



# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## Mission Festival

September 27, 2009

**Alleluia. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples. Alleluia!**

GREETINGS and WELCOME to  
**Brooklyn Lutheran Church.**

VISITORS please sign the guest book.

**Come and worship with us again soon!**

Available from an usher:

- **Bibles** to follow along with the Scripture Readings.
- **Large print hymnal** is available.
- **Quiet bags** for small children.

Please return these to our ushers following the Service.

**Prayer Before Worship:** Thank You, Lord, for the servants You have given to the church. Bless all the workers in Your vineyard. Bless their work, protect them and give them a full measure of Your Holy Spirit, so they fearlessly and faithfully proclaim Your Word. Inspire us to support them with our prayers and with our generous offerings. We pray in Your name. Amen.

**HYMNS: 571 570 778 (Insert) 576 vs. 1,5,6**

**ORDER OF SERVICE:** Service of The Word, Page 38

### **PRAYER FOR THE DAY—Spoken by all together.**

O God, You have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth and have sent Your messengers to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near. Grant that by the witness of Your Church many may be brought into Your kingdom and worship You, the only true God: through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 🎵 Amen.

**Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1 (Page 1567)**

Response CW#579 v. 1 (Refrain, verse, refrain)

**Second Lesson: Revelation 6:1-2 (Page 1919)**

Response CW#579 v. 2 (verse, refrain)

**First Lesson: Isaiah 42:10-13 (Page 1124)**

Response CW#579 v. 3 (verse, refrain)

**SERMON: Matthew 8:5-13 (Page 1819)**

### **The Surprises of Mission Work**

Rev. Leon Piepenbrink, coordinator of Hmong Ministry, is our speaker.

Solo: "GO" following the offering.

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### **Meditation Theme for the week:**

**"Christians Follow Christ"**

Today's Offering Counters: D. Gabrielson, L. Heeb

Today Potluck following the Service  
Wise Penny Work Day

Tues. 3:00 & 3:30 Prairie Lodge  
7:00 Vision Task Force

Wed 6:30 Lawn Mowing: Pastor Holub, G. Lieder  
7:00 Choir

Fri. 9:30 Bible Class

**Next Sun. - 6:30am Time of Grace, TV ch 9**

**8:45 Sunday School**

**8:55 Adult Classes**

**10:00 Worship**

**"Positively Lutheran":** Sometimes even members of a confessional Lutheran church find it difficult to describe fully what they believe. Get answers to your questions and to what others may ask about your church and what you stand for by attending this weekly Bible series with Pastor Holub.

For **parents of Sunday School children and others** who wish to review their Genesis Bible History, there is an adult Sunday School lesson which complements what the children are instructed in their class each week.

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**Last Sunday** Worship Attendance: 61

Sunday School Attendance: 8

Adult Sunday School: 3; Adult Bible Class: 10

Offering: \$2522.00; Needed for Budget Week - **\$2,565**

Offerings YTD: \$91,259; (Budget: \$94905) short: -\$3647

### Announcements

**Huge Garage Sale** to benefit Sarah Holder Ev. Lutheran Church and School in Liberia will be held on our church grounds Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9am. The main objective of this drive is to raise \$1,000+ in funds for the surveying and legal certification of 150 acres the government is giving to Odessa for the church and school's own site adjacent to the family farm.

Secondly, this activity for the sake of people in Liberia will be an **important community connection** to the West Africans in our neighborhood. We will promote this sale with a sign on the corner and a flyer to our Brooklyn Bridge families.

Please do your **fall cleaning and wardrobe check** early and bring items to church next Sunday or in days after! **Used furniture** can be "big ticket items" toward helping us reach our goal. Workers for the sale will be needed. Volunteer specific hours to work the sale on the sign up at Commons table. Thank you!

#### **Dear Friends of Camp Croix.**

The Annual Board Meeting is Tuesday September 29 at 6:00pm at St. Croix High School. We have two open positions on the Board. If you or someone you know is interested in helping out, have them give me a call - 651 336 8375 or email me at ryanconlon78@msn.com

The **West 30th Anniversary Celebration** is next weekend starting with girls' Soccer game and tailgating prior to the Homecoming Football Game on Friday night and ending with a worship service at West Lutheran High School on Sunday, October 4, at 2:00 p.m. On Saturday there is a 5K run, boys' Soccer game, Golf Outing, Alumni and Alumni Parent Reception and all-school Reunion Dinner/Program with live band. Please visit the West website [www.wlhs.net](http://www.wlhs.net) and our bulletin board for more information.

