



GOD FIRST.

*Stewardship of  
our TALENTS*

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 19 / 22, 2024

# Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

6430 Hwy. D

Allenton, Wisconsin 53002

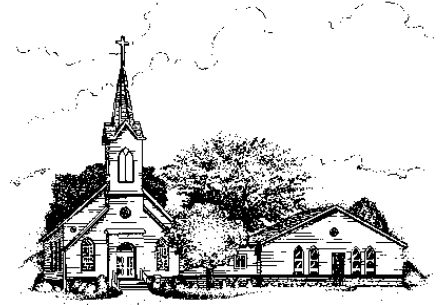
Members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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## Welcome to God's House

Stewardship is the lifelong management of all the resources God has given us. Another way to say it: God's people using God's gifts to God's glory.



Some of the gifts God gives us are what we call our talents.

Unique to each individual, it's amazing to see how God has blessed us with things that we are good at, whether that's cleaning or maintenance or teaching or showing genuine care and concern or leading or praying or any number of different gifts.

Today we will draw attention to the *talents* with which God has blessed us...and how we can use them here in our lives and in our congregation. As stewards, or managers, of these talents, we are called to put God first when it comes to using those talents in his service.

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

**Opening Hymn            God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending #749:1-2**

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store:  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door—  
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful songs shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;

born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

## **Invocation and Opening Dialogue**

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

**Amen.**

We all have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying,

**then prophesy in accordance with your faith;**

if it is serving,

**then serve;**

if it is teaching,

**then teach;**

if it is to encourage,

**then give encouragement;**

if it is giving,

**then give generously;**

if it is to lead,

**do it diligently;**

if it is to show mercy,

**do it cheerfully.**

## **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.**

## **Song of Praise**

**NETTLETON CW 1008**

♪ Glory be to God in heaven, peace to those he loves so well.  
On the earth let all his people speak his grace, his wonders tell:  
Lord, we praise you for your glory, mighty Father, heaven's King;  
hear our joyful adoration and accept the thanks we bring.

Only Son of God the Father, Lamb who takes our sin away,  
now with him in triumph seated—for your mercy, Lord, we pray:  
Jesus Christ, most high and holy, Savior, you are God alone  
in the glory of the Father with the Spirit, Three in One!

## **THE WORD**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Lord God, Creator of all things, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your gifts and your loving providence. Remembering the richness of your grace, may we be faithful stewards of all your good gifts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

<sup>30</sup> Then Moses said to the Israelites, “See, the Lord has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, <sup>31</sup> and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— <sup>32</sup> to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, <sup>33</sup> to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic crafts. <sup>34</sup> And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. <sup>35</sup> He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers— all of them skilled workers and designers. <sup>36</sup> <sup>1</sup> So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the Lord has commanded.”

<sup>2</sup> Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord had given ability and who was willing to come and do the work. <sup>3</sup> They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. <sup>4</sup> So all the skilled workers who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left what they were doing <sup>5</sup> and said to Moses, “The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done.”

<sup>6</sup> Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: “No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary.” And so the people were restrained from bringing more, <sup>7</sup> because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

## In You, O LORD, I Am Found Psalm 139D



1 O LORD, you know me and search me out:  
2 I know not all my own heart and mind,  
3 Though dark - ness cov - ers my hope and sight  
4 Be - fore my birth, you com - posed my frame.  
5 Where can I run from your love so deep,



my hab - its and thoughts, my se - cret doubts,  
my wan - der - ing soul, my sleep - less eyes;  
and night o - ver - takes my trou - bled mind,  
You gazed in my eyes and knew my name.  
so bound - less and strong, so rich, so free?



my dreams at night, the words of my mouth.  
I long for you, but from you I hide.  
in dark - ness you, my day - light, will shine.  
You wrote with love each one of my days.  
No height, nor depth can sep - a - rate me:

### Refrain



In you, O LORD, I am found; oh, in you, O LORD, I am found.

## Second Reading

1 Peter 4:10-12

<sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God

may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

Alleluia. So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,  
**do it all for the glory of God. Alleluia.**

**Gospel**

**Matthew 25:14-23**

<sup>14</sup>“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup>The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup>So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup>But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

<sup>19</sup>“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

<sup>21</sup>“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>22</sup>“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

<sup>23</sup>“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been



faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**Hymn of the Day                      O God, Your Hands the Heavens Made #751**

O God, your hand the heavens made and all that they contain;  
the world appeared at your command, and in it now you reign.  
The restless sea, the land, the sky your handiwork declare;  
the touch of your creative pow'r is present ev'rywhere.

To us are given gifts divine, all talents you have sent;  
inspire us now to use them well your kingdom to extend.  
We hold each gift a trust from you nor claim it as our own;  
we gratefully acknowledge, Lord, all things are yours alone.

