



The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

LCVH MOTHER'S DAY OUT & PRESCHOOL RECOGNITION SUNDAY

National Lutheran Schools Week

January 21, 2024



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF VESTAVIA HILLS

201 So. Montgomery Highway Birmingham, Alabama 35216
Church office: 205-823-1883 PreSchool/MDO: 205-791-5200
Web Site: www.vestavialutheran.org
WORSHIP: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sundays
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:15 a.m.
Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday



PASTOR: The Reverend Michael D. Ahlemeyer – pastor@vestavialutheran.org text: 205-201-8866
PASTOR EMERITUS: The Reverend Clifford Hellmers – vestluth@juno.com
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DIRECTOR OF MOTHER'S DAY OUT: Brooke Heisler – bheisler@vestavialutheran.org
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BOOK KEEPER: Melanie Goodson - bookkeeper@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. 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 Adult Bible Classes meets in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m. Children, Confirmation, and Youth classes also meet at 9:15 a.m. in the class rooms downstairs.



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 after the sermon. 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 individual cups; please take one from the tray as it is offered by the Elder. The common cup will be offered to those who do not take an individual cup. 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. Please notify an usher if you need a communion assistant to bring the Lord's Supper to you in the pew.

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MDO & PRESCHOOL RECOGNITION SUNDAY

January 21, 2024

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"How Firm a Foundation"

LSB #728 (v. 1-3)



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;



What more can He say than to you He has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!

CALL TO WORSHIP

~Proverbs 22:6 & selected Psalms

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

Amen.

So that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn.

Train up a child in the way he should go; so that when he is old he will not depart from it.

So that they should set their hope in God.

Train up a child in the way he should go; so that when he is old he will not depart from it.

So that they do not forget the works of God but keep his commandments and remember his promises.

Train up a child in the way he should go; so that when he is old he will not depart from it.

For we will not hide them from our children, but tell the coming generation the great deeds of the Lord.

Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be born may praise You.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be born may praise You.

For even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come.

Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be born may praise You.

RESPONSE

"How Firm a Foundation"

LSB #728 (v. 5)

5 "Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne."

CONFESSION 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have blessed us with the joy and care of children. Give us calm strength and patient wisdom that, as they grow in years, we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 50:22, 24-26

*(The Death of Joseph and His Farewell Wish
to Return His Remains to the Promised Land)*

²²So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived 110 years.

²⁴And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." ²⁵Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." ²⁶So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

"Our Mission Is to Follow Jesus"

*Our mission is to follow Jesus, growing in wisdom day by day,
Learning and trusting God's direction, taking, by faith, the chosen way.
Walk by our side and light our soul, Jesus, our Path, our Guide, our Goal.*

*The way of Jesus is obedience, carrying out God's plan on earth,
Speaking of love and truth and justice, offering hope, new life, rebirth.
Help us commit to Your control, Jesus, our Path, our Guide, our Goal.*

*Jesus is all-embracing mercy, full of compassion, kindness, care,
Soothing distress, bestowing wellness, bringing God's peace for all to share.
Show us God's will and make us whole, Jesus, our Path, our Guide, our Goal.*

*Ministry is a shared vocation. May we stand firm in God's commands,
Blessed with a heart for serving others as Jesus' voice, His feet, His hands.
Send us to comfort, ease, console, Jesus, our Path, our Guide, our Goal.*

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 1:3-5

(The Gospel Is an Inheritance that Is Imperishable, undefiled and Unfading)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THEME HYMN

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

LSB #725 (v. 1-2)



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:19-21

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

(Lay Up Treasures in Heaven)

¹⁹"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

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

"In Christ Alone"

Getty/Townend



1. In Christ a-lone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my
2. In Christ a-lone, who took on flesh, full-ness of God in help-less
3. There in the ground His bod-y lay, Light of the world by dark-ness
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in



song; This Cor-ner-stone, this sol-id Ground, firm through the
babe! This gift of love and right-eous-ness, scorned by the
slain; Then, burst-ing forth in glo-rious Day, up from the
me; From life's first cry to fi-nal breath, Je-sus com-



fierc-est drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of
ones He came to save. Till on that cross as Je-sus
grave He rose a-gain! And as He stands in vic-to-
mands my des-ti-ny. No power of hell, no scheme of



peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings cease. My Com-fort-
died, the wrath of God was sat-is-fied, For ev-ery
ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; For I am
man, can ev-er pluck me from His hand; Till He re-



er, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.
sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
His and He is mine, bought with the pre-cious blood of Christ.
turns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

SERMON

"Leaving a Lasting Legacy"

Genesis 50:22-26

Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer

OFFERING

~please sign the Record of Fellowship during the Offering

VOLUNTARY

**+ RECOGNITION OF MDO/PRESCHOOL STAFF +
10:30 a.m. service**

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Shepherd of Tender Youth"

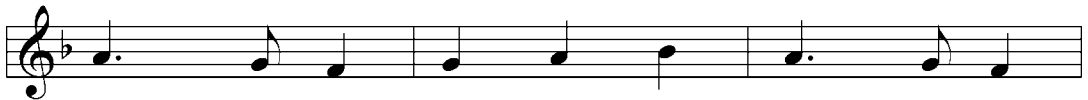
LSB #864



1 Shep - herd of ten - der youth, Guid - ing in
2 You are the ho - ly Lord, O all - sub -
3 You are the great High Priest; You have pre -
4 O ev - er be our guide, Our shep - herd,



love and truth Through de - vious ways; Christ, our tri -
du - ing Word, Heal - er of strife. Your - self You
pared the feast Of ho - ly love; And in our
and our pride, Our staff and song. Je - sus, O



um - phant king, We come Your name to sing
did a - base That from sin's deep dis - grace
mor - tal pain None calls on You in vain;
Christ of God, By Your en - dur - ing Word



And here our chil - dren bring To join Your praise.
You so might save our race And give us life.
Our plea do not dis - dain; Help from a - bove.
Lead us where You have trod; Make our faith strong.

5 So now, and till we die,
Sound we Your praises high
And joyful sing:
Infants and all the throng,
Who to the Church belong,
Unite to swell the song
To Christ, our king!

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

LSB #740



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the



heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

~Distribution Hymns continue on the following page~

"Christ Be My Leader"

LSB #861



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the LORD look upon you with His favor, and give you His peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

LSB #738 (v. 1,3-4)



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
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:
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 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 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.

POSTLUDE