



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



November 14, 2021

Stewardship Sunday

"Will We Give Our Entire Lives To God?"

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

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

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

“Come, Now is the Time to Worship”

Doerksen

Sharon Neuenfeldt

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Opening Hymn**

“My Heart is Overflowing”

#15

Vs. 1, 3, 5

*****Prayer of Gathering**

Mindy Peters

O Holy One; deep inside us all—old and young alike—there is a place of faith, a place of trust and hope and love, without which there can be no peace. We come together this morning to worship you—with trust that makes us vulnerable, with hope that guides us into the future, with love that is beyond our imagining. We come together this morning to worship you, to find this place of faith deep inside us all. We invite your Holy Spirit to enfold us and empower us as we seek to follow the way of Jesus. Amen.

prayerful silence

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God’s Grace

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

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

Choral Anthem

“The Gift of Love”

see next page

American Folk Tune, Arr. by Hal Hopson

Vs.1

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain,
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Vs. 2

Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Vs. 3

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.

Proclaiming God's Love

A Time with Young People

Pastor Clare invites children forward to the front pews 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

All my relations, come
Every nation, come
All my relations under the sun
We are one

Chorus

Vs. 2

We are praying, come
We are praying, come
We are the song and we are the drum
We are one

Chorus

Vs. 3

We are standing strong
Like a rock, like a stone
On this sacred ground we belong
We are home

Chorus

Blessing One Another

Children : God be with you

All: And also with you

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

Scriptures

Psalm 1; 1 Samuel 1:20–2:10

The Inclusive Bible

Psalm 1

Happiness comes to those who reject the path of violence, who refuse to engage in crime or even to sit with people who belittle others.

Happiness comes to those who delight in the Law of God and meditate on it day and night.

They're like trees planted by flowing water—they bear fruit in every season, and their leaves never wither: everything they do will prosper.

But not wrongdoers!

They're like chaff that the wind blows away.

They won't have a taproot to anchor them when judgment comes, nor will corrupt individuals be given a place at the gathering of the just.

God watches over the steps of those who do justice; but those on a path of violence and injustice will find themselves irretrievably lost.

1 Samuel 1:20–2:10 ~ *see back of bulleting*

Morning Message

“Will We Give Our Entire Lives to God?”

Musical Interlude

“We Believe”

W. King

*Please complete your “Fully Me” response form at this time.
We will place them in the Giving Basket with other offerings later in the service.*

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.*

One: God, in your love,

All: **Hear our prayer**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father and Mother who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.**

Thy kin-dom come. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Witnessing Steward

Jill Greenhalgh

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Petition for Peace”

Stevens

Please come forward, placing in the Giving Basket your 2022 Intention to Give Form, your “Fully Me” response form, and any additional offerings for today.



***Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*****Prayer of Consecration For Our Mission & Ministry**

O Holy One —great, giving, generous God; you have empowered us to open our hands, committing to give away a portion of our financial resources. Bless now these intended gifts of gratitude, of sacrifice, of trust. Bless them to support our future ministry. Inspired by your presence with us, we have covenanted together to be an inclusive community, celebrating your unconditional love. May the gifts we give today and in the coming year move us toward deeper embodiment of this vision of celebrating your radically inclusive and unconditional love. Amen.

Sharing in Holy Communion

Holy Communion is open to members and friends of all ages. We welcome you in the name of Jesus, whom we follow in the way of radically inclusive love.

*****The Invitation & Prayer**

Pastor: God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to God.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: **All-loving God, you are Creator of energy and matter, the heavens and the Earth. Therefore, we celebrate you - joining our voices with the wind and the streams, the animals and the flowers, the living and the dead (pause), the stars and the planets and all the company of creation, who forever sing their unending hymn to proclaim your glory. Amen.**

Our young people return from Children's Activity to partake in Communion.

*****Sung Response**

“Santo, Santo, Santo”

#111 CH

Sung twice - first in Spanish, then in English

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature of 4/4. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the melody. The second system continues the melody and bass line, ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The lyrics are written below the melody.

