



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

To reflect God's love through caring service to our church, the community, and the world.

WELCOME STATEMENT

We welcome and encourage the full participation of all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, appearance, or anything else that threatens to divide us. We have all been claimed as God's children, and all are welcome here.

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

-Galatians 3:28

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Presiding Minister—Pastor Anne Andert
Organist/Choir Director—Cheryl Licary
AV Assistant—Milton Dodson

Assisting Minister—Michele Coldren
Communion Assistants—Betty Johnston and Terry Amundson
Communion Prep—Michele Coldren
Lector—Max Dodson
Greeter—Max Dodson
Ushers—Bill Frisbee, Nancy Schmidt, and Mark Sorenson

New Testament professor and pastor David Lose wrote,
“While writing *Making Sense of the Christian Faith* a few years ago,
I was surprised that what emerged as the unifying theme
of **all** Scripture was **God's profound interest in two kinds of
relationship:**

1. the relationship we have with God,
2. and the relationship we have with each other and creation.

You can't, of course, separate these two – that is, you can't claim
much of a relationship with God if your relationship with the people
around you stinks. “

Today we will unpack both the text from Romans 13 and Matthew 18,
to see how God gives us direction.

GATHERING

For personal prayer, you may find it helpful to turn to pages 72-87 (in the front of the hymnal).

PRELUDE

Please take a moment to fill out the yellow worship card, which will be collected during the gathering hymn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

With "noisy offering" for Kids Against Hunger.

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Congregation: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

**C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

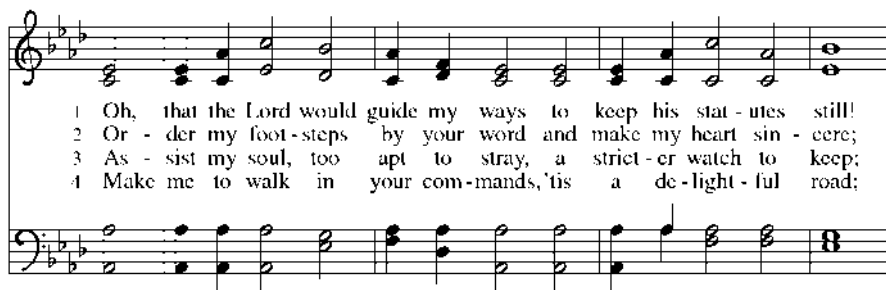
P: Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways—ELW 772



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870 Public Domain

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

PSALM 119:33-40

L: We read Psalm 119 responsively:

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way ¹ of your statutes,
and I shall keep it ¹ to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:8-14

L: A reading from Romans.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah—ELW 172



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON *The Problem with NICE Christians* Pastor Anne Andert

Nothing Is Critically Evaluated
which means

No one Is Challenged Effectively

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

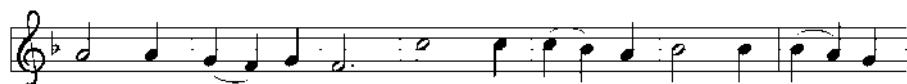
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling—ELW 631



- 1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling. Joy of heav'n, to
- 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
- 3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
- 4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
let us be: let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a-bove. pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place. till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYPERDOL, Rowland B. Prichard, 1811–1887

Public domain

APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

You may be seated for the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

A: Good and gracious God, you know how flawed we are, and still you love us unconditionally. We can't wrap our minds around that. And at the same time, we pray that you would shape our hearts and minds to love you and your people. Help us to love one another,

C: for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
(Romans 13:8)

A: Loving God, the scriptures tell us over and over again to love one another. You have said that alongside loving you, the greatest commandment is to love one another. Still, we struggle with that. We judge, we condemn, we ignore, we rebuke, we think more highly of ourselves than we ought... It is hard to humble ourselves and serve you and our neighbor. Help us to love one another,

C: for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

A: Creator God, you must weep at the many ways we have destroyed what you have created. We have polluted the land, the water, the air, even our food. Give us a clear understanding and help us to stand up against greed and corruption to protect what you have made. You told us, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

C: for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

P: Healing God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. Resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other. Hear the names we whisper before you, asking for healing. (pause) You told us, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

C: for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

P: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. In the strong name of Jesus' we pray.

C: Amen.

MEAL

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **and also with you.**

*Please greet one another, as you feel comfortable, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

Please be seated.

OFFERING

For online giving, simply scan QR code:

Offering is received as ushers pass the plate down each row. As we sing the Offertory, ushers bring offering forward.



Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING

As the Grains of Wheat

REFRAIN

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in-to one to be-come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre-a-tion shares this feast with you.

Refrain
Refrain

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OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Receive who you are;
Become what you've received:
The body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Communion. The bread is given first, then select either a small cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available; please ask the server. Empty cups are placed in the basket. Children may come forward for a blessing.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING ✙

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray... Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION ✚

SENDING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee—ELW 836



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise,
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee,
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

DISMISSAL

A: People of God, go in peace,

C: to do justice,

love kindness,

and to walk humbly with our God. (*Micah 6:8*)

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

KRINGLE FOR KIDS

Kringle orders can be picked up today after worship in the Commons.

YOUNG @ HEART

Join us for fellowship and lunch on **Thursday, September 10, from 12:00–2:00 pm**. We'll enjoy burgers, brats, and sides, followed by a special presentation about **Wisconsin** by Merla Bussan and Julie Rath. Please sign up on the sheet located on the counter **TODAY!**

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. — SEPTEMBER 13

Next week is God's work. Our hands. Sunday. Following worship we will package 15,000 meals for Kids Against Hunger. All hands are needed! We'll conclude with a simple lunch provided through a Thrivent Action Team.

RALLY DAY

Kick-off for the 2026-2027 season is **Sunday, September 13!** We will have our bouncy house open and outdoor games (weather permitting!) from 9:30-10:15 am. After the church service, all the children are invited to throw a pie a Miss Molly and then, the children are encouraged to participate in the meal packaging for Kids Against Hunger, beginning at 10:45 am.

Please register your children for the 2026-2027 season at www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/families.

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Will be held **Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17** this year! It's time to start collecting all those household treasures and jewelry (no clothing, please) for our annual sale!

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED

Catch Sunday services (9:30 am) on YouTube.
Links and bulletins: oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/worship.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	September 6	9:30am 10:30am 1:00pm	Worship Coffee Hour Televised Worship (Ch. 992)
Monday	September 7		Office Closed
Tuesday	September 8	9:00am 5:00pm	Staff Meeting Foundation
Wednesday	September 9	10:00am 2:00pm 5:00pm 5:30pm	Second Harvest Knit Wits Televised Worship (Ch. 992) Personnel (Zoom)
Thursday	September 10	9:30am 12:00pm 6:00pm	Rebekah Circle Young @ Heart OA
Saturday	September 12	9:00am	Board & All Committee Meeting
Sunday	September 13	9:30am 9:30am 10:30am 10:30am 11:00am 1:00pm 1:00pm	Worship Kids Connect Youth Connect Coffee Hour Kids Against Hunger-Packing Lunch—provided for all Televised Worship (Ch. 992)

Altar Flowers are given today by Cheryl Licary in loving memory of her grandson, Nico Licary. Today would have been his 6th birthday.

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church will occasionally take photographs and video of church activities, which may be used online, and in digital and print materials. Additionally, worship services are recorded, livestreamed, and broadcast on a weekly basis. By participating, authorization to publish any such photo or video is granted to Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT OUR SAVIOR'S

It is a joy to have you join us for worship. Wherever you are from, wherever you are in life or on your faith journey, we are glad you are here. Please fill out a Yellow Slip for attendance and prayer requests.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

We have large print bulletins and hearing enhancers for anyone who may need them, please see an usher for assistance.

STAY CONNECTED

749 Bluff Street, Beloit, WI 53511
(608) 362-0716
office@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org

SCRIPTURE

You may want to prepare for next Sunday by studying the scriptures.

- Genesis 50:15-21
- Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
- Romans 14:1-12
- Matthew 18:21-35



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ONLINE GIVING ►



God's work.
Our hands.

SEPTEMBER 13

Let's work together to
package 15,000 meals!

Kids Against Hunger.

ROCK COUNTY ROTARY, INC.
Local people making a world of difference.

Kids Against Hunger is a cooperative effort of the Beloit,
Edgerton, and Janesville Rotary Clubs.

Our Savior's
Lutheran Church