

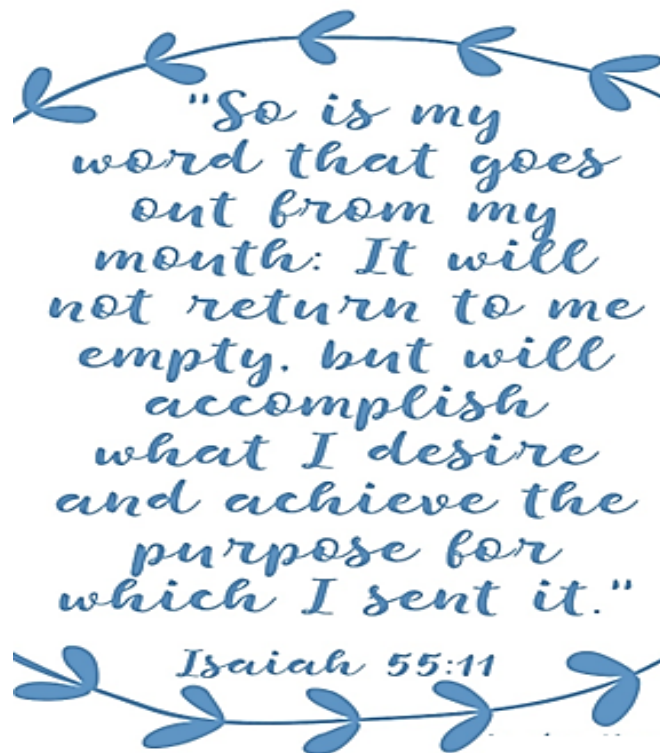
Bay Pines Lutheran

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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If you'd like to connect with one of our ministers, please don't hesitate to give them a call/text/email at your convenience; they'd consider it a blessing to meet with you. Thanks!

Proclaiming Christ in Pinellas County

The Sixth Weekend after Pentecost

July 15 & 16, 2023

In the name of Jesus, our Savior & Lord, welcome!
Whether it's your first time with us or Bay Pines is
your church home, we're glad you're here. If you :



- . . . have questions, please ask – we'll do our best to answer;
- . . . need the restrooms, they're in the hallway just off the north-east corner of our sanctuary (facing the altar up front, look left and back);
- . . . can stick around after worship, we'd love to get to know you;
- . . . would like a call from our staff, **please fill out our *connect card*** in the pew and leave it in the offering plate. We'll be in touch!

If you brought young children today, thank you! Please know :

- . . . we love to hear them sing, pray, and speak along, and this is a great setting to help them respond to church, to God, and to one another;
- . . . their wiggles don't bother us (nor do their wiggles bother Jesus!);
- . . . you can sit up front where little eyes and ears can see and hear;
- . . . both the men's and women's restrooms have diaper-changing stations, and there's a cry-it-out room adjacent the restrooms as well;
- . . . we love that each of you is here, and it's a blessing to serve you!

Our path of worship is printed in this booklet. Today, in glad response for all that our God is, does, and says, we slow down to consider ***"the Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it"*** (Deuteronomy. 30:14). As we do, we consider the worship theme:

His Word at Work

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Opening Song : O Word of God Incarnate *(BLUE HYMNAL, 642)*

In divine majesty and delightful mercy, Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate. As this hymn ponders the depth of that reality, it rejoices in the good grace of the Word!



***O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky,
We praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.***

***The Church, from you, dear Master, received the gift divine,
And still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,
Mid mists and rocks and quick-sands still guides, O Christ, to you.***

***O make your Church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold
To bear before the nations your true light, as of old.
O teach your wand'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.***

GOD GATHERS US

The Invocation

Jesus promises that when we gather in his name, he's here to bless and be with us.

Minister : In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

All : Amen!

GOD CONFRONTS US & COMFORTS US

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Acknowledgment of our Wrongs

Sin offends God. Always. Aware of our own sin, we ask him for his forgiveness.

**Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful,
And that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I
deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly
sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray :
Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*A moment of silence to recognize our own, individual sins
and our own, deep need for forgiveness.*

The Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Jesus lived, died, and rose to forgive the world's sins. By his grace, you're set free!

