that if you are not a member of a WELS or ELS congregation you refrain from the Lord's Supper today and meet personally with our pastor if you desire to receive the sacrament in the future.*

Stand

### **Preface**

CW 183

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

### **Proper Preface**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184

The musical score is written on seven staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a soprano clef. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of 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, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Tune: Marty Haugen Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**



# Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Tune: Marty Haugen Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518

*Be seated*

## Distribution

## 654 Jesus Sinners Does Receive



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; oh, may all this  
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, yet his words, rich  
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray are not by the  
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to you with a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
 grace re - veal - ing, par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
 Lord for - sak - en; wea - ry souls who lost their way  
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



and from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope for  
 here their ills have per - fect heal - ing who with hum - ble  
 are by Christ, the Shep - herd, tak - en in his arms that  
 grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.  
 hearts be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.  
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.  
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know, were as scarlet my transgression,  
 it shall be as white as snow by your blood and bitter passion,  
 for these words I do believe: Jesus sinners does receive.
- 6 Now my conscience is at peace, from the law I stand acquitted.  
 Christ has purchased my release and my ev'ry sin remitted.  
 Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners does receive.
- 7 Jesus sinners does receive, even I have been forgiven.  
 And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.  
 Dying, still to him I cleave: Jesus sinners does receive.

## 677 The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord



1 The death of Je - sus Christ, our Lord, we cel - e -  
2 He blot - ted out with his own blood the judg - ment  
3 That this for - ev - er true shall be he gives a  
4 His Word pro - claims and we be - lieve that in this



brate with one ac - cord; it is our com - fort  
that a - gainst us stood; he full a - tone - ment  
sol - emn guar - an - tee; in this his ho - ly  
sup - per we re - ceive his ver - y bod - y,



in dis - tress, our heart's sweet joy and hap - pi - ness.  
for us made, and all our debt he ful - ly paid.  
sup - per here we taste his love, so sweet, so near.  
as he said, his ver - y blood for sin - ners shed.

- 5 A precious food is this indeed, it never fails us in our need,  
a heav'nly manna for our soul until we safely reach our goal.
- 6 How blest is each believing guest who in these promises finds rest,  
for Jesus will in love abide with those who do in him confide!
- 7 They who his Word do not believe this food unworthily receive,  
salvation here will never find— may we this warning keep in mind!
- 8 Help us sincerely to believe that we may worthily receive  
your supper and in you find rest. Amen! They who believe are blest.

Text: tr. Olof Olsson, 1841–1900, alt.; Haquin Spiegel, 1645–1714, abr. Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer . . . Melodien, 1742 Text and tune: Public domain

*Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood. Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.*

Stand

## Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

### Acknowledgments

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## 627 To God Be the Glory



1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done!  
2 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,



So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son,



who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin  
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be



and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.  
our joy and our won - der when Je - sus we see.



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice!



O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son



and give him the glo - ry, great things he has done!

## **Welcome to Lincoln Heights!**

We are glad you are here today to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please speak with an usher for any help.

## **Yellow Cards**

Please fill out a yellow card and place it in the offering plate when passed. Thank you.

## **In Our Prayers**

The Lord is eager to hear the prayers of thanks and petitions for help from his people. Please keep these members and families in your prayers. Contact Pastor to add someone to this list: Ukraine Ray & Gloria Overson, Sherry Just and Randy Michael- shut-ins  
Pat Oswald, Makenzie Phippen, Steve Carter- health  
Nichelle Hoey and Nura Jenka - expecting  
Lucas Gilman & Karri Pippett, Daniel Pfeifer & Paige Harmon, Isaiah Luellen & Andie Schlabach - engaged couples

## **Prepare for Next Sunday**

For a simple devotional reading plan, review the readings for this week on Monday through Wednesday. Then read the Scripture for next Sunday on Thursday through Saturday. The Word for next Sunday: *1 Kings 18:21-39, Ephesians 6:10-18, Mark 9:14-27*

## **Thank You to Today's Helpers**

**Accompanist:** Donna Bakken  
**Altar Guild:** Abbey Norton & Tammy Rummel  
**Counters:** Karl Kuhrt  
**Mowing 9/8-9/14:** Dave Covell  
**Streaming:** Benjamin Weber  
**Ushers 8 am:** Dennis Moural & Jon Holmen  
**Ushers 10:30:** TBA

## **Next Sunday's Servants**

**Accompanist:** Donna Bakken  
**Altar Guild:** Abbey Norton & Tammy Rummel  
**Counters:** Leon Burger & Cassandra Canny  
**Mowing 9/15-9/21:** Brent Canny  
**Streaming:** Benjamin Weber  
**Ushers 8 am:** Dennis Moural & Jon Holmen  
**Ushers 10:30:** TBA

## **Wednesday Evening Christian Education**

### **Catechism & Bible History**

*5:30-6:30 pm*

Catechism is for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students and focuses on the basic doctrines of the Bible using the Small Catechism. Bible History is for 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students and goes through 58 of the most important stories of the Bible.

