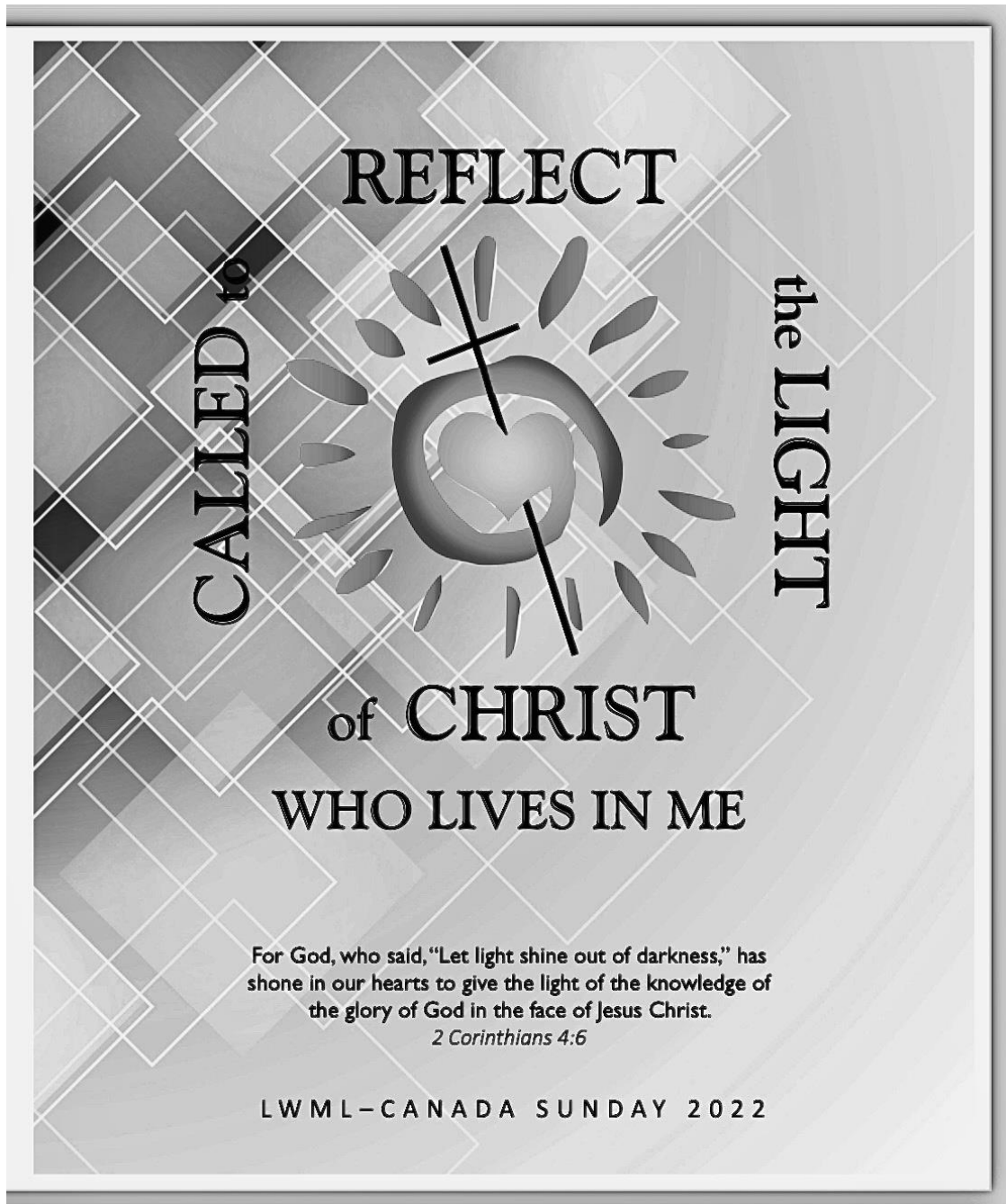


THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
LWML-C Sunday October 2nd, 2022