C G7 Am F G C

San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My

F G7 C Am F G7 C

co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res Señ - or!
heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

Words of Remembrance & Blessing

Sharing the Bread of Life & Cup of Blessing

Pastor Clare will cue us to partake of the elements.

Sung Response

“Eat this Bread”

#414CH

The musical score is written for a four-part setting in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst." The chords are indicated above the vocal line: G, C, Am, D, Bm, Em, Dsus, D, G, D, Em, Bm, C, D, G.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving

Faithful God, we are thankful that you have revealed to us a vision of life in covenant with you and with one another. We are thankful that you have sent Jesus Christ to invite people of all ages, tongues, and races into faithful covenant. Christ has been present with us in the breaking of bread. Through your Spirit, strengthen us to be faithful in all we have promised today. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*****Singing**

"Happy Birthday"

..Happy birthday dear Eric, Pat, Matt & Mary Maren

*****Closing Hymn**

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

#614CH

With a backbeat

1. I'm gon-na live so God can use me
(I'm gon-na live so) (God can

use me,) an - y time (yes an - y time) and an - y - where (yes an - y -

where) I'm gon-na live so God can use me
(I'm gon-na live so)

an - y time (an - y time,) and an - y - where. (yes an - y - where).

2. I'm gonna work...

3. I'm gonna pray...

4. I'm gonna sing...

*****Benediction**

*****Sung Response**

Irish Blessing
Sung twice

**May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
The rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
Till we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of God's hand**

Postlude

“God Be With You”

T. Dorsey

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

*For our faithful friend, **Gloria Phillips**, has been living with Lymphoma and is now in her final days. We pray for a peaceful transition.

*Pat & Nat's daughter-in-law, **Jessy Graf**, as she heals from surgery.

*For CenterPoint Energy's first responder, **Thao**, who saved the Dickie/Parsons home from a major threat. Bob encourages us to check our own gas supply lines to see that they have been updated recently.

*For healing energy for **Cheryl Erickson** (Jane Hanson's friend) as she

PRAYER CORNER

Cont...

*For **Charles, Deann and Maggie** (teaching colleagues of Mike Bjork), each of whom has lost their father in recent weeks. May love surround and uplift each circle of grieving loved ones.

*For healing energy for **Crystal** (niece to Cindy Parsons' best friend) as she battles stage 4 colon cancer and liver cancer.

*For healing energy for **Sue** (friend to Sharon Neuenfeldt), as she restarts chemo to fight cancer that has spread to her abdomen, liver and lymph nodes while also healing from a surgery on multiple spine fractures.

*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 Cindy and John Siegel's daughter **Jenna Hirte**, who had surgery on November 3rd to remove a brain tumor. Jenna is currently in the ICU. Cindy invites us to visit "Jenna's Recovery Fundraiser" Facebook page, which where she keeps friends updated and invites financial support for Jenna's. If you do not use Facebook and would like to make a donation, please contact Cindy

(651-343-3270). We pray for God's healing energy to surround Jenna, husband Kevin and daughter Emily.

*We celebrate birthdays with Eric Vandre (7th), Pat Mazzitello (10th), Matt Buck (14th) and Mary Maren Bjork (19th).

And in the wider community...

*For US Military Veterans to be affirmed for their service to our country, and that they find welcoming spaces for processing their experiences.

*For a return to kindness everywhere. 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 5.1 million people worldwide thus far, with 9.2 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.



Sunday Volunteers Needed!

Each Sunday, you'll find our volunteer sign-up clipboard on a table in the Narthex (*moved to the Fellowship Hall after worship*). Please sign up for a date to serve as:

- One of 2 greeters (Kris can orient you)
- One of 2 after-worship fellowship co-hosts
- service recorder

About After-Worship Fellowship *Sign up once to see if you enjoy co-hosting!*



We deepen relationships while enjoying simple food and drink!

Sue Favilla is organizing After-Worship Fellowship co-hosts, ensuring that at least one person knows their way around the church kitchen.