### **Choir**

*5:30 pm*

Teens and adults of all singing abilities are invited to join the choir.

### **Evening Prayer Service**

*6:30-6:45 pm*

All are invited for this time of song, prayer and Scripture. We will walk through Isaiah together this year closing each night with your choice of evening hymns.

### **Bible Class—Revelation**

*6:45-7:30 pm*

God “reveals” his wonderful plan to bring us through this life into the eternal life.

### **Children’s Handbells**

*6:45-7:30 pm*

5th-12th grade students are invited to join. Students will learn the proper techniques to play the real handbells and play for services when ready.

### **Online Giving**

Thank you for your generous and cheerful offerings to the Lord.



[www.LHELCL.org/giving](http://www.LHELCL.org/giving)

### **Forward in Christ - Sept. 2024**

This month’s issue is available on the shelf outside the sanctuary or at [www.forwardinchrist.net](http://www.forwardinchrist.net) if you prefer.

“Our sins, not his, his blood, not ours.”

Read how an autistic man uses his poetry to share the light of the gospel with the world around him. (page 18)

“When teachers learn more, others learn even more.” Discover how four called workers prioritize continuing education and use what they learn to benefit their ministries. (page 12)

“In Christ alone, God’s people win, whether in life or in death.” A pastor shares his grief, and his hope, after losing his wife and child in a fire. (page 10)

## Together: A biweekly and breaking e-newsletter from WELS

### Musical energy and talent a highlight at the National Worship Conference

*The following summary of the recent WELS National Festival for Worship, Music, and the Arts, held July 31–Aug. 2, in Kenosha, Wis., was written by Rev. Bryan Gerlach. He has served as the director of the WELS Commission on Worship since 1996 and was involved in the development of the new WELS hymnal. He will be retiring this month. He has provided steady and solid leadership in the area of worship, emphasizing the importance of worship that is Christ-centered, focused on law and gospel, and retains the principles of faithful Lutheran worship while incorporating variety and freshness in the liturgies and hymns used in our congregations. We thank God for this gift to his church, and we thank him for his faithful service. —WELS President Mark Schroeder*

After a seven-year hiatus, rather than the three-year pattern that began in 1996, it's not surprising that this year's conference unleashed a lot of musical energy and talent. One first-time attendee said, "I had heard it would be awesome, but it far exceeded my expectations." Some regular past attendees said "best ever" about the caliber of the orchestra . . . and the superb cafeteria menu choices.

The conference theme was "Sing to the Lord a New Song." While the song of the gospel is always new, this conference made extensive use of new songs from the 2021 WELS hymnal suite and beyond, accompanied by a wide variety of instruments in different styles.

Those who couldn't attend can still enjoy concerts and services at [welsworshipconference.net/media](http://welsworshipconference.net/media). This link also includes service folders, some presentation handouts, and photos. While the impact from these videos isn't the same as being present with 1,000 people (like a photo of the Grand Canyon can't compete with standing at the rim), viewers can still enjoy these events. Here are some "not to miss" items:

- Festival concert: Don't miss the thrilling final movement of Saint Saens' "Organ Symphony" and excellent choral music from a 115-voice choir.
- Plenary address: Jonathan Bauer presented "Lutheran Worship: What Now?" In a context of rapid change, Bauer demonstrates how, as we, confessional Lutherans, are fully equipped to answer this crucial question. It's available in both video and print.
- Morning "Alive in Christ" sermons: Hear sermons by Prof. Aaron Christie (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary), President Richard Gurgel (Martin Luther College), and President em. Paul Wendland (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary).
- Closing concert: A rendition of "Amazing Grace" starts with a whisper from the children's choir (50 voices singing with beautiful tone) accompanied by harp, handbells, and flute. It keeps building until the last stanza, a sonic roar from 1,200 people, full orchestra with lots of percussion, and a kilt-clad bagpiper. (The hymn begins at 1:15 in the video)

The conference wasn't only for musicians and pastors. Non-musical laypeople from congregations of all sizes selected from many presentation topics. A first-time non-musical attendee said, "My wife twisted my arm to come, but I won't miss another!"

View all the materials and presentations online at [welsworshipconference.net](http://welsworshipconference.net).

