

The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and given
in celebration of Tim Zuschin's service as assistant choir director, by the Chancel Choir

Music—One License A-731491

Clergy & Staff

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister

Howard Pippin, Associate Minister

Marvin Brown, Senior Minister Emeritus

Marie Willis, Director of Music & Worship

Eric Charnofsky, Organist & Accompanist

Donna Curfman, Director of Children's Ministries

Jennifer Brooks, Director of *Weekday Christian Preschool*

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THE KINGDOM OF GOD
Sunday, August 24, 2025

But our citizenship is in heaven,
and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Philippians 3:20

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

August 24, 2025

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude - *Little Prelude in C Minor*—Cesar Franck

Call to Worship—

The kingdom of heaven is hidden in plain sight

Like a great treasure buried in a field

Let us open our eyes, our hearts, our lives

To discover God's reign among us.

Opening Hymn 139**—*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Invocation (please be seated)—

Almighty God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Scripture Reading - Matthew 13:44-46

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem—*Grace Alone*—arr. Tom Fettke

Summer Choir

God's Word for Young Disciples

Sermon—*"Extraordinary Grace"*

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The People of God respond to the Word.

Hymn of Response 402**—*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory—*Adagio Cantabile*—George F. Gear

Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of the People/The 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. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith.

Closing Hymn 382**—*Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

Benediction—*Shalom to You* (Hymn 666)

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude—*I Will Give Thanks*—Charles Gounod

**Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

Hymn #139, Praise to the Lord, Thee Almighty

1. Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, the King of creation.
O my soul, praise him,
for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-
drously reigning bears thee on eagle's wings,
e'er in his keeping maintaining.
God's care enfolds all, whose true good he up-
holds. Hast thou not known his sustaining?
3. Praise to the Lord,
who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness
and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.
4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life
and restore thee, fitting thee well for the tasks
that are ever before thee. Then to the need God
as a mother doth speed, spreading the wings of
grace o'er thee.

5. Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #402, Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1. Lord I want to be a Christian
In my heart, in my heart
Lord I want to be a Christian
In my heart (in my heart)
In my heart (in my heart)
In my heart (in my heart)
Lord I want to be a Christian
In my heart (in my heart)
2. Lord I want to be more loving
In my heart, in my heart
Lord I want to be more loving
In my heart (in my heart)
In my heart (in my heart)
In my heart (in my heart)
Lord I want to be more loving
In my heart (in my heart)
3. Lord I want to be more holy
In my heart, in my heart
Lord I want to be more holy in my heart...
4. Lord I want to be like Jesus
In my heart, in my heart
Lord I want to be like Jesus in my heart....

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn #382, Have Thine Own Way, Lord

1. Have thine own way, Lord! Have
thine own way!
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still.
2. Have thine own way, Lord! Have
thine own way!
Search me and try me, Savior today!
Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just
now,
as in thy presence humbly I bow.
3. Have thine own way, Lord! Have
thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me I pray!
Power, all power, surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!
4. Have thine own way, Lord! Have
thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!

BENEDICTION

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's
full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living
and through your loving, Christ be your shalom,
Christ be your shalom.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR:

In our community:

We lift up students, teachers & staff returning to school.

In our Greater world:

We pray for peace.

Our Deepest Sympathy & Prayers:

To the family of member,
Ann Niemann who passed away on 8/2.

To the family of member,
Pamela Wilson who passed away on 8/5.

From our Congregation:

Scott Adie
Bob Ahonen
Joanne Ames
Debbie
Amundsen
Rick
Amundsen
Mary Ellen
Atwood
Jim Bailey
Dorothy
Bates
Suzanne
Callahan
Melanie
Chaney
Rosalie
Goshen
Mary Griest
Flora Howell
Tom Jackson

Dwight Konic
Vince Meeker
Raquel
Mehalik
Becky Pecko
Robbie
Robinson
Holly Ross
Kathi Sawyer
Todd
Schneider
Jim Yates
Mike Yeager
Peg Yeager
Rose Ann
Youngkin

Mountaintops

Mountaintop experiences can bias our thinking about experiencing God

vs. 44, 45 – God’s kingdom seems hidden, as a treasure in a field or one pearl among many

One Man’s Treasure...

The treasures of God’s reign on Earth are breaking into our daily lives

Extraordinary grace is found in our very ordinary lives

Questions for Reflection:

Where in your life right now does God’s presence feel hidden? Can you recall a time when you unexpectedly discovered God’s grace or presence in an everyday situation?

Questions for Discussion:

Jesus describes people joyfully giving up everything to gain the treasure/ pearl. What would it “cost” in your life to reorient your priorities around God’s kingdom?

Memory Verse:

1 Kings 19:12 – “but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.”

Readings for this Week:

1 Kings 19:1-12, Psalm 104:1, 14-15, Luke 17:20-37

Rally Day: Rally Day will be Sunday, September 14. We will return to our regular worship hours (8:30am and 10:45am) and Sunday School for all ages (9:30am).

Picnic: The *Church Square* Picnic will follow the 10:45am worship service on September 14. First UMC is in charge of bringing “sides.” Please bring a dish to share. We will be collecting a free-will offering for the Christmas lights display for *Church Square*.

Annual Book Sale: Mark your calendars for the UMW annual Book Sale this Fall - the week of Oct. 23. We are looking for used adult & children’s books, puzzles, games, & DVDs. Please hold your donations until the week of the sale. Thank you!

Fall Women’s Bible Studies: All women of the church and community are invited to join the Women's Bible Studies when they begin in September. There are two options: *Tuesdays from 7 to 9pm* - The study will be "One in a Million" by Priscilla Shirer. The study is 7 weeks and begins on Tuesday, September 16. The cost of the book is \$17. Please sign up by Sept. 3. *Wednesdays from 10am to noon*-This group will study "Ruth" by Kelly Minter. The study is also 7 weeks, beginning on Wednesday, September 24. The book will be provided at no cost for those who sign-up by Wednesday, September 3. See the sign-up at the Welcome center, or call or stop by the church office to register.

Choirs Resume: Our choirs will begin their rehearsals shortly! Chancel choir will meet on 9/4 at 6:30pm. Chancel Ringers will meet on 9/17 at 5:45pm. Epworth choir’s first meeting will be 9/7 at 5:45pm, bells will follow at 7pm (parent meeting @4pm, activities/snack @5pm). Children’s Bells & Choir will meet on 9/17 beginning at 4:30pm.

Acme Community Cash Back: Please save your Acme receipts for *Work Camp*. There will be a container to collect them at the *Welcome Center*. Receipts must be intact, dated August 1, 2025-February 15, 2026, and have “Community Cash Back” on the bottom. Thank you for your support!