



*"As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth . . .
so is my word that goes out from my
mouth: It will not return to me
empty"*

Isaiah 55:10,11

323 E. 1st St.

Fairmont, MN 56031

Sunday Worship: 8:00am & 10:30am

Sunday School and Bible Class: 9:15am

www.shepherdofthelakes.net

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Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020

Welcome to Shepherd of the Lakes

We're here to shepherd Christ's flock and seek the lost sheep by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all. Come, let us worship!

For Your Convenience. . .

A room for any parents with children in need of a quiet place is located in the back corner of the sanctuary. Restrooms are located on the lower level. Please ask if you have any further questions or concerns.

Prayer before worship

Heavenly Father, as I worship you today, curb my wandering thoughts. Speak to my heart. Encourage me with your Word, that my faith is strengthened, my confidence and hope renewed, and I am recommitted to serve you faithfully. In Jesus' name, amen.

The Common Service

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The Common Service" is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church and became the service commonly used by English-speaking Lutherans in America.

OPENING HYMN: CW 255V5.....Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Speak, O God, and I will hear thee; Let thy will be done indeed.

May I undisturbed draw near thee While thou dost thy people feed.

Here of life the fountain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+)and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Thanks be to God!

C: He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! 1 Corinthians 15:57

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

PLEASE BE SEATED

GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 55:6-11

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the LORD.

⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

PSALM OF THE DAY: CWS Psalm 65

We will read the psalm responsively according to the directions typed in your worship folder

Refrain

All: The earth is full of the goodness of God, the goodness of our God.

M: Praise awaits you, O God,

C: you call forth songs of joy.

M: You care for the land and water it;

C: you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

M: The streams of God are filled with water

C: to provide the people with grain.

Refrain

M: You crown the year with your bounty,

C: and your carts overflow with abundance.

M: The grasslands of the desert overflow;

C: the hills are clothed with gladness.

M: The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain;

C: They shout for joy and sing.

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 3:5-11

⁵ What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹ For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. Alleluia. (Deuteronomy 30:14 cf. NIV)

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation speaks:

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

¹⁸ “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

CONFESSION OF FAITH—NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW 544V5.....*Preach You the Word*

Preach you the Word and plant it home

And never faint; the Harvest-Lord

Who gave the sower seed to sow

Will watch and tend his planted Word.

SERMON

PLEASE STAND

SERMON RESPONSE: Psalm 51:10-12 (Spoken in unison)

¹⁰ **Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

¹¹ **Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

OFFERING

*Offerings can be mailed to our church office at **517 Tilden Street, Fairmont, MN 56031** or made on our website under the "Donate" tab at the top of the homepage or taken to Profinium Bank in Fairmont*

To our visitors: *Our offering is not a debt we owe God, but a way that we return to God a portion of what he generously gave to us. Our motivation, then, is not obligation, but love for God. The members of Shepherd of the Lakes have joined together to spread God's message both in this community and around the world. As our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute. We're happy that you're with us to hear about God's love for you.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be they 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.

PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN: CW 322v1*On What Has Now Been Sown*

*On what has now been sown Your blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is yours alone To make it spring and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise And you alone shall have the praise*

PLEASE STAND

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

THE BLESSING

M: The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen

PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN: CW 322v3.....*How Can I Thank You, Lord*

*Oh, grant that each of us Now met before you here
May meet together thus When you and yours appear
And follow you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!*

Notes and News for July 26, 2020

Prayer Requests

As a we love each other as the body of Christ, we want to "rejoice with those who rejoice [and] mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15). If you have any prayer requests, please pass them on to Pastor that we may take them to the Lord with you!

Men's and Women's Bible Classes

There has been interest in the Men's Saturday Morning Bible Class beginning up again at the Ranch now that they are open (keeping in mind that we will have to follow and precautions and plans they have in place in regards to COVIC-19). Pastor is planning on starting up with class again on the first Saturday morning of August (July 4th is a holiday and Pastor is planning on helping with the Opera House block party that day at our VBS booth).

If any of the ladies are interested in starting Wine, Women, and the Word again, please let Pastor know so he can get the announcement out if there is interest.