*Note: This conference marked the retirement of Rev. Bryan Gerlach, who has helped plan all nine worship conferences. Conference planning committee chair Rev. Jon Zabell presented Gerlach with a collection of organ music commissioned in thanks to God for his years of service. Gerlach said, "This conference has been quite the going away party. But, seriously, these conferences have been a highlight of my ministry."*



## WELS endowment funds continue to provide ongoing ministry support

Thanks to the generosity of God's people, WELS Foundation distributed \$1.4 million for our Savior's gospel ministry in July from the WELS endowment funds. Established by delegates at the 2005 synod convention, these funds provide ongoing, dependable support for the Lord's work in WELS Ministerial Education and WELS Home, World, and Joint Missions.

The WELS Joint Missions Endowment managed by WELS Foundation provides support to cross-cultural ministry efforts like the Vietnamese outreach ministry at King of Kings, Garden Grove, Calif. Missionary Trung Lê was installed at King of Kings in August 2023 after graduating from the Pastoral Studies Institute at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Lê leads the congregation's ministry to its Vietnamese community, which makes up about 40 percent of Garden's Grove's population.

King of Kings shows its love to its Vietnamese-speaking neighbors in a number of ways, including offering U.S. citizenship classes, after which the students are invited to stay for Bible study. Lê has also begun providing English as a Second Language classes twice per week. In addition, he leads two Bible information classes in Vietnamese and is working to form a core group, with the prayer that within the next year or two, he will begin a Vietnamese worship service. "Everything is in God's will," Lê says, "but we try our best and see what can happen."

Lê is grateful for the support provided to the Vietnamese ministry at King of Kings from the Joint Missions Endowment: "It has been a wonderful blessing to have such wonderful help from WELS Joint Missions," says Lê, "I praise the Lord for that."

WELS Foundation also manages endowments that are set up by individuals, congregations, and other WELS-affiliated ministries. In total, WELS Foundation distributed \$4.5 million from more than 375 endowments this year, providing ongoing financial support for Christ's gospel work throughout WELS.

"An endowment fund can provide a source of predictable financial support for ministry like the Vietnamese outreach being done in Garden Grove for years to come," says Mr. Jim Holm, executive director of WELS Foundation. "That's what makes endowments so impactful and such a blessing to gospel work."

There are a variety of ways to give to an endowment: cash or appreciated assets; through a will, trust, or beneficiary designation on a retirement account; or with insurance proceeds. To learn more about adding to an existing endowment or establishing a new endowment for a ministry that you love, contact your local WELS Christian giving counselor at [wels.net/giving-counselors](https://wels.net/giving-counselors) or call 800-827-5482

Read more about Trung Lê and the ministry in Garden Grove in *Forward in Christ*.

## New pictorial book will highlight synod history

As WELS prepares to celebrate the 175th anniversary of its founding in 2025 under the theme “Christ through us,” Northwestern Publishing House is producing a special book entitled, *Christ Through Us: A Pictorial History of the Wisconsin Synod, 1850- 2025*. In seven chapters, the synod’s history will be told in a fresh and engaging way with over 600 images and numerous short vignettes about important people, places, and events in the history of the Wisconsin Synod.

“The past has shaped who we are,” says Rev. Joel Otto, chairman of the WELS 175 Committee and coauthor of the book. “Learning about God’s work through us and among us leads us to appreciate his grace. And it helps us see where we also fit into his answers to the prayers of his people for new generations of faithful witnesses.”

This book is just one way that WELS is planning to commemorate its founding. Numerous other resources are being produced to help congregations and individuals celebrate this anniversary and learn more about WELS history, including:

- documentary-styled videos to accompany the pictorial history;
- an update of *The Wisconsin Synod Lutherans*, a book recording the history of the Wisconsin Synod;
- multiple articles in synod publications like *Forward in Christ*, *Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly*, and the *WELS Historical Institute Journal*.

Learn more about WELS’ 175th anniversary at [welshistoricalinstitute.org](http://welshistoricalinstitute.org).

Our Mission is to nurture each other in God's Word and spread the Good News of Christ to all.

**THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN HEIGHTS**  
**September 8 - 15, 2024**

Sunday	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:00 am	Homeless Meal Delivery
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship with Communion
	10:30 am	Kunama Worship
	11:35 am	Hand Bell Practice
	2:00 pm	Wedding - Kale Weis & Payton Yilek
Monday	5:15 pm	Church Council
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Catechism and Bible History
	5:30 pm	Choir
	6:30 pm	Evening Prayer
	6:45 pm	Bible Class
	6:45 pm	Children's Hand Bell Practice
Thursday	10:00 am	Women's Fellowship Group
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship
	9:00 am	Homeless Meal Delivery
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Kunama Worship
	11:35 am	Hand Bell Practice

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