

*Mt. Zion Ev.
Lutheran Church*

Ecclesiastes

Life Under the

S  N

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 25th & Monday, August 26th, 2019

Pastor Scott W. Bergemann
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Pastor Steven L. Neumann
pastorN@mtzionwi.org

Welcome to our family of faith! Large Print Editions of our bulletin and hymnal are available by asking an usher. Please feel free to ask for help or if you have any questions.

IF YOUR CHILDREN BECOME RESTLESS: our church basement (ask an usher how to get downstairs to it) is equipped with an *audio feed* of the worship service. Please feel free to make use of that service if you need a place to settle your children down before returning upstairs.

A FAVOR PLEASE: Please take a moment to fill out the ivory colored attendance card found in each pew or chair for our church records (guests and members alike). The cards will be collected around the time that the offering is taken *after the sermon*. Thank you for your help!

BIBLE TEXT: While the lessons are printed in the bulletin, you may appreciate reading them in their context from our pew Bibles; if so, note that the page number for each lesson is included.

THE ALTAR PARAMENTS are GREEN (symbolizing health and growth in a plant) during the Pentecost season reminding us that the Spirit, through His tools of God's Word and the Sacraments, gives us Jesus' saving work and connects us to God for a life of real purpose; for real life and health are in Him! By faith, we have this life in Him. SO we now bear fruit for Him!

THEME OF THE DAY

The way to heaven is open to all but it is narrow; mere outward attachment to the family of God is not sufficient – only through faith in Christ can we enter heaven!

Opening Hymn: 431 v.1-4. I Walk in Danger All the Way

INVOCATION

(the name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshippers of their baptisms)

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart, and confess our sins, asking Him in the name of our LORD Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **LORD of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You *should* cast me away from Your presence forever. O LORD, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

ABSOLUTION

(The use of the keys is "that special power and right which Christ gave to His church on earth; to forgive the sins of penitent sinners" – from the Small Catechism, Part One; cf. John 20:21-23)

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In His great mercy, God made us alive in Christ, even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through His called servant: I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

(The expression "LORD, have mercy" is one of the oldest Christian worship responses – Mark 10:47)

M: In peace, let us pray to the LORD . . . For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from You all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O LORD.

C: LORD, have mercy.

M: For the spread of Your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in You, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await Your return, hear our prayer, O LORD.

C: LORD, have mercy.

M: LORD of life, live in us that we may live *for You*.

C: Amen.

(Now we proclaim how God rescued us from sin with "Glory to God" a Christian Worship song since the 4th century)

GLORY BE TO GOD

*(Luke 2:14) – The following is sung after the introduction to the tune of **C.W.** 376)*

**All glory be to God on high! Your name, O LORD, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace & grace, Your favor toward our fallen race.**

***Our grateful thanks to you we bring, For your great glory, heav'nly King,
For all, O Father, you have done, Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.***

**O Lamb of God, to you we pray. You take all human sin away.
Have mercy LORD, receive our prayer, From God's right hand your mercy share.**

***You, Christ, are holy – LORD alone; The Father's glory you made known.
We by your Spirit sing again: "All glory be to God!" Amen.***

SALUTATION

M: The LORD be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. / Almighty & everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, & love; &, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what You command; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD OF THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT: JUDGES 7:1-8 (found on page 196 of your pew Bibles)

Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.' Now announce to the army, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

But the Lord said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go." So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink." Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. The Lord said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped, I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home." So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others. (NIV2011)

Psalm of the Day: We join to sing **Psalm 72** found on p. 93 of our hymnal. [**NOTE:** Our cantor will sing the 1st phrase, & **the congregation will sing the 2nd phrase in each couplet.** We **ALL join together to sing 'Glory be to the Father' & the Refrains.**]

(Refrain): Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.

*Endow the King with your justice, O God,**
the royal Son with your righteousness.

*He will defend the afflicted among the people**
and save the children of the needy.

*He will endure as long as the sun,**
as long as the moon, through all generations.