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1  
Church: 905-685-8294  
[www.christlutheransc.ca](http://www.christlutheransc.ca)

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon  
**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).  
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) [pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com)  
**Parish Assistant:** Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) [parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca)  
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**Secretary:** Pat Kimpel [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca)  
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**Bulletin by email:** Judy Mason [chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca)

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING\\_TKTi9c\\_OIBbMqGwLw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKTi9c_OIBbMqGwLw)

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**Prayer:** Grant, merciful Lord, to Your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve You with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: Lam. 3: 22-33                      Wednesday: Job 2: 1-10                      Friday: Heb. 10: 35-39  
Tuesday: Heb. 12: 4-11                      Thursday: Eph. 6: 18-20                      Saturday: Luke 21: 10-19

**Musician:** 10 a.m. – The Band  
**Reader:** 10 a.m. – Carole Pink  
**Greeter:** 10 a.m. – Judy Slingerland

**BAPTISM THIS MORNING:** We are pleased to welcome into God's family by Holy Baptism today, **Naomi Paige MacDonald**, daughter of Kathleen Flynn and Nathan MacDonald, granddaughter of Brett & Coleen Flynn. Sponsors are Bridget Flynn & Emma MacDonald.

**OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES:** Rev. Carl Wagner, Pastor Emeritus of Grace Lutheran Church in Kitchener, ON, fell asleep in the Lord, the evening of Sunday, September 26, 2022, after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife Jean and his three daughters, Nancy, Leslie and Patricia. Rev. Wagner's funeral was held Saturday, October, 1, at 11AM, at Grace Lutheran Church, 136 Margaret Avenue, Kitchener, ON, with a luncheon to follow. Visitation was held Friday, September 30, from 7-9 PM, at the Erb and Good Funeral Home, 171 King Street South, Waterloo, ON.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** is held at 9:00 a.m. before service the first 2 Sundays of each month. Our focus this year is on "God's Good Rules, His 10 Commandments". Parents are welcome to stay for a coffee and time to read their own devotions or join in Christian conversation.

**LWMLC Niagara Zone Rally:**

**TODAY** Sunday, October 2, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church @ 3 p.m. 1299 Brant St. Burlington  
**THEME – "The Power of the Gospel"**

**Speaker:** Poya Zamani – A Muslim Christian -His journey to the Seminary began in Afghanistan  
**INGATHERING:** for the Halton Women's Shelter ---new women & children's clothing, hygiene products, grocery gift cards, monetary donations.

***Everyone welcome – anyone wishing a ride,  
please meet at the church at 2 p.m. and we will leave shortly thereafter.***

**PRECIOUS MOMENTS:** We're back on Tuesday mornings, starting **between 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.** Precious Moments is a group focused on sharing Jesus with preschoolers and their parents or caregivers. During our time together we play with toys, sing songs, read a Bible Story, enjoy a snack and make a craft. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know others from our church and community. Whether you have an infant or a toddler we hope you will join us!

# S.O.U.L. RE-STARTING

Thursday OCTOBER 6

10-11:30 AM

Songs + Prayers+ Scripture+ Food + Fellowship + Activity + Goodbye

## LMWL-C/MARY MARTHA:

*This is such an exciting time to welcome back and extend an invitation to everyone for our new Fall/Winter program. Please mark your calendars so that you may be able to join us:*

**Tuesday, October 18, 7 p.m.:** Speaker from Salem Chapel - Rochelle Bush (*underground railroad*)

**Tuesday, November 15, 7 p.m.** Assembly of *Warm Feet for the Streets* sock blessings.

**Saturday, November 26:** BAZAAR

**Tuesday, December 20, 5:30 p.m.:** Advent/Christmas Dinner

We look forward to seeing familiar faces at our meetings and welcoming new faces! If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call Lorraine at 905 964 5837!