**Brooklyn Bridge School...**We have had 4 weeks of class already. God has blessed us with many preschoolers signing up even at the end of this month. October is almost here, and time to begin thinking about the annual Harvest Party. How can you help out? As we have used this both as a fellowship night and fundraiser, donations are very important. Could you bring a bag of candy or some trinkets for our prize boxes? Volunteers and game ideas are always welcome. The Harvest Party will be held Friday, October 30 from 6:00—8:00 pm.

From a paper presented by Rev. Kenneth Fischer at the “*Congregational Health*” Symposium your pastor attended in Mequon this past Monday and Tuesday.

*Next week—What Risen Savior did in conjunction with Parish Assistance to get “more healthy.”*

In August 1997, when I accepted the call to serve the vacancy at Risen Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church on the northwest side of Milwaukee, we were an all-Caucasian church in a predominantly African-American neighborhood that had undergone dramatic change. By the definition of a healthy congregation, I inherited a congregation that was inherently “sick.” Not that they were not loving and lovely people. The people of Risen Savior were incredibly forgiving and loving toward me and my wife (and thank God they still are, eleven years later). They were almost all life-long Lutherans who knew the Bible probably better than their new pastor (who was stepping into the pulpit of his first parish). But we were “unhealthy” because despite being a debt-free congregation, there was no outreach committee and little actual outreach being done in the large field around the church known as “North Meadows.”

We hadn’t neglected the Means of Grace. A high percentage of the members attended church every Sunday. Most members seemed to have a sound devotional life. Every member came forward each time the Lord’s Supper was offered (and close communion was faithfully practiced). The members received the sacrament in faith. All the members were baptized (and most of them, I think, regularly reflected on those blessings that washed over them). However, we weren’t at all that effective in getting the effective Word to our dysfunctional neighborhood. We were inwardly focused. Our church was a fortress of truth in a chaotic neighborhood and we were quite comfortable huddling together in that fortress. We were sick, and few recognized the illness as related to the lack of Great Commission focus.

We were a little over a hundred and fifty souls strong. With 70% of our members over the

age of 70 and 70% of our members widows, imagine the sea of bottle-blue grey heads faithfully gracing the pews each Sunday (except the twenty some shut-ins who loved their young pastor’s monthly visits). Our average Sunday worship attendance, which had been gradually declining for over a decade, averaged one hundred and three. Financially, we were in good shape. Our offerings covered a budget of \$75,000 for at home ministry and about \$25,000 more divided between Synod and Wisconsin Lutheran High School.

I was handed blueprints for a proposed expansion (for which we had funding and could start soon) that proposed adding a front driveway so that we could have a drop-off point for the handicapped and elderly (along with handicap-accessible restrooms and a large narthex that could only add to our members’ comfort. Did any of this look like we were “unhealthy”? We were very unhealthy, but we would not have noticed this without very careful observation and examination of our purpose and direction through the microscope of the Great Commission. Our focus was clearly on serving ourselves with more gospel. Not that this was done with racist hatred or willful rejection of the Great Commission. This was clearly not intentional. Serving ourselves better seemed the perfectly natural thing to do. Why was this “illness?” We lacked a mindset that treasured anything but trying to preserve the “status quo.” We had no intentional focus on outreach. We had the secret attitude that hoped that we could keep the doors open until Jesus returned or the last coffin of a member was loaded into a hearse. We lacked any realistic and effective plans to share the gospel with our community. We unintentionally gave the impression to our community that we wanted to remain a fortress, rather than an oasis for the community. We were very ill as a congregation and headed towards irrelevancy in our community. But like a person walking around with cancer who still feels few symptoms, we didn’t know how close to death we were.



*Brooklyn Evangelical  
Lutheran Church*

**Our Mission:**

*We exist to use the  
Gospel of Christ to  
win the lost and to  
nurture  
believers, all to the  
glory of God.*



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*Pastor*

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**Brooklyn Bridge  
School**

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