*He will be like rain falling on a mown field,**
like showers watering the earth.

(Refrain): Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.

*All kings will bow down to him,**
and all nations will serve him.

*All nations will be blessed through him,**

and they will call him blessed.

*Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds.**

May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

(Refrain): Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.

Refrain Tune: Dale Wood. From *Seasonal Psalms*. © 1978 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

EPISTLE: Romans 9:1-9 (found on page 917 of your Pew Bibles)

I speak the truth in Christ —I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit — I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son." (NIV2011)

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: *Alleluia. Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia. (1 Timothy 1:10b)*

We join to sing:

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Faith comes by hear-ing the
mes - sage, and the mes - sage is heard through the
Word of Christ. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

(Please rise – We stand and speak words of acclamation out of respect for the words of Christ, our Savior)

M: The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 13.

C: Glory be to You, O LORD.

GOSPEL: LUKE 13:22-30 (found on page 847 of your pew Bibles)

Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!' "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last." (NIV2011)

M: This is the Gospel of the LORD.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day 384. By Grace I'm Saved

SERMON TEXT: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:18-26 (found on page 539 of your pew Bibles)

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Sermon by Pastor Scott Bergemann on Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:18-26

'Jesus Gives Us A Meaningful Life'

THE NICENE CREED

(Public confession is faith's response to God's Word. Christians composed this creed in the 4th century to defend Biblical teaching that both Jesus & the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father, & 1, eternal, undivided Trinity)

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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

OUR GRATEFUL RESPONSE – THE OFFERING

(moved by God's love in Christ, we offer Him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him)

Our Offerings: The offering is a chance for God's people to respond to God's love by giving to carry on the ministry He has entrusted to us. If you are a visitor, please don't feel obligated to give an offering. We are truly pleased that you have joined us for worship, so we could share the gospel with you! Please come again!

Attendance Card Collection: Please take a moment to fill out the tan attendance card found in each pew (guests and members alike). On *Sunday*, the cards will be collected right *after* the offering baskets have been passed through in the 2nd basket that comes around. On *Monday*, please drop the cards in the offering basket also as it comes around. Thank you!

Prayer of the Church: by pastor (*Note: The Lord's Prayer comes later in this liturgy.*)

THE SACRAMENT

(The opening communion responses are some of the oldest words in Christian liturgy used by the Apostles)

M: The LORD be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the LORD.

M: Let us give thanks to the LORD, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks, O LORD, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our LORD, *who has called us to be His own and live under Him in His Kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.* Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise Your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9) – sung after the introduction to the tune of CW 372)

***O holy, holy, holy, LORD God, to You we pray,
The heavens show Your glory, The earth Your works display.
Hosanna! Come and save us, LORD God of Hosts on high,
And in Your grace and mercy, Receive our fervent cry.***

**Hosanna in the highest! How truly blest is He
Who in God's name is coming, To set His people free!
He comes to bring salvation, And with His blood outpoured
Deliver us from bondage – Hosanna, mighty LORD!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(as Jesus in the Upper Room took the bread and 1st gave thanks, so also we do the same)

M: Blessed are you, O LORD of heaven and earth. We praise and thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which He has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power. By His incarnation, He became one with us. By His perfect life, He fulfilled Your holy will. By His innocent death, He overcame hell. By His rising from the grave, He opened heaven. Invited by Your grace and instructed by Your Word, we approach Your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith, until we feast with Him and all His ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(the sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death)

M: Our LORD Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying "Take and eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: Amen.

WE JOIN TO SING: LAMB OF GOD – FOR Jesus is the Agnus Dei, or Lamb of God sacrificed for all sins

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 your peace. A - men.

The Distribution: If you are a guest, you may be interested and relieved to know that we do not seek to impose our practice of Holy Communion upon you. In fact, God's Word makes it clear that He intends this sacrament only for those who have been made familiar in advance with the sacrament (1 Corinthians 11:27-30), and who have previously expressed their fellowship with the group they are taking it with, since it is a public confession of oneness in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17, 11:24-26); that's what is meant by the Scriptural practice of "close communion". If you are a guest and have not had the chance to express common faith and a public declaration of fellowship with us, please observe today's communion service and speak with Pastor after the service or during the week; he'd be delighted to help you appreciate a "close" relationship with our congregation.

