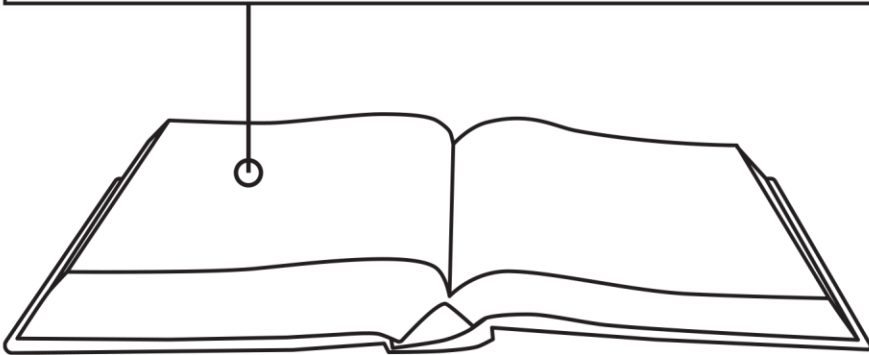


# Define: Christian



**THE CHRISTIAN LIVES AS WHEAT AMONG THE WEEDS**

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

# **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI**

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*July 23 & 24, 2023*

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Paul's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news of God's forgiveness through Jesus.

## **PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP**

Father in heaven, by your mercy you have planted me in your field as wheat and have tended and cared for me until this day. But, Lord, the days are evil and my resolve can wane. I grow angry, tired, and can want retribution now. Forgive my lack of patience, Lord, as I await your return and the harvest at the end, and today open my eyes to ways I can live as wheat among the weeds as you call me to do. In your Son's name I pray. Amen.

## **FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

Children's activity sheets are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. The church basement is also available with a live feed of the worship service along with a Kids' Corner for parents with children to utilize during the service if needed.

## **THANK OFFERING**

You may leave your offering in the plate in the lobby. The QR code to the right will provide the link to our online giving option. If you're visiting with us today you are welcome to give an offering, but don't feel compelled by guilt or embarrassment to do so. God wants all offerings to be made freely and with joy.



# THE COMMON SERVICE

*The Common Service is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church. As with all of our liturgies, its purpose is to focus us on the good news of forgiveness and to build us up in Christ.*

## OPENING HYMN

*Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray* | 472



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a -  
2 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de -  
3 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you  
4 But while watch - ing al - so pray To the Lord un -



wak - en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a -  
feat you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be -  
tri - fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's  
ceas - ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and



wares o'er - tak - en. For the foe, Well we know, Is a  
tray and cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less  
mer - cy sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your  
faith in - creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.  
friends to charm you Who but seek to harm you.  
hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.  
nite to serve him And for - ev - er love him.

*please stand*

## INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.



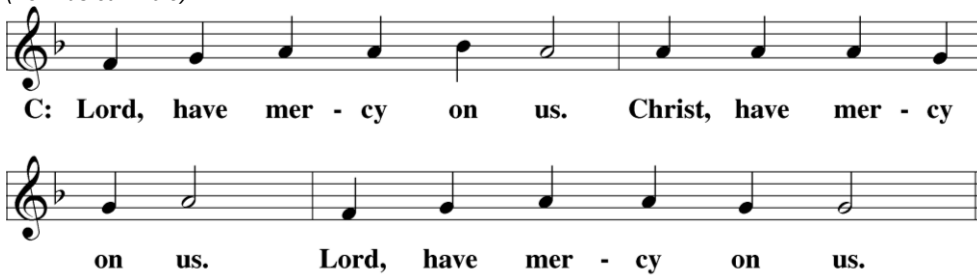
## CONFESSION

M: 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 our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C: 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.**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

*(no musical intro)*



## ABSOLUTION

M: 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 your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.



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## Prayer and Praise

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

### GLORY BE TO GOD

*(no musical intro)*

C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,

we give thanks to you, for your 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, you take away the

sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the

sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of  
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;  
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,  
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

M: Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; 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.

