



**And they did not do
as we expected, but
they gave themselves
first to the Lord and
then to us in keeping
with God's will.**

- 2 Corinthians 8:5 -

**COVENANT LUTHERAN CHURCH
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

**26th Sunday after Pentecost
November 17, 2024**

Our Mission... Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to the changing of lives through Jesus Christ by helping others find salvation in Jesus Christ.

AS WE GATHER Our focus today is on “Embracing a Lifestyle of Giving Joyfully and Generously.” Jesus’ last command before His ascension was to “Go therefore and make disciples...” (Matthew 28:19). One of the ways that we are obedient to the Great Commission is to financially support the spreading of the Gospel. In addition to supporting our church on a weekly basis through our offerings, we have the opportunity to help fund many other Christian causes that share the Good News to people who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. **GUESTS ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME!**

RINGING OF THE BELLS AND WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 16: 8, 11;*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: I have set the Lord always before me.

People: Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Pastor: You have made known to me the path of life;

People: You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasure at Your right hand.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

All: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have turned away from each other in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for our sins. Have mercy on us, kind Father, because of the obedience of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Forgive us all that is past, and with the power of the Holy Spirit move us to follow you faithfully and serve you willingly. Amen.

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

People: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"

Chorus: **Bless the Lord, O my soul O my soul Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul I'll worship Your holy name**

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes** *Chorus*

**You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find** *Chorus*

**And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore** *Chorus 2x*

Yes, I'll worship Your holy name; Lord, I'll worship Your holy name!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray... O Lord, You are the Giver of all we have and all we are including the gift of salvation which You have freely given us through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Help us to be good and faithful stewards of all Your gifts and blessings, sharing with those in need and telling others about the life and salvation we have in Jesus who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT 1 Chronicles 29:10-18 *(David gives thanks and praise to God.)*

¹⁰David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. ¹¹Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. ¹²Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. ¹³Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

¹⁴"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. ¹⁵We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. ¹⁶Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. ¹⁷I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. ¹⁸Lord, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 *(Excel in the grace of giving.)*

8 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 6:19-24 (Store up treasures in heaven.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²²“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

All: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And 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.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN

SERMON SONG “Lord, I Need You”

**Lord, I come, I confess Bowing here I find my rest
And without You, I fall apart You're the One that guides my heart**

Chorus: **Lord, I need You, oh, I need You Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness Oh God, how I need You**

**Where sin runs deep Your grace is more Grace is found Is where You are
Where You are, Lord, I am free Holiness is Christ in me** *Chorus*

**So teach my song to rise to You When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You Jesus, You're my hope and stay** *Chorus*

**You're my one defense, my righteousness Oh God, how I need You
My one defense, my righteousness Oh God, how I need You**

SERMON “Giving Joyfully and Generously”

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs... That the Lord grant safety and blessing to His Church, that standing firm upon the ground of His promise and washed in the blood of our Savior, we would endure to the end in faith and hope, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That the Lord would bless our government and provide for us elected and appointed civil servants who heed His Word, protect us from our enemies, and enable us to worship the Lord and serve our neighbor, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That the Lord would open our eyes to the needs of the poor, advocate for the cause of life, preserve the aged and infirm, and be faithful witnesses to our children, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That the Lord would deliver the sick from illness, the troubled from their afflictions, the dying from fear, and the grieving from sorrow. We remember especially For all who are hurting in any way, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: That the Lord would fill us with gratitude for all of His gifts, a spirit of generosity to support the poor, and a spirit of delight to return to Him the tithes and offerings He is due, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: With thanksgiving to God the Father for all His goodness, especially for making His everlasting covenant with us through the blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that with every good work we may do His will and be pleasing in His sight, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

(Special petitions will be added here.)