Communicant member of our sister WELS or ELS congregations are welcome, but please announce your intent to commune to pastor or an usher before the service. **A 'Personal Preparation for Holy Communion' tool can be found on p. 156 at the front of C.W.;** this is an excellent tool for 'examining ourselves' prior to communing, as Christ commands (1 Corinthians 11:28).

Distribution Hymns: 310

SONG OF SIMEON

Through the Word & Sacrament, like Simeon, we too have seen Jesus, and find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior. The following is sung after the introduction to the tune of CW 560

***O LORD, now let Your servant, Depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen Your promised, Incarnate, saving Word –
A Light that will enlighten, All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
The brilliant crowning glory, of those in Israel!***

**All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever three in one;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's Triune name resounding, Through all eternity.**

CLOSING PRAYER

M: We give You thanks, O LORD, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that You have given us to eat and drink in this sacrament. Through this gift, You have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By Your Spirit, help us to live as Your holy people, until that day when You will receive us as Your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

*(The Aaronic blessing has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years, since the LORD told Moses:
'So they will put My name on them, and I will bless them' – Numbers 6:27)*

M: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look on you with favor, and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: 431 v. 5-6. I Walk in Danger All the Way

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*Thank you for worshiping with us.
Go with God's Word in your hearts and minds!*

Our Mission Here at Mt. Zion:

- † **Grow** in God's Word
- † **Gather** around His Word and Sacrament
- † **Go** into our community and the world with the good news of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.



Please feel free to return this *Worship Folder* to the Ushers at the door as you leave today for use in the next service, unless you want to take it home for devotional purposes. Thank you!

Mt Zion's Attendance Information *Our Growth in God's Word . . .*

Sunday Attendance	104
Monday Attendance	30
Bible Study Attendance	60
Sunday School Attendance	7

Special Thanks Today to Our . . .

- † **Organist:** Cindy Willer
- † **Elders:** Todd Willer & Don Giammarrusco
- † **Cantor:** Jeff Larsen
- † **Ushers:**
 - **8:00am – Team 05** – Jeff Larsen, Todd Willer, Jacob Larsen & Katie Larsen
 - **10:45am - Team 07** – Eugene Perry, Don Giammarrusco, Josh Kopp & Rich Symoens
- † **Bible Study Goodies:** B. Jeske & Buchholz
- † **Landscaping Team: Team 06** – Bill Fink & Dick Gentz

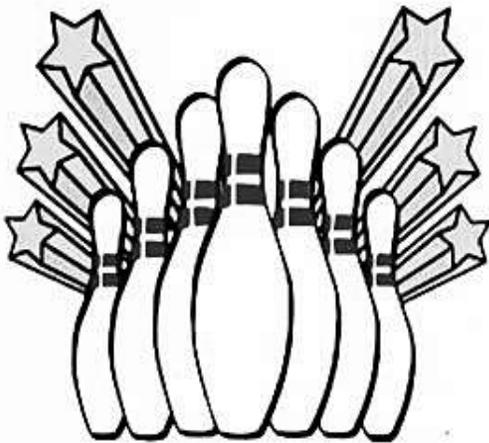
Up Coming Servants. . .

- † **Organist:** Ken Jeske
- † **Ushers:**
 - **8:00am – Team 06** – Dan Krueger, Andrew Krueger, Wayne Krueger & Riley Krueger
 - **10:45am - Team 03** – Dick Gentz, Pete Behrens, Leon Keune, Aaron Kopp & Brent Artus
- † **Landscaping Team: Team 07** – Brian Menarek & Matt Menarek

Let's Bowl!!