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins! Therefore, as a called

servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

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

Sung Response : Glory Be to God (PAGE 16 IN THE FRONT OF THE RED HYMNAL)

*This sung statement of faith adores the God who lives and reigns on high and over all.
The Christ – the Lord, our Lord! – bless us to know and enjoy his grace and peace!*



***Glory be to God on high,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men.***

***We praise you, we bless you, we worship you;
We glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory,
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father almighty.***

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

***O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.***

***For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
Are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen!***

The Prayer of the Day

This petition appreciates our living Lord's happy blessings & asks for his continued care.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits of faith and hope and love. Bless us to do so through Jesus Christ, our Savior; with you and the Father, he lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen!

GOD SPEAKS TO US

A Reading from the New Testament : I Corinthians 3:5-11

The messenger is always just that – just one who relays the message. The real meaning – the real beauty and majesty! – is the Message that sinners are saved by grace!

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ **So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.** ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according

TAKE HOME TRUTH

A ministry cannot have a sinner as its fixation & focus. It simply must be about God's Word. How does this section teach that?

to their own labor. ⁹ For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹ **For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

This is God's Word!

A Reading from the Gospels : Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Jesus is a masterful teacher with such vivid illustrations. In this earthly story about scattering seed, he teaches the divine truth of the God who is at work through his Word.

The gospel according to Matthew chapter 13.

Glory be to you, O Lord!

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: **"A farmer went out to sow his seed.** ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds

TAKE HOME TRUTH

With parables, it's important we don't read into what isn't there. Just let Jesus speak! And, when he does, what does he teach us here?

came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ **Whoever has ears, let them hear.**”

¹⁸ “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ **But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.** This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

This is the gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

GOD UNITES US

Statement of Faith : The Nicene Creed

This polemic (“attacking”) creed defends against false doctrines that attack Jesus’ total Deity & total humanity. As we state our faith, note the “God for us always” emphasis.

Christians, in whom do we believe?

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sung Response : Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening (*RED HYMNAL, 283*)

Just....listen. Such a simple task, and such a marvelous lesson for us to learn. Happily, this hymn sits at the feet of the Master Teacher and gladly hears what he has to say.



*Speak, O Savior; I am list'ning,
As a servant to his lord.
Let me show respect and honor
To your holy, precious Word,
That each day, my whole life through,
I may serve and follow you.
Let your Word e'er be my pleasure
And my heart's most precious treasure.*

*Oh, what blessing to be near you
And to listen to your Voice!
Let me ever love and fear you;
Let your Word still be my choice.
Many hardened sinners, Lord,
Flee in terror at your Word,
But to all who feel sin's burden
You give peace and words of pardon.*

*Lord, your words are waters living,
Where I quench my thirsty needs.
Lord, your words are bread life-giving;
On your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, your words will be my light
Through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing
And my cup of joy unfailing.*



*As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;
Let your words in me take root.
May your Spirit e'er be near me
That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing your praise,
From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given
In the endless joy of heaven!*

A Sermon Founded on : Isaiah 55:1-11

Look at the joy and confidence, the invitation and thrill in God's Word here. So stunning. So special. And marvel at how he stirs hearts to adore him. By his Word at work!

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. ² Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. ³ Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. ⁴ See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples.

⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.”

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.
⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our
God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my
ways,” declares the LORD.

⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher
than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ As the rain
and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without
watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed
for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that goes out
from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I
desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

THE WORD WORKS!

- 1) LIKE RAIN FROM ABOVE
- 2) TO ALWAYS ACCOMPLISH GOD’S PURPOSE

Sung Response : Create in Me a Clean Heart (PG. 20 IN THE FRONT OF THE RED HYMNAL)

*The sacrifices we’re oh-so blessed to bring include our prayers, our praise, and our
thanksgiving. With King David (Psalm 51), this hymn offers the offering acceptable.*



***Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
And uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen!***

GOD ACCEPTS OUR GIFTS AND PRAYERS

The Offering (THANKS FOR USING THE AISLE-BASKET FOR PHYSICAL OFFERINGS, AND THE QR CODE FOR DIGITAL)

Concerning the offering, the Lord says “each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (II Cor. 9:7); whether the Gospel moves your heart to support our ministry with a prayer, a help, an encouragement, or a gift of some sort – thank you; please know we appreciate you for it!



A note to worshippers about the practice of “Member Communion” :



Rejoice: the world’s sins are forgiven in the Gospel! God’s Word announces that special truth to the entire world; and that’s what the Bible means when it says this good news is “for everyone.”

