



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
210 North Wayne Street  
St. Marys, OH 4588

November 5, 2023  
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

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Setting 3

Page 138 Red Hymnal

**PRELUDE**     *Look Ye Saints, The Sight is Glorious*     Mansfield

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING SONG**     *"Give Thanks for Saints"*     #428

**CANDLE LIGHTING FOR THE SAINTS**

**P:** Let us remember all the saints before God.

**C:** **We praise and bless you, O holy Trinity.**

**P:** You have taught your church that it is an ageless communion of saints.

**C:** **We thank you for gathering those who have faithfully waited in hope for the redemption you promised,**

P: and now for adding us who celebrate the love of your Christ for the redemption of the world.

**C: Prepare a place for us among those who are already with you.**

L: Betty Irene Vogel, Helen Jo Rowen, Robert Lee Sudman, Karen Kemmann, Janet M. McCullough-Doute, Thomas Lew Grunden, Cecelia Ann Houseworth and Paul Steven White.

**C: Help us remember them as an encouragement to saintly living, exciting us to love, in anticipation of an eternal reunion.**

P: Christ says, 'Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart,

**C: and you will find rest for your souls.**

P: For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

**C: And you will find rest for your souls.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**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.**

**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.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God,

Jesus Christ was given to die for us,

and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you

the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father,

and of the + Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

#### **GREETING**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who grants us life eternal, the glory of the Father who created us in love, and the power of the Holy Spirit who forgives and renews our life, be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

# KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

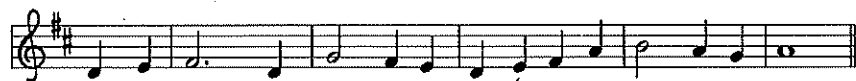
## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Insert

**FIRST READING**

**Revelation 7:9-17**

Insert

**PSALM 149**

Insert

**SECOND READING**

**Romans 1 John 3:1-3**

Insert

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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.

P: The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew the fifth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

**Matthew 5:1-12**

Insert

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Bill

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Shall We Gather at the River"*

#423

NICENE CREED

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**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

#### PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

#### OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

(8:00) Zion Choir: *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

(10:30) *Lilly of the Valley*

Aber



## CONGREGATIONAL SONG



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



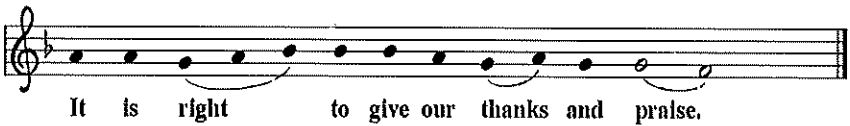
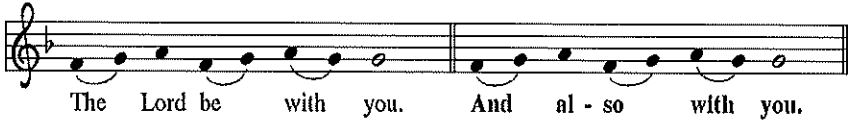
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**L:** Lord God, we give you thanks for the wondrous gifts you have so freely given us. You are the source of our lives, our work, and our possessions. In an act of worship we offer back to you what you have first given to us, that our sacrifices in some small way, might express our devotion to you and be used to spread the Good News of Christ to the world. We pray this in the strong name of Jesus.

**C:** Amen.

## DIALOGUE



## PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling, and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with Betty Irene Vogel, Helen Jo Rowen, Robert Lee Sudman, Karen Kemmann, Janet M. McCullough-Doute, Thomas Lew Grunden, Cecelia Ann Houseworth, Paul Steven White and all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

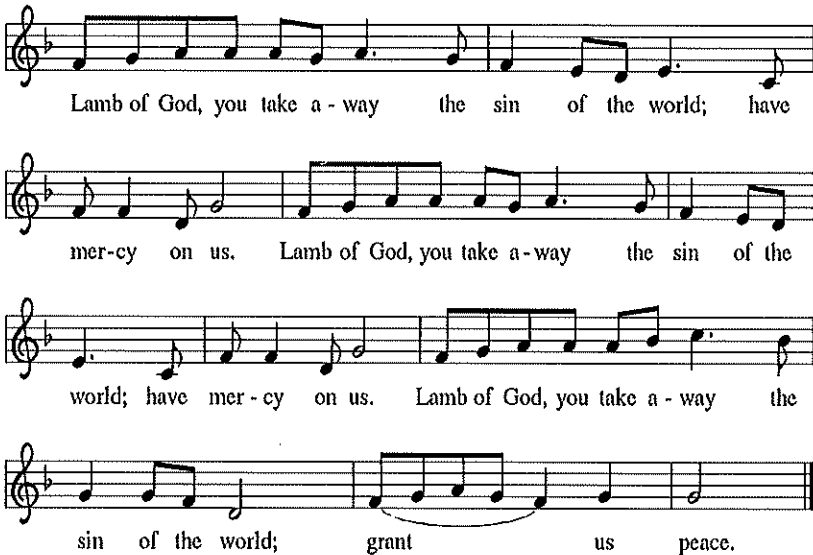
P: In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## 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.

