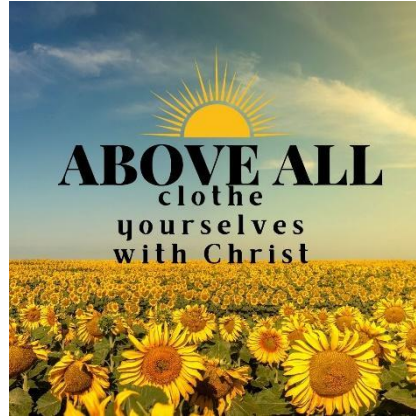


**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**July 21, 2024 9 AM**

**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**“The Clothing of Generosity”**



**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Creator God, you give us life, and we thank you!

**Risen Christ, you bless us with your grace, and we praise you!**

Holy Spirit, you give us the power to create and to work, to love and to bless.

**You have given us such rich and wonderful gifts!**

**We come to you joyfully, grateful for your generosity**

Earth is generous with food and air, with color and beauty.

**You are generous with grace and blessing, with love and grace.**

Teach us, God, how to be generous.

Tell us again the story of your grace, so that we may become a part of it.

**Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, and transform us by your grace. Alleluia!**

**OPENING HYMN *Kyrie Eleison***

*Refrain:* Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;  
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

2 That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;  
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

3 For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;  
for life and for love, for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

4 For your spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the word;  
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

### **GREETING**

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

### **OPENING LITANY**

We are God's beloved people!

**Called to lives of kindness, humility and compassion.**

We are God's beloved people!

**Called to lives of generosity and service**

We are sent out into the world to share the gifts we have been given freely and abundantly

**We are called to wear the clothing of generosity with our hearts and our lives.**

Let us worship the God who binds everything together in perfect harmony!

**We worship the God who calls us beloved and clothes us in love! Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: **God of abundance, we give thanks every time we remember your goodness.**

**Teach us to respond to your love with faithfulness and generosity. Keep us mindful of your blessings, and especially the blessing of wholeness and salvation that you offer us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

### **FIRST READING Acts 4:32-35**

<sup>32</sup> Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

<sup>6</sup> The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written,

“He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor;

his righteousness endures forever.”

<sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, <sup>12</sup> for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many

thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup> Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, <sup>14</sup> while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL READING Mark 12:38-44**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup> As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces <sup>39</sup> and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup> They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

<sup>41</sup> He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup> Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup> For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SONG *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* #836**

Vs. 1: Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Vs. 2: All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Vs. 3: Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

### **SERMON**

#### **SONG *Give Thanks***

Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son *Repeat*

And now let the weak say I am strong. Let the poor say I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done for us. *Repeat*  
Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son *Repeat*

And now let the weak say I am strong. Let the poor say I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done for us. *Repeat*  
Give thanks

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

**PRAYERS:** Generous God, **hear our prayer.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERING RESPONSE**

Our God, Creator and Sustainer of all life

**instructs us to give generously and cheerfully.**

We come, sharing the funds, time, and gifts God has given us

**cheerfully and without hesitation or pressure,**

Trusting that in our upside-down life of the Gospel,

**our wealth is measured not by what we have but what we give away.**

We give joyfully as an act of our faith trusting you great God,

**to bless your church, your people, and your creation through our giving. Amen.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

**DISTRIBUTION:** *Communion will be served at two stations: one in the front and one in the parking lot. Go to whichever station is most convenient. It can also be brought to you in your chair or in your car.*

*Communion is served in pre-filled cups. Both wine and grape juice are available. Grape Juice is marked. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. All are welcome to this feast of God's grace!*

### **POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**Amen.**

Let us pray: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Go in peace and love and care for another in the name of the Lord;  
and may God lead you to places of rest and renewal;  
may Christ Jesus give you life in abundance;  
and may the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with gladness and generosity,  
both now and forevermore.

**Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN *Pass It On***

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;  
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it;  
You spread His love to ev'ryone, you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,  
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;  
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it;  
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found  
You can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound;  
I'll shout it from the mountaintop, I want my world to know:  
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Altar Flowers today are given by Don and Jeanette Priebe in honor of their 52<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary.**

**Last week's Altar Flowers were given by Merv and Ann Sletten in honor of their 48<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.**

# Announcements

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS TOMORROW!** Join us each evening Monday-Thursday from 5-8 PM for stories, songs, games, and fun! There is something for ALL ages, including an adult Bible Study. Supper begins at 5 PM. Registration forms are available at the usher's table and can also be filled out on the first night of VBS. You can also call or email the church office to sign up. Next week, we will celebrate VBS with a special service with St. Paul and Our Saviour's held at St. James. VOLUNTEERS are also still needed. Please talk to Pastor Jeni or Kathy Grant if you would like to help! *We are blessed to provide VBS for free to community youth. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please place it in the offering plate or drop it off. Mark your check or envelope "VBS donation."* Thank you!!

**YOUTH GATHERING FUNDRAISER STOCKS** are still available for purchase. Four St. James Youth and one adult attended the New Orleans gathering this week. Stocks are \$10. Stockholders will be invited to a Stockholder's dinner later this summer where you will hear more about their trip.

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS:** On October 12, we will be sending school kits to Lutheran World Relief. Stores are already selling school supplies so it is a good time to get them on sale! We need 70-page spiral notebooks, rulers with centimeters on one side and inches on the other, pencil sharpeners, blunt scissors, unsharpened pencils, blue or black ink pens, boxes of 24 crayons, 2 ½ inch erasers. Items can be placed in the brown baskets in the narthex or in the plastic bin inside the gym door. Thank you for your contributions! ~WELCA Mission Action Team

**Mark your calendar for our Church Garage Sale** which will take place from August 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>! More details to come!

## **THIS WEEK**

Mon-Thurs.	5-8PM	Start the Party! Vacation Bible School
Tuesday	9AM	Do Days
Wednesday	7AM	Men's Breakfast
Next Sunday	9AM	Joint Worship with Start the Party VBS Closing Celebration