

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 17 & 20, 2021

In spite of the powerful opposition of the devil and the world and our own sinful flesh, the kingdom, i.e., Christ's rule in people's hearts, is planted and is glorious.

Opening Hymn 227, "Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs"

Order of Service..... Service of Word & Sacrament, Page 26

Prayer of the Day: O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm of the Day.....Psalm 92 (page 101)

SECOND LESSON

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. *May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy.* Alleluia.

Response to the Verse..... Page 30

GOSPEL LESSON

Hymn of the Day 368, "O Savior, Precious Savior"

SERMON....."See God's Kingdom Through God's Eyes" Mark 4:26-34

Nicene Creed Page 31

Communion Liturgy Page 33

Communion Hymn..... 311, Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Closing Liturgy Page 36

Closing Hymn 324, "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 17:22-24

The church of every age should, according to reason, perish. God himself renews her, sustains her, strengthens her, and gives her fruit.

This is what the LORD God says. I myself will take part of the tip of the cedar and plant it. From the topmost of its shoots I will pluck off a tender sprig, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the high mountain of Israel I will plant it. It will produce branches, bear fruit, and become a magnificent cedar. Flying birds of every kind will live under it. In the shelter of its branches they will nest. Then all the trees in the countryside will know that I, the LORD, bring down the high tree

and raise up the low tree, that I make the green tree dry up, and I make the dried-up tree blossom. I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will carry it out.

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Were we to judge only by sight, our whole existence would be one of doom and despair. For mortality is our inheritance as the result of sin. But nevertheless we are confident and courageous. For God himself has come with his Spirit to live in us by his Word. And he is not mortal, nor is the life he gives in the gospel.

Now we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal home in heaven, which is not made by human hands. In fact, the reason we groan is that we long to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven. If we do indeed put it on, we will certainly not be found naked. To be sure, while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed, but to be clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now the one who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as the down payment.

Therefore we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. But we are confident and would much prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. And for this reason we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he did while in the body, whether good or bad.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 4:26-34

St. Augustine says that all things in the visible world mirror something in the spiritual world. How lowly is the sowing of seed in the dirt; how wondrous the result! The lowly Word is preached and life comes to the dead soil of the human heart. The lowly Word grows into the magnificent planting of the Lord and performs its function to the glory of God in the world.

He said, "The kingdom of God is like this: A man scatters seed on the ground, and while he sleeps and rises, night and day the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. The ground produces fruit on its own: first the blade, then the head, then the full grain in the head. When the crop is ready, he swings the sickle without delay, because the harvest has come."

Then he said, "To what should we compare the kingdom of God? Or with what parable may we picture it? It is like a mustard seed, which when sown on the ground is one of the smallest of all the seeds planted in the ground. Yet when it is planted, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches so that the birds of the sky can nest under its shade."

With many similar parables he continued to speak the word to them, as much as they were able to hear. He did not speak to them without a parable. But when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION: Because of the confessional nature of the Lord's Supper which is offered today, we invite forward those who are members of a WELS or ELS congregation. If you have questions about the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor.

HEAD USHERS: Hubert Albert/Don Koch; next Sunday: Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz.

ORGANISTS: The **July** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please take a look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

CAMP PHILLIP SUNDAY: **TODAY** we will be taking a free-will offering in support of Camp Phillip. Our congregation is currently a member in Camp Phillip's organization and in order to maintain this membership we collect donations once a year from our congregation. Membership in this organization gives our members a 10% discount on all camping fees. We hope you will consider supporting this fun and unique ministry!

PASTOR & CONNIE ON VACATION: Pastor and Connie will be leaving for a vacation to Michigan this coming **Thursday (6/24)** and will be returning sometime on **Monday (6/28)**. If you need to reach Pastor during this time, he will be available by cell phone **(920-344-2422)**. In Pastor's absence, we will be privileged once again to be led in worship by Pastor Tim Bauer, retired Pastor from Bethany, Hustisford, on both Thursday evening and Sunday morning.

FYSH OUTING: The next meeting of **FYSH** (St. Matthew's Youth Group) will be held on **Sunday, June 27**. The *tentative* event for the day is a visit to the **Shalom Zoo** in West Bend. However, before we schedule this outing, we need to know if there is enough interest in participating. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet located on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board in the hallway. If you have any questions, please direct them to **Cheri Youngbeck**.

WORSHIP IN THE PARK: Our worship service on **Sunday, July 11**, will take place at **9:00 AM** at the **Iron Ridge Firemen's Park**. Following the service, a potluck dinner will be served. Hot sandwiches will be provided; however, we will be looking for additional food items to supplement the meal. We will also be looking for helpers to set up, serve, and clean up. If you are willing to help in any way, please watch for a sign-up sheet to be posted on the church bulletin board in the near future. Please also note that the evening worship service on **Thursday, July 8, WILL** also be held at the normal time of **7:00 PM** at St. Matthew's.

INSTALLATION/FOOD SHOWER: In connection with our worship service in the park, we will also be holding the installation of our new Gr. 1-2 teacher, Miss Sara Wentzel. We hope many of you will take this time to meet her and welcome her to St. Matthew's. In addition, as a "Welcome" gift, we are holding a food shower for her. Everyone who attends the worship in the park is asked to bring some non-perishable food and/or grocery items for Sara to give her a good start in stocking her new apartment.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAYS ARE COMING BACK! We are pleased to report that we are re-instating our fellowship gatherings on the last Sunday of each month beginning in **July!** So, if you or a group of you would like to provide refreshments following one of our last Sunday-of-the-month services, please sign up on the sheet posted on the church bulletin board. (**Remember!** You are responsible for set up, service, and clean-up, as well as providing napkins and cups.)

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God by Janet Moldenhauer, the Daryl & Penny Moldenhauer Family, the Mike & Jenny Moldenhauer Family, Lyle Moldenhauer, and the Brian & Cheri Youngbeck Family in loving memory of Marvin Moldenhauer

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! We wish all our fathers a very happy and blessed Father's Day this Sunday!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 26; Sunday: 80

Offerings: \$4,694.30

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,052.00)

Special Funds: N/A

Memorials: N/A

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Communion Worship Service 9:00 AM
Father's Day

Thursday: Worship Service 7:00 PM

Thurs. – Mon.: *Pastor & Connie on vacation*

Fri. & Mon.: **SCHOOL – FLOORS BEING WAXED**

Sunday: Worship Service 9:00 AM