

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 12 / 15, 2024

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

6430 Hwy. D Allenton, Wisconsin 53002

Members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Steven D. Bode, pastor 6438 Hwy. D Allenton, WI

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Welcome to God's House

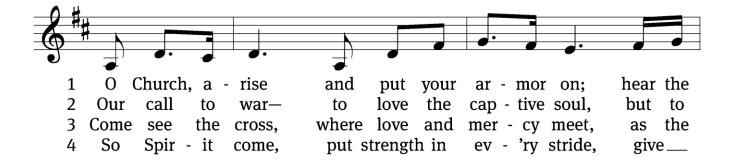
Arguments can be made over what the worst war in human history would be: World War II, with a death toll of at least 90 million people? The Three Kingdoms War, which not only resulted in over 40 million deaths but also lasted for most of the third century? The American Civil War, fought in our own country?

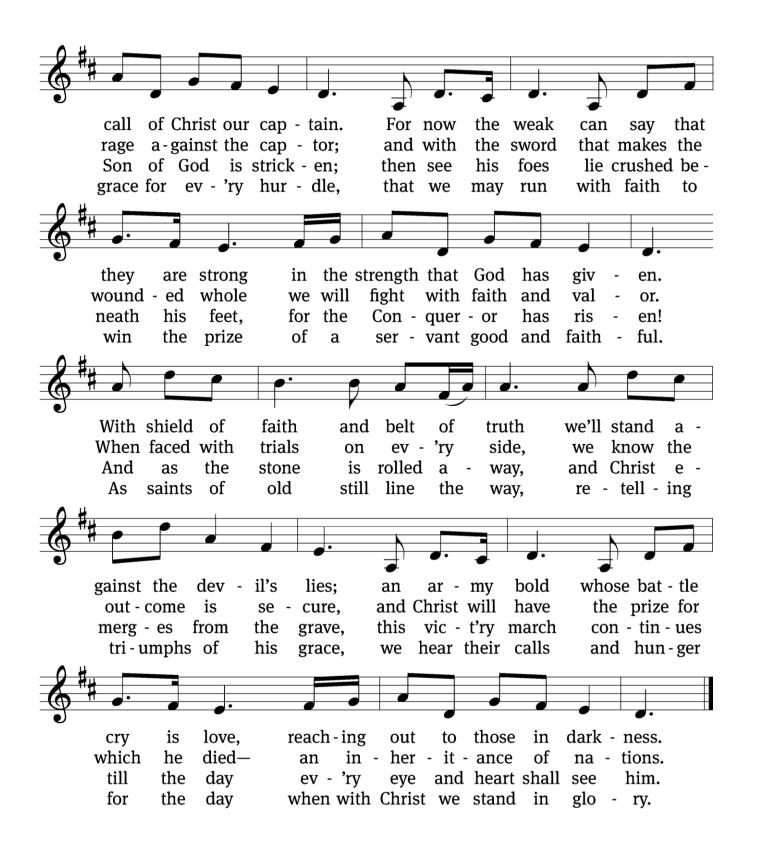
The worst war in human history began when the first shot was fired in Eden. It has been raging since. It is a war against "spiritual forces of evil" (Ephesians 6:12). This is not a war over land or resources. It is a war for souls. The reality is that there are demonic forces that want to do more than kill you; they want to claim you for all eternity. The good news: Christ has already called you his own and equipped you for this war. Followers of Christ are armed for the battle

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn

O Church, Arise #870





Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria WEBB CW 1002

To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth, for God has shown his favor in Jesus' holy birth!

Almighty God and Father, our humble thanks we bring; we worship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

O Lamb of God exalted, you take all sin away; extend to us your mercy and hear us as we pray. With God the Holy Spirit, at God the Father's throne, you reign, O Christ, forever, for you are Lord alone!

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what you want done; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading 1 Kings 18:21-39

²¹ Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing.

²² Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. ²³ Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God."

Then all the people said, "What you say is good."

²⁵ Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." ²⁶ So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷ At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." ²⁸ So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹ Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which had been torn down. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to

whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel." ³² With the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. ³³ He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood."

³⁴ "Do it again," he said, and they did it again.

"Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵ The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

³⁶ At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷ Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

³⁸Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

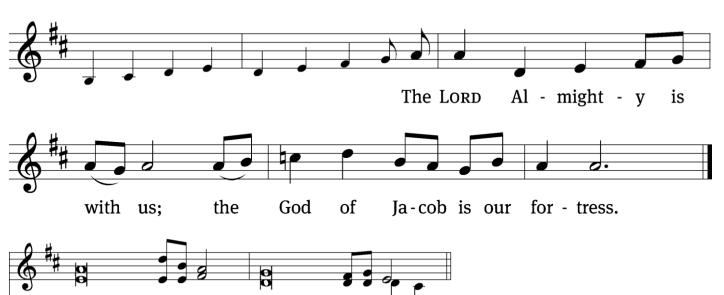
³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

The LORD Almighty Is with Us Psalm 46A



God is our ref- / uge and strength, an ever-present help in / trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the / earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart / of the sea, though its waters / roar and foam and the mountains quake with their / surging. *Refrain*

There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- / y of God, the holy place where the Most / High dwells.

God is within her, she / will not fall;

God will help her at / break of day.

"Be still, and know that / I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted / in the earth."

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Second Reading

Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 31:1

Alleluia. In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Alleluia.

Gospel Mark 9:14-27

¹⁴ When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. ¹⁵ As soon as all the

people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

- ¹⁶ "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.
- ¹⁷A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."
- ¹⁹ "You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."
- ²⁰ So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.
- ²¹ Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"
- "From childhood," he answered. ²² "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."
- ²³ "If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."
- ²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"
- ²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."
- ²⁶ The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Praise the one who breaks the darkness with a liberating light; praise the one who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight. Praise the one who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease, calming storms and feeding thousands with the Father's word of peace.

Praise the one who blessed the children with a strong, yet gentle, word; praise the one who drove out demons with the piercing, two-edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand; from this well comes living water, quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

Let us praise the Word incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place; Jesus died and rose victorious that we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done; let us praise the true Redeemer, praise the one who makes us one.

Sermon 1 Kings 18:21-39

Please stand

The 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 truly 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 worshiped 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.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Lord Almighty, our refuge and strength, help us in every trouble. We do not need to fear anything because you are with us.

Lord God, our refuge and strength, help us in every trouble.

You alone are God, and all power in heaven and earth is yours. Defend us from all the idols and distractions of the world, and keep us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

Lord God, our refuge and strength, help us in every trouble.

Daily we pray that you would deliver us from evil. Guard and protect us against anything harmful to body and soul. Equip us with your Word so that we can stand firm against all temptation, and be confident in your power.

Lord God, our refuge and strength, help us in every trouble.

Nations are in uproar and kingdoms rise and fall. People rage and try to change the world with terror and destruction. Stop or hinder those who plan evil. Restrain all violence and anything that would harm us.

Lord God, our refuge and strength, help us in every trouble.

Your Son Jesus displayed his power against the devil and the ailments he causes. In mercy look on all who suffer pains of mind and body [especially...]. When it fits your gracious plan, deliver your people from evil. Lord God, our refuge and strength, help us in every trouble.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayers and special intercessions

Lord God, heavenly Father, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, into this world to destroy the works of the devil, and to protect us poor people against such an evil foe. Uphold us in all afflictions by keeping us steadfast in your Word, and by sending your Holy Spirit, so that we may have peace from such enemies and remain forever blessed; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

The members of Zion have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please don't feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

The Sacrament

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

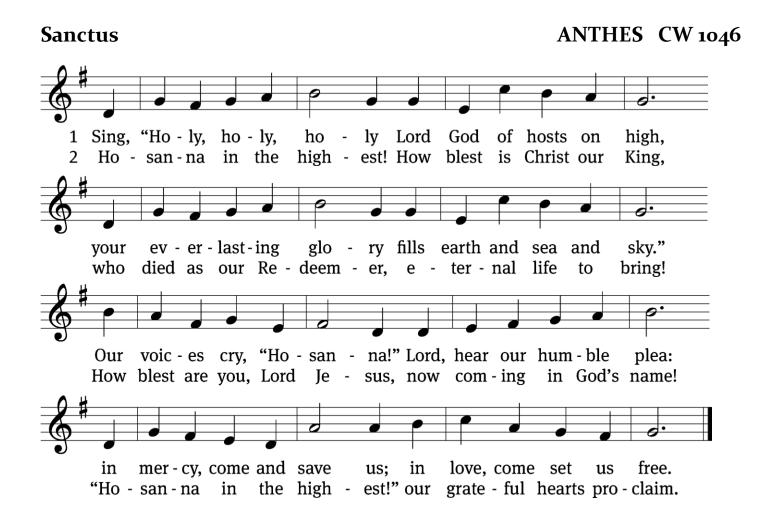
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

