

Bay Pines Lutheran

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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If you'd like to connect with Pastor Stern, please don't hesitate to give him a call/text/email at your convenience; he'd consider it a blessing to meet with you. Thanks!

Proclaiming Christ in Pinellas County

The Fifteenth Weekend after Pentecost

September 12 & 13, 2020

In the name of Jesus, our Savior & Lord, welcome!
Whether it's your first time with us or Bay Pines is
your church home, we're glad you're here! If you :



- ... have questions, please ask – we'll do our best to answer;
- ... need the restrooms, they're in the sanctuary directly opposite the
the entrance main doors (so, on the NE corner of our sanctuary);
- ... can stick around after worship, we'd love to get to know you;
- ... would like a call from one of our staff, they'd love to meet with you!

If you brought young children today, thank you! Please know :

- ... their wiggles don't bother us (their wiggles don't bother Jesus, either);
- ... you can sit up front where little eyes & ears can see & hear easier;
- ... we love to hear them sing, pray, and speak along, and this is a great
setting to help them respond to church, to God, and to one another;
- ... you're free to step out of the service if you need to (both the men's and
women's restrooms have changing tables, and there's a cry-room
adjacent the restrooms as well); but please come back – we'd love for
you and for your children to feel at home in God's house!

To worship the God of Order in a fitting and orderly way (*1 Corinthians 14:33, 40*), our
path of worship is printed in this booklet. Today, we acknowledge with Christians
of all ages that God's promises are **"my joy and my heart's delight,"** (*Jeremiah 15:16*),
as we consider the worship theme :

First the Cross. Then the Crown.

Opening Song : Blessed Jesus, At Your Word (TEXT BELOW; NOTES IN BLUE HYMNAL, PG. 11)

This happy melody stirs hearts to worship the God who, by grace, has saved & speaks to us.

The Invocation

Jesus promises that when we gather in his name, he's here to bless and be with us.

Minister : In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

All : **Amen!**



Blessed Jesus, at your Word

We are gathered all to hear you.

Let our hearts and souls be stirred

Now to seek and love and fear you,

By your teachings, sweet and holy,

Drawn from earth to love you solely.

Oh, how I love your law!

I meditate on it all day long.

Your commands make me wiser than my enemies.

For they are ever with me.

I have more insight than all my teachers,

For I meditate on your statutes.

How sweet are your words to my taste,

Sweeter than honey to my mouth (*Psalm 119:97-99, 103*).



***All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded.
Till your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.***

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

The Acknowledgment of our Wrongs

Sin offends God. Always. Aware of our own sin, we ask him for his forgiveness.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work

(II Timothy 3:16, 17).

Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we humbly ask God for his forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



Gracious Savior, good and kind.

***Light from Light, from God, proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;***

Help us by your Spirit's pleading.

Hear the cry your people raises;

Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

*A moment of silence to recognize our own, individual sins
and our own, deep need for forgiveness.*

The Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Jesus lived, died, and rose to forgive the world's sins. In grace, you've been set free!

God gave his Word so "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (*John 20:31*). The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen!



***Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Praise to you and adoration!
Grant that we your Word may trust,
Confident of our salvation.
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing your praises yonder!***

The Prayer of the Day

This petition appreciates Jesus' full forgiveness and asks for his guidance and blessing.

Lord Jesus Christ, with your never-failing mercy, preserve and take care of all who trust in you. By your Spirit, help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation. Hear us as we pray in your name, fully confident that you do live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen!

A Childlike Illustration : God Makes us Strong

This illustration & devotion are geared for the children & child-like with us today.

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK

A Reading from the Gospels : Matthew 16:21-26 (translation : NIV84)

Jesus knows the reality that surrounds him : he will suffer, die & rise. The cross comes before the crown. Graciously our reality as his followers is the same: first the cross, then the crown!

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, **and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.**

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ **For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.** ²⁶ What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

This is the gospel of our Lord.

Praise be you, O Christ!

POINT TO PONDER :

In selfless love & perfect strength, Jesus puts himself first in regards to “the cross.” How does that truth encourage our hearts & lives?



Statement of Faith : The 2nd Article of the Apostles’ Creed & an Explanation

This statement of faith depicts and delights in the work of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, by which he has redeemed us; gladly, then, that gospel truth applies to our daily lives.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

A Reading from the New Testament : Romans 12:1-8

God, in absolutely amazing grace, doesn't call us to a life of suffering – but to a life of service. As we ponder his forgiveness and Call, we delight to endure crosses to his glory.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – **this is your true and proper worship.** ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be

transformed by the renewing of your mind. **Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.**

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, **but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.** ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ **We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.** If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

POINT TO PONDER :

Lives mindful of the cross aren't dampened in activity, they're enlivened for it – and blessed to do it! How does this section teach us that?

