



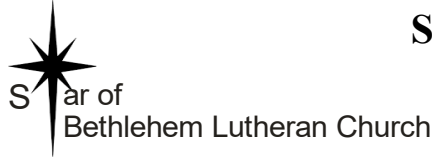
**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**"WHOEVER DOES NOT TAKE UP
THEIR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME
IS NOT WORTHY OF ME."**

MATTHEW 10:38



**NORTHWESTERN
PUBLISHING HOUSE**



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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, August 27, 2023 10:00 a.m.

The Presentation of the Augsburg Confession

June 25, 1530 God-fearing leaders took their stand for the gospel and presented their confession of faith before Emperor Charles V in Augsburg, Germany. Even more than October 31 this day marks the birth of the Lutheran Church. Centered in Christ and focused on the free gift of salvation by grace through faith, the Augsburg Confession continues to shape what we believe, teach, and confess today.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

Families are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

OUR MISSION

Our congregation exists for the purpose of "HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE." This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God's inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

OPENING HYMN: # 900 “Lift High the Cross”
(words from 1993 CW, # 579)

♪ **Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine.
Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

Please stand for last verse:

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory.
Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.** *(spoken)*

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love
and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and
deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess
our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth.
In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve
to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray:
Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me
from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect
life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed
your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you
strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

M: O Lord, favorably receive the prayers of your Church, that being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, we may always make a pure confession of your saving truth; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 55:6-11

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found!

Call on him while he is near!

⁷Let the wicked man abandon his way.

Let an evil man abandon his thoughts.
 Let him turn to the LORD, and he will show him mercy.
 Let him turn to our God, because he will abundantly pardon.
⁸Certainly my plans are not your plans,
 and your ways are not my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so my ways are higher than your ways,
 and my plans are higher than your plans.
¹⁰Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky
 and do not return there
 unless they first water the earth, make it give birth, and cause it
 to sprout,
 so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹in the same way my word that goes out from my mouth
 will not return to me empty.
 Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please,
 and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 119b

Refrain

Lord, you have the words of
 ev - er - last - ing life.

Psalm tone

*

Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees;*
 then I will keep them to the end.

Give me understanding, and I will keep your law*
 and obey it with all my heart.

**Direct me in the path of your commands,*
for there I find delight.**

Refrain

**Turn my eyes away from worthless things;*
preserve my life according to your Word.**

**Fulfill your promise to your servant,*
so that you may be feared.**

**How I long for your precepts!*
Preserve my life in your righteousness.**

**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.**

Refrain

Verse of the Day:

M: Alleluia. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever. Alleluia. (*1 Peter 1:24,25*)

C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SECOND LESSON: Romans 10:5-17

⁵Indeed, Moses writes this about the righteousness that comes by the law: “The one who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that comes by faith speaks like this: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring

Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith that we are proclaiming. ⁹Certainly, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and it is with the mouth that a person confesses, resulting in salvation. ¹¹For Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”

¹²So there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³Yes, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴So then, how can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one about whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵And how can they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news of peace, who preach the gospel of good things!”

¹⁶But not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who believed our message?” ¹⁷So then, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through the word of Christ.

HYMN: # 862 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

♪ **Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would seek to overthrow your Son
and to destroy what he has done.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, your pow’r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your Christendom that we
may sing your praise eternally.**

**O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life.**

SERMON: Matthew 10:32-39

(Prof. Wendland, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary)

³² “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn

“ ‘a man against his father,

a daughter against her mother,

a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

³⁷ “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

**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.

**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: # 872 “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

♪ **Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross;
lift high his royal banner, it must not suffer loss.
From vict’ry unto vict’ry his army shall he lead
till ev’ry foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.**

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the trumpet call obey;
forth to the mighty conflict in this his glorious day.
Ye that are brave, now serve him against unnumbered foes;
let courage rise with danger and strength to strength oppose.**

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer;
where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.**

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;
this day the noise of battle, the next, the victor’s song.
To him that overcometh a crown of life shall be;
he with the King of glory shall reign eternally.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty and eternal God, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son to take our place under the demands of the law and to endure the just punishment for our sins. For our sakes you accepted his sacrifice on the cross and raised him from death to glorious splendor.

C: Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

M: When the time had fully come, you bestowed your Spirit on your people as a testimony that you had called them to proclaim the gospel to every creature. Equipped and encouraged, they carried the Word of salvation into all the world.

C: The Lord reigns. Let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

M: When the time had fully come, you raised up your servants, the Lutheran reformers, to restore the pure and right teaching of the Scriptures to a troubled Church. You renewed your people with the light of your love, and your holy church grew and prospered throughout the world.

C: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

M: When the time had fully come, you made our forefathers bold to take their stand on the truth of your Word. You have blessed their sons and daughters and have enabled us to preserve and proclaim the saving gospel.

C: Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

M: Let this be a time, O Lord, when you renew us again by Word and sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of those who have gone before us.

C: May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us nor forsake us.

M: Let this be a time, O Lord, when we recommit and re-consecrate ourselves to the ministry of the gospel. Let us find joy in our unity, zeal for our work, and success in our labor.

C: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us, that his ways may be known on earth, his salvation among all nations. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

M: Brothers and sisters, 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.

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: # 874:1,2 “Preserve Your Word, O Savior”

♪ Preserve your Word, O Savior, to us this latter day,
and let your kingdom flourish;
enlarge your Church, we pray.
O keep our faith from failing, keep hope’s bright star aglow;
let nothing turn us from you while wand’ring here below.

Preserve your Word and preaching,
the truth that makes us whole,
the mirror of your glory, the pow’r that saves the soul.
Oh, may this living water, this spring of heav’nly grace,
sustain us while here living until we see your face.

WELS CONNECTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today’s service were given to the glory of God by Dolly & Cal in celebration of their anniversary and Dolly’s birthday.

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, little Elias, Dennis Douglas, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Molly Webb (and brother, Jim), Helen Marten, Doug Ward, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Roberta Gowin, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Louise Perry, Rylan Downs, Sam Daugherty, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Judy Washburn, and Jerry Yonke.

Perhaps even more than Luther's famous seal, the symbol VDMA placed around the cross is considered the symbol of the Lutheran Reformation. The four letters represent the motto VERBUM DEI MANET IN AETERUM: The Word of God endures forever.