*<sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3: 14-16*

**\*OPEN DOORS\*:** Thank you for your amazing number of ideas! We have grouped like-ideas (e.g. games), Chairs of Committees have reviewed and grouped ideas under appropriate committees. What is next? Read the list of ideas given out this morning (or request a copy from Louise). Place the 5 sticky dots on ideas you would like to see happen at Christ Lutheran. .IF YOU feel so moved to volunteer and help make your sticky dot idea a reality, please sign your name on a sheet. Once you've selected your 'Top 5' sticky dot ideas - place the list in the box at the back of the church as you leave.

## **YOUTH CATECHISM CLASS 2022**—Christ Lutheran Church – Rev. Todd Hoeffs

Youth Catechism Class with Pastor Todd is a time for young people to see their own unique place in God's Story of love, acceptance, and new life in Jesus Christ. Scripture-rich lessons focus on our identity as Jesus' brothers and sisters through our Baptismal faith. Preparation for receiving Jesus' Body and Blood in the Bread and Wine for Holy Communion makes for a meaningful life-long faith journey.

Part of Catechism class is learning to participate in Sunday worship and undertake opportunities to serve and "live their faith" in small local outreach projects. Altar candle lighting, ushering and training for assistance in Sunday services will be an integral part of class. Because of this, regular attendance during our Sunday worship is a requirement of all students.

Young people who are beginning grade 5 through grade 9 are welcome to join the Catechism Class.

The start date and time will be set in the near future.

Please email [PastorToddHoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:PastorToddHoeffs@gmail.com) to let him know your intention for class. Feel free to ask any and all questions you may have about this. *Your servant in Christ, Pastor Todd*

## **Last Sunday Attendance: September 25th, 2022 Attn: 10 a.m. – 93**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or - (--)</u>
Current:	283,291.00	5,554.73	1,739.00	149,779.84	(62,688.41)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	392.16	150.00	11,083.00	( 3,917.00)
Property Improvement:			209.00	4,658.00	

**THE MITE BOX: We have the opportunity to take a special offering THIS MORNING ON LWMLC SUNDAY, for Mites. Mite Box money goes to support Mission Grants. Below is a list of both the National and District Mission Grants that were chosen at Conventions and is what the Mite Box donations will be used for from 2022-2024.**

**Lutheran Women’s Missionary League – Canada  
MISSION GRANTS 2022 – 2024**

Combines the national grants selected at Convention in 2021 and the district grants selected in 2022

**CANADA MINISTRY**

- Recent immigrants, Sudbury & Timmins, Ont., Outreach & Support \$ 4,000
- Oromo Ministry & Outreach, Ont. \$ 6,000
- South Sudanese Lutheran Mission, Ont. \$12,000
- St. Andrews, Atlantic Canada, Ministry Support \$ 5,000
- Street Reach, Regina, Sask. \$12,000
- Christian radio to South Asians in GTA & to the world via internet \$ 5,000
- BC Mission Boat Society \$15,000
- Bethel Lutheran Sports Ministry, Alta. \$ 7,050
- Windsor Essex County (WELCO) outreach, downtown Windsor, Ont. \$ 5,500
- First Lutheran Christian Academy, Windsor, Ont., Bibles & hymnals \$ 3,500

**YOUTH**

- Youth Worker, B.C. \$37,800
- National Youth Gathering \$ 5,000
- Aurora Lutheran Camp \$10,000
- Camp Lutherland \$ 4,000
- Jackfish Lake Lutheran Camp \$ 8,500

**SCHOOLS**

- Concordia Lutheran School, B.C. \$ 7,050
- Beautiful Saviour Lutheran School, staff development \$ 400
- Beautiful Saviour Lutheran School, education materials \$ 600
- Digital library upgrade, Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton \$15,000
- French Sunday school materials \$14,000

**CENTRAL AMERICA**

- Spanish hymnals for congregations in Nicaragua & Costa Rica \$ 5,000
- Land purchase for church, Costa Rica \$10,000
- Diaconal support, Nicaragua \$ 8,600

**UKRAINE**

- New mission, Lviv, Ukraine \$12,000

**MISSION OPPORTUNITY GRANT**

\$38,000

**TOTAL MISSION GRANTS**

**\$251,000**

**Grants paid to June 30, 2022**

**\$70,304.31**

**FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:** Tim Reck, Fellowship Chairman, needs volunteers for Events. Please contact him if you can help.

