

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - June 16, 2024

778 Father, We Praise You

CW 778

1A Blessed Are They

Psalm 1A

Blessed is the one who / does not walk
in step with the / wicked
or stand in the way that / sinners take
or sit in the company of / mockers,
but whose delight is in the law / of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law / day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of / water,
which yields its fruit in / season
and whose leaf does not / wither—
whatever they do / prospers. *Refrain*

Not so the / wicked!
They are like chaff that the wind / blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the / judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the / righteous. *Refrain*

For the LORD watches over the way of the / righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to de- / struction.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

First Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot
from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig
from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain.
²³On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce
branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every

kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches.
²⁴All the trees of the forest will know that I the LORD bring down the
tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and
make the dry tree flourish.

“ ‘I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.’ ”

Second Reading

Colossians 1:3-8

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we
pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and
of the love you have for all God’s people— ⁵the 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 ⁶that 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. ⁷You
learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful
minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in
the Spirit.

Gospel

Mark 4:26-34

²⁶He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man
scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets
up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸All by
itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the
full kernel in the head. ²⁹As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle
to it, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or
what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed,
which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³²Yet when planted, it grows
and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches
that the birds can perch in its shade.”

³³With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much
as they could understand. ³⁴He did not say anything to them without
using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he
explained everything.

Sermon: Ezekiel 17:22-24 The Word of the Lord Grows

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and bring forth fruits in faith, hope, and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer for Grace

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Acknowledgments

Morning Prayer (alternate) from Christian Worship
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The Buffalo Lutheran School Reunion will be held on June 22, 2024, here at Christ Lutheran Church in Cochrane. The reunion will begin with a worship service at 12:00 noon, followed by a potluck meal (pulled pork will be provided). Please bring a dish to pass. This event is open to anyone who has been part of the BLS family as a student, parent, pastor, teacher, volunteer, BLSA member, or supporter. Please share this information with your family and friends! Join us for a day of reminiscing, fellowship, and fun as we celebrate the memories of Buffalo Lutheran School. More information can be found on the Buffalo Lutheran School Class Reunion Facebook Page.



BUFFALO LUTHERAN SCHOOL REUNION

Saturday, June 22, 2024

Christ Lutheran Church
401 South Main Street, Cochrane, WI 54622

12:00pm Worship Service
followed by a potluck meal and fellowship
(please bring a dish to pass)

If you have been part of the BLS family as a student, parent, pastor, teacher, volunteer, BLSA member, or supporter, you are invited to attend!

If you have questions or for more information, please contact Rebecca Wolfe (dblwolfe@outlook.com | 507-205-1548) or Kristi Krause (kjkrause1991@yahoo.com).

TOGETHER



June 4, 2024

Vacancies remain after pastoral assignments

Students and their wives at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS), Mequon, Wis., learned where they will be serving as vicars, teachers, and pastors in two special services held May 22 and May 23 in the auditorium on campus. The Conference of Presidents announced a total of 79 assignments in all 12 districts of WELS.

On the evening of May 22, 40 second-year pastoral ministry students received vicarage assignments, and seven of their wives received teaching assignments in WELS schools either connected to the congregations where their husbands were assigned or in the area. While most of these assignments are to WELS congregations, one man will vicar in Medellin, Colombia, through the WELS World Mission office. Through careful planning with the WELS Home Mission office, 29 of the men were assigned to serve as Vicars in a Mission Setting.

Pastoral formation, including the year of vicarship, is the heart of what WLS does. This formation happens because of self-supporting congregations and missions around the country that partner with WLS in this work. We thank God for the supervising pastors in the field who are willing to give so much time to each vicar, for the supportive people of WELS, and for these men who have offered themselves for service in Christ's church.

On the morning of May 23, 26 men received their first calls into pastoral ministry, one man returned to the Assignment Committee to receive his first parish call, and five recent WLS graduates were reassigned to their present fields of labor. Six of the graduates were assigned to serve Home Mission congregations. Four of the candidates were assigned to congregations that had been vacant for more than two years.

There had been 97 requests for candidates. With the 27 candidates available, 70 of those requests went unfilled. After the Assignment Committee did its work, there are still 146 vacancies for pastor-trained parish men synodwide, an 11 percent vacancy rate. Although 45 men graduated in the preseminary program at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., this year with plans to enroll at WLS next year, they will not be available to serve as pastors for four more years.

Because of the high vacancy rate, two floor committees at the 2023 synod convention asked Pres. Schroeder to appoint a Ministry Recruitment Task Force. This task force is presenting its first report to the districts in convention this summer. That report predicts that the pastoral vacancy rate will return to five percent in ten years as larger WLS classes matriculate, WELS congregations close and merge, and current pastors retire at age 70.

RECOVERY IN CHRIST offers hope in Jesus.

A symptom of addiction of any kind is hopelessness. The focus of Recovery in Christ is to bring the hope of Jesus. RIC meets most Sundays at 4:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Onalaska, Wisconsin (school library) and Wednesdays, 1:15 pm at La Crosse's Coulee Recovery Center, 933 Ferry Street. To confirm meeting days/times call 608-567-3038 for Sundays, 608-784-4177 for Wednesdays.

Recovery in Christ is not meant to replace other groups or therapists. It is an additional group that offers Christian fellowship and direction to those in recovery from alcohol and/or drugs.

NEED A CARD? Why go to a big box store and spend more than you have to? Please browse our wide selection of cards in the former library room at Christ. Cards are exceptionally priced at \$0.50 each.

Diane Schultz is our new sunshine lady. If anyone knows of someone who would like a card of encouragement, please let her know. Her cellphone is 608-738-9934 and her home phone is 608-685-3861.

Church Offerings

Tuesday, June 4: 7

General: \$60 Missions: \$ Cap Imp.: \$20
(Cap Imp includes a gift for Luther High School)

Sunday, June 9: 42

General: \$954 Missions: \$25 Cap Imp: \$65
(General includes a memorial for Jim Getskow)
(Cap Imp includes a gift for Luther High School)

Total: \$1124

General: \$1014 Missions: \$25 Cap Imp.: \$85

Our Weekly Walk with Jesus

Sunday, June 16

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Coffee hour

Monday, June 17

Tuesday, June 18

10:00 am Bible Class

Wednesday, June 19

6:30 pm Midweek Worship Service

Thursday, June 20

Friday, June 21

Saturday, June 22

12 noon Buffalo Lutheran School Reunion

Sunday, June 23

8:00 am Church Council meeting

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Coffee hour