Deliver us from selfish aims, true stewards we would be;  
endow us with a deep desire to live unselfishly.  
A full accounting we must give and see you face to face;  
let us approach your throne with joy, supported by your grace.

**Sermon**

**Matthew 25:14-23**

**The Apostles' Creed**

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

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

right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

*Please be seated*

### **Prayer of the Church**

Lord of our lives, by sending your Son to live and die as our perfect substitute, you provided forgiveness and salvation to a world of sinners.

**We praise you for your generous, saving love.**

We thank you for reaching out to each of us with your Word and the water of Holy Baptism.

**You have set us apart as people who belong to you, people whose purpose in life is to receive your love and live to your glory.**

Gracious Father, remind us that you have called us to live for you and not for ourselves or according to the standards of this world.

**Help us prioritize our time, our talents, our treasures, and whatever you have placed into our hands for those things that will be eternal value.**

Help us to love you and others and to use things as you desire, instead of loving things and trying to use you and others for our own selfish desires.

**May our hearts belong to you completely so that our lives can be devoted to things that really matter.**

Compassionate Lord, bless all who are suffering or in need. Be with the

lonely and the grief-stricken. Move us to use the unique gifts you have given each of us to bring comfort and help to those who need it.

**Bless the government and your Church, and make us blessings to both.**

We ask you to hear our personal prayers....

*Silent prayers and special intercessions*

All these things we ask, not because we deserve them, but because your Son has earned for us the right to approach you as your dear children. In His name we pray.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

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

## **Hymn**

## **We Give Thee but Thine Own #750**

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive  
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our firstfruits give.

## **Closing Prayer**

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and

comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **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**

### **Take My Life and Let It Be #695**

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

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;  
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

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.

## **This Week at Zion**

<b>Today:</b>	7:30 / 9:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
	8:30 / 8:45 a.m.	Sunday School / Bible Study
<b>Mon:</b>	10:00 a.m.	OWLS meeting at Peace, Hartford
<b>Tue:</b>	2:30 p.m.	KM Gardens devotion, Kewaskum
<b>Thu:</b>	7:00 p.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
<b>Fri:</b>	11:00 a.m.	KML Clay Shoot at Mayville Gun Club
<b>Sun:</b>	7:30 / 9:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
	8:30 / 8:45 a.m.	Sunday School / Bible Study

**Baptism** Weston Duane Ernisse was made a child of God through Holy Baptism in a private ceremony this past Saturday (September 21<sup>st</sup>). He was born on July 16<sup>th</sup>. May God keep Weston in his baptismal grace all the days of his life.

**Stewardship** Today is the second of 3 stewardship – focused weekends which will focus on how we use our time, talents and treasures to God’s glory. After each of the services, one of the members of the Endowment / Stewardship committee will remind Zion members how they can put that particular gift into practice in our daily lives. This weekend, we’ll be reminded of how we manage our talents to God’s glory.

**Help?** We received 2 contribution checks from a retirement fund in the mail last week, but there was no indication who they were from. If you sent them, please contact the church so they can be credited to your contribution statements for the end of the year. Thank you.

**Bible Study** In our Sunday morning bible study (8:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall), we’re going through a study of the first 11 chapters of Genesis - a portion of God’s Word that many people have lots of questions about. This week, among other things, we’ll be talking about creation &

evolution...including dinosaurs, our stewardship of God's creation, and what it means that we were created in God's image.

**We thank** Barb Olsen, who served as the organist for all our worship services this weekend.

**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 from throughout the past year.

**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; also a pastor who shares his grief—and his hope—after losing his wife and child in a tragic fire this past summer.

**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 5<sup>th</sup>. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. and the rally goes from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**WELS 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book** One of the major projects of the WELS 175<sup>th</sup> 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. If you order before September 30<sup>th</sup>, 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>

**Friends of the Seminary** You are invited to the Seminary's annual Friends of the Seminary Day on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Registration and

coffee hour runs from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. followed by worship, presentations, lunch, and optional seminary tour. As we begin our school year, we are excited to share the ways God is blessing your gifts and using them to prepare pastors. After the worship service, attendees will hear from Professor Skip Goetzinger, director of the Pastoral Studies Institute. Seminarian Cameron Schroeder will speak on practical ministry opportunities for students. 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).

**Reservations are requested by September 27.** While there is no registration fee, your reservation aids us in planning.

**Trivia Night** KML invites you to join us for KML Trivia Night, sponsored by the Charger Club, on Saturday, October 5, at 7:00 PM. Please mark your calendar and save the date, organize your student/parent team (5-10 players encouraged), and look for more information soon about registering! For more info, visit [www.kmlhs.org/kmltrivia](http://www.kmlhs.org/kmltrivia).

#### Copyright Information / Acknowledgments

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##### **139D In You, O LORD, I Am Found** *Psalm 139D*

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##### **751 O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made** CW 751

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