



ST. PETER'S

Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

1600 S. Main St.

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54937-9235

www.stpetersfdl.net

Worship: Thursday, 6:30 pm ~ Sunday, 7:45 & 10:30 am

School/Church Office: 922-1160 or 921-8075

Pastor Michael J. Zuberbier: 517-8808

Pastor Matthew M. Guse: 517-9000

For hospital visits or emergencies, please call Pastor Zuberbier at 517-8808

Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Mr. David Schroeder, Principal 921-4930 ext. 304

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE Together let us glory in the cross of Christ.

- Tune into KFIZ AM 1450 each Sunday morning at 8:00 to hear the current weekend's sermon.
- Please silence your cell phone and all other electrical devices to help minimize distractions during Divine Worship. Thank you.
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- Visitors, we are pleased that you have joined us this morning. Please feel free to inquire about our congregation through the pastors, one of the ushers, or one of the members. If you are a visitor from out of town, please be sure to introduce yourself to one of the pastors after the service. We welcome all of you to come and worship with us again.

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow you. Destitute, despised, forsaken, You on earth once suffered, too. Perish ev'ry fond ambition, All I've ever hoped or known; Yet how rich is my condition! God and heav'n are still my own. Go, then, earthly fame and treasure! Come, disaster, scorn, and pain! In your service pain is pleasure; With your favor loss is gain. I have called you Abba, Father! You my all in all shall be. Storms may howl, and clouds may gather; All must work for good to me. Amen.

SERVICE THEME God's people focus on Christ's cross and bear Christ's cross.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Service of the Word

OPENING HYMN

Take My Life and Let It Be | **CW 469**

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

SONG of PRAISE

Take My Life and Let It Be | **CW 469**

Take my will and make it thine; It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart – it is thine own; It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for thee.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

LESSON

Galatians 6:12-16

Christians boast, not in their deeds, but in the cross of Christ.

¹²Those who want to look good in the flesh are the ones who are trying to compel you to be circumcised. Their only reason is so that they are not persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³As a matter of fact, those who are circumcised do not keep the law themselves. But they want to have you circumcised, so that they can boast about your flesh.

¹⁴But far be it from me to boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. ¹⁵In fact, in Christ Jesus circumcision or uncircumcision does not matter. What matters is being a new creation.

¹⁶Peace and mercy on those who follow this rule, namely, on the Israel of God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-26

Christians willingly bear Christ's cross, which is shame and disgrace for the sake of his name.

²¹From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you."

²³But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men."

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?"

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Is the World to Me | **CW 477**

What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure
When you, and you alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord, My soul's delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!

The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty,
Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize Above all things is he,
My Jesus, he alone. What is the world to me!

The world seeks after wealth And all that money offers,
Yet never is content Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good; Content with it I'll be;
My Jesus is my wealth-What is the world to me!

What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss eternally.
Once more then I declare: What is the world to me!

SERMON

Judges 16:22-31

Although flawed, Samson served and suffered for the LORD in life and in death.

²²But the hair on his head began to grow after it had been shaved. ²³Meanwhile, the serens of the Philistines gathered to make a great sacrifice to their god Dagon and to celebrate. They said, “Our god has given our enemy Samson into our hands.”

²⁴When the people saw him, they praised their god: “Our god has given our enemy into our hands, the devastator of our land, who has caused the death of many of us.”

²⁵When they were feeling good, they said, “Send for Samson, so that he can provide amusement for us.” They summoned Samson from the prison, and he served as their entertainment.

They made Samson stand between the pillars. ²⁶He said to the young man who led him by his hand, “Put me where I can touch the pillars that support the building, so I can lean upon them.” ²⁷The building was full of men and women, as well as all the serens of the Philistines. On the roof were about three thousand more men and women watching Samson as he was amusing them.

²⁸Samson called out to the LORD. He said, “LORD God, remember me, I pray. Give me strength, I pray, this one more time, O God. Let me get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes in one act of vengeance.” ²⁹Samson then grasped the two central pillars supporting the building. He leaned against them, one with his right hand and one with his left. ³⁰Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines.” He pushed with all his strength, and the building fell upon the serens and upon all the people who were inside. The Philistines he put to death when he died were more numerous than those he had put to death during his lifetime.

³¹Then his brothers and his father’s entire household went down, carried him back, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had served as judge of Israel for twenty years.

“The Lord’s Great Grace”

Pastor Guse

1. Conquers our sin
2. Sustains our faith

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the

dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRESENTING OF OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE 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.

HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand | **CW 451**

Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.

When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.

When the darkness appears And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone,
At the river I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord; Lead me home.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name | **CW 321**

Savior, again to thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.
Once more we bless thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait thy word of peace.

Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife.
Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.

ORGANIST

David Koepsell

GREETERS

7:45 ~ Deb Jaeger

10:30 ~ Gib & Ann Trewin

Weekly Announcements

MEDITATIONS, FORWARD IN CHRIST, & BOOKMARKS The new issue of *Meditations* and the September *Forward in Christ* are in the narthex. Bookmarks for the next set of Bible readings through November 30 are available as well.

MEMORIAL A special gift has been given to St. Peter's Tuition Assistance in memory of Alice Wessel.

25th and 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Our St. Peter's family will be thanking the Lord that both Andy Mildebrandt and Emil Schuh have served 25 years and 40 years respectively in the teaching ministry. We will have special services on Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 and Sunday, September 20 at 7:45 and 10:30. We hope our entire St. Peter's family will be gracious with their gifts and join in this service of praise and thanksgiving for the Public Ministry of the Gospel.

LWMS FALL RALLY Saturday morning, October 10 is the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Winnebago Circuit Fall Rally held at Faith. Registration will begin at 8:45 am. Please note the later registration time. No refreshments of any kind will be served. Masks are highly suggested and may be required if the mandate is extended. Be sure to bring your own pen. We ask you fellowship outdoors, and follow the seating arrangement in the sanctuary.

The speaker will be Pastor Steve Hillmer of St. Matthew's in Oconomowoc. Pastor Hillmer will speak about the mission ministry he recently left in Reno, NV.

All women by congregational membership are part of LWMS and encouraged to attend. Men are welcome to join their wives or friends, too.

SCRIP Kwik Trip is offering a 10% rebate through the month of September! St. Peter's will have SCRIP available in the school office Thursday and Friday mornings and after each church service.

Last Week's Stewardship

Worship: 138 + 79 + 110 = 327

Communed: 109 + 62 + 83 = 254

First Fruits to the Lord 2020:

	<u><i>Last Week</i></u>	<u><i>Year-to-Date</i></u>
Thank offerings in support of the unified budget	\$27,984.94	
Other receipts in support of the unified budget	26,879.19	
Total receipts in support of the unified budget	54,864.13	\$999,388.57
Requirement to support proposed unified budget	31,127.02	1,120,572.72
Overage (Shortfall)	23,737.11	(121,184.15)
Improvement Fund	135.00	
WLA Forward in Trust	47.00	
Honoring the Lord!	909.00	
SPLS Tuition Assistance	140.00	

Daily Bible Readings

09/13 Psalm 58, 59	09/17 Psalm 64, 65
09/14 Psalm 60	09/18 Psalm 66, 67
09/15 Psalm 61, 62	09/19 Psalm 68:1-18
09/16 Psalm 63	