



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Service of the Word/Rally Day

September 12, 2021

This worship is being livestreamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.

We are unaware of who has or has not received the vaccine, and so it is a personal choice as to whether or not an individual feels more comfortable wearing a mask. Please respect people's choices at this time. Being fully aware we are gathered in this place for nearly an hour, social distancing is a good practice, when possible.

NOTE: **Bold text indicates worshipers' response**, and *' means please stand as able

PRELUDE

WELCOME & CREATION CARE MINISTRY MESSAGE from Sue Suechting

GATHERING

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

* OPENING LITANY (*Please respond with **bold text***)

ONE: Calling all children of the Living God: the gospel is good news for every age and every stage.

ALL: Let us worship together, the young and the old.

ONE: The good news is proclaimed in God's words, and also with crayons, silly songs, snacks, and conversations.

ALL: Let us worship together, every generation.

ONE: After months of learning behind screens or separated by dividers and physical space,

ALL: Let us worship together, with our family of faith.

ONE: We may still feel uncertain, seeing so many faces again, but we come together seeking God's peace in this beautiful community.

ALL: Let us worship together, united in Christ.

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* PRAYER OF THE DAY Jesus, loving Savior, **you willingly faced suffering and rejection to save us from our sins, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Help us as a congregation, as family units, and as fellow believers, to be committed to teaching our children how to live into their relationship with you. Amen.**

GROWING

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.

The Gospel according to Mark, the 8th chapter. **All: Glory to you O Lord.**

²⁷Jesus 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?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then 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. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But 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."

³⁴He 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. ³⁵For 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. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those 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." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

Green #526 "*Jesus Loves Me*"

Pastor Mary Eide

Jennifer Kinblom

MILESTONE MOMENTS: 3rd Grade Bibles, 4th Grade Small Catechism, and Blessing of the Backpacks
Invite 3rd and 4th grade students, siblings and parents up front...kids bring their backpacks if they have them.

BIBLE & SMALL CATECHISM MILESTONE (*Parent/adults are handed Bible or Small Catechism*)

L: Children, when your parents brought you to the baptismal font, they promised to place the Bible in your hands, to nurture your lives by coming to worship and participating in the holy supper. They promised to teach you the principles of your faith: the *Lord's Prayer*, the *Creed*, and the *Ten Commandments* so that you may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ, and care for all God created. On that same day, this or another congregation pledged to help your parents fulfill these promises. Today, we join together to take an important step towards fulfilling our pledge to you and your parents.

L: For 3rd Graders this is a special time in your life because you are old enough to read the Bible by yourself. The Bible you are receiving is meant to be read to teach you about God and your Christian faith. Parents or other family member, please give your child their Bible repeat after me: "**This is the Word of the Lord.**" (PAUSE)

Students, please respond by repeating after me: "**Thank you** (*children repeat*) **and thanks be to God.**"

L: Our 4th Graders are receiving their own copy of Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*. For generations, members of our faith have studied and learned to apply these principles of faith to their lives, understanding how to be God's people in the world. Parents or other family member, please give your child their *Small Catechism*, and repeat after me: "**This Catechism will teach you** (*parents repeat*) **how to live out your Christian faith.**" Students, please respond by repeating after me: "**Thank you** (*children repeat*) **and thanks be to God.**"

Pastor: Parents/family members, please place your hands on the head of your child as we pray. All others gathered, please raise your hand towards these children and let us pray. **ALL: Gracious God, your word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Bless these Bibles and Small Catechisms, the adults who give them, and the children who receive them. Help them to know and understand the promise of your love; trust the goodness of your grace; and how to live as your children, now and forever. Amen.**

Parents are invited to return to their pews, unless their little ones want them to stay. ALL OTHER CHILDREN AND YOUTH are invited forward...bringing their backpacks if they have them.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACK MILESTONE: (Question, brief message)

I now ask the congregation to join me in a prayer and blessing for the children/youth here today, whether in person or online. If you are comfortable doing so, please extend your hand towards the children, and join in by reading the **BOLD text**.

God of fresh starts and new beginnings, **bless these students who bring themselves, their big feelings, and backpacks before you.** In their backpacks, they carry blank pages, school work, sharpened pencils, and colorful crayons. In their hearts, they carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring— of what they might learn, who they might meet, and who they might become. Thank you for being with them throughout the day. **Bless them on the bus, in a car, or walking to school. Bless them in classrooms, in gyms, sports fields, and cross country trails. Please bless their journey. Amen.**

I want to also pray for the rest of the congregation. Students, will you raise your hands with me towards the congregation...those with us in person, and those online. Send your love out to them.

Let us pray, we pray for the adults going back to school, those caring for children in homes or daycare centers, for those heading off to work, for those who volunteer their time, and those who care for the needs of their loved ones. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring to all of them, of what they might learn and who they might meet. Bless them throughout the day, and please bless their journey. God, our friend who's full of wonder, thank you for loving us all. Amen. *(Students can now return to their pews/seats)*

GIVING

* OFFERING PRAYER Loving Lord, **please accept the financial offering we give to further the ministry of this congregation, which extends far beyond the walls of this church building. We humbly acknowledge that you have given us all we have. We thank you and ask you to bless what we have returned to you. Amen.**

* PRAYERS AND PETITIONS (L: Loving God, **ALL: Hold us and our prayers.**)

* LORD'S PRAYERS **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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

* ANNOUNCEMENTS/BLESSING Children, families, and all who love them, go out into the beautiful world that God has made! Go and play! Go and learn! Go and love others! May you be filled with lovingkindness for yourself and everyone around you. The holy Trinity, Father, Son, and † Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever **Amen.**

* Green #526 SENDING HYMN "*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*" Sing verses 1-2 (last page)

* DISMISSAL Go in peace. Be Jesus' love and light in the world. **Thanks be to God.**

SCHEDULE

Today	9:15-9:45am	- Rally Day activities
	10:00am	- Rally Day Worship
	11:00am	- Fellowship
Monday	7pm	- AA Meeting
Tuesday	4-6pm	- Food Pantry
Wednesday	3:20-4:30	- 7 th -8 th Gr. Confirmation Class
Friday:	10am-Noon	- Food Pantry
SUNDAY:	8:45-9:45am	- Sunday School
	10:00am	- Communion Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL full classes begin next week 9/19th from 8:45-9:45am.

AUTUMN FEST is coming on Sunday, OCTOBER 3rd. We ***urgently need volunteers*** to contact Heidi Schiszik (715-223-5491) or Vicki Adams (715-563-3730) to join our team. There are many ways you can make this event a success....NEXT **MEETING TUES., 9/28th at 6:00pm church basement.**

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Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

The first system of music consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

The refrain section begins with the word "Refrain" written above the treble staff. The first part of the refrain consists of two staves of music with the lyrics "Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me," placed between them.

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

The second part of the refrain consists of two staves of music with the lyrics "yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so." placed between them.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.
Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Sing verses 1-2

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

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Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876