



**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

October 4, 2009

Alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness. 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: Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for using Your Word and Sacraments to give me life through Your Holy Spirit. Grant that I may never grieve Your Spirit by indifference or stubbornness, but humbly accept His gracious work in me. Amen

HYMNS: 566 523 486 623 v. 4

ORDER OF SERVICE:

Service of Word and Sacrament: Page 26

PRAYER FOR THE DAY—Spoken by all together

Lord God, You call us to work in Your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by Your wisdom and to serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 11:18-20 (Page 1192)

Jeremiah faithfully followed the Word of the Lord in his preaching of woe to those who abandoned that Word. But what did he receive? The hatred of those he served.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 31 (Psalm projected)

(Soloist will sing verses,

Congregation sings refrain and Glory Be to the Father.)

That God still delivers His own and remains faithful to His promises is the strength of those who bear the cross.

Part Two of series on “**Congregational Health**” (from seminar Pastor Holub attended at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI). As we look to be a healthier congregation in years ahead – this is where it’s really at and toward which all the Brooklyn Lutheran’s Vision Task Force’s proposed programs must lead the hearts and souls of redeemed sinners.....

Proper diagnosis begins with honest assessment. In medicine, a doctor begins with a series of tests that measure everything from blood pressure to heart rate before offering a prescription for health. Such an examination of the church is difficult. What tests can we administer? Sometimes you know “unhealthy” when you see it. But examining the church solely with subjective measurements can be difficult and dangerous, as a subjective analysis might prove false. We dare not forget our Savior’s statement of comfort given to a sick-looking church at Smyrna—*“I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept My Word and not denied my Name”* (Rev. 3:8).

Appearances to the contrary notwithstanding, there may be a form of spiritual health where we would perceive only sickness. But we don’t look for true spiritual health apart from the regular use of the Means of Grace. Even if a congregation looks healthy and prosperous, appearances may be deceiving if the dependence on the regular use of Means of Grace ministry is lacking. Remember our Savior’s warning to the church at Ephesus, which had reason to be proud of its rich history, *“Yet this I have against you, you have lost your first love.”* (Rev. 2:4). Our “first love,” born out of the tribulation of the Lutheran Reformation, is justification by grace alone clearly proclaimed in Word and profitably received in the pure administration of Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

Although we accept that there may be more art than science to any church diagnosis, if people aren’t using the Means of Grace, we know that despite any external appearances the church can’t be called “healthy.” This is why we reject as incomplete many of the tests and indicators proffered by those who claim to be “experts” at the diagnosis of church health.

God is concerned more about the strength of our heart than merely the appearance of our health. The great Physician sees our hearts, while we can see externals only. For this reason a congregation can be like the fellow who appears healthy but whose heart is a ticking time bomb because of multiple clogged arteries.

Paper by Rev. Kenneth Fischer, page 2, “Brothers in Ministry Arrange for Congregational Health.”

Second Lesson: James 3:13-18 (Page 1883)

Gentleness and unselfish service are virtues that imitate Christ’s own perfect gentleness and unselfish service to us. Selfish ambition and jealousy are from the devil; they not only add to the suffering of our fellow man, but also hinder the proclamation of the Gospel.

SERMON: Mark 9:30-37 (Page 1569)

Greatness Is In Service!

- ✘ Our Human Nature Doesn’t See It That Way.
- ✘ Christ Is Our Model For Service

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Meditation Theme for the week:

“Elementary Lessons Of Faith”

Today’s Offering Counters: G. Schimenz and A. Boyd

Today	10:00	Worship Ushers: M. Hilliard and S. Melchert
	11:15	Elders
	2:00	30th Anniversary Service at West
	7:00	Church Council
Tues.	7:00	Ladies Guild
Wed	6:00	Lawn Mowing: G. Schimenz, D. Glodowski
	7:00	Choir
Thurs	7:00	Education Committee
Fri.	9:30	Bible Class
Sat/	8:30	LWMS at New Life, Shoreview
	9:00	Huge Garage Sale for Liberia

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

8:45 Sunday School

8:55 Adult Classes

10:00 Worship

The flowers on the altar were given in thanksgiving to God on the occasion of their anniversary by Gary and Mavis Kuensting. We thank them for beautifying our Service today.

Last Sunday Worship Attendance: 67

Sunday School Attendance: 11; Adult Bible Class: 19

Offering: \$1366.25; Needed for Budget Week - **\$2,565**

Offerings YTD: \$92,624; (Budget: \$97,470) short:-\$4846

Vision Task Force has completed their work of taking all the input from our Listening Sunday and incorporating it into an objectives and goals document. Under God's blessing, over the next five years we will put into place a great number of programs to give us the best possible chance to thrive as a congregation.

The Council will be the first to review the document at their meeting this evening. In the weeks ahead, the congregation will receive copies. For the most part, from here on out it is in the hands of 100+ active Brooklyn Lutheran Church members to make all these programs go with little short of "blood, sweat, and tears." It calls for hard but blessed work on the part of all members – all of whom are appreciative of Christ's blood, sweat, and tears for our eternal salvation and the salvation of souls in our community which still need to be reached with the Gospel.

A Reformation Rally Service on Sunday afternoon, November 1st, is being planned by West Association Congregations. Watch for more details in the weeks ahead. It will be held at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Monticello.

Thrivent Financial Services provided \$6,757,010 in benevolence funds to WELS churches, schools, and other associations during 2008. A similar amount is planned for this year. However, lower profits the last few years have led Thrivent to decide on changes for 2010. Details are still forthcoming, but we know the nearly \$7 million will be about halved. MLC receives about \$1.5 million per year and in 2008 Brooklyn Bridge School received \$1,000 in 50% match on \$2,000 from Thrivent policy holders.

Thrivent Policy Holders! – Now is the time to make a last Matching Gift to Brooklyn Bridge School, West, MLC or any other WELS school. As a matter of fact, the fund from which Thrivent distributes those dollars could run out in the

weeks ahead, long before the end of the calendar year. Your gifts toward the Lord's work are important! Act now!

United Way – The 2009-2010 United Way campaigns are underway in most communities. In most cases, there is a "Donor Option" program in which you may designate a qualified 501(c)3 agency to receive your United Way donation. Brooklyn Bridge has been receiving a monthly donation through UW from an anonymous donor. Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service received gifts from over 50 different United Way agencies last year. West and other organizations of our fellowship might also be possible recipients of your designation. If you have questions about your participation in such a program, check your local United Way guidelines, ask your Human Resource Director at work, or call WLCFS toll free 1-888-685-9522.ext225, or email info@wlcfs.org.

West News: Today at 2pm West Lutheran High School will celebrate and give thanks to God for our 30 years educating young Christians. Please join us for this special service. Pastor Aaron Strong, alumnus, will preach. Music will be provided by our choirs, an alumni choir, and the Reformation Brass. A light lunch will follow. Your support is always appreciated.

Spaghetti Supper & Concert will be on Tuesday, October 13. The supper will be served at 6:00 pm and the concert will begin at 7:30 pm. More info on bulletin board.

West Lutheran Dinner Auction will be Saturday, October 24. If you wish to donate new items, a personal service, or a theme backed basket, please bring them to WLHS by October 16. Perishable food items may be brought the day of the auction. Please attach a donation form to each item. (Visit www.wlhs.net for invitation and donation form.) There is a signup sheet by BELC bulletin board to reserve a table.



*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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