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

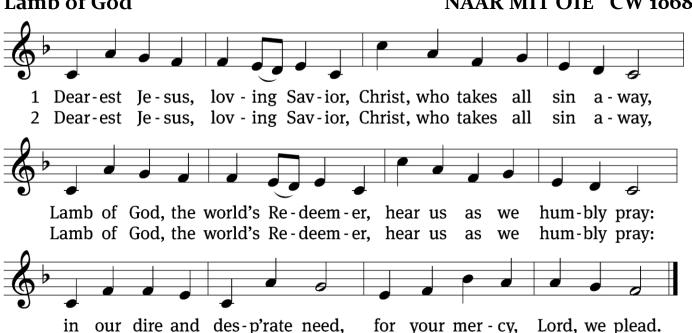
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.



NAAR MIT ÖIE CW 1068



Distribution Hymn

let your mer - cv

Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide #641

for your mer - cy, Lord, we plead.

in - crease; grant us par-don, grant us peace.

Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide, for round us falls the eventide, nor let your Word, that heav'nly light, for us be ever veiled in night.

still

In these last days of sore distress grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness that pure we keep, till life is spent, your holy Word and sacrament.

O God, how sin's dread works abound! Throughout the earth no rest is found, and falsehood's spirit wide has spread, and error boldly rears its head.

Lord Jesus, help, your Church uphold, for we are sluggish, thoughtless, cold. O prosper well your Word of grace, and spread its truth in ev'ry place.

O keep us in your Word, we pray; the guile and rage of Satan stay. Oh, may your mercy never cease; give concord, patience, courage, peace.

A trusty weapon is your Word, the Church's armor, shield, and sword. O let us in its pow'r confide that we may seek no other guide.

O grant that in your holy Word we here may live and die, dear Lord; and when our journey's ending here, receive us into glory there.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

Onward, Christian Soldiers #869:1, 3

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before. Christ, the royal master, leads against the foe; forward into battle see his banners go! **Refrain**

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane, but the Church of Jesus constant will remain.

Gates of hell can never 'gainst that Church prevail; we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail. **Refrain**

This Week at Zion

Today: 7:30 / 9:45 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

8:30 / 8:45 a.m. Sunday School / Bible Study

Mon: 7:00 p.m. Long Range Facilities committee meeting

Mon - Tue: Symposium at the Seminary

Tue: 12 – 5:00 p.m. Blood Drive in fellowship hall

6:30 p.m. Ladies' Aid Meeting

Wed: 6:00 p.m. Catechism instructions

7:00 p.m. Dartball practice

Thu: 7:00 p.m. Worship

Sun: 7:30 / 9:00 a.m. Worship

In Our Prayers Lorraine Kell, recovering at home from a procedure last week; also Rhea Schmidt, who moved to Hope Rehab in Lomira last week.

Holy Communion We believe that gathering together at God's altar to receive the Lord's Supper is a testimony of the confession, commitment and unity we share as members of the Lutheran Church. We ask guests who are not members of our Lutheran denomination to speak with the pastor before joining us at the altar so all may have a clear understanding of our faith and practice.

Teacher Installation Today (Sunday) in the early service the following teachers will be installed as our Sunday school staff for this year: Pre-K: Barbara Kluever and Henry Kluever; 1st-2nd: Shannon Allison & Tarah Allison; 3rd – 4th: Julie Wolf, Heather Stensaas & Ella Stensaas; 5th-6th: Joy Pamperin; 7th-8th: Adam Janz. We thank them for their willingness to volunteer time and talents for our children. Please keep them in your prayers as they assist parents in the extremely important task of bringing the children of Zion to know their Savior.

We are always looking for new people who would be willing to serve as a substitute teacher on a given Sunday when the regular teachers can't make it. Contact the pastor if you would be willing to serve in this way.