Realize: the same God says something different in his Supper. In it, instead of every heart, he invites the examined heart (I Cor. 11:27-32).

Relate: the pill bottle. Every prescription lists these specific details: *physician, ingredients, recipients, directions for use, & warnings against misuse.* In love, God lists the very same in connection to his Supper – and that’s what we’d love to *examine* together.

Respect : it’s his Supper. Because it’s his directive, and because we love him and you, let’s study it together and celebrate his Supper as he intends. Please contact Pastor Stern; he’d love study God’s Prescription with you. **Thanks!**

The Lord’s Prayer and our Prayer

God lovingly invites us to talk with him & lay our hearts before him; in prayer, we do!

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.

*A moment to offer today's prayer requests &
a moment of silence to offer our own, private prayers.*

GOD INVITES US

The Sacrament

Happily, we celebrate God's grace, ponder his peace, receive his Supper with thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven,
we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Sung Response : The Sanctus (FROM PAGE 22 IN THE FRONT PART OF THE RED HYMNAL)

With ancient accolades (Is. 6 & Matt. 21) we glorify the Holy (“Sanctus”) One: Jesus.



Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts:

Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he

Who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

The Consecration, Distribution, and Reception of the Lord’s Supper

*These Words of Institution are not a magical formula. They serve a **prayer** that God do as promised; as a **confession** that Christ’s body and blood are present as promised; and as an **invitation** for communicants to hold Jesus’ promise close through faith.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, **“Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, **“Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen!

Sung Response : The Agnus Dei (FROM PAGE 23 IN THE FRONT PART OF THE RED HYMNAL)

Jesus is the Lamb of God ("Agnus Dei"); so we plead to and praise him for his mercy.



***O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.***

***O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.***

***O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us your peace. Amen.***

Distribution Hymns : Just As I Am (RED HYMNAL, 397)

Sent Forth by God's Blessing (RED HYMNAL, 318)

These hymns marvel at the depth of God's love and the power of God's Word. Invited by his grace, refreshed in his forgiveness, we're strengthened to listen to and live for him.

Sung Response : Nunc Dimittis (FROM PG. 24 IN THE FRONT PART OF THE RED HYMNAL)

Nunc Dimittis is Latin for now let us depart. Reassured of God's blessings and confident of his care, we, like Simeon of old (Luke 2:29), sing of our God's greatness.



***Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace
According to your Word.***

***For my eyes have seen your salvation,
Which you have prepared before***



***The face of all people,
A light to lighten the Gentiles
And the glory of your people Israel.***

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

And his mercy endures forever!

Almighty God, you have refreshed us with this holy supper. Thank you! We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord; he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen!

GOD ASSURES US

Concluding Benediction

Where the LORD's name is, there his blessing also is. Refreshed by his goodness, gifts, and grace, our service concludes with his promise to bless and be with us (Numbers 6).

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.

Amen!


Final Song : God's Word is our Great Heritage (*BLUE HYMNAL, 640*)

What we have and enjoy is a precious thing: God's own Word – the changeless in a changing world. And, by his grace alone, we remain on it as our heritage and hope!




***God's Word is our great heritage
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way,
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations!***

† † †



*"So is my
word that goes
out from my
mouth: It will
not return to me
empty, but will
accomplish
what I desire
and achieve the
purpose for
which I sent it."*

Isaiah 55:11



Bay Pines' Ministry Announcements :

for our prayers (please remember the family of these dear friends, too) :

- for the joy of the gospel ministry we've been given
- those in our church family who endure their various health-aches
- those in our church family who are blessed to be traveling

in our gratitude :

- Maria Buetzow, for edifying our worship with music
- Pastor Dave Priebe, for sharing the joy of God's Word with us
- today's offering counters : Buetzow [next week: Bittinger/Pustelnik]
- all who help with the food pantry [contact 808.457.9703 for more info]

on our calendars (please email additional dates to office@baypineslutheran.com) :

**to stay most current on ministry happenings and to receive our weekly updates, please email news@baypineslutheran.com*

- **spiritual growth opportunities :**
 - worship : Saturdays at 6:00p & Sundays at 9:30a

*Friends, thank you for joining us today.
If it's been a while since you've been to
your church home, maybe it's time you go back.
If you don't have a church home or a pastor who
will visit you, please feel free to reach out to us.
We would be blessed to listen to you and
be privileged to serve your spiritual needs.*



baypineslutheranchurch.org
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sundays at 9:30a
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