## COMMUNION SONG



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.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

### COMMUNION HYMNS

- "Around You, O Lord Jesus"* #468  
*"I Come with Joy"* #482

### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace, now and forever.

C: Amen.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

Holy and Eternal God, you have fed, nourished, and forgiven us at your holy table. Send us now into the world to share the good news of your salvation with all we meet, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

### BLESSING

L: 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG      *"Lift Every Voice and Sing"*      #841

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

*Free Indeed*

Paxton

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## Memory Verse

## Revelation 7:9

*<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,*

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*Happy Birthday  
Heidi!*

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of Heidi Yahl's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. They are given by her parents, Ed & Linda Yahl.*

***Today, November 5\****

- Acolytes:** 8AM: Jessi Eberle  
10:30am: Zoey Lampert
- Communion Assistants:** 8AM: Chris White  
10:30AM: Ann Maki
- Crucifers:** 8AM: Calianna Bond Awls  
10:30AM: Allison Ankerman
- Ushers:** 8AM: John Hesse, Brandy, Eliza & Zaila Yahl  
10:30AM: Dan Macklem, Dana Cook,  
Stanley & Debbie Brown
- Fellowship Table:** 8AM: Nora & Harry Staunton  
10:30am: Dan & Cheryl Macklem
- Greeters:** 8AM: John & Amy Hesse  
10:30AM: Cheryl Macklem, Sandy Wierwille
- Readers:** 8AM: Betty Hussey  
10:30: Andrew O'Bryan

***Next Sunday, November 12\****

- Acolytes:** 8AM: Maylee Fischbach  
10:30am: Hunter Coldiron
- Ushers:** 8AM: Jeanne Wurster, Doug Stetler,  
Bob Hinschlager, Deb Henning  
10:30AM: Dwayne Hoenie, Darl Bishir,  
Mark & Connie Torsell
- Fellowship Table:** 8AM: Miriam & Kraig Johns  
10:30am: Stanley & Debbie Brown
- Greeters:** 8AM: Nora Staunton, Judy Schultz  
10:30AM: Dwayne & Ruth Hoenie
- Readers:** 8AM: Nora Staunton  
10:30: Kathy Lampert

\* Subject to change, correct as of time printed

ATTENDANCE .....	Last Wednesday: 33
.....Sunday 8 a.m.: 42, 10:30 a.m.: 98, Total for the Day: 140	
.....	Total for Day: 173
DIRECTOR OF BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION .....	
.....	Mindy Thiebeau, <a href="mailto:zionbpe@gmail.com">zionbpe@gmail.com</a>
OFFICE MANAGER .....	Kathy Bishir, <a href="mailto:kbishir@hotmail.com">kbishir@hotmail.com</a>
OFFICE ASSISTANT.....	Ann Maki, <a href="mailto:annmmaki@yahoo.com">annmmaki@yahoo.com</a>
LAY LEADER .....	Heidi Yahl, <a href="mailto:heidiyahl@yahoo.com">heidiyahl@yahoo.com</a>
PASTOR.....	William Maki, <a href="mailto:wllmmaki@yahoo.com">wllmmaki@yahoo.com</a>
MINISTERS.....	All Members of Zion
CHURCH WEBSITE .....	<a href="http://www.zionstmarys.org">www.zionstmarys.org</a>
CHURCH OFFICE.....	419-394-3115



## Calendar for November 5-19, 2023

S/5	8:00 a.m.	All Saints' Sunday*+
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Bring a Friend
	10:30 a.m.	All Saints' Sunday*+
	11:45 a.m.	Congregational Meeting
M/6	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop #360
	7:00 p.m.	Elder's Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Fellowship Bible Study
T/7	9:00 a.m.	Dorcas Quilting
	6:00 p.m.	Trustee Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
W/8	9:30 a.m.	Women's Board Meeting
	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Information Deadline
	6:30 p.m.	Worship*
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
T/9	9:00 a.m.	Workday
	11:30 a.m.	Middle School Bible Release Time
	2:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
F/10		Veterans' Day Observed/Office Closed
S/11	9:00 a.m.	Men in Mission Bible Study
S/12	8:00 a.m.	Worship+
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Dessert/Appetizer Challenge
M/13	5:30 p.m.	OCC Collection
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Fellowship
T/14	9:00 a.m.	Dorcas Quilting
	9:30 a.m.	OCC Collection