*be seated*

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# *The Word*

## **FIRST LESSON**

*Isaiah 44:6-11*

<sup>6</sup>This is what the LORD, the King of Israel,  
Israel's Redeemer, the LORD of Armies, says.

I am the first, and I am the last.

Except for me, there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>For who is like me? Let him declare it.

Let him recite in order for me the things that took place  
since the time I established an ancient people.

Or let them declare what is yet to come,  
and what is going to take place.

<sup>8</sup>Do not tremble, and do not be frightened.

Did I not announce this to you,  
and declare it already long ago?

You are my witnesses.

Is there any god except me?

There is no other Rock. I am not aware of any other.

<sup>9</sup>All those who form an idol are good for nothing.

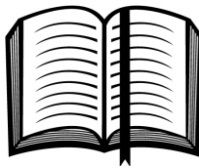
All the things which delight them provide no benefit.

As for their witnesses—they do not see.

They know nothing, so they will be ashamed.

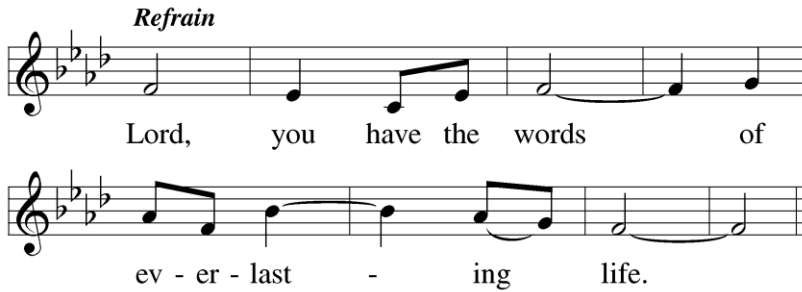
<sup>10</sup>Who is this who forms a god or casts a metal image that can provide no profit?

<sup>11</sup>Look at him! All his associates will be ashamed. The craftsmen are merely men. Let them all gather themselves and take a stand. They will be terrified and ashamed together.



## PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 19, p.70



The heavens declare the glory of God;\*  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Their voice goes out into all the earth,\*  
their words to the ends of the world.

### ***Refrain***

The law of the LORD is perfect,\*  
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,\*  
giving light to the eyes.

They are more precious than gold;\*  
they are sweeter than honey.

By them is your servant taught;\*  
in keeping them there is great reward.

### ***Refrain***



May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart\*  
be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Redeemer.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

***Refrain***

## **SECOND LESSON**

*Romans 1:18–25*

<sup>18</sup>Indeed, God's wrath is being revealed from heaven against all the ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who try to suppress the truth by unrighteousness.

<sup>19</sup>This happens because what can be known about God is evident among them, because God made it evident among them. <sup>20</sup>In fact, his invisible characteristics—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, because they are understood from the things he made. As a result, people are without excuse, <sup>21</sup>because, even though they knew God, they did not honor him or give him thanks as God. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless heart was darkened.

<sup>22</sup>Although they claim to be wise, they have become fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human, or like birds, four-footed animals, and crawling things. <sup>24</sup>So, as they followed the sinful desires of their hearts, God handed them over to the impurity of degrading their own bodies among themselves. <sup>25</sup>Such people have traded the truth about God for the lie, worshipping and serving the creation rather than the Creator, who is worthy of praise forever. Amen.

## **VERSE OF THE DAY**

*Isaiah 55:11b*

**Alleluia. My Word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia.**

*(no musical intro)*

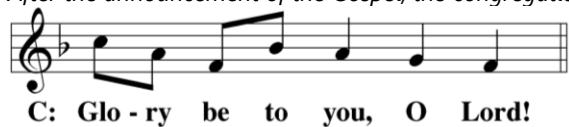


*please stand*

## GOSPEL

*Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



<sup>24</sup>He presented another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup>But while people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup>When the plants sprouted and produced heads of grain, the weeds also appeared. <sup>27</sup>The servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup>He said to them, 'An enemy did this.' The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and gather up the weeds?' <sup>29</sup>'No,' he answered, 'because when you gather up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "First, gather up the weeds, bind them in bundles, and burn them. Then, gather the wheat into my barn."'"

