



"An inclusive community, celebrating God's unconditional love through engaging worship and faithful service"



November 7, 2021

All Saints Sunday

"Will We Invest In A Way That Endures?"

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

You are invited to greet those around you or sit quietly.

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude

“Remember”

Stevens

Sharon Neuenfeldt

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Gathering Prayer**

Mary Maren Bjork

Timeless God, on this day we remember all the saints of our lives. Some have gone before; some are sitting right next to us in the pew. We give you thanks for those who have lived by faith, showing us what a life of discipleship is like. We give you thanks for all who have nurtured, supported, loved, and challenged us. You call us again and again to be your saints in the here and now. As we remember those who have gone before, may we strive to follow in the way of your love. Amen.

*****Opening Hymn**

“Take My Life, God, Let It Be”

#448

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God’s Grace

*****Prayer of Longing**

Gracious God, we confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. We have not loved our neighbors with a deep and abiding compassion. And we have not loved ourselves and cared for our own truest needs. Transform our shallowness. Enliven our deadness. Heal our wounded, broken places. Fill us with your Spirit of forgiveness, that we might forgive ourselves and others. We pray all of this in the name of Jesus the Christ, who brings us love that has no end.

prayerful silence

*****Assurance of Grace & Invitation to Pass the Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you! **All: And also with you!**

Proclaiming God's Love

A Time with Young People

Pastor Clare invites children forward to gather with her

Special Music **“Water Is Life/Mni Wičoni”** *by Sara Thomsen*

*Mni wičoni (mini wi-cho-nee) “Water is life” in Lakota/Dakota
Mitakuye Oyasin (mee-dah-koo-yeh o-yah-seen) “All My Relations” in Lakota/
Dakota. Inspired by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and all who joined together at
Standing Rock to protect the Missouri River. It continues as a call to all of us to stand
courageously to protect the waters everywhere.*

Michael will teach us the chorus. We will sing with him each time it comes around.

Chorus:

Mni wičoni, sing

Mni wičoni, sing

Mni wičoni,

Water is life for everything

We are the water, sing

We are the water, sing

We are the water

We are where all life begins

Vs.1

We are the ancient ones

We are the ancient ones

In your breath and bones we sing on

We are one

Chorus

Vs. 2

We are the meadow, come

We are the meadow, come

We are the lark that sings

The new day has begun

Chorus

Vs. 3

We are the new day, run, run, run

We are the new day, run, run, run

We are the old and we are the young

We are one

Chorus

Blessing One Another

Children : God be with you

All: And also with you

Children may follow leaders to Children's Activity or remain with their families in worship

Scriptures

1 Kings 17:8-16 ; Mark 12:38-44

The Inclusive Bible

1 Kings 17:8-16

Then the word of God came to Elijah and said, "Now go to Zarephath, a village of Sidon, and stay there. I have commanded a widow there to supply you with food." So he went to Zarephath.

When he arrived at the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Could you bring me a little water in a jar for me to drink?" As she was going to get the water, he called out, "And please bring me a piece of bread."

"As God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread--only a handful of flour in a jar, and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a couple of sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my child. We will eat it--and then we will die."

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid; go home and do what you said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me; and then make something for yourself and for your child. For this is what the God of Israel says: "The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day God makes it rain on the land."

She went away and did what Elijah had told her to do. And there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. The jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of God spoken by Elijah.

Mark 12:38-44

In his teaching, Jesus said, “Beware of the religious scholars who like to walk about in long robes, be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, and take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. These are the ones who swallow the property of widows and offer lengthy prayers for the sake of appearance. They will be judged all the more severely.”

Jesus sat down opposite the collection box and watched the people putting money in it, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then Jesus called out to the disciples and said to them, “The truth is, this woman has put in more than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have put in money from their surplus, but she has put in everything she possessed from the little she had--all she had to live on.”

Morning Message

“Will We Invest In A Way That Endures?”

Prayer Hymn

“We Are Not Our Own”

#564

Responding To God's Love

Prayers of the People

You are invited to speak a brief prayer for yourself, another, or a part of the world.

Please project your joy or concern so we can hear it.

Pastor Clare will follow your prayer with, “God, in your love...”

One: God, in your love,

All: Hear our prayer

Lord's Prayer

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and Earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.

All Saints Sunday Ritual

Musical Interlude

“Arioso”

Bach

Introductory Words

Call to Remembrance

One: In the morning and in the evening, may your love be ours, God,

All: may your love be ours to know.

One: In the morning and in the dying, may your love be ours, God,

All: may your love be ours to know.

One: In the beginning and in the ending, may your love be ours, God,

All: may your love be ours to know.