Fundraiser

To assist the orphans in Ukraine



Where: Guttormsen
Recreation Center

Address: 5411 Green Bay
Road, Kenosha WI 53144

When: September 21, 2019
from 12:30 to 3:30pm

Cost: \$20 Per Person
(Includes shoes, pizza and soda)

!! Everyone is welcome - bowlers and non bowlers !!

!! There will be a 50/50 raffle, silent auction for many prizes !!

Can't make it but still want to donate?
Contact Annya Knautz at 262-945-6140



NEWS & notes

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August 25th, 2019

THIS WEEK AT MT. ZION

- Sunday** Communion Service – 8:00am
Summer Sun. School / Bible class – 9:15am
Communion Service – 10:45am
- Monday** Board of Stewardship – 4:30pm
Communion Service – 6:30pm
Church Council Meeting – 7:00pm
- Tuesday** Bible Class – 10:00am
- Wednesday** Evangelism Meeting – 5:30pm
- Sunday** Worship Service – 8:00am
NO Sunday School or Bible Class
Worship Service – 10:45am
- Monday** *NO Worship Service - Have a great Labor Day!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS . . .

Labor Day Weekend Schedule – Please note that next Sunday, for the holiday weekend, there will be NO Sunday School or Bible Class; both resume on 9/8. Also, there will be NO Monday night worship on the holiday, 9/2. There will be church on Sunday at 8am and 10:45am like normal. Please note this holiday schedule change.

Bible Study Topics This Week

- † **Sunday** – Creation vs. Evolution
- † **Tuesday AM** – *Psalms: God's Word for Daily Life*
- † **Wednesday CAP** – resumes 9/11 with a new study
- † **Thursday Women's Study/Prayer Time** – resumes 9/5 with a new study

ALL ARE WELCOME !



Choir Ready to Resume – Mt Zion's Choir is open to all confirmed members of Mt Zion (teens and adults) and will begin a new year of praising God on Monday, September 9th. The Choir practices for about an hour after Monday night church (so at 7:30pm). A sign-up sheet is on the back table for those who are interested; please sign up by **NEXT SUNDAY, September 1st**. Join us as we lift our voices in praise to our great God and loving Lord!

Fundraiser to Support Orphans in the Ukraine – On Saturday, September 21st, from 12:30-3:30pm, a bowling fundraiser will be held at Guttormsen Rec. Center (on Green Bay Rd) to help the orphans in the Ukraine. The cost is \$20/person, which includes shoes, pizza, and soda; there will also be a 50/50 raffle and silent auction items. All are welcome whether you bowl or not; it's a good cause!

Could You Lend a Hand – On Wednesday and Thursday September 4th and 5th, our board of properties will be stripping and waxing the fellowship hall before the full slate of classes and events start the next week. If you could lend a hand both or either nights, we could GREATLY appreciate it! That is a big room and with lots of hands, it will go easier and faster. If you can help or have questions, contact Scott Therriault (terio1960@hotmail.com). Thanks for considering it.



Meeting of High School Students & their Parents – On Sunday, September 8th, we will meet in the conference room at 10:15am to discuss bible study times, hang out times, and youth rally. Please join us. We will start promptly at 10:15 and end at 10:40 to allow the pastors to prepare for 2nd service. Questions? Contact Pastor B.

NEW Fall Women's Bible Study – Starting Thursday, September 5th at 6:30pm, we're offering a NEW Women's Bible study called: *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver. Based on the Bible account, the author wrote this book for every women who's ever felt that she isn't godly enough, loving enough, or doing enough; she points us to Scripture to teach us how to walk closer to Jesus, so our faith grows and we are strengthened for serving His way with less stress and greater joy. The cost is c.\$10/study (actual cost based on number of participants), and payment should be brought to the 1st class in the conference room (upstairs in the education wing, next to the church library) on September 5th. **Sign up by TODAY** on the table in the church entryway. Questions? Contact the group leader, Niki Neumann at nichole.neumann@gmail.com or 262-652-7215.

WICS Meeting – Our women's ministry support group, Women in Christian Service (WICS), will be having their 1st meeting of the new fiscal year on Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30pm. Agendas and reports for this meeting will be in your member box soon, ladies. Do plan to join us!

Our Annual Camp Phillip Door Offering – will be gathered on September 15th and 16th this year. In addition to supporting this WELS camp's family programs, it also allows our member families who go to Camp Phillip to receive a discounted rate to do so. Thank you for your continued support!

First Fridays Music – On Friday, September 6th at 5:30pm, there will be a very special presentation by *Him + Her Worship* at First Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS) in Racine (728 Villa Street). Seth and Jenna Herlich (WELS members from the Twin Cities in Minnesota) are the two halves of *Him + Her Worship*, an up and coming contemporary *worship* group that travels around the country sharing the gospel in song through concerts and in worship services. You are cordially invited to attend this event, and then park at the church to enjoy the First Fridays' festivities downtown afterward.

NEW Phone Directory – Mt. Zion has published a NEW Phone Directory!! Please find your family and make sure all the contact information we have is correct. IF there are any changes or adjustments that need to be made, simply fill out a form found in the folder on the office door and put it in Amanda's folder on the church office door OR email the changes to the office (office@mtzionwi.org).

LWMS Mission Box and Fall Rally – On Saturday, September 28th, the fall rally of our LWMS Circuit will be held right here in our area, at Bethany Somers! The presentation will be about the mission work among the Apache. The event begins the morning of with registration and breakfast goodies at 8:30am, followed by opening worship at 9am; the event ends with a lunch served onsite. Sign-up on the sheet in the church entryway, ladies, if you plan to attend. Also, in anticipation of that rally, the LWMS Mission Box is on the table in the church entryway now as well; collections are being received to support holding a conference that our world mission families can attend to be built up and encouraged by fellow missionary families for the important work they do in our name overseas. If you'd like to support this important project to support our missionaries and their families, the box will be out until Sunday, September 15th for you to do so. Thank you for your support of missions!

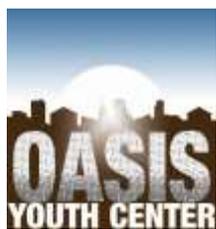
Monday PM Bible Study to Resume – On September 9th, our Monday PM Bible study right after church resumes! Plan to join us as we look at Scripture's story and apply it to our hearts and lives.



Bus Drivers Wanted - SLHS is in need of bus drivers for before/after school routes, and to and from extra-curricular activities. For more information about bus drivers, please contact Scott Zondag at zondags@slhs.us.



Shoreland App - Have you downloaded our new app! Easily access Shoreland information and receive notifications by downloading our app from the Apple App Store, Google Play, or scan the code to the right.



OYC Treasurer Needed – Oasis Youth Center, our WELS urban outreach to youth, is looking for a new Treasurer. The Treasurer sits on the OYC Board (therefore a confirmed male, 18 or older is required), attends the monthly meetings, and oversees the OYC Bookkeeper. A detailed description will be provided, upon request. If this is something you're interested in, please contact Russ Pearson (262-496-3757 / RLPearson67@gmail.com) or Amy Haun (262-909-7579 / OYCKenosha@gmail.com).

WINE & DINE - New Beginnings, a WELS-based home for single mothers, invites you to its 2nd annual Wine & Dine on Thursday, September 12th, from 6-8pm at Davian's in Menomonee Falls. This evening of premium wine, craft beer, an assortment of delicious appetizers, as well as a silent auction will benefit the mothers and babies served through the New Beginnings ministry. The cost is \$40 per person. Go to homeformothers.com/events to register.



Seriously ... What Does “Contemporary” Worship Really Mean?!?

A Follow-up to Pastor Neumann’s last sermon By Timothy H. Knautz, Chair of the Board of Elders

Christian Contemporary Music or CCM. You’ve probably heard of it; you may even think you know what it is ... but do you? Have you ever read or heard an *exact definition* of what CCM actually is? Oh, sure. We’ve all heard the “upbeat” music that is played on Christian radio stations. Is that “contemporary”? Some of that music can be pretty rockin’ – some, more folksy – others more “traditional”. In this article, I will try to explain and define what CCM is, give some Bible references regarding music and put forth some guidelines for God-pleasing music in our worship services.