Notice of Church Property Sale

"Notice is hereby given that there will be a special voter's meeting of the congregation of Shepherd of the Lakes Evangelical Lutheran Church, Martin County, Minnesota, a religious corporation, on the 2nd day of August, 2020, at 11:30 am., or as soon thereafter as may be convened. Said meeting will be held in the church sanctuary. The purpose and object of this meeting will be to authorize the Trustees of the congregation to sell the church and property at 323 East 1st Street, Fairmont, MN for the sum of Ninety Six Thousand, Five Hundred and No/100 Dollars (96,500.00) and to authorize and empower the Board of Trustees of this congregation to execute any and all documents in writing and to do any and all things necessary or convenient to accomplish said purpose."

Moving Service August 2nd

As you know, we are planning on having our moving ceremony on August 2nd after church. While it will temporarily not fit with our COVID preparedness plan, we shall only have one church service that day at 10:30. Following our service, we will hold our special voters meeting for the sale of the church property. Right after that meeting, we will begin our service to move to our new building.

The plan is to walk the cross and communion ware and the individual candles from the current location to our new building, where the short service will continue. The weather right now is calling for sunny and mid 80s. If you do not wish to walk but would find it more comfortable to drive, please feel free to do so! We would rather you drove instead of making yourself sick in the heat!

We will not be able to have our normal potluck. However, should you wish to bring a chair and food, we invite you to gather in our parking lot to enjoy a picnic-type meal and socialize while also being able to maintain our social distancing!

Bible Story in a Bag

Due to COVID-19, we were unable to hold our Vacation Bible School over the Summer as is the usual plan. To try and still provide some sort of religious education for our community's children, we are handing out Bible Story in a Bag. They contain a Bible story for the week along with some extra reading and biblical explanation/takeaway of that story. It also contains a STEM project for the children to enjoy which ties into the Bible story of the week. They have been handed out on Monday evenings in front of the church.

Feel free to take some of these bags yourself to hand out to anyone you think might enjoy them or benefit from them! You can find them in the back of church. Again, this is to fill in for our VBS which we were unable to provide this year. So take as many as you think you need!

COVID-19 Worship Preparedness Plan

Please take time to review our COVID-19 Worship Preparedness Plan. There have been some changes to our latest version. This especially includes our governor's latest mandate regarding the wearing of masks. Pastor will email the latest version out and also post it at both entries to the church and in other various places. Some of the main points include:

- Please stay home if you feel sick or show any symptoms of COVID-19
- Wash/sanitize hands regularly
- Face masks are mandatory (and may be removed for singing)
- Sit at least 6 feet apart by household groups (to aid in this, we have roped off certain pews to help measure six feet distances between groups)
- Please allow the ushers to hand you your worship folder so there are fewer hands than not touching multiple folders
- Continuous line communion (members will line up on the pulpit side of the sanctuary keeping 6 feet apart by household unit; household units may commune together; after receiving the bread from pastor, move to the elder to receive the wine; discard of your individual cup in the waste basket provided and return to your seat; a communal blessing will take place after everyone is seated)
- Please take home your worship folder and Bible Class handout after service

Remember in your Prayers this Week

- + Birthdays:
- + Anniversaries:
- + Prayer requests:



“It’s no secret that there are a lot of hurting people in the world, and we know that untreated mental health concerns can affect entire families. At Christian Family Solutions, it is our mission to heal and help people in need through the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Our loving God tells us how anxiety, depression, grief, and other problems can be addressed. Using this understanding from God’s Word and evidence-based counseling techniques, our mental health professionals can assist people with all the challenges of life.

“We want to be the Christian counseling resource people turn to for hope, healing, and peace.”

Mental health faces many obstacles in our world today. What a blessing God has given us through Christian Family Solutions, as they provide counseling and other psychological help along with the comfort of God’s Word!

Our congregation has also been blessed to have received gifts in the past to partake in Christian Family Solutions’ Member Assistance Program (MAP). MAP helps to provide a number of counseling services to our members while helping to defray their cost. These gifts have been very helpful. We would love to continue to use MAP to help our family here at Shepherd of the Lakes.

If you would ever like to contribute to this cause, please let Pastor or one of our elders know. Your contribution will be much appreciated as you aid in providing much needed help to God’s flock and our family. And not only do we do it for them, but whatever we do for one of God’s flock, we do for our Savior (Matthew 25:40)!