



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

July 18, 2021, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”

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Mark’s gospel makes clear how great is the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today’s gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn’t think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers’ need. We are sent from Christ’s table to care for others and for ourselves.

Prelude

Pat Anderson

Welcome to Worship this morning. We will be sharing Holy Communion, Communion will be given two ways, you can either come up front and receive from Pastor or you can pick up the convenient cup/wafer before the service and receive at your seat.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

L: Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God, our provider,

C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

L: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ☩ the bread of life, you are shown God’s mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

Hymn “The Church’s One Foundation” (vs. 1, 4 &5)

Red Worship Book 654

- 1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; she is his new creation by water and the word. From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
- 4 Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forevermore; till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won. Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace, that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

Greeting

Red Worship Book pg. 147

L: 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.

Kyrie

Red Worship Book pg. 147-148

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Canticle of Praise

Red Worship Book pg. 149-150

L: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prayer of the Day

L: O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Recognition of Baptism of Kyalani Paulie Robbins

Red Worship Book pg. 227

L: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: We present Kyalani Paulie Robbins for Recognition of baptism.

L: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your children* baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring **Kyalani** to the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with *her* among God's faithful people, bring *her* to the word of God and the holy supper, teach *her* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in *her* hands the holy scriptures, and nurture *her* in faith and prayer, so that **Kyalani** may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help **Kyalani** grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture **Kyalani** in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support **Kyalani** and pray for *her* in *her* new continued life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

L: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

L: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I renounce them.

L: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

L: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

L: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Recognition of Baptism

L: Kyalani Paulie Robbins we remember your baptism in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.

L: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life

Sustain **Kyalani** with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

L: **Kyalani**, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Amen.

Welcome

Sponsor: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

L: Let us welcome Kyalani.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Hymn

“Jesus Loves Me!”

Red Worship Book 595

1 Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so; little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain- Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's gates to open wide; he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. *Refrain*

3 Jesus loves me! he will stay close beside me all the way; when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high. *Refrain*

Jeremiah prophesied before the exile in 587 BCE. In this passage, he uses the metaphor of a shepherd to describe the bad kings who have scattered the “flock” of Israel. God promises to gather the flock and to raise up a new king from David’s line to save Israel and Judah.

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Psalm: Psalm 23

L: The LORD is my shepherd;

C: I shall not be in want.

L: The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures

C: and leads me beside still waters.

L: You restore my soul, O LORD,

C: and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

L: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

C: for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C: you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

L: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The author of this letter reminds his audience that originally they were not part of God's chosen people. Through Jesus' death, however, they are included in God's household of faith, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ

Second Lesson: Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Gospel Acclamation

Red Worship Book pg. 151

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

C: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

When Jesus sends his disciples out to teach and heal, they minister among large numbers of people. Their work is motivated by Christ's desire to be among those in need.

Gospel: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

The Gospel of Our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

Children's Sermon

Sermon: Wilderness and Wonder Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Grace mercy and peace to you from God our Father and Lord and Savior, Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

I have not had the opportunity to be lost or alone in the wilderness. However, I have been lost many times especially in the cities. This usually led me to tears, 120 miles from my home, calling my husband and asking him what I should do. Of course, this did not help because I did not know where I was! It did lead him to buying me a device to direct me to the address that I needed to put in my car that would help me get to my destination, and home. I would just hit the home button and I was on my way. I was out of my lonely wilderness.

Our continuing story in the Gospel of Mark leads Jesus to tell the apostles to come with him to a deserted place and rest. It has been a great yet rough row. Jesus sends them out after the rejection in his hometown, and sadly, John is beheaded. The apostles gathered around Jesus to report all the miraculous things that happened. Yet, they could not even continue or have time to eat because so many people were around! That is a great accomplishment, yet they needed to eat and rest. Therefore, they went by themselves, but it did not work. If they thought they were getting rest, it was not happening that way.

Jesus saw the large crowd and had compassion on them because they were like a sheep without a shepherd. It was not in our reading today, yet they were in a remote place, and it was getting late in the day. This remote place, deserted with all kinds of people, and the disciples want to get them home because they would be getting hungry.

“You give them something to eat (Mark 6: 37).” This would be impossible to feed everyone! The disciples found five loaves of bread and two fish. That was all Jesus needed. Jesus blessed, fed and gave all something to eat. They left on the boat, and Jesus went to the mountain to pray. Jesus now walks on the water, passing by, but thinking they were seeing a ghost; Jesus settles everything, even the water and tells them to fear not. He is looking more like a shepherd all the time.

When they arrive on the shore, Gennesaret, people recognized them, and more crowds came. Everyone ran around, and wherever Jesus and his followers went, people who were healed from sickness, crowding in and just wanting to touch the fringe of his garment, surrounded them.

