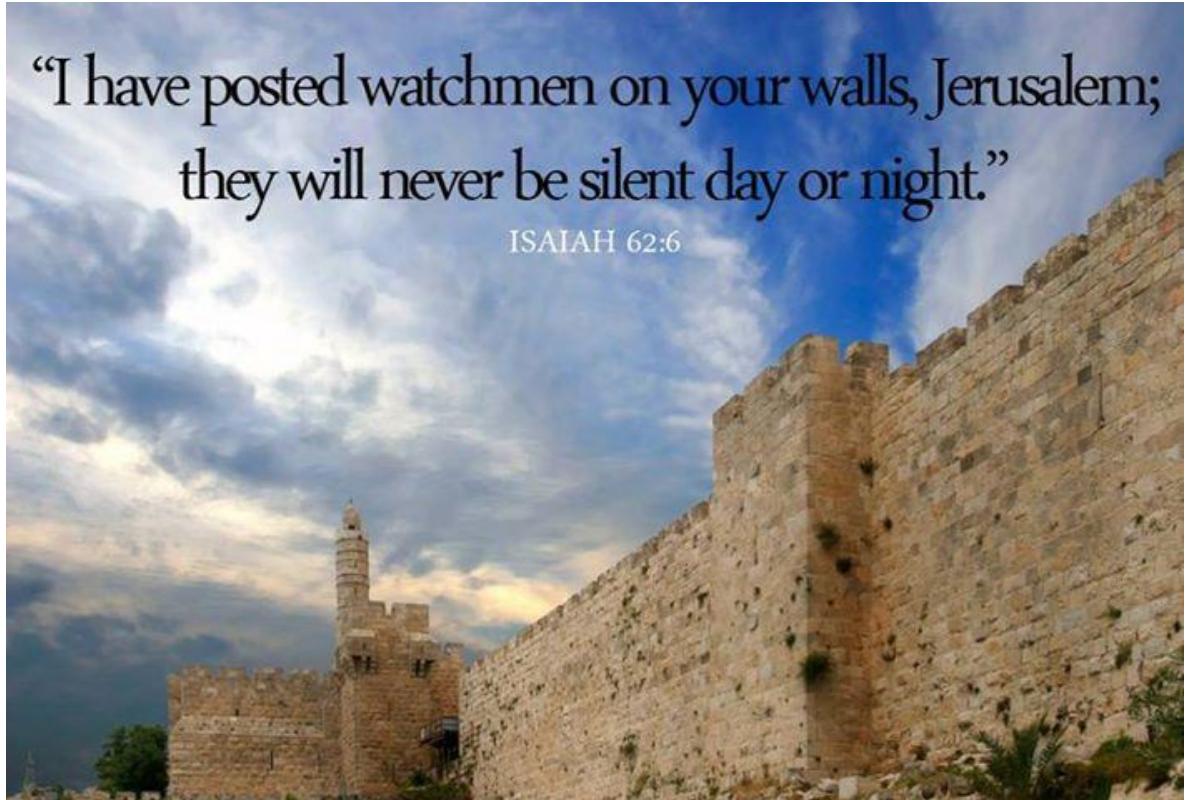


“I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem;  
they will never be silent day or night.”

ISAIAH 62:6



*The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills  
September 10, 2017*

# 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](http://www.vestavialutheran.org) or [lcvh.org](http://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](mailto:pastor@vestavialutheran.org) (205) 201-8866

PASTOR EMERITUS: The Reverend Clifford Hellmers –[vestluth@juno.com](mailto:vestluth@juno.com)

VICAR: Vicar Kyle Will –[vicar@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:vicar@vestavialutheran.org) (850) 321-2922

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Ruth Johnson –[rswanagin@gmail.com](mailto:rswanagin@gmail.com)

DIRECTOR OF MOTHER'S DAY OUT: Rose Phillips –[rosaphillips@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:rosaphillips@vestavialutheran.org)

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Leigh Walter –[lwalter@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:lwalter@vestavialutheran.org)

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT: Amy Alvis –[aalvis@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:aalvis@vestavialutheran.org)

BOOK KEEPER: Bernie Gregson –[bgregson@vestavialutheran.org](mailto:bgregson@vestavialutheran.org)

ADOPTED MEDICAL MISSIONARIES - Arianna and David Shirk, Madeline & Annabelle –[shirkdavid@gmail.com](mailto: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**  
**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 10, 2017

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN**

"Ye Watcher and Ye Holy Ones"

LSB #670 (v. 1,3-4)

1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, Bright  
3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, Ye  
4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, Su -

ser - aphs, cher - u - bim, and thrones, Raise the glad strain:  
pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia,  
per - nal an - them ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia,

"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,  
al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly Twelve, ye mar - tyrs  
al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the

pow'rs, Vir - tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels'  
strong, All saints tri - um - phant, raise the  
Son, And God the Spir - it, Three in

choirs: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
song: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
One: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

--Isaiah 21:6, 62:6

In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

For the Lord said to me:

**"Go, set a watchman; let him announce what he sees."**

"On your wall, O Jerusalem,  
**I have set a watchman;**

all the day and all the night  
**they shall never be silent.**

My soul waits for the Lord  
**more than a watchman for the morning."**

## **CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**PSALMODY****"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"**

LSB #791 (v. 1-3)

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the  
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our  
3 O en - ter then His gates with praise; Ap - proach with

Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with mirth, His  
aid He did us make. We are His folk, He  
joy His courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless His

praise forth - tell; Come ye be - fore Him and re - joice.  
doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.  
name al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord God, in our weakness we have failed to be Your messengers of forgiveness in the world and in Your church. Renew our concern for each other and our commitment to proclaim Your reign of love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

*(Ezekiel a Watchman)*

<sup>7</sup>"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

<sup>10</sup>"And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: 'Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?' <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE READING

Romans 10:14-18

*(How Are Others to Hear without Someone Sharing the Gospel?)*

<sup>14</sup>But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

<sup>16</sup>But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" <sup>17</sup>So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. <sup>18</sup>But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*"He Will Hold Me Fast"*

*When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.*

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

*Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast  
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.*

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior love me so, He will hold me fast.*

*For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!*

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior love me so, He will hold me fast.  
He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

## ALLELUIA VERSE (8:00)



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:10-14

*(The Shepherd Watches over His Sheep, Especially the Lost Sheep)*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>10</sup>"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup>So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

## APOSTLES' CREED

(inside back LSB cover)

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## "Wake, Awake for Night is Flying"

LSB #516

1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," The watch - men on the  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, And all her heart with  
 3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels

heights are cry - ing; "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"  
 joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
 sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals' clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing  
 For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in  
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the

cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?  
 truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.  
 choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.

The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!  
 Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son,  
 No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might

Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare  
 Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall  
 Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly

To meet the Bride - groom, who is near."  
 To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.  
 Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

**SERMON***"I Will Make You a Watchman"***Ezekiel 33:7-11**

Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer

**OFFERING***(please register your attendance in the pads located near the center aisle)***VOLUNTARY****PRAYER OF THE CHURCH****LORD'S PRAYER**

(inside back LSB cover)

**SANCTUS**

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION****THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*(Please be seated for the distribution.)*

## **DISTRIBUTION**

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"          | <b>LSB # 618</b> |
| "There Is a Redeemer" (10:30)             | Choir            |
| "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" | <b>LSB # 637</b> |
| "O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee"          | <b>LSB # 632</b> |

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouth received the holy Sacrament, we may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

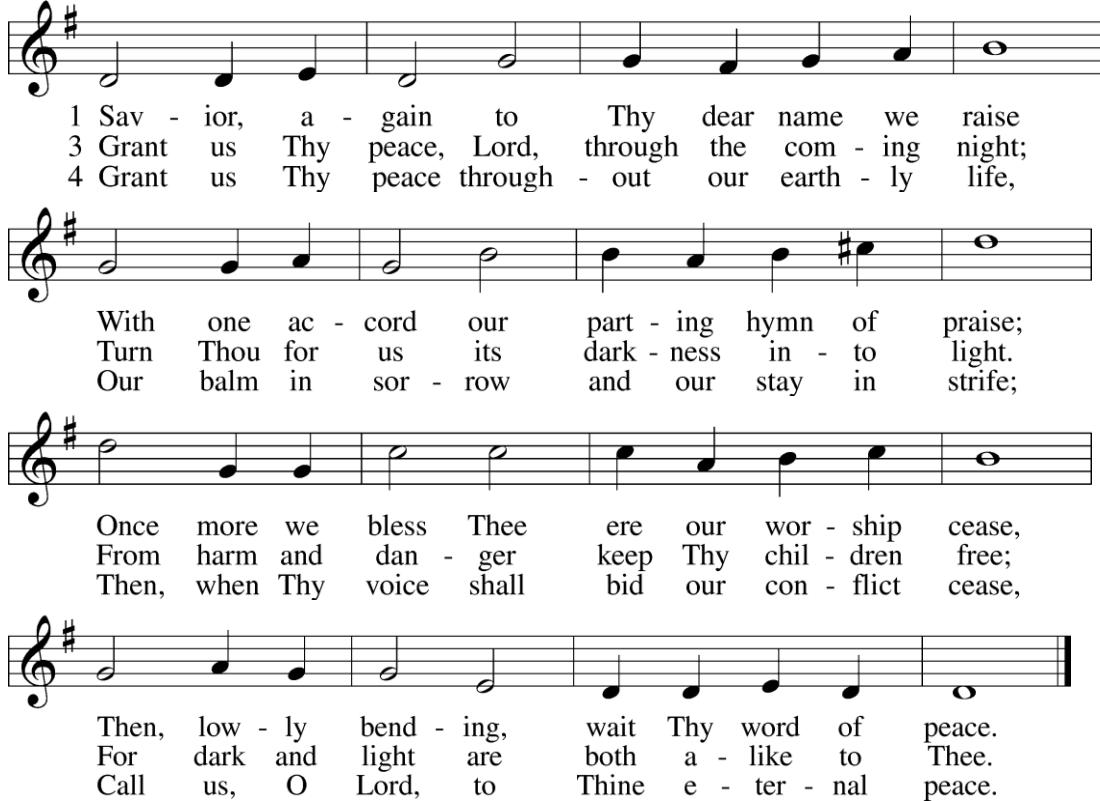
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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.**

## SENDING HYMN "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise" LSB #917 (v. 1,3,4)



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise  
3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;  
4 Grant us Thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,

With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;  
Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.  
Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife;

Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,  
From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;  
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.  
For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.  
Call us, O Lord, to Thine e - ter - nal peace.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE