

## Fifth Sunday after Pentecost - June 23, 2024

### 805 Eternal Father, Strong to Save

CW 805 sts. 1-4

### Prayer of the Day

O Lord our God, so govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world that your church may worship you in peace and joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### First Reading

Job 38:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

<sup>2</sup>“Who is this that obscures my plans  
with words without knowledge?

<sup>3</sup>Brace yourself like a man;  
I will question you,  
and you shall answer me.

<sup>4</sup>“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?  
Tell me, if you understand.

<sup>5</sup>Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!  
Who stretched a measuring line across it?

<sup>6</sup>On what were its footings set,  
or who laid its cornerstone—

<sup>7</sup>while the morning stars sang together  
and all the angels shouted for joy?

<sup>8</sup>“Who shut up the sea behind doors  
when it burst forth from the womb,

<sup>9</sup>when I made the clouds its garment  
and wrapped it in thick darkness,

<sup>10</sup>when I fixed limits for it  
and set its doors and bars in place,

<sup>11</sup>when I said, “This far you may come and no farther;  
here is where your proud waves halt?”

## 42C Why Does Such Grief Weigh Down My Soul

Psalm 42C

As the deer pants for streams of / water,  
so my soul pants for / you, my God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the / living God.

When can I go and / meet with God?

My tears have been my food / day and night,

while people say to me all day long, “Where / is your God?” *Refrain*

These things I re- / member

as I pour / out my soul:

how I used to go to the / house of God

under the protection of the / Mighty One

with shouts of / joy and praise

among the / festive throng.

**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***

### Second Reading

Acts 27:13-26

<sup>13</sup>When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. <sup>14</sup>Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. <sup>15</sup>The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. <sup>16</sup>As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure, <sup>17</sup>so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. <sup>18</sup>We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. <sup>19</sup>On the third day, they threw the ship’s tackle overboard with their own hands. <sup>20</sup>When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

<sup>21</sup>After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. <sup>22</sup>But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. <sup>23</sup>Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me <sup>24</sup>and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' <sup>25</sup>So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. <sup>26</sup>Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

## Gospel

Mark 4:35-41

<sup>35</sup>That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." <sup>36</sup>Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. <sup>37</sup>A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. <sup>38</sup>Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

<sup>39</sup>He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

<sup>40</sup>He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

<sup>41</sup>They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

## 504 We Sing the Almighty Power of God

CW 504

## Sermon: Acts 27:13-26 God's Promises Keep Up Our Courage

## 820 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

CW 820

## 849 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

CW 849

3

## 2023 WELS statistical summary

*Rev. Jonathan Hein, WELS Congregational Services coordinator, serves as the guest writer for President Schroeder's Together column this week.*

**E**ach year, WELS collects data from all congregations and schools. WELS Congregational Services compiles this data into a comprehensive statistical report and publishes a statistical summary and analysis.

The 2023 statistical summary shares some good news for which we give thanks to God. Last year, even though WELS total membership declined by about 5,300 (-1.6 percent), the number of WELS members participating in in-person weekly worship increased by almost 8,000 (+6.7 percent). Adult Bible study and Sunday school also saw large increases in participation. 2023 also saw WELS congregations blessed with almost 5,800 adult spiritual gains, the highest total in over a decade.

The statistical analysis for 2023 also digs into the shortage of called workers. In 2023, WELS congregations reported having 264,500 communicant members, a decline of almost 17 percent from the statistical high year of 1990. Yet, WELS has 46 percent more teachers today than in 1990 (about 970 total) and almost the exact same number of active pastors today as in 1990. So, the reality is WELS has more called workers active today than at any point in WELS history. So how can there be a high vacancy rate? The Lord has simply increased the gospel opportunities before us: to grow our local ministries (particularly school expansion), to start new congregations around the country, and to plant new outreach locations around the world.

The statistical analysis discusses the importance of strengthening our efforts to recruit people for gospel ministry as well as creating new pipelines by which one can enter ministry. It also reviews the growing challenge of those efforts in light of the fact that the need for called workers is growing at approximately 2 percent annually at the same time WELS membership is declining at approximately 1.3 percent annually.

You can find the WELS 2023 Statistical Summary and Analysis at [welscongregationalservices.net/stats](https://welscongregationalservices.net/stats). 

# Volunteer Drivers Needed



**Buffalo County Senior Nutrition Program is looking for volunteers to deliver home-delivered meals.**

**Flexible scheduling is available. You can deliver meals as little or as much as you'd like.**

**Use Your own vehicle & be reimbursed a mileage rate of \$0.67 per Mile**

If you are interested in learning more about delivering home-delivered meals, please call Matthew Bertelson/Nutrition Program Coordinator at 715-672-8941 Ext 163.

**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 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 11: 7

General: \$35 Missions: \$ Cap Imp.: \$79.50

*(Cap Imp includes an anonymous gift from a garage sale)*

Sunday, June 16: 39

General: \$955 Missions: \$55 Cap Imp: \$25

**Total: \$1149.50**

**General: \$990 Missions: \$55 Cap Imp.: \$104.50**

*Our Weekly Walk with Jesus*

**Sunday, June 23**

8:00 am Church Council meeting

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Coffee hour

**Monday, June 24**

WELS Youth Rally in Colorado (*Monday through Saturday*)

**Tuesday, June 25**

*(no Bible class this week)*

**Wednesday, June 26**

*(no evening service this week)*

**Thursday, June 27**

**Friday, June 28**

**Saturday, June 29**

**Sunday, June 30**

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Coffee hour