

## PRAYERS FOR THE CHILDREN

We ask that all members join the Women of ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning, and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley, Aria & Hudson Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Kennedy & Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, Kaylin, Emma, Bryce, Marah, Bria, Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Tyler & Jaden Bever; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Tyler Brandau; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson Sebranek; Violet Ford, Hunter Puhl, Eason Kelbel, Cole, Caleb & Connor Redding; Brooke, Claire, Grace & Bree Olson; Alayna, Alivia & Levi Wytttenbach; children in Ukraine and throughout the world.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children every where, that you would keep them in your care. In Jesus name I pray.

Amen



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI

9th Sunday after Pentecost  
July 30, 2023

**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!*

***\*(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)***

*Announcements*

### **Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of our neighbors.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NO SERVICE HERE NEXT WEEK

The Wilton Fest service in the lower park shelter will begin at 10:00 AM. Please bring a lawn chair. Reverend Bob Streeter will be leading the service again this year.

### SCHOOL KITS

Schools out, schools out, teachers let the OOPS, wrong song.....And Mom and Dad can hardly wait for school to start again...that's more like it!

The school supplies list for many of our area schools are displayed at Walmart, Office Depot, and other stores. Who among us can't remember the excitement our children felt when we took them school shopping?

But, for the children in refugee camps, or dodging bombs in Ukraine, or trying to escape the tribal warfare in some countries in Africa, there is no hope that school will even be a part of their life, let alone have school supplies.

As in the past, we are asking for your support in packing backpacks with supplies, and sending them to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to the children, in our country as well as refugee camps, Ukraine, and other areas, that they may have hope.

We have several notebooks, crayons and scissors, left over from last year. This year, we'd like to do something a little different. Rather than have you bring the supplies, we are asking your donation be in the form of cash. This way, we can determine what supplies we need to fill the fourteen dozen backpacks we have ordered.

We have placed envelopes marked "School Kits" in the narthex for you to place your donation. If you donate cash, please put your name on the envelope and we will enter your donation in the yearly report.

The children will pack the supplies when they return to Sunday School in September, and the backpacks will be blessed on September 17, when the children will return in song and collect the noisy offering.

### Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### First Reading

*Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.*

### 1 Kings 3:5-12

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 119:129-136

<sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore obey them with all my heart.  
<sup>130</sup>**When your word is opened it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.**  
<sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant  
because I long for your commandments.  
<sup>132</sup>**Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.**  
<sup>133</sup>Order my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.  
<sup>134</sup>**Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.**  
<sup>135</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.  
<sup>136</sup>**My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your teaching.**

### Second Reading

*These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.*

## Romans 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,

## Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

\*Benediction

\*Hymn                      **"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"**                      **ELW#836**

### Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Pastor: Bill Horn; Organist: Nalani Bever;  
Reader: ? ; Altar: Barb Bever & Karen Arzt

### IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale,  
Matthew Dutton

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, Judy Bever, John Acker, Craig King, Mary Leis, Tracie Herman, Dave Dechant, Jayden Shea, Erin Long.

## CALENDAR

Sunday, August 6                      Wilton Fest Park Service                      10:00 AM

**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.**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: All people are called to Christ's table.  
Come, eat what is good.

Distribution

***Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.***

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.191

#### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received  
at your banquet table.**

**Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

**"Alleluia. Lord,"**

**ELW p. 188**

#### **GOSPEL READING**

*Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.*

**The holy gospel according to Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its

branches.”

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>44</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Reverend Bill Horn

**\*Hymn**

**“Be Thou Thy Vision”**

**ELW #793**

**Apostles’ Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great**)

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**\*Offertory Hymn** **“We Are an Offering”**

**ELW #692**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God of field and forest, sea and sky,  
you are the giver of all good things.  
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
and multiply your graciousness in us,  
that the world may be fed with your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

**Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW p. 190

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW p. 190

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**\*LORD’S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.