Sung Response : Speak, O Lord (*BLUE HYMNAL, 734*)

Gentle tune : profound truth! God speaks in a way that refreshes souls & directs lives.



***Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
To receive the food of your Holy Word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All your purposes for your glory.***



***Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail,
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.***

***Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, as your Church is built
And you fill the earth with your glory!***

The Sermon : Founded on Matthew 16:21-26

*The evidence of crosses in our lives does not negate God's care in our lives. Not at all.
Instead, even as we consider hardships, the good news strengthens us with faith to follow.*

THE CROWN IMPLIES THE CROSS

We so easily see the glory, but forget the cost involved in it. What other avenues in life is that perception evident?

In what ways do we tend to apply perception to Jesus? In what ways do we tend to imply that truth to our lives, too?

In what three ways can we talk about “the cross?”

Our lives aren’t easy; but Jesus has already won the crown for us. How does that truth impact our daily living?

What crosses has God called you to carry to his glory? How has he strengthened you to carry them?

GOD ACCEPTS OUR GIFTS AND PRAYERS

The Offering

Concerning the offering, the Lord says “each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (II Cor. 9:7); whether the Gospel moves your heart to support our ministry with a gift, a prayer, a help, or an encouragement – thank you; please know we appreciate you for it!

GOD INVITES US

The Lord's Prayer and our Prayer

God lovingly bids us to talk with him & lay our hearts before him in prayer. So, we do!

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.

*A moment to offer today's prayer requests &
a moment of silence to offer our own, private prayers.*

Lord Jesus, all this we ask in your name confident and glad that you hear us.

Amen!

GOD ASSURES US

Concluding Benediction

Where the LORD's name is, there his blessing also is. Refreshed by his goodness, gifts, and grace, our service concludes with his promise to bless and be with us (Numb. 6).

Sisters and brothers, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

Amen!

Final Song : Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly (*RED HYMNAL, 484*)

Happily, God calls us his children. And, gladly, we use what he's given to praise him for it!



***Brothers, sisters, let us gladly
Give to God our all, our best –
Service hearty, thorough, honest,
With a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving,
All our time to him belong;
Praise him, then, with true devotion;
Come before him with a song.***

***By his mercy, by his bounty,
By the gift of Christ, his Son,
What great goodness he has shown us,
What high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely,
Yield our bodies and our souls,***



***Thankful that his love protects us,
That his wisdom all controls.***

~ musical interlude ~

***Gracious Lord, accept our service
For the sake of Christ, your Son;
Lo, our hope abides now only
In the righteousness he won.
Bless and save us; help and guide us;
Watch to comfort and restore
Till in heav'n we rest rejoicing,
Praising you forevermore!***

Bay Pines' Ministry Announcements :

for our prayers :

- Tim Suttle, as he endures health hurdles
 - Peggy Graef, as she recovers from surgery
 - Cyndi Priebe, as she continues to battle cancer
 - Jim Riley, as he receives treatment for cancer
 - Richard Chamness (a relative of Kurt Heine) as he recovers from illness;
 - our ministry in church, school, & life as we go forth with the gospel!
- additionally, our sanctuary is open at 10:30a on Wednesdays for a midweek prayer-opportunity. Please speak with Chuck Woodard if you're interested, or if you have any prayer requests.

in our gratitude :

- Sarah Sell for edifying our worship with music
- the Priebe, Cicco, Cope, & Dryden families for cleaning & lawn-care
- Dan & Maria Buetzow for their tech support
- the Petersons for today's altar flowers in memory of Cherstin's parents
- all who help with Feeding God's People (the food is available in the altar kitchen & altar kitchen hallway just west of the sanctuary)
- all who make use of the SCRIP program to be a blessing for our ministry (for more info on SCRIP, please speak with Sarah Sell and/or Mary Dryden)

on our calendars (please email additional dates to mary.dryden@baypineslutheran.com) :

- worship opportunities:
 - Service recordings: Wednesdays at 2:30p
 - Saturdays at 7p
 - Sundays at 9:30a
- spiritual growth opportunities:
 - Ladies' Bible Class : Mondays at 6:30
 - The Pieces of Peace : Thursdays at 10a & Sundays at 8:30a
 - The current Meditations daily devotions are available
 - The current Forward in Christ magazines are available
- next council meeting : September 14
- **potential** congregational meeting : September 27
- next board of education meeting : October 6



*For being a part of
our ministry's life,
& for letting our
ministry be a part
of your life ...*

...thanks!