

508th ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - LCMS



SUNDAY THE 28TH OF OCTOBER 2025

10:00 A.M.

60 Broad St. Westfield, MA 01085 | 413-568-1417

Hand Chime Prelude: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Please stand and face the cross at the back of the sanctuary.

Processional Hymn No. 655: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Confession and Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am

heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

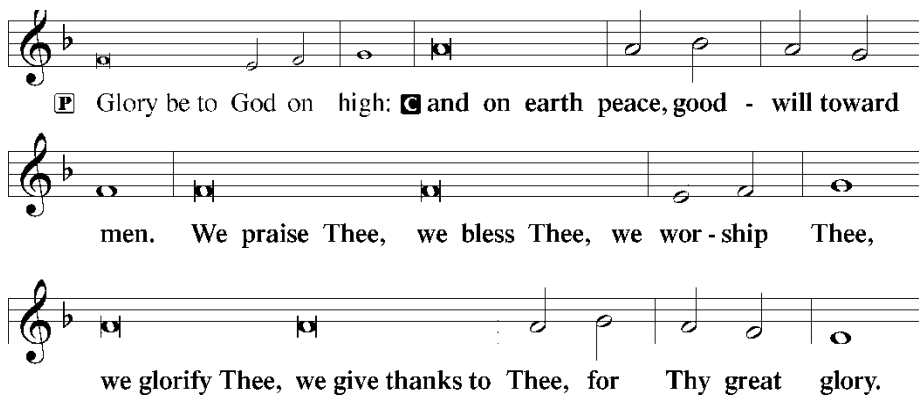
C: Amen.

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Exclesis



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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 Reading: Revelations 14:6-7

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: Romans 3:19-28

“Justified by faith”

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

The Gospel Processional

The Holy Gospel: *If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

John 8:31–36

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th chapter.



So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



The Gospel Recessional

The Nicene Creed

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Children's Sermon

Hymn of The Day No. 947: "All Glory Be to God on High"



1 All glo - ry be to God on high And thanks for all His
 2 We praise and laud and wor - ship You; We give You thanks for -
 3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son Be - got - ten of the
 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, our de - light And source of con - so -



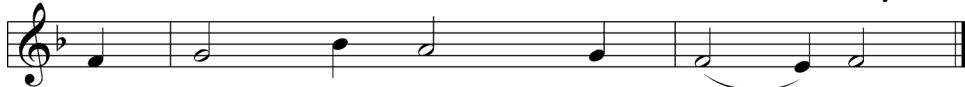
fa - vor; No harm can touch or ter - ri - fy A
 ev - er, O Fa - ther, for Your rule is true And
 Fa - ther, Your sav - ing death has made us one With
 la - tion, Pro - tect us from the dev - il's might Through



child of God for - ev - er. God shows His good and
 just and chang - es nev - er. With bound - less pow'r, Your
 God and with each oth - er. O Lamb of God, to
 Je - sus, our sal - va - tion, Who by His death up -



gra - cious will And grants His peace, the world to fill—
 might - y reign Ful - fills what - ev - er You or - dain.
 You on high In our dis - tress we sin - ners cry,
 on a tree Has res - cued us from mis - er - y:



All strife at last has end - ed.
 Lord, grant us ev - 'ry bless - ing!
 Have mer - cy on us, a - men!
 To this we hold for - ev - er.

Please be seated

The Sermon

Please stand

Choir Anthem: "Lord, Lead Us On" Joseph Martin

Offertory



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayers of the Church:

P: Let us pray to our God who has justified us by the work and grace of Jesus alone, that our faith may be strengthened and nourished by His Holy Word.

Holy Lord, You have given us Your Word as Your promise and washed us in Baptism to be Your own people and to live under You in Your kingdom, now and forever. Build us up in Christ, that we may hold the faith in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace as we give evidence of this faith in holiness of life. Reprove us when we are in error and reform what is lacking in us, that we may grow up into Christ, our head. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of grace, keep us steadfast in Your Word, and prevent our wayward hearts from following false gospels that lead us away from You. Provide Your Church with faithful pastors who preach in purity and joy, that we are saved by Your grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, heavenly Father, give wisdom and strength to all fathers in the home and Church. Make them faithful in teaching Your Word to the children entrusted to their care, that these little ones would come to know You as their heavenly Father and live as true children of God. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, when the nations are in uproar and kingdoms fall, teach us to be still and know that You are God. Guide all who govern us so that evil is thwarted, righteousness rewarded and all Your ways are upheld. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful Lord, hear our prayers for the sick, the joyful and those in any need [*especially* _____]. Answer their prayers, preserve them by Your promises and bring them safely through this world to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Father in heaven, give to all who approach Your altar this day repentant hearts and firm faith in the Savior's promises. Graciously prevent us from partaking to our judgment, and grant us reverently and joyfully to receive Christ's body and blood. Lord, in Your mercy,

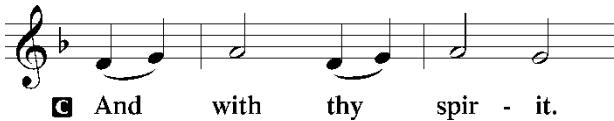
C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, we give You thanks for all Your servants who have departed this life in faith. We especially bless You today for the great reformers of Your Church who call us back to the Gospel and to the righteousness we have in Christ alone. Keep us in fellowship with them, and bring us at last to our heavenly home and the joy of seeing our Redeemer face to face; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

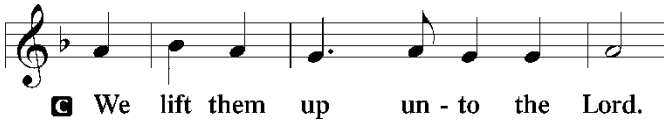
C: **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.