One: In the speaking and in the silence, may your love be ours, God,

All: may your love be ours forever and ever. Amen.

Remembering Those Who Have Died

Members:

**Anne Knutson, Judy Hansen, Karen Joan Dahl, Don Savage,
Michael Madden**

From our wider circle of family and friends:

Bob Albright, Jennifer Halverson-Albright's father-in-law

Bob Bicknell, Bard Hilliard's brother

Helen Bjork, Mary Maren Bjork's aunt

Barbara Engman, Jennifer Halverson-Albright's grandmother

John Fadden, Jennifer Halverson-Albright's uncle

Jackie Finder, Jere & Dawn Fetter's friend

Sharon Marie Ford, Andi Favilla's mother

Gordon Jackson, Kimberly Jackson's father

Thomas Kaye, child of the Lowe Syndrome community

Bob Kronschnabel, Mary Maren Bjork's friend

Robin Laak, Jane Hanson's brother

Bruce Laiti, Deb Francis's brother

Austin McDonald, child of the Lowe Syndrome community

James Miller, Jennifer Halverson-Albright's brother-in-law

Myra Nagel, Mary Maren Bjork's aunt

Marcoz Paramo, brother of a student of Mike Bjork

Richard Richey, Walt Richey's brother

Stanley Richey, Walt Richey's brother

Kelsey Schroeder, wife to Mike Bjork's friend Mark

Lin Stephan, Mark Stephan's sister-in-law

Dawn Stickel, Jane Hanson's sister

Kate Weyrens, Mary Maren Bjork's friend

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O Holy One, Source of all life and all lives, we give you thanks for those we've named -- your children, now saints in your communion of saints.

With gratitude, we remember the best of what they offered to us -- acts of love and care, talents and energies shared with us in the work of love.

We also remember them with compassion -- for times when they failed to show love or made mistakes. In their humanness, they still reflected the journey we all share, becoming more fully what God intends us to become.

Hold their loved ones in your continued care. Bring comfort at times of sadness, assurance at times when the way seems unclear, and deeper gratitude for the gifts of this life, even in the midst of ongoing grief and sorrow.

We give thanks for all that has sustained the work we most love to do as a church. And we ask for courage to move on in faith, inviting today and future days to summon our best. In the name of Jesus the Christ, the one we follow and through whom we find you, O God. Amen.

Responding To God's Love

Witnessing Steward

Mary Binger

Invitation to the Offering



Offertory Choral Anthem

"Deep River with Shall We Gather at the River"

*African American Spiritual
written by Robert Lowry, Arranged by Lloyd Larson*

**Deep River, my home is over Jordan.
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.
Oh don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
that promised land where all is peace?
Oh, deep river, my home is over Jordan.
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.**

**Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

*****Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*****Prayer of Dedication**

O God, our spiritual ancestors offered sacrifices to glorify you. We honor you by offering our gifts today. May they express the depth of our love for you. As your church, we put them to work on your behalf, reaching out toward those who long for meaning and for life's other necessities. Grant your joy to all who give and to all who receive. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*****Singing**

“Happy Birthday”

..Happy birthday dear Jennifer, Michele, Eric & Pat

*****Closing Hymn**

“For All the Saints”

#299

*****Benediction**

*****Sung Response “Let There Be Peace on Earth”**

by Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller

**Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as creator, family all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.**

Postlude

“Let the Peace of Christ Rule in Your Heart”

Cagle

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

*For Kimberly Jackson, her mother Joan, and her brother Doug as they grieve in the wake of the swift death of Kimberly's father Gordon, who fell and sustained a fatal head injury.

*For Evelyn Reichert, Emily Wulff's 90-year-old grandmother, currently on hospice for congestive heart failure. A great influence on her granddaughter, Emily and Matt named their daughter after her.

*For the Siegels' daughter Jenna, who had high-risk surgery on November 3rd. Her brain tumor had doubled in size across the past six months. They sought to remove the tumor and rebuild the sagittal sinus. This was her 6th surgery on the tumor since 2017. We pray for God's healing energy to surround Jenna, husband Kevin and daughter Emily (along with Cindy, John, and all who love Jenna).

*We celebrate birthdays with Jennifer Halvorsen-Albright (2nd), Michele Stephan (6th), Eric Vandre (7th) and Pat Mazzitello (10th) we celebrated an anniversary with Sue and Mike Favilla on the 2nd.

And in the wider community...

*When we tend toward reacting from anger and fear, may we instead go deeper into sources of love and resilience to see one another more effectively and fully.

*As the pandemic rages on (having killed 5 million people worldwide thus far, 9.4 million current cases in this land), may we each do our part to protect one another from the virus. We celebrate access to vaccines for children as young as 5.



