

*Rally Sunday*



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Larimore, ND \*~\*~\* September 10, 2023

*Rally Sunday*

*Blessing of the Backpacks*

*Teacher Installation*

*God's Work, Our Hands*

PRELUDE

## GREETING

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP—PLEASE STAND

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made!

**Assembly: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Leader: We praise and thank you for your amazing grace & life-giving power!

**ALL: Let us worship and give praise to God!**

### \*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

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



Gracious God, have mercy on me. I confess that I have turned from you and given myself into the power of sin. I am truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive me of my sins, known and unknown, things I have done and things I have failed to do. Turn me again to you, and uphold me by your Spirit, so that I may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. Amen.

**\*GATHERING HYMN**      *“Hallelu, Hallelu”*

**NORTH: Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah! SOUTH: Praise ye the Lord! NORTH: Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah! SOUTH: Praise ye the Lord! SOUTH: Praise ye the Lord, NORTH: Hallelujah! SOUTH: Praise ye the Lord, NORTH: Hallelujah! SOUTH: Praise ye the Lord, NORTH: Hallelujah! EVERYONE: Praise ye the Lord!**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON** *Students, please bring your backpacks to the front of the church, and stand with your backpack.*

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

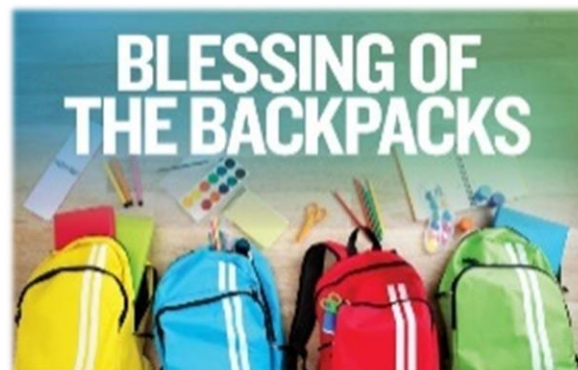


**Leader:**

*Today, we have before us backpacks to be carried to and from school by the children and youth gathered here.*

*These backpacks will contain work to be done, work that's been returned, books to be studied, tools to complete homework, and countless other items used for schoolwork.*

*Some days, so much stuff will fill these backpacks that the student may find it difficult to walk. Other days, they will be light and nearly empty. But on each and every day, these backpacks represent work required of the students gathered here. And, as in every aspect of our life, we bring these before God for blessing at this time.*



**A Blessing:**

\*For the marvels of your creation,

**We praise you, O God.**

\*For the opportunity to explore and study,

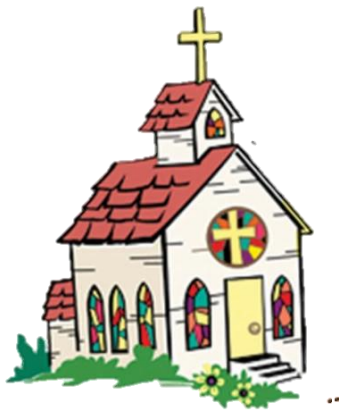
**We praise you, O God.**

\*For those who guide us, teachers and mentors,

**We praise you, O God.**

\*Teach us your ways and guide us in your path, for you are the creator of all that is seen and unseen.

**We praise you, O God.**



**Let us pray together:**

Gracious God, we lift to you today, these students. They stand here ready to receive your blessings and they commit themselves to study and learning in the school year ahead. We ask your blessing on each of them.

Further, we ask your blessing on these backpacks. They will hold the school work of each student and will be carried from home to school and back again. As these students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day.

We pray as well for the teachers and administrators in our schools. May they also be sustained by your blessing. May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to teaching and learning and surrounds them with love and care as well.

Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways each and every day, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

**NOISY OFFERING**



## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER INSTALLATION

**Leader:** It is good for us to remember that all who belong to the Church of Jesus Christ are called to serve one another in his name. Jesus calls us all to share in a life of discipleship and service: it is for us all to respond to that call in loving, faithful obedience. Jesus said, “Unless you change and become humble like little children, you can never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

**Teachers:** We hear your call: help us to follow.



**Leader:** Jesus said: “Go to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples and I will be with you always, to the end of the world.”

**Teachers:** We hear your call: help us to follow.

**Leader:** We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

**Congregation:** We rejoice today that these people are installed as teachers!

**All:** *Let us pray:* May God, who has begun this good work in you, give you the grace to complete it and to serve God's people in joy and peace. Amen.



# WORD

## **FIRST READING** *Ezekiel 33:1-11* PB 701

The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>O Mortal, speak to your people and say to them: If I bring the sword upon a land and the people of the land take one of their number as their sentinel, <sup>3</sup>and if the sentinel sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people, <sup>4</sup>then if any who hear the sound of the trumpet do not take warning and the sword comes and takes them away, their blood shall be upon their own heads. <sup>5</sup>They heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; their blood shall be upon themselves. But if they had taken warning, they would have saved their lives. <sup>6</sup>But if the sentinel sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any of them, they are taken away in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at the sentinel's hand. <sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel 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 ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. <sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" <sup>11</sup>Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

***WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE. THANKS BE TO GOD.***

## **PSALM:** *Psalms 119:33-40* PB 494 (read responsively, verse by verse)

<sup>33</sup> Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. <sup>34</sup> **Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.** <sup>35</sup> Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. <sup>36</sup> **Turn my heart to your decrees and not to selfish gain.** <sup>37</sup> Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; be gracious to me<sup>[a]</sup> according to your word. <sup>38</sup> **Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.** <sup>39</sup> Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good. <sup>40</sup> **See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness be gracious to me.**<sup>[b]</sup>

## **SECOND READING:** *Romans 13:8-14* PB 923

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. <sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the



night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off<sup>[b]</sup> the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

***WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE. THANKS BE TO GOD.***

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “*The B-I-B-L-E*”

**The B-I-B-L-E, yes, that’s the book for me, I stand alone on the Word of God, The B-I-B-L-E! *sing 2X***



L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

**\*GOSPEL**     *Matthew 18:15-20* PB 799-800

<sup>15</sup> “If your brother or sister sins against you, <sup>[h]</sup> go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

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



**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “*Jesus Loves Me*” ELW 595 vs.1-3

**\*APOSTLE’S CREED** pg. 105

**I BELIEVE in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, God’s 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. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.**

**\*OFFERING** “*Thank Him*”

**Thank Him, thank Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love,  
Thank Him, thank Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love.**

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**Let us pray. You are an abundant God, and out of Your great mercy you have given us so much. We give you this offering today. With it, we worship You and give our whole selves to You. May it be used for Your kingdom and Your glory. Extend and multiply its reach, and may it be a great blessing to many. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

**SING: God answers prayer, God answers prayer, God answers prayer, He's so good to me.**

**Hold us accountable, O God.** Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with others.

**Reveal your miracles to us, O God.** Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Thank you for the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Be with all those who are searching, lost, and struggling with natural disasters—especially in Maui, Florida, California, Indonesia, Morocco, and many other places around the globe.

**Inspire us to lead with honor, O God.** Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold the laws of the land. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another.

**Help us comfort those who suffer, O God.** Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick *especially* those we name in our hearts and on our prayer lists. Guard their waking and their sleeping.

**Provide us with hope, O God,** as your spirit of life continues to dwell in our congregation. Be with us, and guide us, as we fervently seek you for wisdom and discernment in the path we should take. Give us clarity of mind; open hearts; and the courage, strength, wisdom, and faith to follow where you lead.

**SING: God answers prayer, God answers prayer, God answers prayer, He's so good to me.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## \*THE 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.