<sup>36</sup>Then Jesus sent the people away and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

<sup>37</sup>He answered them, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>The field is the world. The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the Evil One. <sup>39</sup>The enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Therefore, just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so it will be at the end of the world. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will pull out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and those who continue to break the law. <sup>42</sup>The angels will throw them into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

*be seated*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

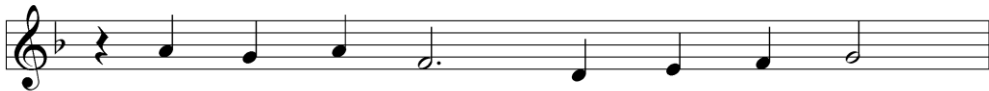
*Children who are in grade four and younger may come forward and sit on the front step for the children's devotion. Older children, parents, or other family members may come forward to encourage the younger children's participation.*



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, with us a - bide,  
 2 O God, how sin's dread works a - bound!  
 3 In these last days of sore dis - tress  
 4 Lord Je - sus, help, your Church up - hold,  
 5 Oh, keep us in your Word, we pray;



For round us falls the e - ven - tide,  
 Through - out the earth no rest is found,  
 Grant us, dear Lord, true stead - fast - ness  
 For we are slug - gish, thought - less, cold.  
 The guile and rage of Sa - tan stay!



Nor let your Word, that heav'n - ly light,  
 And false - hood's spir - it wide has spread,  
 That pure we keep, till life is spent,  
 Oh, pros - per well your Word of grace,  
 Oh, may your mer - cy nev - er cease!



For us be ev - er veiled in night.  
 And er - ror bold - ly rears its head.  
 Your ho - ly Word and sac - ra - ment.  
 And spread its truth in ev - 'ry place.  
 Give con - cord, pa - tience, cour - age, peace.

6 The cause is yours, the glory, too.  
 So hear us, Lord, and keep us true,  
 Your Word alone is our defense,  
 The Church's glorious confidence.

7 Oh, grant that in your holy Word  
 We here may live and die, dear Lord,  
 And when our journey's ending here,  
 Receive us into glory there.

## SERMON

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### The Lord's Harvest Will Come

*please stand*

## CREATE IN ME

*(short musical intro)*

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 your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span multiple notes or bars. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

*be seated*

## OFFERING

*"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. The one who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:6,7).*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**C: Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

M: Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**C: Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

M: Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**C: Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

M: Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**C: Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

M: Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**C: Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

M: Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**C: Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

*Special prayers of intercession may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

M: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**C: Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

M: Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

C: Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## HYMN

*Come, You Thankful People, Come* | 613



1 Come, you thank - ful peo - ple, come; Raise the song of  
2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to his  
3 For the Lord our God shall come And shall take his  
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To your fi - nal

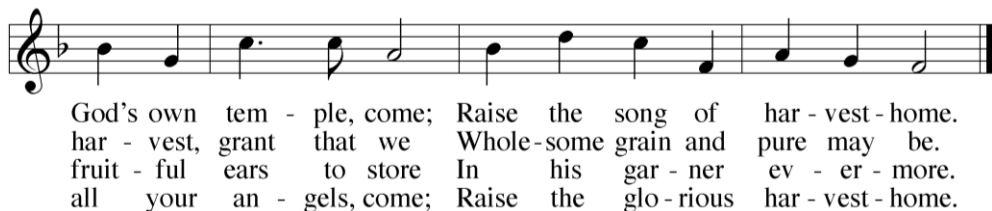
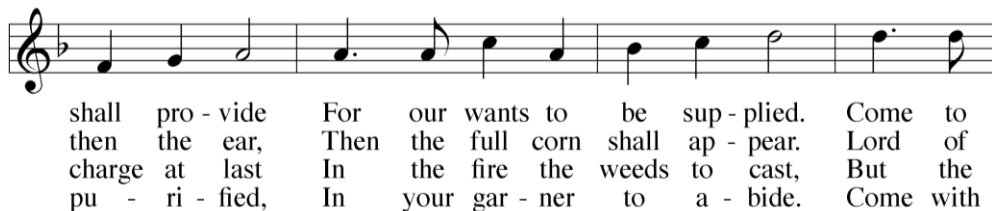


har - vest - home. All be safe - ly gath - ered in  
praise to yield; Wheat and weeds to - geth - er sown,  
har - vest home, From his field shall in that day  
har - vest - home; Gath - er all your peo - ple in,