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERING *(Please sign the Friendship Register.)*

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray

All: **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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION SONGS "At the Cross (Love Ran Red)"

**There's a place where mercy reigns, And never dies
There's a place where streams of grace, Flow deep and wide
Where all the love I've ever found, Comes like a flood, Comes flowing down**

Refrain: **At the cross, at the cross, I surrender my life
I'm in awe of You, I'm in awe of You
Where Your love ran red, And my sin washed white
I owe all to You, I owe all to You. (Jesus)**

**There's a place where sin and shame, Are powerless
Where my heart has peace with God, And forgiveness
Where all the love I've ever found, Comes like a flood, Comes flowing down**

Refrain

**Here... my hope is found, Here... on holy ground
Here I bow down, Here I bow down.
Here... arms open wide, Here... You save my life
Here I bow down, Here I bow *Refrain***

I owe all to You, I owe all to You. Jesus

“Evidence”

All throughout my history Your faithfulness has walked beside me
The winter storms made way for spring In every season from where I'm standing

Chorus: I see the evidence of Your goodness, All over my life, all over my life.
I see Your promises in fulfillment, All over my life, all over my life.

Help me remember when I'm weak, Fear may come but fear will leave
You lead my heart to victory You are my strength And You always will be *Chorus*

See the cross, the empty grave, The evidence is endless
All my sin rolled away Because of You, oh Jesus *Repeat*

Chorus 2x

So why should I fear? The evidence is here
Why should I fear? Oh, the evidence is here

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray... Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Lift My Life Up”

You brought me this far so why would I question You now?
You have provided so why would I start to doubt?
I've never been stranded, abandoned, or left here to fight alone
So I'm giving You control

Chorus: I lift my life, lift my life up; I give it all in surrender.
I lift my heart, lift my heart up You can have it forever
All my dreams, all my plans Lord I leave it in Your hands
I lift my life, lift my life up. Have Your way in me; Have Your way in me.

If peace is a river then let it sweep over me;
If I'm under fire, I know it's refining me.
When I hear You calling out I follow now, wherever the road may go.
I know You're leading me home! *Chorus*

Take my life and let it be all for You Take my life and let it be all for You;
I lift my life, lift my life up; I give it all in surrender.
I lift my heart, lift my heart up (*Take my life*) *Chorus*

Have Your way with me; Have Your way with me.
Take my life and let it be all for You

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 4.
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GIVE YOURSELF

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

- 2 CORINTHIANS 8:5 KJV

Sermon Outline

“Giving Joyfully and Generously”

2 Corinthians 8:3-5

Introduction: There are some things we often take for granted – clean water, electricity, transportation, health care, food, clothing, shelter. We may also take for granted the things that God is doing at Covenant Lutheran Church.

I. God is At Work in Our Church.

- Through our Early Childhood Center, through Northwest Lutheran School, through our Lutheran high schools, and Concordia University, God is working to share the Gospel message of life and salvation in Jesus Christ.
- Through the various mission projects and collections during the year, we are able to share the love of God with others. We have many volunteers who give of their time in service to our church. God is working through us in powerful ways.

II. God Has Accomplished my Salvation in Jesus Christ.

- Because we often forget what God has done for us, we need to hear the Gospel every day. Jesus paid the price for our sins through His death on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead. We are saved by grace through faith.
- Time spent in the Word of God draws us closer to God in faith and helps us to become more and more like Jesus. When we remember what Jesus has done for us in His death and resurrection, we are grateful.

III. There is a Connection Between Discipleship and Stewardship.

- Discipleship leads to Gratitude which leads to Generosity which leads to Joyful Giving. God ties all of these together in our hearts by faith.
- When we trust that God will provide everything we need, we have no problem sharing our blessings with others. We commit our giving to the Lord in faith and trust, knowing and believing that God does and WILL provide.

Conclusion: There are people all around us who need a connection to Jesus Christ. We can be that connection as we share God’s love and commit our time, talents, and treasures to the mission of sharing the Gospel message with others.

