

**WELCOMING WORD** *Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so, we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

**C: for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

L: for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.

**C: I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living.**

**OPENING HYMN: #104 In the Cross of Christ I Glory**

In the cross of Christ, I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time. all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er take me. Hopes deceive, and fears annoy, never shall the cross forsake me. Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way, from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing pain and pleasure by the cross are sanctified; peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: God, our comforter

**C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

L: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**C: Amen.**

**INVOCATION**

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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: O God,

**C: through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

## **SECOND LESSON: James 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine fig? No more can salt water yield fresh

## **GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38**

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

## **SERMON HYMN: Will You Come and Follow Me**

Will you come and follow me, If I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare, will you let me answer prayer in you and in me?

Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus, I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

### **APOSTLES CREED pg. 65**(green)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY pg. 75** (green)

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need

*A brief silence*

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters (*recent destructive events may be named here*). Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Healing God, touch with your healing spirit families and communities dealing with hardships and conflicts, and bring strength to our friends we name before you now (*especially.....*) Lord in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord

**C: Amen.**

**OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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.**

**BENEDICTION** *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again. Amen.*

**CLOSING HYMN: #482**(green) When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it Lord that I should boast save in the death of Christ my God: all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a tribute far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Terri Hermann Meyer (Hazel Hermann's daughter). Ashley Van Galen, Mary Jane Ellis (friend of Bonny Kellogg), Kristin Swedlund-Twiton, Mike Mackler (friend of Char Smith), Connie Peterson, Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quadtree (Diane Mueller's cousin), Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag), Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg), Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Shirley Thompson, Brock Howe, Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith), Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher), Jeannie U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson, Irene Bruflat, Connie Fausett, Bill Steinhauer, Harlan Oimoen, Peter Toniazzo, Grace Aavang, Carol Johnson

**Our partner congregation** IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGES NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>**

5:00 p.m. Saturday – Modified Traditional Worship in Chapel

8:30 a.m. Sunday – Traditional Worship in Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Sunday – Contemporary Worship on church lawn

**A GATHERING PLACE** a place has been created on the east side of the church at the corner of 4th and Front ST. We encourage you to come and rest a bit there, either alone for prayer or contemplation, or with a friend for conversation, or perhaps for a small committee meeting. It is intended for the community's use. The space is in memory of John Kahl, a lifetime member, given by his family. Diane Dangerfield placed the plantings. A dedication and blessing will be held on **September 19th**, between services.

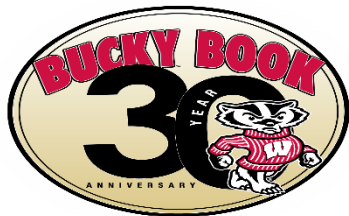
**ELC COFFEE TIME** Coffee Time meets on **Wednesdays at 10:00am**. Join us at ELC for time to gather and catch up with our church family.

**SARAH CIRCLE** Will meet at Brigham Park on Tuesday, **September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m.** Please bring your sandwich/supper. We will gather on the back side of the park to see the sunset as we visit.

**ELC FAITH CONNECTION**-Our ELC Group on Facebook, *ELC Faith Connection*, is for everyone of all ages. This summer, keep your eyes open for 'hearts' you notice in nature. Share your photos on our Facebook group and we

will draw names for gift cards to our local community before school begins. #heartsinthewild. Contact Brenda, if you need help connecting.

**COLLEGE ADDRESSES:** With many of our young adults moving this fall, we are updating our contact information for graduates of ELC. Please email Brenda ([brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org](mailto:brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org)) with their address, phone and email. If they are attending a college, please list the college as well. For those attending UW Madison, UW Whitewater and UW Platteville, we share names and contacts with Lutheran Campus Ministry. They reach out to them, to help them with their faith journey.



**BUCKY BOOKS '30' FOR SALE** - Bucky Books are available after Sept 2nd! Our youth are fundraising for our two trips in the Summer of 2022. Pick up a copy after worship beginning Sept 12th. (Contact Brenda if you would like one before then). Each book sells for \$35.00. To celebrate 30 years of Bucky Books, each book will include a coupon on page 1 for an ABSOLUTELY FREE Coffee and Donut from Dunkin Donuts! Don't miss out on the new books and their amazing offers!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS** We will begin on Sept 19th, 9:30 am - 10:20 am, outside this fall. Youth, who are 3 years old - 8th grade is invited to participate. Even though plans may change a bit, our focus is always to provide fun opportunities to learn and grow in our faith together. Come and join us!

**REGISTER FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Follow this link: <https://forms.gle/MNpkSXpWfV1kRr9k7>

**FUSE NIGHTS** - 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group on **Tuesday, September 14 & 28, at 7 pm**, on the ELC front lawn.

Come on Sept 14th to meet our new Intern Joseph. Join us for an outdoor scavenger hunt and begin a Ping Pong competition with Joseph

**2022 SUMMER YOUTH TRIPS REGISTRATION BEGINS-- YOUTH GATHERING, Mpls, MN - July 24 - 28, 2022**

Early Registration begins for the Youth Gathering on September 22. 8th - 12th graders (this fall) are eligible to attend the Gathering. A trip of a lifetime!



**-YOUTHWORKS MISSION TRIP, St Louis, MO - June 26-July 1st, 2022**

**DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2021**

**SHARE:** What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

**READ:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding,

Monday, Psalm 119:169-176, The Glories of God's Commandments

Tuesday, John 3:13-17, Jesus and Nicodemus

Wednesday, John 7:25-36, Is this the Christ?

Thursday, Psalm 54, Prayer for Vindication

Friday, Romans 11:25-32, All Israel Will Be Saved

Saturday, 2 Kings 17:5-18, Israel captured by Assyria

**TALK: Consider some of these ideas:** "He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." -- Mark 7:34 This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

- **Who do you say that Jesus is?**
- **Do you live your life with your understanding of Jesus in mind?**

- . **Are you truly willing to 'take up a cross'? (That is, endure undeserved suffering on behalf of others)**

**PRAY:** O God through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**BLESS:** People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, one God, bless you now and forever. Amen.