CCM Defined?

At a recent WELS Worship Conference I attended, one of the presenters offered this definition of “contemporary”:

You know the music you use every Sunday in church? Contemporary music is everything else.

Of course, we laughed a bit at this statement; but his definition shows how broad CCM really is. In essence, the presenter is saying that anything “nontraditional” is “contemporary” or is thought of as “contemporary”. This is an extremely broad definition. Let’s see if we can tighten up the definition a bit! Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, offers yet another, more specific, definition:

Contemporary Christian music (or CCM—and occasionally “inspirational music”) is a genre of modern popular music which is lyrically focused on matters concerned with the Christian faith. It formed as those affected by the 1960s “Jesus movement” revival began to express themselves in a more contemporary style of music than the hymns, Gospel and Southern gospel music that was prevalent in the church at the time. Today, the term is typically used to refer to pop, rock, or praise & worship styles.

This definition basically says that the CCM of today is a style of pop/rock music... and here is the important part, “which is lyrically focused on matters concerned with the Christian faith”. So this definition says that it is the lyrics that set CCM apart from other secular music. Interestingly, even the secular community recognizes that CCM is not about the *music*, but about the *lyrics*!

What Does the Bible Say?

Unfortunately (or fortunately), the Bible does not use the word “contemporary”. This does not mean that the Bible does not have anything to say about contemporary music! However, the Bible gives us guidelines for music and worship in a *general* sense, not in a specific sense. The Bible is full of many passages that talk about music. Let’s look at a few of these passages and see if we can get a feel for what God is telling us about the music we use in worship. I have highlighted some ideas in bold.

*David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their fellow Levites as musicians to make a **joyful sound with musical instruments: lyres, harps and cymbals.*** 1 Chronicles 15:16.

*David was clothed in a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who were carrying the ark, and as were the musicians, and Kenaniah, who was in charge of **the singing of the choirs.*** 1 Chronicles 15:27.

*David, together with the commanders of the army, set apart some of the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun for the **ministry of prophesying, accompanied by harps, lyres and cymbals.*** 1 Chronicles 25:1. This one is interesting because God is saying that prophesying goes together with musical instruments – lyrics to the songs!

The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: “He is good; his love endures forever.” 2 Chronicles 5:13. This entire passage shows, basically, a band; trumpets, cymbals, singing, song – all in praise and thanks to the Lord!

*My heart, O God, is steadfast; I will **sing and make music with all my soul.*** Psalm 108:1.

*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be **filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*** Ephesians 5:18-20.

Harp, Lyre (a predecessor to the guitar), trumpet, cymbals, choirs, singing! All of these are examples of the types of musical instruments that were available at the time of the Old Testament. Even in the New Testament, Paul talks about how music is to be used in worship: for His praise! The key being good and pleasing!

The music and lyrics used in the Bible were written in the language of the day. Styles varied. Note that the *style* of music is not commanded in Scripture but the lyrics are!

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22.

In this passage, Paul is giving his final instructions to the Thessalonians and encourages them (and us) to be joyful and to **test everything**. This includes our music! In both sacred and secular music, we should test the lyrics against God’s pure and holy Word. We should stay away from false teaching, harmful words, or words that are confusing or meaningless.

What Does All This Have To Do With Contemporary Music?

Good question! Actually, a lot! Here are the key points:

The style of music is not commanded in Scripture. Does this mean rock music is stylistically okay in worship? Well ... yes; it could be! But one might respond, “Surely not heavy metal – that must be off limits!” Well ... no, not stylistically. For Scripture does not command any particular style; thus any style *can* be God-pleasing. But having said that, we must listen to another principle of Scripture elsewhere which says we need to be careful not to *offend*. If certain styles of music will offend some of our brothers or sisters, we in love should forgo its use.