**SEMINARY GUILD:** Copies of the Fall Newsletter can be found at the back of the church.

**“Harvest Day at the Seminary” will be held on Saturday, October 15th.** Anyone in the congregation is welcome to attend. The Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 5. If you go for the morning programme only, the cost is \$3.00. If you stay for the luncheon following, it is \$17.00. Expect the Harvest Day Presentation to be excellent and very enjoyable as it will be by Eduardo Farias and his wife Daniela, who are both very talented musicians. Eduardo was our adopted Sem student last year. He is from Brazil and is enrolled in the MTS program at the Sem. He was with us last year for both our LWML Christmas programme and our June social. What a delightful couple they are; very talented with a wonderful sense of humour as well. They were also the entertainment at the District LWMLC Convention this past June, with Eduardo playing the guitar and Daniela the violin. Eduardo also accompanied the hymns with his trumpet at the Opening Worship Service. All the new Seminary students will be introduced and Eduardo & Daniela will provide a musical presentation

# CREATIVE SERVICE OF THE WORD WITH BRAZILIAN MELODY

THE 17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Canada Sunday

October 2, 2022 + 10 AM service

## BAPTISMAL SONG:

"Remember & Rejoice!"

[I Love Your Kingdom tune]



- 1 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.
- 2 In life, in death, we trust in God's most ho - ly name,
- 3 We pledge our - selves a - new to flee the lures of hell,
- 4 God, bless us by your grace; re - mind us of your care.
- 5 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.



We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - raise.  
for - ev - er traced by wa - ter sign, and sealed by Spir - it flame.  
to cling to Christ's com - mu - ni - ty, in jus - tice, peace to dwell.  
Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.  
We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - raise.

Words by Ruth Duck © 1992 GIA Publications

<https://churchos-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com/2020/05/16/23/11/27/41c4c897-1d6d-47ce-aa4a-ac315eb52684/2018.03.11%20%204th%20Lent%20%2010am.pdf>

## BAPTISM OF NAOMI PAIGE MACDONALD

Parents: Kathleen Flynn and Nathan MacDonald

Sponsors: Bridget Flynn & Emma MacDonald

### ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM

The Lutheran Church of Australia

#### SCRIPTURAL COMMAND

Our Lord Jesus Christ says: All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep everything I have entrusted to you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

#### ADDRESS

Scripture teaches that we are born sinful and unclean, but that our heavenly Father washes us clean in the waters of baptism. We are re-born as His children as the Holy Spirit renews us and gives us eternal life. Through baptism He graciously forgives us our sins and unites us with our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we share in His death and resurrection.

#### PRESENTATION

Who brings this child for holy baptism? We do.  
How is this child named? (Name is spoken)

## **ADMONITION**

Since you as parents and sponsors have brought (Name) to be baptized, you are responsible for his/her upbringing in the Lutheran Church. Remember him/her in your prayers. Bring him/her to the services in God's House and teach him/her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. Remind him/her of her baptism, set him/her a good example, and provide for his/her instruction in the faith that he/she may join you and all believers around the Lord's Table to feast on Jesus' Body and Blood. Do you intend to joyfully do this? Yes, I/we do.

## **MARKING OF THE CROSS**

(Name), receive the sign of the holy cross †, upon your forehead and upon your heart, to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

## **GOSPEL PROCLAMATION**

Now receive the Good News of our Lord: As people brought children to Jesus that He might touch them, the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this He was extremely angry. He said: Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth; unless you receive the Kingdom of God like a little child you shall never enter it.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us ask the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ on (Name) and pray together the prayer He has taught us:

**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.**

## **PUBLIC CONFESSION OF THE FAITH**

I ask you now to publicly speak your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

**Yes, I do renounce them.**

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord?