Each duo decides together how to divide these tasks:

- prep Fellowship Room (pt out tablecloths, check for 4 chairs per table)
 - set up hot & cold beverages (the kitchen stocked with these items)
- supply the treat (doughnut, cookie, bar... & gluten-free treat or fruit)
- maintain and refresh the stations (during after-worship fellowship)
 - clean up (during or after 11:00-11:45 "Faith Conversations")

Reach out to Sue with questions (wicompound@gmail.com, 612-391-4996).



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.**

Stillwater Area Theological Discussion Group
Topical discussions among people of all faiths & spiritual paths
(Bi-monthly Dec., Feb., April, June | 6:30-8 pm)

Dec 2nd | John Emery, Islamic Resource Group in MN
“My Experience with Muslim tradition and the realities of the Muslim experience in MN”



John Emery served nine years in the US Army as a translator for the Arabic language. He served across the United States, North Africa, the Persian Gulf, and other locales.

After his honorable discharge in 2003, John returned to Minnesota and graduated with a degree in Global Studies. Since his conversion to Islam in 2004, John has engaged in efforts to promote interfaith understanding and cooperation. John volunteers for Gemali Project in Minneapolis, at jails across Minnesota, on the advisory board for the Global Alliance of Muslims for Equality, and on the board of Minnesota Multifaith Network. John is the executive director of Islamic Resource Group.

Co-hosted by People's Congregational Church, Adult Faith Formation Team

Please find the zoom link on our website:
peoplescongregational.org

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.

Faith Conversations



Faith Conversations

Our adult ed. Forum | in-person and zoomed
Most Sundays, 11-11:45 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. 14 Topic: Religion | "Spirituality is Not Enough"

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Music Dir. Michael Bjork, PCC Choir, Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt (beautiful music), Mindy Peters (liturgist), Children's Activity leaders & assistants, Kris Strasberg & Sharon Binger (greeters), Sue Favilla & Mark & Michele Stephan (After-fellowship hosts) and Jill Greenhalgh (Faith Conversations facilitator)



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1 Samuel 1:20-2:10

Hannah conceived, and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she had asked for him.

Elkanah and the whole family made the annual trip to sacrifice to God and make his vows. Hanna did not go, however, telling Elkanah, "Once the child is weaned I will take him up and present him to God in the Tent of Meeting. He will remain there always."

Elkanah said, "Do what you think best. Stay here until the child is weaned. For only God may see your vow fulfilled." And she stayed home, nursing the child until she weaned it.

Once weaned, she took the boy with her. She also took a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and presented him at the Tent of Meeting of God, the God of Israel in Shiloh. After the boy's father sacrificed the young bull, Hannah brought it to Eli, saying, "Sir, as sure as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to God. I asked God for this boy and God granted my request. Now I give him to God, for his entire life is given to God. And they prostrated themselves there before God.

Then Hannah prayed:

My heart delights in God, to God I lift my horn high.

I gloat over my foes, I rejoice in your deliverance!

There is no one holier than you. No one is holier than God; there is no rock like God. All bragging must cease. Boastful arrogance must come to an end.

For God is all-knowing and weighs all mortal deeds.

The bows of warriors are broken, while those who stumble gain renewed strength.

Those who had their fill now sell themselves for crusts of bread while those who were hungry are sated.

Childless women bear seven children while mothers of many are forsaken.

It is God who deals out both life and death; it is God who casts down to Sheol and raises up again.

It is God who makes both the poor and the wealthy.

It is God who both humbles and exalts.

God lifts the weak from the refuse dump and raises the poor from the cesspool, to place them among the mighty and promotes them to seats of honor.

The foundations of the Earth belong to God, and God sets the world upon them.

God lights the ways of the just and delivers the evildoer to darkness.

It is not by strength that the just prevail: it is God who shatters foes.

The Most High thunders against them in the skies; God judges the ends of the Earth. Now God will endow the ruler with strength and exalt the head of the anointed one.