Holiday Hope

community thread

This marks the 51st year of Community Thread's Holiday Hope program.

Donate gift cards – \$25 denominations
(please include or attach a gift receipt)

Grocery: Aldi, Cub Foods*, Hyvee

Gas Stations: BP, Holiday, Kwik Trip, Speedway

Retail: Amazon, Best Buy, Burlington, Five Below, Fleet Farm, HomeGoods, Kohl's, Marshall's, Menards, Target*, TJ Maxx, Walmart*

General: MasterCard, Visa*

**most requested gift cards*

Please let Claire Stokes know by **Nov. 8** if you are willing to donate gift card(s) this year and the total amount in gift cards you are giving at walthocl@gmail.com | 612-759-8043.

(Kimberly has to turn in the sponsor form by Nov. 9.)

You will be sent a match (within 5 business days) and given their preferred choice of gift card(s).

Do Not buy gift cards until you have been given a match.

All gift cards with a gift receipt are due back to the office by **Nov. 22**

Last year we helped 5 seniors with \$450.00 in gift cards.

Let's shoot for 10 seniors this year!

Faith Conversations



Faith Conversations

Our adult ed. Forum | in-person and zoomed
Most Sundays, 10:45-11:45 am

Join us in the Fireside Room. Bring your 10:30 am after-worship fellowship treats with you!

In 10-minute videos, contemporary progressive faith leaders present key concepts of God, religion, Jesus, salvation, cross, Bible, church. We'll explore biblical texts and faith concepts, applying them to our own lives.

Nov. 7 Topic: God | "Faith is a Quest"

Nov. 14 Topic: Religion | "Spirituality is Not Enough"

People's Book Club

We aim to read books that matter from diverse genres, topics and authors.

UNTAMED

**“This book will shake your brain and make your soul scream.
Read it. Live it. Practice it.” -Adele**

**“An anthem for women today. It speaks to so many female
truths. I haven’t stopped talking about this book since I read it.”
-Kristen Bell**

GLENNON DOYLE

**Discussed in 2 parts: Hybrid format (Zoom or in-person)
Weds., Nov. 17 & Dec. 15 | 6:30-8 pm**

*To sign up or for more information, please contact us:
office@peoplescongregational.org 651-439-5667
People's Congregational Church (Bayport)*



People's
Congregational
Church
309 N. Third St.
Bayport, MN
651-439-5667

WEEKLY TAI CHI CHIH (A GENTLE FORM) W/MARY ANN

Join newcomer, Mary Ann Litfin,
for an introduction to
Tai Chi Chih!

Tuesdays, at 10:00 am,
Fellowship Room, downstairs

Wear comfortable clothing,
come any Tuesday!

www.peoplescongregational.org

This derivation of the martial art form of Tai Chi Ch'uan was developed by American, Justin Stone, to provide an art that is easier to learn and perform. Mary Ann leads each move as we stand in a circle facing each other, seeing it as an opportunity to invite Spirit into our midst. Desired outcomes are improved balance, mind-body-soul connection and a lovely opportunity to relax and be with beautiful people!





JOIN US FOR A
**Community
Thanksgiving
Service**

Tues., Nov. 23, 7 p.m.

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
490 4th St. N.
Bayport, MN**

Jointly sponsored by:
**Bethlehem Lutheran Church and
People's Congregational Church**

**Bring an item for Valley OutReach.
Designated checks & loose offerings go to Valley OutReach.
A check written to a particular church will go to them.**

Volunteer Sign-Up

We have a sign-up clipboard on a table in the Narthex (moved the Fellowship Hall after worship). Please sign up for a date to serve as lay reader, one of two greeters, after-worship fellowship host, or service recorder.

Name Tags

Please grab your name tag in the Narthex before the worship service. When you depart, drop it in a basket by the front door or in the Fellowship Hall.

TASTE OF HARVEST FEST, Nov. 14, 10:30 am

We all were looking forward to the delicious soups, bread and pie lunch of Harvest Fest, so we've decided to offer a mini-Harvest Fest luncheon immediately after worship next Sunday, November 14, celebrating the culmination of our Stewardship Campaign. Depending on the weather, we will either eat outside or at safely distanced tables inside. Please sign-up (clipboard is in the Fellowship Hall) to make soup (recipe provided), bread, pie, server, or clean-up crew.



Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Music Dir. Michael Bjork, PCC Choir, Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt (beautiful music), Mary Maren Bjork (liturgist), Children's Activity leaders & assistants, Kris Strasberg (greeter), Andi Favilla (decorations) and Paul Spilseth (service recorder).



People's Congregational Church

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