Wondering how the disciples felt. Did they feel like they were in the wilderness? Were they on top of the world as Jesus had sent them out? Did they love the chaos and the crowds of people? Were they tired? Did they feel like failures or success? Did they grab some time in all the frenzy and chaos, to experience the Kingdom of God, the Reign of God in mess and wonder of these attractive activities?

This is a beautiful and crazy story of life with Jesus. Whether you are in the wilderness or in great joy, this life with Jesus Christ is all of the above, especially if you touch Jesus, or he touches you, and the Kingdom of God erupts all around you.

The disciples are sent, as not only followers, but also those who will usher in the Kingdom of God. Called, to be leaders and disciples and to bring people out of the kingdom into a chaos of joy and commitment. For all of those described as “A sheep without a shepherd,” to the remembrance of Psalm 23.

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” He will take care of us as a wonderful shepherd, watching with care our every need, to “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life.”

God the shepherd, Jesus the Messianic Shepherd right on earth, a human showing and telling us how to live our lives, taken care of. Jesus fed, God feeds at a table with our enemies. What a dinner, an honor, a fed and forgiven type of life. Welcome to the table. From the wilderness to the table. Plenty and abundance. Amen.

Hymn “As Rain from the Clouds” (vs. 3)

Red Worship Book 508

3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world, awaking and warming and healing our land. Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand. We praise you, our God,

for the light of your word; we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil. We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield, for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

Offering Prayer –You may leave your offering as you exit the church, table with offering plates are there.

L: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **C: Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

L: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

L: Tend your church, O God. Encourage bishops, pastors, and deacons in their proclamation of the gospel. Raise up new leaders and encourage those pursuing a call to ministry. Embolden all the baptized to embody your love and justice. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L; Restore your creation, O God. Sustain croplands and pastures and safeguard all farm animals and livestock. Preserve lakes, rivers, and streams that offer refreshment. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters and protect coastlands threatened by rising oceans. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Reconcile the nations, O God. Break down the dividing walls that make us strangers to one another and unite us as one human family. Equip leaders to deal wisely with conflict and guide diplomats who seek peaceful solutions. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Heal your people, O God. Look with compassion on immigrants, exiles, and all who are afraid or feel lost. Give rest to those who are weary, comfort to those who are grieving, and recovery to those who are ill. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Nourish this congregation, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for our hungering spirits. Renew our commitment to provide for one another and revitalize our ministries of feeding and nurturing hungry neighbors. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: You lead us home, O God. We give thanks for all who have died, now citizens with the saints (*especially*). As you have received them into your heavenly home, so welcome all of us to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

L; The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Red Worship Book pg. 152

Holy, Holy, Holy

Red Worship Book pg. 153

L: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Red Worship Book pg. 154

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.

Lamb of God

Red Worship Book pg. 154

L: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

“Bread of Life from Heaven”

Red Worship Book 474

Refrain: Bread of life from heaven, your blood and body given, we eat this bread and drink this cup until you come again.

- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice; giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round. Eat, all of you, and be satisfied; in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. *Refrain*
- 2 Seek not the food that will pass away; set your hearts on the food that endures. Come, learn the true and the living way, that the fullness of life may be yours. *Refrain*
- 3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave himself for the life of the world. Come to the one who is food for you, that your hunger and thirst be no more. *Refrain*
- 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your home in the lifegiving Word. Know only Christ, Holy One of God, and believe in the truth you have heard. *Refrain*
- 5 Drink of this cup and declare his death; eat this bread and believe Easter morn; trust his return and, with ev'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are reborn. *Refrain*

Prayer after Communion

L: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **C: Amen.**

Blessing

L: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn

“Savior like a Shepherd Lead Us” (vs. 1 & 4)

Red Worship Book 789

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care. In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
- 4 Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will; blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

the worship is ended ... let the service begin...

****The Noisy offering this month is for Foster Child Bags, there will be a bowl as you exit the church.**

Next Week's Readings and Psalm

First Reading

2 Kings 4:42-44

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:14-21

Psalm

Psalm 145:10-18

Gospel

John 6:1-21

Sunday Filming

**** Just a reminder that in-gathering Worship, is being filmed "LIVE."**



If you are interested in joining the church, we will be having new member introduction and dinner July 19th at 5 pm. with new members joining Sunday, July 25th during Worship Service.

Please let Pastor Brenda know or the church office.

Thank You!



Holy Communion instruction training, is being offered at First Lutheran Church for any child that has not had their training in Holy Communion.