W/15	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Information Deadline
	3:30 p.m.	December Newsletter Article Deadline
	5:30 p.m.	OCC Collection
	6:30 p.m.	Worship/Thankful Offering
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Test
Th/16	9:00 a.m.	Workday
	9:30 a.m.	OCC Collection
	11:30 a.m.	Middle School Bible Release Time
F/17	5:30 p.m.	OCC Collection
	6:00 p.m.	Karner/Little Wedding Rehearsal
S/18	9:30 a.m.	OCC Collection
	3:30 p.m.	Karner/Little Wedding
S/19	8:00 a.m.	Worship+*/Thankful Offering
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Movie Day
	10:30 a.m.	Worship*/Thankful Offering
	12 Noon	OCC Collection
	6:30 p.m.	Underground

*\*Holy Communion*

*+Livestreamed on [www.zionstmarys.org](http://www.zionstmarys.org) & on WCSM 96.7 Radio*



**We invite you** to include the following people in your daily prayers: Janet Dicke, Judy Von Blon, Brent Paulus, Sandi Deerhake, Alma Kuffner, Michael Moore, Tom Kaster, Ann Morris, Darlene Henkener, Margaret Moore, Ronald Suchland, Don Diers, Linda Diers, Ruth Schreffler, Vicki Bishir, Emily Henkle, Pastor Wilck, Lisa Suchland, Kelsey, Eileen Zimmerman, Bill & Carolyn Slemmons, Markham Hodge, Alan Bishir, Mike Kittle, Donna Maynard, Kristin Hemmelgarn, Mary Willmann, Judy, Martha Meyer, Adam, Barb,

Ashley Bruns, Family of John Bowsher, Family of Mike Rubin, and the people of Israel.

**Please pray** for Sean Lawler, Andrew Johnson, Michael Carroll, Nathan Adams, Jacob Yahl, Jason Gross, Daniel C. Lukac IV, Michael Franklin and Kyle Schmehl who are in the service. Please pray for them, their family, and their safe return home.

**Christian Sympathy** to the Family of Mike Rubin, father of Allison Brady, and to the Family of John Bowsher, grandfather of Brandy Yahl.

**Our loose offerings** each Wednesday and Sunday for the month of November are earmarked to support Shop-Til-You-Drop. The funds collected in cooperation with our local Toys for Tots program run by the United State Marine Corps Reserve, which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas.\* *Loose plate will go to human traffic services from the Women Helping Women Thankful Offering fund on the third Wednesday/Sunday. Our Thanksgiving eve service loose offering and canned goods will go to help the Auglaize County Crisis Center.*

**Today is All Saints Sunday**, a feast day of prayer for, and remembrance of, the "faithfully departed". We recognize the following people who have passed in the last year: Betty Irene Vogel, Helen Jo Rowen, Robert Lee Sudman, Karen Kemmann, Janet M. McCullough-Doute, Thomas Lew Grunden, Cecelia Ann Houseworth and Paul Steven White.

**Our Annual Congregational** meeting will be held **today**, at 11:45 a.m., with a light lunch being served in the auditorium.

**Last Day** to pick up a shoebox. National Collection week is November 13-20, 2023. Please return fun filled, prayed for boxes

by **Sunday, November 12**. Please remember to include a WOW gift, hygiene items, and school supplies and the \$10 donation for shipping. For a cost of \$25 per box, boxes may be packed online at [samaritanpurse.org/buildonline](http://samaritanpurse.org/buildonline). The signup sheet to work at our Drop off location is also on the table. See Dora or Steve McAfee for more information.

**Veterans' Day** will be observed on **Friday, November 10**, and the office will be closed.

**Date change: the Dessert & Appetizer challenge** will be held on **Sunday, November 12**, at 6 p.m., in the auditorium. Do you think your dessert or appetizer can win the golden spatula? Bring it and found out. Youth and adults are encouraged to participate. Not a baker or cook? Come, enjoy, and score the goodies. All are welcome.

**The Women's Thankful offering** Services will be **Wednesday, November 15** and **Sunday, November 19**, at both services. Please review the flyer about Crime Victim Services in the bulletin. They are the recipients of this offering. Please mark the envelope offering "Crime Victims Services". Thank you for your generosity.

**Poinsettia Sale:** Check out the order blank in this bulletin to order. The order deadline is **Monday, November 27**, by 12 noon. Orders can be placed in the offering plate or brought to the church office.

**Zion will be celebrating** Kathy Bishir's 40<sup>th</sup> work anniversary on **Sunday, December 3**, at 12 noon, with a dinner, held in the auditorium. All members and guests are invited. Mark your "I Worshipped Today" if you plan to attend. Sign up deadline is **Sunday, November 26**.