## SENDING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**: Special Church Meeting following church service.
- **11:00am—God's Work, Our Hands Project**
- **Wednesday, 9/13/2023**:
- 7:00pm—Church Council Meeting
- *\*a prize will be given to the first 10 youth/adults to tell Roberta how many churches are in the bulletin.*

### **\*BLESSING—PLEASE STAND AND BLESS ONE ANOTHER**

May you find the joy and strength that comes from enjoying God's presence. May you be forever changed because of what Jesus won for you on that cross. And may you live the rest of your days awakened to your God-given value and purpose as a child of God. Amen.

**\*SENDING HYMN** “Do Lord”

1.) I've got a home in glory land that (*clap*) outshines the sun, (Oh, Lordy,) I've got a home in glory land that (*clap*) outshines the sun. I've got a home in glory land that (*clap*) outshines the sun, Look away beyond the blue. *Chorus*

**Chorus:** Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me (Oh, Lordy,) Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me, Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me, look away beyond the blue.

2.) I took Jesus as my Savior, (*clap*) You take Him, too, (Oh, Lordy,) I took Jesus as my Savior, (*clap*) You take Him, too, I took Jesus as my Savior, (*clap*) You take Him, too, Look away beyond the blue. *Chorus*

**\*DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ, be a warrior of prayer and a light of hope to all the world! **We will! Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**



**Welcome! We are glad you are with us today!** If you are interested in joining our church, please contact Lori at 218-791-2671 or Julie at 701-741-5683. If you have an emergency, call Wayne Knudson (church president) at 218-779-3594 -or- Camilla Stover at 218-791-2678.



**Serving this Sunday**

*Ushers:* Matt Pernatt  
*Reader:* Josh Nesdahl  
*Prayer:* Josh Nesdahl  
*Communion:* N/A  
*Fellowship:* Stovers

**Serving Next Sunday (9/17/23)**

*Ushers:??—sign up on the clipboard*  
*Reader: ??—sign up on the clipboard*  
*Prayer:??—sign up on the clipboard*  
*Communion:* N/A  
*Fellowship:* Rankins & Langs

**PRAYER LISTS**

To add or remove someone from the prayer lists, please email the church email: [oslclarimoreoffice@gmail.com](mailto:oslclarimoreoffice@gmail.com) or call/text Roberta Stover: 218-779-0359

**We pray for those in need:**

Lois Jemtrud            Mark Sletten            Ron Petsinger  
Betty Olson            Pr. Rena Peterson            Cindy Olson  
Bonnie Olson            David Barnett (relative of Robert Stover)  
Donna Willoughby (daughter of Gordon Peterson)  
David Sletten (cousin to Camilla Stover)  
Robbie Leake            Island of Maui  
OSLC Call Committee: *Paul Mutch, Dee Muir, Jenn Aamodt, Nancy Smith, Wayne Knudson (non-voting members: Luke Reinhold, Sadie Aamodt)*

**Prayers for Homebound/Nursing Home Members:**

Viola Lee            Gloria Temple            LaVonne Jacobson  
Denise Sweeney            Dolores Mutch            Marv Jemtrud  
Arlene Lilja

**Prayers for Armed Service Members:**

Robert Norman            Dillon Norman



## CALENDAR

Today, 9/10/2023— Rally Sunday, Blessing of the Backpacks, God's Work Our Hands

9:00am—Sunday School

10:00am—Worship

Next Sunday, 9/17/2023—15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost

9:00am—Sunday School

10:00am—Worship

**Following Worship—Special Church Meeting**

Every day:

An opportunity to show we are Christians by our love.



## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Mission of the Month for: Sept-Oct:** Kids Closet
- **Noisy offering:** Collected on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month for the mission of the month(s).
- **Missing:** Our church is missing all of the Home Communion Kits. If you have one, please bring it to church at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

## Our Savior's Mission Statement:

“**Excited by faith**, we are called to **serve all**; gathered to **WORSHIP**, **inspired** to teach, **we are our Savior's!**”