**Yes, 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 sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, 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.**

## **BAPTISM**

(Name), I baptize you in the name of the Father † and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit †. Amen.

May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has given you the new birth by water and the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His Spirit, so that you receive eternal life. Amen.

## PRESENTATION OF CANDLE

Receive this burning light. Live always by the Light of Christ and be ever watchful for His coming that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which has no end.

Let your light so shine before others, that they see your good works and glorify Your Father Who is in Heaven.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we join with (Name's) parents in thanking you for giving them this child and for adopting him/her as Your own child in holy baptism. Strengthen him/her faith by Your Holy Spirit, so that his/her sinful self may die each day and he/she may rise to new life with Christ forever. As You have written his/her name in the book of life and have made him/her a member of the body of Your Son, guide him/her, so that, with all Your saints, he/she may one day abide in Your Heavenly Home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PRESENTATION OF BAPTIZED

Through Baptism, God has added this new brother/sister a member of the Priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and show forth His creative and redeeming Word to all the world:

**We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same Heavenly Father, and workers with us in His Kingdom.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## PRAISE SONG

*Brazilian Folk tune © CPH 1982*

O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song. O  
sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song! O  
sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song! O  
sing to our God; O sing to our God.

**For God is the Lord, and He has done wonders!  
For God is the Lord, and He has done wonders!  
For God is the Lord, and He has done wonders!  
O sing to our God; O sing to our God.**

**For Christ is the Lord! Amen! Alleluia!  
For Christ is the Lamb! Amen! Alleluia!  
For Christ is the Rock! Amen! Alleluia!  
O, sing to our God, O sing to our God.**



## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We pray: Benevolent God, Merciful Father, when we are empty because of sin, fill us with Your Word and Sacraments. When we are weak in faith, strengthen and inspire us by Your Spirit. When our love grows cold, warm us with the Light of Your Son, that with fervour we may love our neighbours and serve them for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE WORD

### The Old Testament: Lamentations 3:19-26

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### LWML-Canada Anthem *Kejraim*

### "Come And Praise"

© 1992 D. Pakrul  
Deborah Pakrul

Come and praise the Lord, our King, Come and mag - ni - fy  
His name Let us praise and a - dore Him Bow down be - fore Him  
Loud - ly Him pro - claim! Come and praise the Lord,  
our King, Yes - ter - day, to - day, the same One in  
spir - it and pur - pose, Called in - to ser - vice, Ga - thered in His name. →  
Come and Praise the Lord, our King - p. 2

*D.C. al Fine*

### Stanzas

1. For the bless - sings of the past We know have come from You
2. As we come to - geth - er, Lord Here in this time and place

Op - por - tun - i - ties to grow, To share your love a - new.  
 Give us cour - age as we bold - ly Set forth by Your grace

Lord, you gave such vis - ion To the ones who came be - fore  
 To ac - comp - lish now the work that You would have us do,  
*Refrain*

Guide us by Your Word For - ev - er - more  
 Plant - ed in this coun - try. Serv - ing You.

**The Epistle: 2 Timothy 1: 1-14**

[St. Paul writes:] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, to Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SUNG GOSPEL VERSE:**

Sing Al -- le -- lu -- ia! To Whom shall we go, Lord? Sing

Al -- le -- lu -- ia! Your Words bring new life, Lord! Sing

Al -- le -- lu -- ia! We've come to be - lieve You -- as

Ho -- ly of God - Sing Al -- le -- lu -- ia!

