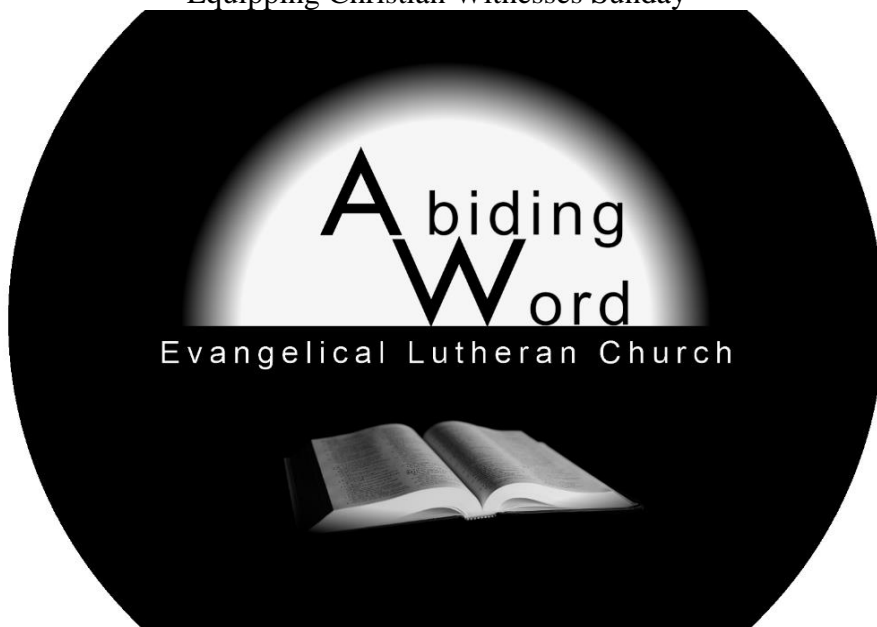


February 20, 2022
Equipping Christian Witnesses Sunday



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



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Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Join us after the service for coffee. To allow for social distancing, please don't linger in front of the kitchen and bathroom.

Lutheran Worship

The Lutheran church is a liturgical church. Lutherans believe that the gospel is not only the good news that Jesus has saved sinners, but also the power God uses to create and strengthen faith in Jesus. Lutheran worship places the gospel in central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. Through the sermon, Lord's Supper, in specially selected Bible readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and confessions, the liturgy points to Jesus as the Savior of all.



Equipping Christian Witnesses is a campaign that gratefully recognizes 150+ years of ministerial training in our synod and, more specifically, 25 years of training at Martin Luther College. The title, "Equipping Christian Witnesses," reflects not only the mission of MLC—to train a corps of Christian witnesses to meet WELS ministry needs—but also the pillars of this campaign.

With support from the WELS Conference of Presidents, these are the goals of the two-year (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022) Equipping Christian Witnesses campaign:

- Recruit students for gospel ministry, resulting in an MLC on-campus enrollment of 900-1,000
- Increase student financial aid by receiving gifts totaling \$3-5 million for MLC's Congregational Partner Grant Program matching fund
- Improve MLC student facilities by receiving gifts totaling \$12 million to build a new residence hall. (Thanks to a generous donor, the athletic center has been fully funded! This fieldhouse will be a valuable practice space for all of our sports teams.)

Stand

M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

OH, TASTE AND SEE



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord of the harvest, inspire the hearts of many to offer themselves for the public ministry of your church. Look with favor on our schools, blessing those who teach and those who learn that they may apply themselves diligently to your will and faithfully to your service; 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

Catechism Review: 4th-10th Commandments

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 96D

1 Sing to the LORD, ye distant lands,
ye tribes of ev'ry tongue;
his new-discovered grace demands
a new and nobler song.
Tell all the nations, "Jesus reigns,
God's own almighty Son;
his pow'r the sinking world sustains,
and grace surrounds his throne."

2 Let heav'n proclaim the joyful day;
let joy on earth be seen;
let cities shine in bright array,
and fields in cheerful green.
Let joy above all joys
surprise the islands of the sea;
ye mountains sink; ye valleys rise;
prepare the LORD his way.

3 Behold, he comes, he comes to bless
the nations as their God,
to show the world his righteousness,
and send his truth abroad.
But when his voice shall raise the dead,
and bid the world draw near,
how will the guilty nations dread
to see their judge appear.

LESSON

JOSHUA 4:18-24

¹⁸ And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.

¹⁹ On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. ²⁰ And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. ²¹ He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their fathers, 'What do these stones mean?' ²² tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' ²³ For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God

did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. ²⁴ He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.”

M: This is the gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY: HARK, THE VOICE OF JESUS CRYING

745

SERMON

JOSHUA 4:18-24

Stand

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.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Financial offerings are a regular, proportionate, and joyful response of love by members of a Christian congregation. Our offerings are given to further the work of God's kingdom here at Abiding Word and around the world through the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Your offering may be placed in the plates at the sanctuary entrance. If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated to support our ministry.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O God our Father, eternal Lord and King, whose scepter rules over all the earth, whose love embraces all your creatures, we come before you to offer our prayers. Grant our requests according to your wisdom and love. Father, we thank you for the Church, and for the fellowship and wisdom that we enjoy by faith. Give to all your people faithfulness as we wait for the coming of our Lord.

Particularly we pray for our dear synod. Keep its teachings pure, its ways true, and its witness clear. Give us grace to love your Word and your people. Father, we thank you for those who proclaim the gospel of peace and for all that we have learned from the preaching and teaching of your Word. We ask your blessing on all the ministers of our church. Guard those who serve you here and throughout the world. We ask you to let your Word triumph in us and through us. We thank you that you have given your Son to be our Savior and Lord. Lead us every day to confess our sins and to find in him the peace of forgiveness. As we hear your Word, remember our baptism, and receive his body and blood in Holy Communion, give us strength to serve you and our neighbors.

Today we offer a special prayer for the faculty, staff, and students at Martin Luther College. Father, we are humbled by the grace you extend to us as you use our College of Ministry to assist in preparing ministers of the gospel who will proclaim your Word throughout the world. Give them joy in their work and make their labors fruitful.

Father, we thank you for the kindnesses and mercies of ordinary life, for your care of us and all humankind. Make us willing to serve each other in love and to live in harmony. Hear us also as we remember neighbors, friends, or members of our families who are in special need.

Silent prayer

All these prayers and requests we present to you, O Father, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 and ever. Amen.

Be seated

HYMN: O LORD, OUR GOD, YOUR GRACIOUS HAND
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909

Stand

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. 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.



MLC CHOIR – HIS ROBES FOR MINE
