Closing Worship

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV).
PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

P:  “Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest?’”
C:  Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.
P:  Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.
C:  For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps” (John 4:35-37).

OPENING HYMN: “Word of God, Come Down on Earth” LSB 545

1. Word of God, come down on earth,
   Living rain from heav’n descending;
   Touch our hearts and bring to birth
   Faith and hope and love unending.
   Word almighty, we revere You;
   Word made flesh, we long to hear You.

2. Word eternal, throned on high,
   Word that brought to life creation,
   Word that came from heaven to die,
   Word that came from heaven to die,
   Word that caused blind eyes to see,
   Word that caused blind eyes to see,
   Speak and heal our mortal blindness;
   Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.
   Word of God, come down on earth,
   Word of God, come down on earth,
   Be our Word in pity spoken,
   Heal the world, by sin now broken.

(Please rise as you are able.)

INVOCATION:

P:  In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C:  Amen.

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS (CONFESSION) AND GOD’S WORD OF FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION)

P:  Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). With that invitation of our Savior ringing in our ears we confess together:
C:  Heavenly Father, we confess that we have failed to put our trust in You. We so often place our trust in the things that are familiar, in the things with which this sinful flesh is comfortable, and have failed to follow You along paths that are as yet untrodden. Forgive us for relying too much upon ourselves while we dismiss Your divine care and guidance. Forgive us for being afraid to let go of things that are past. Forgive us for hoarding the seed of the Gospel, thereby minimizing the harvest. Forgive us when there just isn’t the time or the desire to nourish the seeds of faith. Grant us patience as You continue to work Your work of sanctification in our lives through the power of Your Holy Spirit, assuring us through faith in Jesus Christ that our sins are forgiven and we are empowered to lead holy and God pleasing lives.

P:  Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C:  Amen.

P:  May He who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we, until that glorious day, give ourselves to the service of our Lord, wherever and whenever He has need of us in His harvest field, as we are blessed to sow, nourish, and reap bountifully in His most glorious name.
C:  Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Jesus Shall Reign” LSB 832

1. Jesus shall reign where’er the sun
   Does its successive journeys run;
   His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
   Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2. To Him shall endless prayer be made,
   And endless praises crown His head;
   His name like sweet perfume shall rise
   With ev’ry morning sacrifice.

3. People and realms of ev’ry tongue
   Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
   And infant voices shall proclaim
   Their early blessings on His name.

4. Blessings abound where’er He reigns:
   The prisoners leap, unloose their chains,
   The weary find eternal rest,
   And all who suffer want are blest.

5. Let ev’ry creature rise and bring
   Honors peculiar to our King;
   Angels descend with songs again,
   And earth repeat the loud amen.

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PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 126

This Psalm very easily sums up our lives as workers in God's harvest field. We go out with the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ (seed); we are blessed by God to be His instruments to sow this seed; we are blessed to nourish and water it, sometimes even with our tears; the Lord blesses our work in His name as He provides the harvest; and the commendation at the end, as He says to us, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matthew 25:23).

P: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
C: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

P: The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.
C: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negeb!

P: Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!
C: He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

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!

GREETING (SALUTATION) AND PRAYER OF THE DAY (COLLECT)

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Let us pray... 
C: Heavenly Father, we ask that You would help us grow in our faith and in our desire to see Your Kingdom come. We ask You for good health and strength as we go about the tasks You have given us of sowing, nourishing, and reaping in Your name. We pray that as we go about the task You have given us to do that You would protect us as we work in this evil world, shielding our hearts from everything that is not of You. Grant us wisdom to make the right choices, humility to learn from others, and the strength to live according to Your will for our lives. Give to us a heart for the lost and a sense of duty as You call us to labor in Your harvest field. We pray that You would make us confident that You go ahead of us into the field and that You are right beside us each step of the way. Teach us to be patient as we wait for the harvest that sometimes seems as if it will never occur. While we wait, give us the desire to continue to work. We pray that You would raise among us more sowers, men and women with a desire to sow in these last days, because we know the time is now to be about Your business as we go about the work You have given to us so that the lost and the erring may be brought into eternal fellowship with You. We pray this in the precious and powerful name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen!

(Please be seated.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Hosea 8:1-7a
(God's chosen people are judged.)

