

**September 9 & 10, 2018 16th Sunday after Pentecost
“Welcome Back!”**

To our friends, welcome again. To the visitor, it's great to have you here! To those looking for a church home, we offer fellowship with a living Savior, membership in His church and citizenship in His eternal kingdom.

***Large Print Service Binder & Listening Assist Aids are available:
please ask an usher if you are interested in either of these.***

Today's Hymns: “I Was Glad” Gathering Rite (*handout card*), #235, #399

Gathering Rite for Worship: “I was Glad” (*see handout card*)

PRAYER: Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Acts 3:1-10

¹ One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 1:3-14

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. ⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves., ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:31-37

³¹ Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³² There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

³³ After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “Ephphatha!”(which means “Be opened!”). ³⁵ At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶ Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷ People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

HYMN #235: “Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him”

TODAY'S SERMON: (*Based on Colossians 1:3-14*)

“A Welcome Back Prayer for Each of Us”

THE APOSTLES CREED (*spoken by all*)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there 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.

OFFERING - During this time we ask all worshipers to sign the Friendship Register.

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts out of thanks to him.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn #399: “To God Be the Glory”

Thank you to our pianists: Sunday, Amibeth Olderman5 & Monday, Darci Matzke.

Please join us between services today for an hour of Informational Fellowship with refreshments & food.

During this time together we would like to take some group pictures of our Grace kids up to age 5, PreK - 12th grade & also Grandparents.

We will share information for our upcoming year of Sunday School, Catechism & Teen Bible Classes. We will also share some opportunities for Bible Studies for Young Adults, Adults, and a new Men & Women’s Bible Studies starting soon!

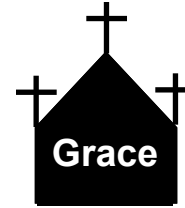
Today is also Grandparent’s Day - so we have a few surprises planned!

We will also work on a few things that will be part of our Care Packages we are putting together for our college students living away from home and members serving in the military.

Please Join us!

For those that cannot stay for this hour between services, please stop at the round table display to sign the big card, write down a favorite bible passage or write out a personal note for a college student or a member in the military. All of these items will be copied and included in each package.

Donations for these packages can still be made - see list of needed items on table. Please drop them off here at church by this week Wednesday, Sep 12.



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Worship Services Sundays 8:00 & 10:45am & Mondays 6:30pm



**A “Welcome Back”
Prayer for Each of Us**

September 9 & 10, 2018

This week's schedule, God willing....

TODAY: Worship 8:00 & 10:45am / "Welcome Back" time between services
Bible Class 6:30pm

Mon: Worship 6:30pm

Tue: OWLS meeting w/ lunch 12:00pm @ First German / JLOG Staff Meeting 6:00pm

Wed: Pastor preaches @ Bethany Chapel 8:00am & Harborview 10:30am
Staff Meeting 8:30am / Bible Class 1:30pm "Study of the Book of Colossians"

Thu: Grace Circle Meeting 1:00pm

Fri: MLHS Homecoming Game 7pm / 5th Q Celebration @ City Limits to follow

Sat: Sunday School Staff Mtg 10:00am / MLHS Homecoming Dance PM

Sun: Worship 8:00 & 10:45am / Sunday School, Teen Bible Class 9:20am / Adult Bible
Classes 9:20am & 6:30pm "Study of the Book of Colossians"

Mon: Worship 6:30pm

Addiction Presentation at First German this week Tue, Sep 11 at 6:30pm, Paul Schroeder-Haag, from Christian Family Solutions, will present a Christians perspective on addiction. This presentation overviews what addiction is, the history and types of addiction, diagnostic criteria, the developmental process of addiction, common thinking errors that addicts have, relapse and other related issues that stem from addiction. This is a community event, free and open to the public. Refreshments to follow presentation.

The Lakeshore Lutheran Chorale is a choir with members from area WELS churches. Rehearsals are every other Sunday night 6:30 - 8:00pm starting on September 16 in the MLHS choir room. Concerts will be held on Dec 15, & 16 at 3:00pm. They would like YOU to consider joining them this year. If you have any questions please contact director, Matt Manthe at mmanthe@bethanyeagles.org or secretary, Leah Strutz at lsstrutz@gmail.com.