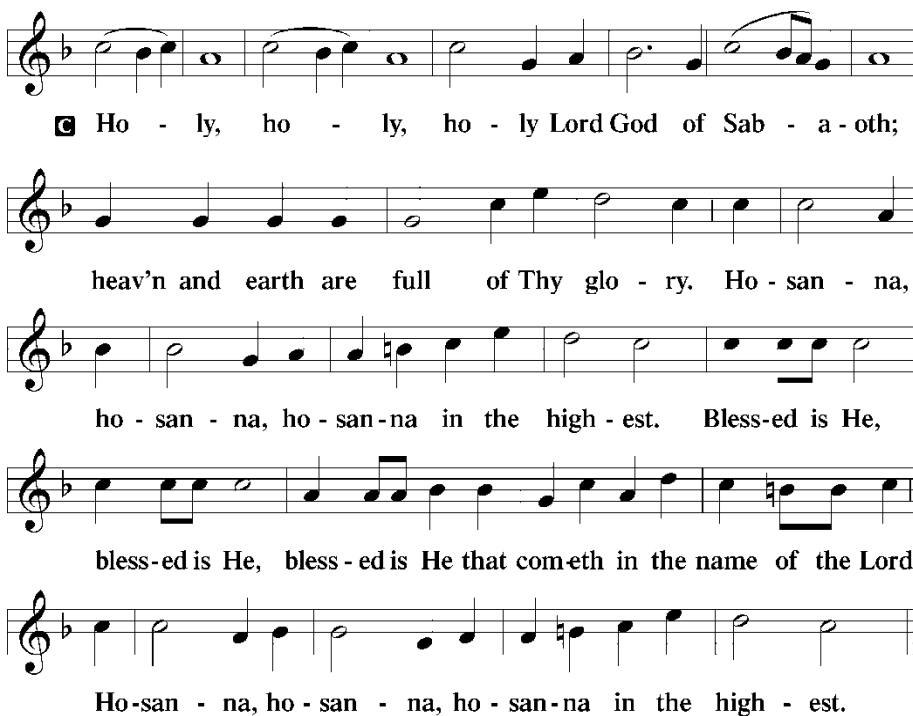
P: Lift up your hearts.



P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

The Words Of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to his disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

The Agnus Dei



C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



Please be seated

Regarding the Reception of the Lord's Supper

At Saint John's we believe, teach, and confess according to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions that in the Lord's Supper we receive not merely bread and wine, but the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. This Holy Supper is not only a gift of Christ, but also a confession of the faith and doctrine confessed at this altar. Because Holy Scripture warns that those who eat and drink unworthily do so to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), and because communing together is also an expression of unity in doctrine and confession, we joyfully invite to the Lord's Table all confirmed members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) who are in good standing with their home congregation, who have been instructed and who publicly confess this faith. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation, we are thankful for your presence today and warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor approaches. Following the service and in the coming week, our pastors would be glad to speak with you about the Lord's Supper and to share more about what we believe, teach, and confess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod."

The Distribution

Communion Hymn No. 578: "Thy Strong Word"



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we -
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
 Alleluia, alleluia!

May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

Please stand

Thanksgiving

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

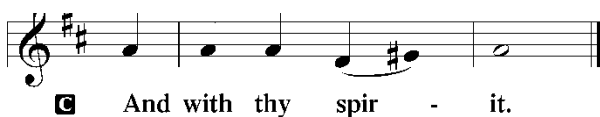
P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

† SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Bless we the Lord.



† BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

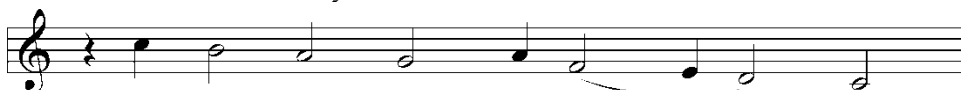
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.