**The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 17: 5-10**

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter:

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' The Lord replied, 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you. 'Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, "Come here at once and take your place at the table"? Would you not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink"? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, "We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!" ' This is the Gospel of the Lord. \_

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

**GOSPEL SONG:**

"Take My Life"

**Take my life and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in endless praise.**

**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.**

**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.**

*Frances R. Havergal, 1874 Public domain*

**MESSAGE**

**OFFERINGS** *are gathered*

**LWML MITE BOX OFFERING** *is collected separately*

**OFFERING ANTHEM:**

"Abide With Me"

I have a home eternal home, but for now I walk this broken world  
You walked it first You know our pain, but You show hope  
can rise again up from the grave

Chorus:

Abide with me, abide with me  
Don't let me fall and don't let go  
Walk with me and never leave  
Ever close God, abide with me  
There in the night Gethsemane, before the cross before the nails  
Overwhelmed alone You prayed, You met us in our suffering  
And bore our shame;

Bridge

Oh love that will not ever let me go  
Love that will not ever let me go  
You never let me go  
Love that will not ever let me go

Interlude

Well You never let us go

Ending

And up ahead eternity  
We'll weep no more we'll sing for joy  
Abide with me

*CCLI Song # 7038447 --David Crowder | Jason Ingram | Matt Maher | Matt Redman*

**OUR PRAYERS**  
**Litany of Missions and Outreach**

O God the Father in heaven:

**Have mercy upon us.**

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world:

**Have mercy upon us.**

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of all our souls:

**Have mercy upon us.**

Holy Trinity, one God:

**We praise you and give you thanks.**

For your gifts of life, relationships and purpose, and for the abundant blessings which you continually bestow upon us:

**We praise you and give you thanks.**

For our redemption through Christ's blood, for our adoption as children of God through Baptism and for the promise of eternal life:

**We praise you and give you thanks.**

For the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Canada, for the guidance and protection of the Holy Spirit to the present time, and for our renewal in faith and mission at home here and in other lands:

**We praise you and give you thanks.**

Inspire us with your holy Word; love us with your life-giving Sacraments; teach us to find you in the depths of prayer; lift us with the songs of faith; and make us wholly yours.

**Lord, increase our faith.**

Help us to trust in you fully so that we will give our lives, our loved ones, our cares, our resources, our church and our mission entirely into Your hands;

**Lord, increase our faith.**

Relieve us of our fears and anxieties; take away those things which hinder our faith, silence our witness, or stifle our mission.

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

Forgive us our sins and take away our guilt; refresh our souls, our spirits, and our minds through the healing power of the Holy Spirit; and make us bold as we live in the shadow of Christ's cross and resurrection.

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

Above all, use us, O God, as instruments of your love in the world.

**Use us, O God.**

Use us to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in a world where bad news abounds.

**Use us, O God.**

Use us to reach out to the lonely, the despairing, the poor, the despised, the sick, the grieving, the dying, and the hopeless -- those we know and those we do not know; we now name before you [names added here...] Help us to witness to your healing power that they might find hope and renewal, forgiveness and faith, wholeness and purpose in you.

**Use us, O God.**

Use our lives and our talents as living examples of Christ in the world, giving himself in love.

**Use us, O God.**

Use our resources and our offerings to undergird and continually expand our ministry in our community, in our synod and in our world. **Use us, O God.**

Use our church as a place for all people, a refuge in the storm, a focus for faith, a house for worship, a portal of peace, a fountain of forgiveness, a safe place to question and learn, a resource for equipping, and a center for mission. **Use us, O God.**

Almighty and all-loving God, because you have called us, welcomed us, and saved us through your Son, we are His Body in the world. Guide, direct and bless our work to the increase of your kingdom. Work among us and with us and through us, so that our ministry may continually grow, and so that many more may be called, loved, and saved through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**BLESSING:**

Go out into the world in peace; take good courage, hold fast to what is good; strengthen the weak, honour all, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing always. And now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

*"I Love To Tell"*

*Arabella Hankey, 1866; PD*

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;  
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true,  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.**

**Refrain: I love to tell the story, 'Twill be my theme in glory,  
To tell the old, old story, of Jesus and His love.**

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest;  
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.**