WEEKLY PRAYER SHEET

November 17, 2024

“Pray continually in all circumstances, for this is God’s will in Christ Jesus.” *(1 Thess. 5:17-18)*

I will pray for:

1. Dawn, daughter of Diana Gutknecht, who is at St. Luke’s Hospital receiving treatment for cancer
2. Those recovering from illness, injury, or surgery – Eunice Bachmeier, James Kruse, and Jadee Campbell.
3. Those receiving treatment for cancer – Joel Smith, Gail Tatro, Bonnie Gellert, and Ron Schroeder.
4. Those with long-term care needs – Jana McDonnell, Marcia Hottinger, Mario Carini, Eric Winn, Dennis Eiff, Betty Rasmussen, Carol Munz, Henrietta Cloyd, Marion Braatz, Tyler Yang, Odessa Flagg, Dylan Wangard, Herb Onasch, Beth Sellars, and Jonathan Tock, grandson of Mario and Karen Carini.
5. The President and other elected and appointed leaders of our nation, state, and communities, those who serve in the Armed Forces of our nation including Covenant member Jonathan Buck and Andrew Tock, grandson of Mario and Karen Carini; fire fighters and police officers who serve and protect our local communities.
6. The mission of the Church; missionaries Pastor David and Valerie Federwitz who are serving with Lutheran Bible Translators; Pastor Matt and Kali Wood who are back in Indonesia to continue their mission work there.
7. Those affected by natural disasters like hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and floods, political unrest, victims of injustice, violence, and abuse; the poor and homeless, those affected by war in Ukraine and war in the Middle East.
8. Those celebrating birthdays this week: Heidi Zoesch, Brian Johnston, Joanne Wiedenhoeft, Natalie Remmel, Bob Patten, and Bill Campbell.
9. Those celebrating wedding anniversaries: Mario & Karen Carini
- 10.
- 11.

We pray that as we take advantage of God’s invitation, we will truly be a congregation that is Powerful in Prayer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 17, 2024

🌀 WEEKLY CALENDAR 🌀

MON	1:00pm	Prayer Team	THURS	10:00am	Bible Study
				2:00pm	St. Anne’s Worship
WED	8:30am	Northwest Chapel			
	7:00pm	AA Monthly Meeting	FRI	1:30pm	NW Thanksgiving Concert
	7:30pm	Dartball		7:30pm	AA Meeting

Northwest Thanksgiving Break – November 23 to December 1

🌀 NEW THIS WEEK 🌀

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers have been given by Laura Vogt in celebration of Madeline and Olivia’s birthdays.

GOD’S BLESSINGS

God’s blessings to Mario and Karen Carini who will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary on Monday, November 18, and Joanne Wiedenhoeft who will celebrate her 93rd birthday on Tuesday, November 19.

STEWARDSHIP SERIES

Today we conclude our three-week stewardship series “Embracing Great Commission Stewardship.” Our focus today is on giving joyfully and generously. We are called by our heavenly Father to be good stewards of His gifts and blessings to us. Today is Loyalty Sunday and you will have the opportunity to make a commitment to the work of the Lord at Covenant in 2025.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to all who participated in the Operation Christmas Child project this year. We collected more than 50 boxes that will bless children around the world. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated. A special thanks to Len and Mary Ernst for delivering our Christmas boxes!

ALTAR FLOWERS - 2025

The Altar Flower Chart for 2025 is now posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Flowers enhance our worship services and are a great way to honor special occasions. If you would like to purchase altar flowers, please sign-up on the flower chart today and indicate if you are giving the flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion. Cost is \$27 and should be paid prior to the selected date by check or by scanning the online QR code below.

☞ GENERAL ☜



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Help beautify our Christmas services! Plants may be picked up for your personal use or gift-giving following the Christmas Day service, or they may be left at church for other holiday services. Order forms are in the narthex or scan the QR code to order online. Deadline to order is Sunday, December 8.

HOLY COMMUNION

We want all who commune with us to share our understanding of this sacrament; that Jesus offers His true body and blood for our forgiveness and salvation. (See 1 Corinthians 11:23-29.) If you are a visitor and wish to receive communion today, please speak with the pastor prior to the service. Gluten free wafers are available. We also offer alcohol-free wine for communion.

