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F O R G I V E

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS
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Considering all Joseph has suffered at the hands of his brothers; it is a well-placed fear. In chapter 45, Joseph has finally revealed his identity to his brothers, and because they had sought to kill him earlier, they thought their own demise was at hand. However, Joseph points out to them that it was God who was using all of this (45:5–9). It was God who sent him ahead of them to Egypt to preserve lives and preserve and sustain the chosen covenant people. He forgives them! Let us forgive each other as Christ has forgiven us!

The Lord's Supper is a very special privilege God gives to His people. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. If you are not partaking of the Lord's Supper but would like to receive a blessing, please come up to the communion rail when sent by an elder, kneel, and cross your arms over your chest. The Pastor will then know that you desire a blessing.

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." We welcome children and all the joy and little chatter that comes with them. If for any reason you want to take your little one out, there is a Nursery (Cry Room) available for use during our worship service. It is located just outside the sanctuary.

Baptism, God's Work, Not Ours

Whatever we say about baptism, it is a miracle, for in it we are given the forgiveness of sins, a rebirth, that is a birth from on high, so that we are made members of God's family, that we may pray "Our Father." So, let's be done with the idea that it's our work, our doing. A child cannot choose to be born, nor can a child choose to be adopted into the family of another. Life is a gift from God, as is the new life we have in Christ. ~Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer, CTSFW~

Baptismal Hymn 592 "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"

Holy Baptism of Theodore Alexander Cronkhite

Hymn 611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(Matthew 28:19b)*

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(1 John 1:8-9)*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*

C **Amen.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 143:1-2; antiphon: v. 9

P Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

C **I have fled to You for refuge!**

- P** Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
- C** **In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!**
- P** Enter not into judgment with Your servant,
- C** **for no one living is righteous before You.**

All: 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.

- P** Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
- C** **I have fled to You for refuge!**

Kyrie ~ Lord, Have Mercy (Mark 10:47)

LSB 152

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



- C** A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*

LSB 154

(Luke 2:14; John 1:29)

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 156

P The Lord be with you. (2 Timothy 4:22)



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Adult Choir Hymn 843 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalms 34:9, 19, alt.

P Fear the LORD, you His saints,

C for those who fear Him lack nothing!

P Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

C but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Epistle

Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything,

while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.

⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse *(John 6:68)*

LSB 156



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to Jesus, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"
²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

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

And 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

sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Hymn 915 "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

Sermon Text

Genesis 50:15-21

Sermon "I Forgive You"

1. The world's attitude toward forgiveness is . . . worldly.

A. Joseph's brothers' attitude toward forgiveness _____
_____ (vv 15–18).

B. Our attitudes toward _____ are often worldly.

C. Our attitudes may reflect how _____ .

2. God's attitude toward forgiveness is _____ .

A. Joseph demonstrated God's attitude of _____ .

B. _____ showed God's attitude of forgiveness.

3. So I forgive you.

A. Our new attitude of forgiveness is that of Christ's: we forgive as
_____ .

B. This is a _____ attitude.

Hymn 849 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

Prayers

Lord's Prayer (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

☐ 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.

Benediction (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

LSB 166

☐ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



☐ A - men.

Closing Hymn 333 "Once He Came in Blessing"

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Altar Flowers are given today by Wayne & Robin Spicher in celebration and thanksgiving for Tara's birthday. All praise to our Almighty King for His blessings of life and salvation.

The October-December Portals of Prayer and Hope-Full Living devotionals are now available in the tract rack located in the Narthex.

LWML, October 2, at St Paul's, 7:00 pm, Bethany Room. Speaker: Joseph Collins, AD, Alzheimer's & Dementia Services of Northern Indiana. **OPEN TO THE CONGREGATION** (yes, men, too!). Refreshments afterward.

South Bend Zone Rally, LWML SUNDAY, October 1, at Redeemer, Warsaw (1720 E. Center Street). Registration 1:30 pm. Program 2:00 pm: speaker Renea Snyder of Beaman Home (domestic abuse shelter). Ingathering: see Check-It-Out-Board. Light supper afterward (donation requested). All ladies are invited.

Calendar of Events

TODAYSeptember 17, 2023

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am

Worship Service..... 9:30 am

Bell Choir Practice 5:00 pm

Adult Choir Practice 6:00 pm

MON:

Board Meetings 7:00 pm

TUES:

Board of Lay Ministry Meeting 6:30 pm

WED:

Men's Breakfast Bible Study 6:30 am

Day School Chapel 11:00 am

LifeLight 6:45-8:15 pm

Youth Night 7:00-8:00 pm

THURS:

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study 9:30 am

New Member 2.0 Class 7:00 pm

FRI:

Preschool Chapel 9:30 am

SAT:

NEXT SUNDAYSeptember 24, 2023

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am

Worship Service with Communion..... 9:30 am

Church & School Picnic..... 11:00 am-3:00 pm

Bell Choir Practice 5:00 pm

Adult Choir Practice 6:00 pm

CHRISTIAN MEN - AWAKE!

If you're at least 18 years of age, wake up on Wednesday morning every other week and join in a Bible Study at the Bremen Hospital cafeteria conference room at 6:30 AM. Enter the cafeteria area entrance on the south side patio to the left of the main entrance portico (presently the covid testing drive-thru). The cafeteria has an excellent breakfast menu and we enjoy our study with discussion and fellowship until 7:30 A.M. Bible study is a means of strengthening our understanding of God's plan for us and strengthening our faith, which we all can use in the daily challenges we face. Bring your Bible and join us as we study, eat and fellowship! The dates we will meet in 2023 are as follows: 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 11/29, 12/13, 12/27

If you have questions, please contact Dave Burcham or Tom Coxey.