**Refrain: I love to tell the story, 'Twill be my theme in glory,  
To tell the old, old story, of Jesus and His love.**

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**POSTLUDE** by the Band

***"Where I Belong"***

*CCLI Song # 5996063 Jason Ingram | Jason Roy*

Sometimes it feels like I'm watching -- From the outside  
Sometimes it feels like I'm breathing --but am I alive  
I won't keep searching for answers  
That aren't here to find

**Chorus:** All I know is I'm not home yet, this is not where I belong  
Take this world and give me Jesus, this is not where I belong

So when the walls come falling --down on me  
And when I'm lost in the current of a raging sea  
I have this blessed assurance  
Holding me

**Bridge** When the earth shakes, I want to be found in You  
When the lights fade, I want to be found in You

**Ending** Where I belong

**REV. TODD HOEFFS**  
**PENTECOST 17 (series C)**  
**Scripture: St. Luke 17:5-10**  
**October 2, 2022**

From a very small beginning can emerge a large, vibrant movement.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Canada began this way as a small dedicated interest in supporting the work of the church at home and overseas.

In my 1<sup>st</sup> parish in Edmonton one of my [then] 88 year old shut-ins was Ellen Witte.

She became the founding member of the LWML in the Alberta district back in the early 1940s.

She would ride the city street car to the north end of the city to visit people in the hospital and mental institution. The street car would only take her so far. She had to walk the rest of the way – about 3 miles. So after summer passed and winter set in, she went back to her church to see who could help her get a ride there. A few visits led to a phone call and a meeting of interested women.

From something small grew very large. Like the mustard seed faith. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing the Word of Christ. Faith also comes with splashes of water and the spoken Word of God.

Baptism is a direct gift given out here in the church. You're saved by the Water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And you are made part of the Body of Christ.

This belonging and sharing creates growth and maturity in what you believe. That faith given to a baby or a child or an adult is enough to last a lifetime. And yet Jesus' disciples ask Him to "increase" their faith. Most of us would find such a request intriguing. We'd offer them good prayer books, some educational Christian websites to visit, maybe download the free Luther's Catechism phone app. But Jesus? He brushes them off. No tips. No tricks. Not even much encouragement.

They want more, and Jesus tells them they need hardly any. Just a mustard seed's worth.

We even pray for increases of faith. But in those prayers we are usually seeking strength or help.

We don't mean to say small faith is bad, There's always the temptation to turn faith into something complex. Something you need to become an "expert" in. A never-ending quest to get more and more, better and better. Jesus tells the disciples that faith is simple. You just need a little to move mountains. That's not to say there's not room to grow and develop faith, but it's also not a journey to accumulate more insight or earthly things or status. This can even become a distraction to the kind of faith that Jesus actually gives. The faith of Jesus is about loving God and loving neighbour, not about getting more and more of something for yourself. When I first taught Kindergarten art class, children needed to know how much glue to squeeze out of the Elmer's glue bottle.

If you didn't teach them, they'd think you needed pools of glue for one little piece of paper.

So I showed them a dot of glue on a page and the catch phrase, "just a dab'll do ya."

When it comes to faith, sometimes a just a dab'll do ya. Why? Because faith is powerful.

It only takes a small light to pierce the darkness, and God doesn't require one to be a spiritual Jedi master to move in us, do things with us, or love us. Our faith is not a quantitative outcome, but a journey without specific roadmaps. Faith as a mustard seed, how small and insignificant.

It was a Roman condiment and an invasive weed, considered an insulting example to the Jewish people. Small in seed but fully grown, can be tall and wide with great branches!

And while expecting a mulberry tree with very long deep roots to pick up and go into the sea (which in that region would be salt water) is such a far-fetched illustration of how minute faith can do ANYTHING. With faith, size does not matter. But there are times when we all think our faith, big or small, is lacking.

If I just had more faith I wouldn't have so many questions or doubts.

If I just had more faith God would answer my prayers.