Ere the win - ter storms be - gin. God our mak - er  
Un - to joy or sor - row grown. First the blade and  
All of - fens - es purge a - way, Give his an - gels  
Free from sor - row, free from sin, There, for - ev - er

*continued...*



*please stand*

## PRAYER

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## BLESSING

M: 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.





## CLOSING HYMN

*From All that Dwell below the Skies* | 250

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies Let the Cre - a - tor's  
2 E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, Lord; E - ter - nal is your

praise a - rise. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
glo - rious Word. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung Through  
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore Till

ev - 'ry land, by ev - 'ry tongue. Al - le - lu - ia!  
suns shall rise and set no more. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

# *NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS*

## **CHRISTIAN FAMILY SOLUTIONS PRESENTATION**

On Sunday, August 6, between services we will have a short presentation by James Mattek, the Director of Ministry at Christian Family Solutions. CFS provides distinctly Christian mental health care, healing and helping people in need through the ministry of Jesus Christ. CFS's ministry has two main branches of service: Counseling Care & Services and Senior Services. Join us on August 6 at 9:15 am to learn more.

## **FUN DAZE PARADE**

Mark your calendars for the Bangor Fun Daze Parade on Sunday, August 13, at noon. We're looking forward to having another fleet of St. Paul's members to hand out candy and pocket invites to our church and school. God be praised for this opportunity for our congregation to be in front of the community!

## **LUTHER HIGH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Luther High School is looking to hire a full-time custodian for 2<sup>nd</sup> shift (40 hrs/wk). Applications are available in the Luther High School office and online at [lutherhigh.org](http://lutherhigh.org). Candidates may submit their application and resume to the Luther High School office. If you have questions and requests regarding application, email [johndona@luther.k12.wi.us](mailto:johndona@luther.k12.wi.us) or call 608-386-4753.

## **OPPORTUNITY AT GOOD STEWARD**

Good Steward Resale Shop is looking for a store coordinator. The position is 3-4 days/week with flexible hours, about 24-32 hours per week, Tuesday-Friday and occasional Saturdays. A job description and an application form are available at Good Steward (608-779-9763).

## **ICE CREAM SOCIAL @ ST. JOHN'S BARRE MILLS**

St. John's in Barre Mills will be having their annual fellowship event that includes ice cream, supper, children's games, pies, entertainment, and music on Sunday, August 13, beginning at 4:00 pm.

WELS/ELS SINGLES RETREAT

The WELS/ELS Singles Retreat for 2023 is November 10-12, at Camp Phillip, Wisconsin. Registration is open and the early bird rate is \$140. Early bird registration will continue through August 1. Regular registration will be \$150. All registration will close on October 1. If you have activity ideas or ways you can help, feel free to email at [retreat@wels-els-singles.com](mailto:retreat@wels-els-singles.com). More details and register at [wels-els-singles.com/2023-retreat/](http://wels-els-singles.com/2023-retreat/).

OFFERING SUMMARY (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)

2023 Weekly Budget: \$11,203.00	Budget to Date: \$324,887.00
Received Last Week: \$6,683.75	Rec'd to Date: \$237,231.34

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:00 am: 108    Live Stream Peak: 15    10:00 am: 62    Monday: 31    Total: 216

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CALENDAR

TODAY	8:00 am	Worship
	10:00 am	Worship
MONDAY	7:00 pm	Worship
WEDNESDAY	6:00 pm	Accreditation Meeting
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am	Worship
	10:00 am	Worship

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SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister	Pastor Brock Groth
Accompanist	Irene Bakken

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