Octoberfest is coming up - September 29th and 30th and we need your help. First, we need people to make individually wrapped Cookies (see Pastor Wonnacott for the bags). Second, we need people to serve at the booth at the fest. Parish Fellowship is teaming with the Evangelism Board for this event. We will be selling the cookies (by free will offering) and giving the proceeds to Riley Children's Hospital. We need the cookies on Pastor Wonnacott's porch by September 28th. Prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve. **For those people who plan to serve at the booth, a sign-up sheet is on the back table in the Narthex.**

Altar flowers: Meijer, Martin's, & Farmer Bill (331 north of Wyatt) all have mums of suitable size (we have gold foil for pots). You may bring cut flowers in vases (from store or garden). Florists in Plymouth & Nappanee have delivery fees. If you know of anyone in the Bremen area, please give their name & phone number to altar guild. Thank you.

Church and School Picnic

The Annual Church and School Picnic will be **Sunday, September 24th**, following the church service. Hot dogs, condiments, drinks, and table service will be provided. Please bring a side dish if you are a church member, or a dessert if you are a school family, to share. Also bring chairs, blankets, and roasting sticks. Activities include Bingo (bring 2 wrapped white elephant gifts) and a bouncy house for the kids! Come enjoy this time of fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The next Parish Fellowship meeting will be Monday, September 25th at 10:30 am.

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Nights: Fall Youth Nights continue on Wednesday evenings in September from 7-8 pm. This is for all Youth in Grades 4 through High School - St. Paul's Youth are encouraged to bring a friend to join in a fun activity and Christian fellowship each evening before ending with a snack and brief devotion. **At these Youth Nights, we encourage attendees to bring a 16 oz. jar of peanut butter that we intend to donate to the Bremen Bags organization** that helps feed children in need within the Bremen community. This is a wonderful opportunity for our Youth to give back to those around us, as Christ outlines in speaking with his followers in Matthew 25 (the basis for our weekly devotion at Youth Nights this year).

SCHOOL CORNER

Our theme for this school year is “Connected”, from John 15:1-5, reminding us that we are connected to God and each other. The students and staff are decorating puzzle piece people to assemble into a surprise puzzle for all of us to enjoy! Stay tuned!

Check out the school bulletin board in the narthex, highlighting our new students in Grades 1-8! We welcome them to our school family from various school backgrounds. What we strive to provide for all of our students cannot be underestimated- a solid Biblical foundation and knowledge and faith in Jesus, along with a Christian worldview and education. Thank you, congregation, for helping to make that possible!

We thank you for your continued prayers this school year.

Please remember to give to the SGO!

We will continue to use SGO scholarships to assist with tuition, so **please continue to give, and remember you will receive a tax credit and deduction for your donations!**

You can find several (easy) ways to donate at www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate. Donations can be given through a check, IRA, stocks, Donor Advised Funds, PayPal, credit card, and **NOW electronic giving!** Benefits to you are a 50% state tax credit for your donation and eligibility for a tax deduction. These scholarships make a big difference for our families.

We also continue to take donations to St. Paul’s tuition assistance fund. Checks for tuition assistance can be made out to the church.

Anita Eichinger asks for prayers for the family of Mirjam Cascione who has now received the crown of victory through faith in her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Special Concerns: That we see the difference between the world’s attitude toward forgiveness and God’s—and see ourselves as reflections of God’s attitude.

For Pastor Rafael & Jamielynn Flores and Pastor Micah Wildauer and their work in foreign missions.

For the Lord’s guidance in calling a new Administrative Pastor.

That the Lord would bless our offerings that we give today.

For our country and her leaders.

For grace and healing to all Christians who suffer the trials of this world as they shine the light of their risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Hospitality Group packed 50+ meals for our shut-ins on Wednesday. We will be delivering those today after church, so if you can help, please see someone in the Narthex about getting a bag and name for delivery. Next month on October 11th we will be making pork roast, mashed potatoes & gravy, and apple crisp. Look for more info in next week's bulletin. Once again, thank you to everyone for your donations. May the Lord continue to bless you as you have been a blessing others with your generosity.

Servants for Today's Worship September 17, 2023

Rev. Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)

Organist: Ellen Augustine

Ushers: Larry Winterboer & Tyler Schmeltz

Acolyte: Gabriel Mejia

Elder: Dennis Sienicki

Video Streamer: Tyler & Dakota Schmeltz

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship September 24, 2023

Rev. Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Paul Wonnacott & Joe Hughes

Acolyte: Abby Wildauer

Elder: Larry Britt

Communion Assistant: Mike Gumz

Video Streamer: Bruce Schmidt

PTL Fundraiser

Thursday September 21, 2023 - all day at the Hacienda Mexican Restaurant at 2862 Miller Dr., Plymouth. You must have one of the attached coupons for the school to get credit. You may make copies of the coupons to hand out if you'd like. However, we cannot hand them out in front of the restaurant that day. We earn 20% of the sales from the coupons used.

Hacienda also offers gift cards to be purchased during this time and we earn the 20% as well. **However, you cannot use the gift card on this day to purchase your food.** There are a few ways to get the gift cards. The students will have the forms or you can call or text Eric Thornton at (574) 248-5007 and I will put you down. You can also go online to www.haciendafiesta.com and mention the Hacienda location along with the name of the school in the message box. The gift cards should be paid for when you order them.



Group: St. Paul's Lutheran School
Date: 9-21-2023
Location: Plymouth

You must receive your token from your organization prior to your event. Distribution of this token on Hacienda property will disqualify the organization from receiving any proceeds.

Don't have time to eat out? Pick up a Hacienda gift card or Fiesta-To Go order. They count towards the fundraiser.

Restaurant phone number: (574)-941-2022

GIFT CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED TO MAKE
PAYMENT FOR YOUR PURCHASE WITH THIS TOKEN