The lyrics are the most important. This is really where the rubber meets the road! 1 Chronicles 25:1 calls this *prophesying* because that word means to speak God’s pure Word. The lyrics of the music played in our worship

services must spotlight Christ our Savior and/or portray the true law and gospel truth of God's word (which was pastor's main point in his last sermon).

The music should be God-pleasing. When we put good lyrics together with a musical style, we get music that is God-pleasing. To be sure, not everyone will like every style of music. But, if it is God-pleasing, we should not say it is wrong; for that makes a law where God has not given us one.

It's still worship. Worship is not a performance to bring accolades down on the musician or singer. The music in worship should always be about God and His love, shown not only in saving us through His Son Jesus but also in giving people various gifts they can use to praise Him; it's never about the performance or the performers.

Please note that I am not at all implying we should start using heavy metal music in our worship services at Mt. Zion! However, we need to understand that many different musical styles can be God-pleasing, even if we personally do not like that particular style.

In addition, there may be some new songs with different musical styles that occasionally are part of our worship service; and with a new hymnal coming out from WELS in less than 2 years, there will be songs coming that are new to all of us. These new songs and styles might be very uplifting and encouraging to others in our congregation, even if we don't personally care for them; they may help others better understand God's saving grace. Because of this, God asks us in Christian love to understand and appreciate that, and work to "grin and bear it" occasionally, in order to allow God's word to speak to someone that enjoys that style of music. And who knows; just because we don't like something the 1st time we hear it, doesn't mean that it may not grow on us and soon become something that we do enjoy. I believe we all have had something like that happen to us in our life, if not with music, perhaps with food or something else.

Pastor Neumann and I spoke before I wrote this article; and he asked me to write it, because I heard a few people comment after Pastor Neumann's sermon last week that it sounds like we'll never be able to do contemporary songs in church because 'Pastor is against it.' That's NOT what pastor said! He said, as always, what God says: that our worship is not primarily about what **WE LIKE**; it's about spotlighting Christ who is the reason for our worship, and sharing the truths of God's Word, both Law and Gospel, which is the foundation of real worship!

Pastor Neumann and I have spoken on this issue multiple times; and he has **NO PROBLEM** with contemporary instruments, like our guitar group, etc., as long as it is done by members in fellowship with us, using their talents in praise and thanks to God, to the very best of their ability (so, it's practiced and polished). He also has no problem with new or contemporary songs, as long as they pass the test above: namely, they focus us on Christ and/or God's Law and Gospel Word without any errors in them. The point he was making in his sermon was that many of today's contemporary songs unfortunately don't pass that test; therefore, *they* can't be used in our worship which is faithful to God's principles of worship.

So, that means that we have to faithfully do our homework, and not simply choose songs because they are popular on Christian contemporary radio and the like; Christ deserves better than 'what sounds good to us.' And, by the way, that is one reason why our church has called Tracy Kopp to be our worship coordinator, who helps our pastors plan worship. It is very time consuming to research the plethora of Christian songs that are out there so you can find that diamond in the rough worthy of use in our worship of Jesus the King. Tracy has a heart for doing that and a critical eye to weed out much of what has no place in our worship; as she did when she coordinated our Sunday school singing for years, she reviews tons of songs of various styles (outside of our current WELS hymnals and mainline resources) which might possibly work in connection with some theme pastor has planned our worship around. When she finds one, she sends it to pastor to see if he agrees; and from what pastor has told me, he has never had to say 'no' (she's good at what she does!). But he would say no if need be; and Tracy would want him to,

if need be! That's why Tracy is such a blessing to our worship team – she gets it!! And we thank her for her faithful work!

One final thought: Our focus must always be on what is best *for the Kingdom of God*. Whether that is worship, music, evangelism, education, stewardship ... whatever. This means that sometimes, we need to make sacrifices in order to advance the Kingdom of God.

May He bless our efforts to worship Him in a God-pleasing manner!

Tim Knautz, Elder Chairman