Upcoming Fall Adult Bible Study Opportunities

- **Weekly Sunday & Wednesday Bible Study series on "Paul's Letter to Colossians"** started this week. The same session will be offered on Sunday mornings (9:20) & evenings (6:30pm) and Wednesday afternoons (1:30pm) through the month of October.
- **Men's Breakfast Bible Study Series "Whoever Has the Most Toys, Still Dies!"**, starting on Sat, Sep 29th from 8:00 - 9:15am. "All the Stuff we Have - Is it Really Important?". Toys are things that fill our lives. Most guys are pros in the fine art of stockpiling. Whether it's cycles or medals, our 'stuff' isn't going with us when we finally "pack it up" on our last day - so getting our priorities right according to God's Word is good for us and our families. The frequency of future dates & times will be discussed & determined at this first session.
- **Women's Evening Bible Study Series "Our Bible Sisters" will be held every other Tuesday evening from 6:30 - 7:45pm, starting on Oct 2nd and continuing through Nov 27th.** Depending on the number of women that will be coming, this could be held offsite - possibly at the home of Ann Hornes. More information will be shared soon.



WELS Christian Aid Relief Update:

"Disasters provide opportunity to show Christian love" (from WELS Together 9/4/18)

Storm damage in Wisconsin has given WELS members the opportunity to show Christ's love in their communities. On Aug. 20-21, more than 11 inches of rain fell in a 24-hour time period in Dane County. In some areas, residents were evacuated to higher ground. Homes and vehicles were flooded.

St. Andrew, Middleton, Wis., worked with WELS Christian Aid and Relief to provide help to their neighbors. On Aug. 25, more than 200 volunteers coordinated by St. Andrew helped their community members clean up following the storm.

"As Christians, all our earthly possessions may be swept away in 35 minutes or less," says Elizabeth Zambo of Christian Aid and Relief, "but our faith, that is anchored to the Rock, will remain secure. These people that have experienced flooding are now being emotionally, physically, and spiritually challenged. I am always amazed when I see the people soon after the disaster strikes and then witness the changes that occur in their faith and attitude over the days, weeks, and months after the disaster. Not only do the people suffering from the flooding grow in their faith, but those who are assisting those in need realize they too are growing in their faith." In a report to his members following the clean-up effort, Rev. Kelly Huet, a pastor at St. Andrew, noted, "Lives and communities were impacted today because of your love for Jesus." St. Andrew is continuing to offer help as homes are now being rebuilt.

On Aug. 28, tornadoes touched down in Wisconsin, including one F2 tornado outside of Brownsville in Dodge County. The church property and parsonage of St. Paul, Brownsville, sustained damage from the high winds and downed trees, but no one was injured.

On Sept 1, the congregation coordinated an effort with Christian Aid and Relief to offer aid to its neighbors who suffered damage from the storm and to help clear its property. The effort brought together 85 WELS members, including many from surrounding areas. Community members also joined in, as well as a group from Stillwater, Minn., who brought one of Christian Aid and Relief's trailers. These trailers are stocked with items such as chainsaws, generators, rakes, brooms, ropes, buckets, helmets, and gloves. The Brownsville community was grateful for the volunteers' help. Many were overwhelmed by the number of trees that needed to be cleared from their property.

To learn more about WELS Christian Aid and Relief and to support their work, visit wels.net/relief. To see more photos and videos from these relief efforts, visit facebook.com/WELSChristianAidAndRelief.

Sermon Series: "The Gospel is Always All About Jesus!"
The Letter to the Colossians
Colossians 1:3-14

"A Welcome Back Prayer for Each of Us"

Introduction:

Think of times you have heard "Welcome back!" How does "welcome back" fit your Christian faith?

1. Let's welcome and embrace our privilege of thanking our God.

Thank Him for _____ and _____ that spring from the Christian _____.

Thank Him for He alone _____ and _____ us.

Thank Him for the gospel bearing fruit and growing _____.

2. Let's welcome the challenge of living a life worthy of our Lord.

Your and my main business is being _____.

Through your Study of God's Word, the Holy Spirit promises to help you

Live a life worthy of the Lord!

Please Him in every way!

Bear fruit in every good work!

Be welcomed back again and again to your _____.

Ephesians 6:18

And **pray** in the Spirit **on all occasions** with **all** kinds of **prayers** and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep **on praying** for **all** the Lord's people.

Please pray for all of our members who are unable to worship with us. Pray that the gospel of Jesus may continually save and comfort them, that they keep the faith.

Please pray for our members who are away at school or are serving in the military. May God protect them physically and bless their faithfulness to him. Pray that they are served with the good news of Christ and all he teaches, so they make keep the faith.

Please pray for our Christian education efforts at Grace. God bless our preschool staff and children, our Sunday School staff and children, and opportunities for Christian growth through adult Bible study, young adult Bible Study, and teen Bible study.

Please pray for our members who have strayed from regular worship. God grant us success in striving to reach them with His Word. We pray that they will come back and join us in faithful worship here at Grace and grow in his peace and hope and love in their daily lives.