



“A Christian lives not in himself, but in Christ and his neighbor. Otherwise he is not a Christian. He lives in Christ through faith, in his neighbor through love; by faith he is caught up beyond himself into God, by love he sinks down beneath himself into his neighbor; yet he always remains in God and in His love”

(Martin Luther – “Treatise on Christian Liberty” 1520).

Mercy Mission Sunday

January 29, 2017

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF VESTAVIA HILLS

201 So. Montgomery Highway Birmingham, Alabama 35216

205-823-1883 Fax: 205-823-4549

Web Site: www.vestavialutheran.org or lcvh.org

WORSHIP: 8:00 AM AND 10:30 AM, Sundays

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

Church Office Hours: 9 AM to 1 PM Monday thru Thursday



PASTOR: The Reverend Michael D. Ahlemeyer –pastor@vestavialutheran.org (205) 201-8866

PASTOR EMERITUS: The Reverend Clifford Hellmers –vestluth@juno.com

VICAR: Vicar Luke Watt –vicar@vestavialutheran.org– (402) 853-3514

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Ruth Johnson –rswanagin@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF MOTHER'S DAY OUT: Rose Phillips –rosaphillips@vestavialutheran.org

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Leigh Walter– lwalter@vestavialutheran.org

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT: Abby Cahill- abbycahill@vestavialutheran.org

BOOK KEEPER: Bernie Gregson- bgregson@vestavialutheran.org

ADOPTED MEDICAL MISSIONARIES - Arianna and David Shirk, Madeline & Annabelle - shirkdavid@gmail.com



TO OUR GUESTS: We offer you a warm welcome in the name of Jesus. Please sign the Friendship Register during the offering. If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to have you become a part of our church family. Please feel free to speak with the Pastor about membership in our congregation. If you do have a church home, we pray that God will bless you as you continue your growth in faith and love.



SUNDAY SCHOOL Christian education classes are offered for all ages at 9:00 AM.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH and NURSERY Following the Children's Message, all children ages 3-7 are invited to Children's Church downstairs. They will return to the sanctuary during the offering. A nursery attendant is provided for children ages birth to 3 years during our 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services.



COMMUNION We invite all baptized Christians who acknowledge their sinfulness, trust in Christ as their Savior, and who recognize the real presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the bread and wine to join us at the Communion table. The practice of our congregation is to place the bread into the extended hand of the communicant. The wine is offered in both individual cups and the chalice. If you wish to receive it from an individual cup, please take one from the tray as it is offered by the Elder. The cups in the center of the tray are filled with non-alcoholic wine, in consideration of persons who should not drink wine. Also, children who have not received Communion instruction are invited to come to the Communion rail, fold their hands and receive a blessing.

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

MERCY MISSION SUNDAY

January 29, 2017

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

"Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service"

LSB #848



1 Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser-vice Bore the weight of
2 Still Your chil-dren wan-der home-less; Still the hun-gry
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, Till Your love's re-
4 Called by wor-ship to Your ser-vice, Forth in Your dear



hu-man need, Who up-on the cross, for-sak-en,
cry for bread; Still the cap-tives long for free-dom;
veal-ing light In its height and depth and great-ness,
name we go, To the child, the youth, the a-ged,



Of-fered mer-cy's per-fect deed, We, Your ser-vants, bring the
Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com-
Dawns up-on our quick-ened sight, Mak-ing known the needs and
Love in liv-ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good-will and



wor-ship Not of voice a-lone, but heart, Con-se-
pas-sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the
bur-dens Your com-pas-sion bids us bear, Stir-ring
com-fort, Coun-sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat-ing to Your pur-pose Ev-'ry gift that You im-part.
love Your Spir-it kin-dles Still to save and make us whole.
us to tire-less striv-ing, Your a-bun-dant life to share.
ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom May Your mer-cy know and live.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 136:1 and Luke 6:36; Psalm 103

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endures forever.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger forever.

He has not dealt with us according to our iniquities.

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward us.

As far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endures forever.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

KYRIE



☐ Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, Almighty, even as You bless Your servants with various and unique gifts of the Holy Spirit, continue to grant us the grace to use them always to Your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Galatians 6:1-10

(Bear One Another's Burden)

¹Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵For each will have to bear his own load. ⁶One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

M. Cabaniss

"Walk in the Light"

Walk in the light of God's love. Live in the truth of His grace.

Share ev'ry where all the hope that's within you. Walk in the light of God's love.

Grow in the light of God's peace. Show all the world He is real.

Live ev'ry day with the gift of forgiveness. Grow in the light of God's peace.

We are walking in the light of God, we are walking in the light of God.

We are walking in the light of God, we are walking in the light of God.

We are walking, walking, we are walking, oh, we are walking in the light of God.

We are walking, walking, we are walking, oh, we are walking in the light of God.

Si-ya-hamb' e ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos.

Walk in the light of God's love. Live in the truth of His grace.

Share ev'ry where all the hope that's within you.

Walk in the light of His love. Share ev'ry where all the hope that's within you. Walk in the light of God's love.

(Sharing in the Privileged Service to the Saints)

¹We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. ⁸I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. ¹⁰And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. ¹¹So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. ¹²For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. ¹³I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness ¹⁴your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Your Hand, O Lord in Days of Old"

LSB #846



1 Your hand, O Lord, in days of old
 2 Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,
 3 O be our great de - liv - 'rer still,



Was strong to heal and save; It tri - umphed o - ver
 Gave speech and strength and sight; And youth re - newed and
 The Lord of life and death; Re - store and quick - en,



ills and death, O'er dark - ness and the grave.
 fren - zy calmed Re - vealed You, Lord of light.
 soothe and bless, With Your life - giv - ing breath.



To You they came, the blind, the mute,
 And now, O Lord, be near to bless,
 To hands that work and eyes that see



The pal - sied and the lame, The lep - ers in their
 Al - might - y as be - fore, In crowd - ed street, by
 Give wis - dom's heal - ing pow'r That whole and sick and



mis - er - y, The sick with fe - vered frame.
 beds of pain, As by Gen - nes - 'ret's shore.
 weak and strong May praise You ev - er - more.

SERMON

"Our Opinion of Ourselves Shapes Our Conduct Toward Others"

Galatians 6:2-3

Pastor Michael D. Ahlemeyer

VOLUNTARY

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION

"Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way"	LSB #857
"We Are the Light of the World" (10:30 a.m.)	Choir
"O Christ, Who Called the Twelve"	LSB #856
"O Christ, Our True and Only Light"	LSB #839

+SHIRK RECOGNITION+
Adopted Medical Missionaries

BENEDICTION (8:00 a.m.)

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.

Amen.

CHORAL DOXOLOGY (10:30 a.m.)

J. Owens

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

-The service concludes on the following page with the Sending Hymn.-

SENDING HYMN

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

LSB #738



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**-ALL ARE INVITED TO STAY AFTER LATE SERVICE FOR A
FELLOWSHIP MEAL WITH THE SHIRK FAMILY-**