1 Set the trumpet to your lips! One like a vulture is over the house of the Lord, because they have transgressed my covenant and rebelled against my law. 2 To me they cry, “My God, we—Israel—know you.” 3 Israel has spurned the good; the enemy shall pursue him. 4 They made kings, but not through me. They set up princes, but I knew it not. With their silver and gold they made idols for their own destruction. 5 I have spurned your calf, O Samaria. My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of innocence? 6 For it is from Israel; a craftsman made it; it is not God. The calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces. 7 For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
(The cheerful giver.)

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever”.

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply the seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce...
thanksgiving to God. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. 13 By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. 15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

CHOIR ANTHEM: “In Thee, O Lord, I Put My Trust”
Composed by Benjamin M. Culli. Published by Concordia Publishing House.

(Permission as you are able.)

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 13:24-30
(The wheat and the tares.)

24 He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. 27 And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ 28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ 29 But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE 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!

(Please be seated.)

THE SERMON HYMN: “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying” LSB 826

1. Hark, the voice of Jesus crying,
   “Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—
   Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth;
   Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
   “Here am I, send me, send me”?

2. If you cannot speak like angels,
   If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
   You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
   With the judgment’s dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
   To the Savior’s waiting arms.

3. If you cannot be a watchman,
   Standing high on Zion’s wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
   Offering life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
   You can do what God commands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
   Holding up the prophet’s hands.

4. Let none hear you idly saying,
   “There is nothing I can do,”
While the multitudes are dying
   And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly,
   Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
   “Here am I, send me, send me!”

THE SERMON TEXT: Hosea 8:1-7a

THEME: “Abounding Grace”

THE OFFERTORY

THE RECEIVING OF OUR OFFERING
THE OFFERING HYMN: “For the Fruits of His Creation” LSB 894

1. For the fruits of His creation,
   Thanks be to God;
   For His gifts to ev’ry nation,
   Thanks be to God.
   For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
   Silent growth while we are sleeping,
   Future needs in earth’s safekeeping,
   Thanks be to God!

2. In the just reward of labor,
   God’s will is done;
   In the help we give our neighbor,
   God’s will is done.
   In our worldwide task of caring
   For the hungry and despairing,
   In the harvests we are sharing,
   God’s will is done.

3. For the harvests of the Spirit,
   Thanks be to God;
   For the good we all inherit,
   Thanks be to God.
   For the wonders that astound us,
   For the truths that still confound us,
   Most of all, that love has found us,
   Thanks be to God!


(Please rise as you are able.)

THE PRAYERS

P: “Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction” (Matthew 9:35).
C: “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36).

P: People are sick and afflicted by many things.
C: People are harassed and helpless, like so many sheep without a shepherd.

P: People are looking everywhere for things that do not satisfy their hunger and thirst for meaning and righteousness.
C: People need a Savior. People need Jesus Christ!

P: “The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

(As you carry this bulletin home with you, carve out some time in the next day or two to spend with your heavenly Father in prayer, praying specifically and intentionally for those who do not yet know Jesus Christ as their Savior, as well as for those who are moving further and further away from Him. Include in these prayers family members, neighbors, co-workers, and those whose lives God allows to intersect yours.)

P: “Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest” (John 4:35).
C: Heavenly Father, lift our eyes so that we can see that the fields are indeed “white for harvest” (John 4:35).

P: The seed has been sown. The seedlings are being nurtured. The seed has grown. The harvest is bountiful.
C: Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together” (John 4:36).

P: It is now time to bring in the harvest.
C: “The saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor” (John 4:37).

(Pray in the next few days: Thank God that He has prepared a rich and bountiful harvest. Pray also for specific people in your life who yet need to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Almighty God as their Father. Pray that the Father would give you opportunity and courage to sow or nurture those seeds.)

P: Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38).
C: First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people (1 Timothy 2:1). Pray for all people.

P: This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,
C: who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3-4).

P: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).
C: “For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened” (Matthew 7:8).

(Pray in the next few days: Ask God our heavenly Father to not only give us a heart for the lost, but also the eyes to see the lost and the abundant need of so many to hear possibly for the first time, not only the message of God’s Law and condemnation of sin, but also the sweet Gospel message of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone.)

P: Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38).
C: For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13).

P: How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?

C: And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard?