If I just had more faith my loved one wouldn't have died.

If I just had more faith I would be a better person, a better parent, a better spouse.

If I just had more faith I would know what to do,

I would handle things better. If I just had more faith life would be different.

It is an approach to faith at least as old as the disciples' own faith. In fact the Jewish faith at the time believed in levels and strengths of faith, big and small, weak and powerful. Those in high privileged religious standings of course had A LOT of faith; those of lower standing or no standing had little or no faith. Jesus just warned them prior not to become stumbling blocks for others and wished them to forgive as often as an offender repents even if it's seven times seventy in one day. That will be difficult. It will be a challenge to live that way. "Increase our faith," is their response. It seems like a reasonable request. If a little is good then a lot must be better. Faith is not given to us in an envelope to be spent as currency in our dealings with God. Faith is not measured out according to how difficult the task or work before us. Faith is not a thing we can acquire or control. Faith is a gift which comes wrapped in relationship of trust and love. It means opening ourselves to receive Christ's life and giving that life-gift-offering to another. That faith-relationship is who we are as believers and is shown in how we live out that relationship. Faith is trust.

Believing and understanding that Jesus' Words and Actions are good and meaningful for us to take to heart. Think of a married couple's faithfulness. It doesn't mean they believe or agree with each other's ideas or even a particular understanding of marriage all the time. They're faithful because they've committed themselves to each other in love and trust. They're faithful because they continually give their life to the other and receive the other's life as their own. They're faithful because they carry with them that one relationship wherever they go, in all that they are and all that they do. So it is in our faith-relationship with Jesus. Faith will not, however, change the circumstances of our lives. Instead, faith changes us. Living in faith does not shield us from the pain and difficulties of life, it does not undo the past, and it will not guarantee a bright future. Rather, faith is the life-condition given by God in Christ with which we face and deal with the circumstances of life – the difficulties and losses, the joys and successes, the opportunities and possibilities. Faith is hard when the believing gets tough because it's not seen or measurable. We can't point to it or turn it on when need arises. It's always there, like the ground beneath our feet. We take it for granted. We think it's gone but in reality it's inside of us, deeply rooted and sustaining. And even if you feel you've lost it doesn't go away. It's there, helping you live under God's grace when sins rear their ugly head. Faith doesn't get us a pat on the back, a reward, or a promotion in God's eyes. It is simply the way in which we live as His people. In openness to, trust in, and love for Christ. Allowing Him to guide our decisions, our words, and our actions. We've received His forgiveness even when we didn't think we needed it or did anything wrong. We've been totally and completely supported by Him in both life and death. In His life and into His death. In His cross, His suffering, His Bleeding, His dying, and in that sacrifice we are transformed. For you and I serve One who came not to be served but to serve and to lay His life down for all. He's the Suffering Servant who bears the sins of the people. He is the Master who calls His servants from the field at the end of the day and doesn't interrogate them over what they've done or haven't done. He doesn't make them wait on Him, He serves them. He invites you to His Holy Meal. He prepares you, washing your feet, cleaning up your life. He feeds you with His food and drink. While you're feeling unworthy, He's saying to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant." It's all by grace, free gift, unearned, undeserved. Grasped by FAITH! Faith is how we live; the lens through which we see ourselves, others, and the world; the criterion by which we act and speak. No matter where we go, no matter what we face we do so in relationship with the One who created, loves, sustains, and redeems us. We truly grow and remain stable in our daily walk because we are people of faith; We have *enough* faith, even mustard seed sized faith. Jesus believes that is plenty. Jesus gives that. That's good enough for us. It may not always answer every concern, but it shows us the ONE Who's deep concern for us has been answered by a cross and open tomb. And that same faith will tell us that dying and rising in Jesus is our way, too. This changes us in our relationship to our Lord and in the lives of others. We respond in faith, in our words and actions, and listen for the good word of our Lord, "well done, good and faithful servants" for living in that deeply seated mustard seed faith. Amen.