Sunday School / **Bible Study** Remember our Sunday School classes started last week and will be every Sunday morning starting at 8:30 a.m. The Sunday adult bible study starts today at 8:45 a.m. We'll be going through the foundational book of the Bible...the book of beginnings, which is Genesis. Join us!

We thank Jared Peterson (Thursday) and Bea Pamperin (Sunday) for serving as our organists this weekend.

Blood Drive Have you registered yet for our blood drive this Tuesday? If not, go to www.redcrossblood.org or scan the QR code on the flier on the bulletin board. Not only will your blood donation save lives, you'll get some delicious free food and a \$15 amazon gift card for your time.

Check the table in the entryway for any items you may be missing. There are plates, dishes, food containers, clothes and miscellaneous items left behind after our picnic as well as throughout the year.

Dartball League Dartball season is upon us. The projected start date is Wednesday, September 25th. We'd like to have two practices on September 11th & 18th at 7:00 p.m. All interested participants are welcome to attend even if you didn't participate last year or have never played. Any questions, please call Rustin Billings 920-979-3458.

KML Clay Shoot The KML Foundation is hosting its annual Clay Shoot Event on Friday, September 27th at the Mayville Gun Club. This growing event is fun for everyone, whether an expert or beginner. The day includes lunch, breaking clays, gun raffles, a silent auction, and a free beverage. Go to www.kmlhs.org/clayshoot24 to register, sponsor, or donate. Registration and sponsorship deadline is September 19, 2024. All proceeds go to the KML Sportsman Fund which supports KML student assistance.

Pick up a *Forward in Christ* (September edition) from the cabinets in the entryway, a September calendar as well as the church newsletter. In this month's *Forward*, you'll find articles about how an autistic man uses his poetry to share the light of the gospel; a pastor who shares his grief—and his hope—after losing his wife and child in a tragic fire; how to help a child who is struggling to adapt to the new school year.

LWMS Rally Learn about a relatively new mission that aids an orphanage in Zambia. The Payne family – Tim, Jessica and Josh will be presenting on their trip to Zambia to work with the Vulnerable Children's Foundation, which is affiliated with the Lutheran Church of Central Africa. The rally will be held at Peace Lutheran on October 5th. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. and the rally goes from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Lighthouse Benefit You're invited to the 18th Annual Lighthouse Youth Center Benefit Dinner on Friday, October 4th at the Wisconsin Club (6200 W. Good Hope Rd - Milwaukee)! All proceeds raised will help to provide after school homework assistance and daily devotions for the inner city youth of Milwaukee and Appleton. To register please visit https://lyc.ejoinme.org/dinner2024 Space is limited and is filling quickly! Deadline to register is this **Friday, September 20**th. If you have any questions or if you would like to donate a gift or auction item, contact Abby Rasmussen at abby.rasmussen@lighthouseyouthcenter.com.

WELS 175th Anniversary Book One of the major projects of the WELS 175th anniversary (coming up in 2025) is the publication of a pictorial history book. This book will provide a narrative of the synod's history in seven chapters with various vignettes highlighting stories of interest. The book will be in color and contain over 600 images. Order before September 30th, you'll get 20% off the cover price (\$23.99 instead of \$29.99). Check the bulletin board for more info or go to https://online.nph.net/175annivbook

The WELS Connection, a monthly news video from our national church body - the WELS, will be shown after church today. This month, meet the

WELS European Civilian Chaplain, a pastor who serves military members and their families as well as civilians who are scattered across Europe.

KML Ultimate Tailgate This year's Ultimate Alumni Tailgate will be held on October 11th from 6 – 8 p.m. Alumni and their spouses/significant others and children are invited to attend! You'll receive a \$10 voucher for gourmet food trucks, use of a free bounce house, face painting for the kids and more. The deadline to register is this Friday (September 20th) at https://www.kmlhs.org/alumnihoco24/

Friends of the Seminary You are invited to the Seminary's annual Friends of the Seminary Day on Saturday, October 12th. Registration and coffee hour runs from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. followed by worship, presentations, lunch, and optional seminary tour. Reserve your seat by providing the following information (name, address, phone number, and whether you want to take the tour) to Leah Leyrer (leah.leyrer@wisluthsem.edu or 262.242.8100).

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870 O Church, Arise CW 870

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1002 Gloria (Amer) - WEBB CW 1002

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46A The LORD Almighty Is with Us Psalm 46A

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