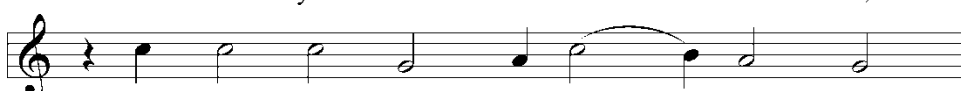
RECESSIONAL HYMN No. 656: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
 Soon were our loss ef - fect ed;
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain



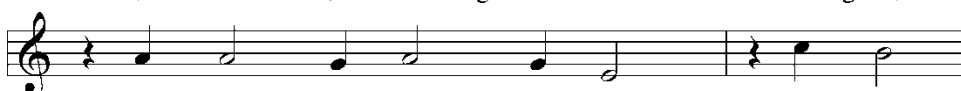
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
 Whom God Him - self e - lect ed.
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us,
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



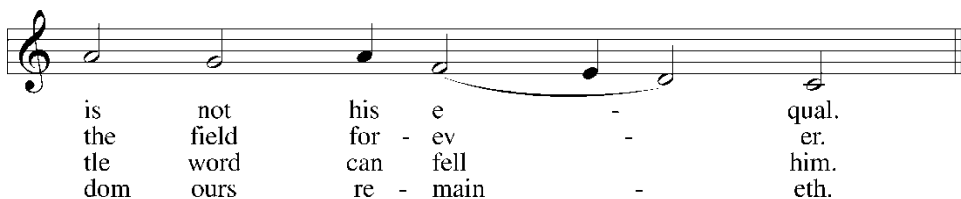
The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
 as he will, He can harm none.
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



Dismissal

P: Go in Reformation peace and joy serving the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

FALL FEAST TAKE-OUT DINNER will be on November 7th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The menu is bratwurst, pulled pork, hot dog, German potato salad, sauerkraut, red cabbage, pickled beets, rye bread, and dessert. The cost is \$15.00. For reservations, call the church at 568-1417 or Jane McClure at 562-0492. Please leave your name, how many meals, and what time you would like to pick them up.

RADIO MINISTRY: There are many Sundays coming up that are available for sponsorship. Please help in the continuing outreach mission project of our Radio Broadcast of Sunday morning Worship. Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN (560 AM). The cost for the program is \$125 per week. If you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast (or a part of a broadcast) in memory of or in honor of anyone, please call the church or sign up on the sheet outside the office door. Donations of any amount are welcome.

ONE CALL AWAY VETERANS SUPPORT CENTER

The WINGS group will be collecting items that will be donated to this local veteran's organization in Agawam.

The items needed are: Shampoo, Body Wash, Individually Wrapped Soap, Shaving Cream, Men's/Women's Deodorant, Disposable Razors, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Multi-vitamins, Vitamin C, Airborne, Low Dose Aspirin (81 mg), Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent, Tash Bags, Individually Wrapped Toilet Paper, and Individually Wrapped Paper Towels.

Food Items: Coffee, Tea, Non-Dairy Creamer, Sugar (Granulated/Brown), Salt, Pepper, Spices (Garlic, Onion, Oregano, etc) Ketchup, Mustard, Relish, Mayonnaise, Pickles, Olives, Gravy, Cake Mixes, Bread Mixes, Brownie Mixes, Frosting, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Jams, Jelly, Jello, Oatmeal, Granola Bars, Cookies, Soups, and Spaghetti Sauce.

You can leave your donations in the church office. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Under New Management

When a business such as a restaurant changes ownership, we may see a sign that reads, "Under New Management." The restaurant will often change the menu, the service, and even the décor. The old restaurant is hardly recognizable. So it is with our lives in Christ. St. Paul writes, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). In essence, we live under new management. The old godless person is hardly recognizable as the new person in Jesus is created. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). God is now in control of

our lives. We have a new Father, master and a new purpose: to live for Christ.

Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord of the world, alone meets our needs perfectly. His love, given as He sacrificed Himself for the world conquering death and sin, is the “drawing power”—drawing us away from selfish desires and sinful habits and pulling us to real peace and joy in Christ. His love changes the direction of our lives from self to Him Who has made and redeemed us all. Living for Christ allows no room for self-love that denies the priority of God and of service to others both within and outside our congregation. The compelling love of Christ pulls us away from a gratification of our old nature and of sinful desires or of seeking security in earthly things and human ingenuity and strength.

God’s love is the energizing power so essential to every life. Christ’s love summons us to a secure and joyful life of repentance, forgiveness, and fruitful service. Indeed, “Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died” (2 Corinthians 5:14 NIV). Under Christ’s new management, we “no longer live for [ourselves] but for Him Who died and was raised” (2 Corinthians 5:15). As new people in Christ, we see our blessings as gifts from God that are to be used to serve Him by loving and serving others.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we recognize our time, talents, and treasures as tools to be used in ways to advance God’s kingdom. We do not wear signs that read, Under New Management, but our thoughts, deeds, and purpose give evidence to the new management. We have new attitudes and new actions.

Stewardship Thought

Who Is in Control?

There is a familiar saying that says, “The more you own the more it owns you.” Haven’t you found that to be true? The more things we have, the more we are consumed with taking care of those things, and, before we know it, it is possible to get to the point where those things own us. We can become slaves to things of this world. Jesus tells us, *“Where your treasure is there your heart will be also”* (Matthew 6:21). When all is said and done, there is only one life preserver in this world, and it is not a material thing. It is a person, Jesus, the Son of God, Who died an awful death on a cross, so that, through His standing in our place to earn our forgiveness, you and I can receive forgiveness and an eternal security for the future of our lives. Only Jesus can break the grip that money and things can have on us.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for blessing me with so many things. Grant me wisdom to keep things in their proper perspective. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

Blessings on your journey as a steward!