☞ MEETINGS & EVENTS ☜

NORTHWEST LUTHERAN SCHOOL CHOIR CONCERT – NOVEMBER 22

Northwest Lutheran School has a new choir director. The students have been working hard to prepare songs for a choir concert on Friday, November 22, at 1:30 p.m. The concert will take place in our Covenant sanctuary. All members of Covenant are invited to attend!

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP – NOVEMBER 27 & 28

Join us to thank and praise God for His many blessings at our Thanksgiving worship services; Wednesday, November 27, at 6:30pm and Thursday, November 28, at 9:30am. We will celebrate Holy Communion at both Thanksgiving services. Please join us for this special time of worship!

COMMUNION SERVICE – DECEMBER 4

The monthly communion service will be held on Wednesday, December 4, at 1:30 p.m. This will also serve as our Advent midweek service, with communion being offered. While this service is especially for those unable to attend Sunday mornings, everyone is welcome! We invite you to come for a time of worship, fellowship, and refreshments afterward.

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE – DECEMBER 4, 11, & 18

Advent midweek services will take place on Wednesdays in December at 1:30 PM and 6:30 PM, with supper served at 5:30 PM. The theme for our Advent worship is “The Word Made Flesh.” This series will remind us that Jesus came to us in the flesh and revealed his divine nature to us through the description of physical substances we experience on earth.

ANNUAL VOTERS’ MEETING – DECEMBER 8

The annual Voters’ Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8, after the worship service at approximately 10:45 a.m. We will hear reports from the church staff, adopt a budget for 2025, and elect members to the Mission and Ministry Council. All members of Covenant are encouraged to attend. Please note that there will be no Pastor’s Bible Study or junior confirmation that day.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve - December 24 at 4:00pm (Praise) and 7:00pm (Traditional)
Christmas Day at 10:00am

☞ OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ☜

HOLIDAY FOOD DONATIONS

We will be collecting holiday food throughout November and December. There is a great need in our inner-city neighborhoods. All donations are taken to one of our partners churches in Milwaukee for their monthly food pantry distribution. Please have holiday food donations by Sunday, December 8, to insure delivery before Christmas. Monetary donations are also very helpful. Please use the “Helping Hands” envelopes from the church narthex.

WINTER COAT & CLOTHING COLLECTION

The members of Mission of Christ Lutheran Church distribute clothing and shoes to the people in their inner-city neighborhood. In the next few weeks, there will be a great need for winter clothing, jackets, coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and warm blankets. If you are able to donate any of these items, please place them in the bin in the narthex. Thank You!!

STARS FOR OUR TROOPS

“Stars For Troops” are still available in the church narthex on the Ark. Please take one to give to someone serving in our military or to veterans of our military. If you have an old tattered flag you would like to donate to this effort, please call Nancy Keck. Thank you!

☞ BIBLE STUDIES ☜

God provides power and strength for our daily lives through His Word. All members and friends are invited to join a Bible study group.

“Book of Exodus”	led by Bob Zeman	8:30am
“The Revelation of Jesus Christ”	led by Tom Buck and Jess Hardel	8:30am
“Diggin’ Deep: Lessons of the Day”	led by Pastor Voigt	10:45am
“Jr. Conf.” (5 th – 7 th gr.)	led by Karen Winefeld	10:45am
“Galatians”	led by Pastor Voigt	Thursday 10:00am

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PREACHER: Rev. Steve Voigt

A/V COORDINATOR: Alyssa Gottsacker

READER: Leann Meyer

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS: Jess Hardel & Tom Buck

GREETERS: Phil & Traci Murphy

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ATTENDANCE: Sunday, November 10 – 89

COUNTERS: Team 4

OFFERINGS: Current - \$17,518.55; Special - \$3,595.00; Needed Weekly - \$9,681.35



Scan QR code for Online Giving