**Our Women's Annual Advent Breakfast** will be **Tuesday, December 5**, at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium. "The Perfect Gift" is the program. Please sign up on the "I Worshiped Today" or call the church office by **Monday, November 27**. Invite your friends and relatives to come celebrate Advent and enjoy Christian Fellowship with us.

**Decorating the Church:** Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season, on **Saturday, December 2**, at 12:30 p.m., for approximately 2 hours. Sign up on your "I Worshiped Today" or call the church office, 419-394-3115, to participate in decorating.

**Why do we wrap things?** Usually, to protect them. The more fragile they are, the more important the wrapping. Let us wrap your Christmas Gifts, \$1 per package, on **Saturday, December 9**, in lounge, from 9—11 a.m. Let us know how many gifts you will be bringing to wrap by marking your "I Worship Today".

**The 2024 Flower Chart** for the first 6 months is on the bulletin board by the alley entrance. We invite you to select the date you wish to provide flowers. On the Tuesday before the date you selected, order your arrangement from your favorite florist, and *contact the church office, 419-394-3115*, to let us know what information you would like included in the bulletin.

**We have installed equipment** for livestreaming of our worship services. The worship services can be found on our Facebook page.

**Our 8 a.m. worship service** is broadcast live on WCSM radio 96.7 FM. Thank you to our primary sponsor of our WCSM radio broadcast—St. Marys Chrysler.

Weekly Budget	44 Week Budget	44 Week Income	Received 10/29
\$6,133--Current	\$269,852	\$242,297	\$4,549
\$290--NALC Offering	\$12,760	\$11,563	\$116

<b>Council Organization 2023</b>
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*President: ..... Neal Brady*  
*Vice President: ..... Cheryl Macklem*  
*Secretary: ..... Jeanne Wurster*  
*Assistant Secretary: ..... Genevieve Brown*  
*Treasurer: ..... Stanley Brown*  
*Assistant Treasurer: ..... Andrew O'Bryan*

**COUNCIL AT LARGE:** Pete Ackroyd, Stan Brown, Thelma Kellermeyer, Cheryl Macklem, Andrew O'Bryan, Doug Stetler

**BOARD OF DEACONS:** John Hesse, Dwayne Hoenie, Dan Macklem, Judy Schultz, Jody Slemmons, Dianne Uhlenhake, Rhonda Weaver, **Jeanne Wurster\***, Ryan Yahl

**BOARD ELDERS:** **Darl Bishir\***, Kathy Lampert, Brandy Yahl

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** **Dana Cook\***, Ed Flora, Eric Langsdon, Kurt Rodeheffer

**BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION:** Alexa Coldiron, Karrie Hughes, Ann Maki, **Sandy Wierwille\***

**BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION DIRECTOR:** Mindy Thiebeau

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE:** Genevieve Brown

**MEMBERS TO THE TRUST FUND:** **Darl Bishir**, **Doris Cook\***, Rick Green, Bill Kellermeyer, Marion Slater

*\*Chairperson*

# *Listening for the Promise*

Weekly Devotional

All Saints Sunday – November 5, 2023

*“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”*

*-Revelation 7:9-10-*

Over the years I’ve grown to have a greater appreciation for this holiday in our church year: All Saints Day. It’s not as flashy as Christmas or Easter, but it certainly has its place on our calendar. And the older I get, the more I come to treasure these verses from Revelation, chapter 7.

The details that John gives us of his vision paints a picture of something we have neither seen nor experienced. *“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.”* When I was a senior in college, my best friend and I took a road trip from Blair, Nebraska to New York City. New York City is where I discovered my dislike for crowds of people. It was raining, so the crowds of people had umbrellas, naturally. As we crossed streets near Times Square, we bumped into strangers, tripped over children, and got our umbrellas tangled with other umbrellas. For me it was a situation filled with chaos, anxiety, and stress. There was a multitude of people in New York City, too many to number. Many nations and cultures were represented as well. The scene that John describes

does not bring up images of chaos and anxiety. Rather, I feel at peace and full of hope. We will be reunited with all the believers in Christ who've gone before us. So what do we make of the white robes? The white robes signify baptism. Remember, Jesus said in Mark 16:16, "*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.*" These are them. They are the baptized believers in Christ, gathered together at the throne of God.

Together the believers in Christ from every tribe, every nation, and every point in history, gather together around the throne of God to worship. They cry out together that salvation is not their own. Salvation belongs to God and to his son Jesus Christ (Rev. 7:10). So as I get older, I think about the people, the saints, in my life who've gone on to the Church Triumphant. I think about this vision of John's. May we be filled with the peace of God that passes all of our own understanding.

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