P: And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?

C: As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” (Romans 10:14-15)

P: “I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’” (Isaiah 6:8a)

ALL: Then I said, “Here I am! Send me” (Isaiah 6:8b).

P: Jesus said, “As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you” (John 20:21).

(Pray in the next few days: Ask God our heavenly Father to raise up workers in His harvest field and to use you mightily in that harvest field as your beautiful feet bring the Good News to others.)

(Please be seated.)

DEDICATION OF GIFTS FROM THE HEART

P: This day, we are blessed to be able to dedicate the works of our hands to the glory of God and the benefit of people so desperately in need of these items. As we do, we thank our heavenly Father for providing us with the means to gather these items to share with those in our great land and around the world who do not have the means to obtain these barest of necessities. As we dedicate these items, we also thank our heavenly Father for the men and women and children who have willingly given of their time, talents, and treasures to make these gifts possible. We pray, dear Father, that You will use these gifts not only to show our Christian love to the recipients, but that through the witness that goes along with these gifts many may come to know of Your love and Your forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ. Bless both these material gifts as well as the words of the Gospel that are shared with those who receive these gifts, so that “as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-13).

A neck wrap, shawl, undershirt, pillow and/or scarf is presented by a member of the LWML.

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, our Comforter and Shield, You have equipped us and blessed us with the resources to bring comfort and help to the distressed as we share the mercy You shower upon us with those You put into our lives, even though they may be people we will never meet on this side of heaven. Bless these neck wraps, undershirts, pillows, shawls, and scarves, that they may provide warmth, security, and comfort to those who have experienced tragedy or are dealing with various life issues. May all who receive these gifts also experience the covering of Your love and forgiveness. We pray that those who receive these gifts may hear of and know of Your grace and peace and rejoice in the warmth, security, and comfort of Your unfailing love.

A school kit is presented by a member of the LWML.

P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, You have not only taught us the truth of Your Holy Word through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, but You have also blessed us with schools and institutions of learning so we can be well-educated and productive citizens in this world in which You have placed us. Bless these school kits and the children who will receive them that they may not only grow in secular knowledge and wisdom, but also in their love for You as they learn basic skills which allow them to read and meditate on Your Holy Word. As they receive an education, make it possible for these students to grow in their abilities to be productive citizens of their land, being able to help support their families and even for some of them to be faithful leaders in their communities, bringing the knowledge of Your great love and the salvation that is ours through faith in Jesus Christ to many. Allow them to see Your will for their lives and give them opportunities to continue to learn of Your great love for them.

A collection of items is presented for Luther Care Services by a member of the LWML.

P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, You have not only taught us the truth of Your Holy Word through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, but You have also blessed us with the wisdom of the aged and elderly and they share with us a wealth of knowledge gleaned through the decades of their lives. We ask Your blessing upon all those who live in the autumn years of their lives, especially the people who call Luther Park their home. Bless these items, the markers, tempera paints, paint brushes, crayons, colored pencils, glue, as well as the pony beads and laces, that we share with them as they rejoice in Your manifold blessings and as these items are used to meet some of their physical, spiritual, social, and psychological needs. Allow them to see Your will for their lives and give them opportunities to continue to learn of Your great love for them, even as they continue to teach subsequent generations.

A hygiene kit is presented by a member of the LWML.
P:  Let us pray.  Heavenly Father, our Great Physician, our Savior Jesus Christ has said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10).  He also said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners” (Mark 2:17).  We pray, heavenly Father, that through the power of Your Holy Spirit, You would bring healing and strength to those who are sick.  Bless these hygiene kits that through their use illness and disease may be prevented by means of simple hygiene and that the recipients of these gifts may know of Your cleansing power from sin, death, and the devil, even as they enjoy a life of physical health.

C:  Heavenly Father, provider of all that we need, we ask for Your blessing upon us, Your children, as we bring these gifts to You, offering not only these gifts, but our very selves to You to be used wherever and whenever You have need of us.  Thank You Father, for the ability You give to us to assemble and provide these gifts to those who are in such great need.  Use these gifts, as well as the witness of those who take them to faraway places, so many more may know of Your great love and the redeeming love of our Savior Jesus Christ, and Your kingdom on earth and in heaven may grow through this witness.  We pray these things in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.  Amen!