Age requirement is 1st grade and up. These classes are the beginning of our learning about Holy Communion and no matter the age, we grow and learn more about this every time we worship and hear the words of Institution.

We will be meeting Mon., July 26- Tues., July 27th from 3-5 pm at church. Please call Pastor Brenda or the church office to sign-up.

First Communion will be on Sun., August 1st during the 9:30 am Worship Service.

Announcements/Calendar

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion/Recognition of Baptism; Noon Church Council at Pastor Brenda's home.

Mon. August Newsletter Deadline; 5 pm New Member Intro and Dinner.

Tues. 9:30 am Women's Bible Study.

Thurs. 7 am Men's Text Study

Sat. 8 pm AA mtg.

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion/Receive New Members.



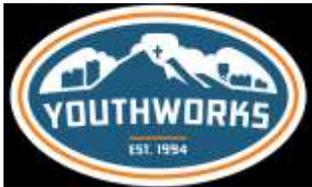
Prayer Concerns and Sympathy ~ Kim Reisig, Carol Winson (Marina Vork's daughter), Tyler (son of Jan Peura), Jeremy (friend of Sheila Jensen), Adam Alexander, Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeny), Pearl Anderson (sister of Joyce Seegebarth), John Bassett, Peter Thorvig and Carol Bostrom.

For our members in care facilities ~ Ruta Kalnins, Freida Pfahl and Dorothy Svendsen.

For firefighters, EMT's, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.

For world peace. For our companion synods.

For our missionaries: Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke



Please pray for the youth on the Mission Trip before, during after.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Trip, Kentucky,
Youth Works July 17-24

Leaders: Mindy Johnson, Tim Johnson, Staci Klein and Trevor Johnson.

Participants: Paige, Denton, Brady Johnson, Kenna Johnson, Lainey Johnson, Cody Klein, Evelyn Klein, Matt Masterson, Corrina Tvedt, and Bella Ziegler.

Upcoming Events

Sat. 17-Thurs. 22nd - Fri. 23rd, Youth Mission Trip to Kentucky

Monday, July 19th, August Newsletter Deadline; 5 pm New Member Intro and Dinner

Sunday, July 25th, Receiving New Member

Monday & Tuesday, July 26th & 27th, Holy Communion Instruction Training (3- 5:00 pm)

**remembering you
on your special day..
happy birthday !!**

Greetings all:

I apologize in advance for the generic nature of this message. I'm sending this to lots of people, so I hope you will forgive the fact that it is not personalized.

As you may know, Dad (Arnie) joined us in Memphis a little more than 3 years ago. When Robin and I decided to re-locate to Charlotte, we asked Dad to come along. It was difficult for him to move again. He had a spacious condo in Memphis and had settled in. Still, he agreed and made the move in late March. Trinity Oaks, his new digs, is an independent living senior community affiliated the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Dad's home church organization. It is a vibrant and active place, and Dad is beginning to feel at home.

We will celebrate Dad's big day a few days late, on Saturday, August 7, at our home. We wish family and friends could join us but it is too far for most all of you, and our house is far too small. Instead, we hope you will send dad your good wishes. Here's what you can do:

CARDS (only – no gifts please)

Address it to:

Arnold Swanson
c/o Dan and Robin Swanson
2240 Rocky Cove Lane
Denton, North Carolina 27239

We'll present all the cards to Dad when we gather on the 7th. I know he'll very much enjoy carefully reading each and every one!

VIDEO MESSAGES

You may have already received, or (I hope) will soon receive, an e-invite to create a video message on VIDDAY. Be creative. Tell a story; something you remember about Dad that makes you smile, share video and pictures of you and your family that Dad might enjoy. Don't be shy! (if you don't like what you've uploaded, you can record a new message, let me know you have, and I'll delete your earlier video before we finalize it). Note too that Dad won't be able to see your videos until we collect and finalize the presentation. Your videos will be stored in an archive until we organize them into final form.

Once we have the videos collected and finalized (around August 5), you will be able to go to VIDDAY and watch the video yourself if you wish.

If you did not receive an invite, and/or if you have not already uploaded a video message, let us know. We'll send you a new invite. Also, if you know of family or friends whom I might not have reached, please feel free to forward this message to them and invite them to add their voices to the celebration.

Thanks to everyone

Members,

We are in for a change! Those that have been/are using VANCO's "Give Plus Mobile Application" for giving on their phones or tablets, will soon have an even easier/better way to give. **Starting September 1st**, we have a new application called "VANCO Mobile". Attached, you will find a form that will help "walk" you through this new process. Any questions, please feel free to call me Wednesdays or Thursdays, at the church office. This information will also be on our WEB page, for those that need it.

Thank you,

Kathy Thompson

Financial Secretary