DEDICATION HYMN : “A Time To Serve”

1. Jesus hears His children crying,  
   Sees them hungry, lost and dying;  
   Who will comfort all their sorrows?  
   Who will brighten their tomorrows?

2. Jesus pleads with us to reach them  
   With our gifts of love and teach them  
   That the kindness we are giving  
   Is the Christian’s way of living.

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PRAYER OF RE-DEDICATION OF OURSELVES
(Paraphrase of the League Pledge.)

P:  In thanksgiving for the Savior’s dying love and blood bought gift of redemption, we dedicate ourselves to You with all that we are and have.

C:  Lord, we are Yours through Christ.  We pray that we might use our talents to serve those who are hungry, hurting, homeless, and helpless.

P:  In obedience to Your call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge You our willing service wherever and whenever You have need of us.

C:  Lord, our brothers and sisters are in need of help, and many, in fact, are dying.  We pray that You will help us reach out to them, whether they are our neighbors in our community or our neighbors across the ocean.

P:  Our hands to work for You, our feet to go on Your errands.

C:  Lord, bless our humble efforts, we pray, that they will be fruitful as we reach out to those who are suffering.

P:  Our voices to sing Your praises, our lips to proclaim Your redeeming love.

C:  Lord, we pray that all those who see our works and all those who are helped will know it is in Your name and to Your glory that we render this service with joy.

P:  Our silver and our gold to extend Your Kingdom, our will to do Your will.

C:  Lord, we pray that You will guide us as we gladly serve You.  Take these blessings we return to You and use them to bless those in need.

P:  And every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with You.

C:  Lord, we pray that their bodies will hunger no more.  Lord, we pray that their souls will hunger no more.  Lord, we pray that all will know the blessing of Your love and the joy of Your salvation.

P:  As those who have been equipped by the Holy Spirit to sow, nourish, and reap in the harvest field of almighty God, we dedicate ourselves anew to do the good works which You have already prepared us to do from all eternity, to Your glory and for the temporal and hopefully eternal welfare of all those whose lives we are blessed to touch through the gifts of which we have once again been reminded. “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen” (1 Timothy 1:17).

HYMN: ”A Time To Serve”

1. Young and old alike He’s calling,  
   Human grief is so appalling;  
   As He gave His life to save us,  
   Let us share the life He gave us.

2. As we join our Savior’s service  
   He will strengthen and preserve us;  
   He will guide our daily living,  
   And He’ll bless the love we’re giving.
3. As we aid the poor and lonely,
We're not caring for them only;
When our love some sorrowing cases,
We have done the same for Jesus.

4. Rise and follow; He will lead us;
Heed the cries of those who need us!
And when life has ended for us,
Heaven's glories lie before us.

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(Please rise as you are able.)

CLOSING OF WORSHIP

P: The angel called out with a loud voice, “The hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe” (Revelation 14:15).
C: “The foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to Him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be His servants,” these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer;

P: The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered” (Isaiah 56:6-8).
C: “So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped” (Revelation 14:16).

(Pray in the next few days: Ask that God's Word would not be bound, but have free course and be preached to the joy and up-building of countless people as they come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior or are strengthened in their walk with Him.)

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: Amen, Amen, Amen!

THE CLOSING HYMN: “On What Has Now Been Sown” LSB 921

1. On what has now been sown
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Thine alone
To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shall have the praise!

2. To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

3. O, grant that each of us,
Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus
When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!
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THE POSTLUDE

THOSE WHO LEAD OUR SERVICE

The Proclaimer: The Rev. Keith Piotter, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bettendorf, Iowa
The Organist: Jeanette Hinkeldey, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aurelia, Iowa
Choir Director: Julie DenHerder, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School, Des Moines, Iowa
The Choir: The LWML Convention Choir
The Choir Accompanist: Lynn Anne Purcelli, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School, Des Moines, Iowa

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League gratefully acknowledges the following:
Allen Organs of Greater Iowa, Chris Wallace, New Hope, Minnesota, for providing the Allen organ;
Rieman Music, Urbandale, Iowa, for providing the Baldwin Grand piano; and
Iowa Events Center, Des Moines, Iowa, for providing the Yamaha Grand Piano.

Graphics Artist: Nichelle Dykema

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