

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God
as a spiritually alive church,
welcoming all and reaching out with love as Christ's disciples.*

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 29, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Compassion in Action: Heroes and Sidekicks!

Call to Worship

Psalm 42

Handbells

Announcements

Greeting and Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn	Alleluia	No. 106
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1. Alleluia

2. Christ is Risen

3. I will praise you.

*Call to Worship

Leader: The buzz of the world interrupts our lives and fills our ears

People: Call us into Your way of life, O God.

Leader: The complaints of others settle in our mind and cloud our vision

People: Lead us into Your vision of life, O God.

Leader: The cries of the poor, the oppressed and the outcast pierce our hearts

People: Guide us in Your example of living for others, O God.

Leader: Fill our hearts, fill our eyes, fill our ears with Your love, O God

People: Let us be Your hands and feet in the world, O God. Let us worship You together.

***Prayer of Confession**

Patient Lord, we know that you call us to service, but we often feel inadequate. We love to make excuses for not doing something or for doing something only half-heartedly. Remind us again of your loving and guiding presence. Forgive us when we stumble and falter. Turn us again to you, serving joyfully and confidently. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

***Words of Assurance**

Beloved Ones, you are the salty people - those who bring flavor to living. Your spirit of love and confidence gives hope to others. Remember that the Lord is always with you. AMEN.

Gloria Patri

**GLORY BE TO THE FATHER,
AND TO THE SON,
AND TO THE HOLY GHOST;
AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING,
IS NOW, AND EVER SHALL BE,
WORLD WITHOUT END.
AMEN. AMEN.**

Passing of the Peace

Anthem

Precious Lord

Handbells

Young People's Time

We Hear God's Word

Old Testament Reading (The Message)

Esther 3: 1-11

3 1-2 Some time later, King Xerxes promoted Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, making him the highest-ranking official in the government. All the king's servants at the King's Gate used to honor him by bowing down and kneeling before Haman—that's what the king had commanded.

2-4 Except Mordecai. Mordecai wouldn't do it, wouldn't bow down and kneel. The king's servants at the King's Gate asked Mordecai about it: "Why do you cross the king's command?" Day after day they spoke to him about this but he wouldn't listen, so they went to Haman to see whether something shouldn't be done about it. Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew.

5-6 When Haman saw for himself that Mordecai didn't bow down and kneel before him, he was outraged. Meanwhile, having learned that Mordecai was a Jew, Haman hated to waste his fury on just one Jew; he looked for a way to eliminate not just Mordecai but all Jews throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

7 In the first month, the month of Nisan, of the twelfth year of Xerxes, the pur—that is, the lot—was cast under Haman's charge to determine the propitious day and month. The lot turned up the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

8-9 Haman then spoke with King Xerxes: "There is an odd set of people scattered through the provinces of your kingdom who don't fit in. Their customs and ways are different from those of everybody else. Worse, they disregard the king's laws. They're an affront; the king shouldn't put up with them. If it please the king, let orders be given that they be destroyed. I'll pay for it myself. I'll deposit 375 tons of silver in the royal bank to finance the operation."

10 The king slipped his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, archenemy of the Jews.

11 "Go ahead," the king said to Haman. "It's your money—do whatever you want with those people."

We Respond to God’s Word

* Hymn

They’ll Know We Are Christians

No. 494

1 We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
 we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
 and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain

And they’ll know we are Christians by our love,
 By our love, yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

2 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
 we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
 and together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land. [Refrain]

3 We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
 we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
 and we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride. [Refrain]

4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
 and all praise to Christ Jesus God’s only Son,
 and all praise to the Spirit who makes us one; [Refrain]

An Order of Farewell for the Heinlein Family

***People: We feel sorrow in your leaving, yet we rejoice with you in anticipation of this new phase of your life. We will miss your love and support, yet we know you will add much to the lives of those who will be your new church family, as you have added much to our lives. We will pray for you and for the whole family of God.**

Prayers of the People
Pastoral Prayer, Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

*Doxology

Old One Hundredth

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW;
PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW;
PRAISE GOD FOR ALL THAT LOVE HAS DONE;
CREATOR, CHRIST, AND SPIRIT ONE.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Creating God, thank you for hearing our prayer, receiving these gifts, and making them holy for your kingdom. Bless and honor every gift, enlarge our territory, and renew the resources as a demonstration of generosity and flourishing in your realm. Amen.

Closing Hymn

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

No. 446

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord lift his countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious, and be gracious;
the Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

*Commission and Blessing

Go in peace to serve the Lord. Remember the healing love that has taken place in your life. Be open to all the wonders and opportunities that God puts before you. Go in peace. AMEN.

*Congregational Response

No. 312

AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

Today's Liturgy: Written by Nancy Townley at

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3097/worship-connection-september-29-2024>

Today's Ushers: Thank you Diane and Scott Etienne for serving as ushers this morning.

Celebrating Birthdays: Emma Rendl 10/3, Deanna Cornelius 10/4, and Chrystl Olson 10/3

CIRCLE OF PRAYER: We are holding prayer for the following persons (new in italics): All those dealing with mental health crisis; all those struggling with addiction; those impacted by mass shootings and gun violence, those experiencing loss from climate crisis disasters; our LGBTQIA+ youth and children, as they remember they are loved; all caregivers who need support and rest; Ruth Young's cousin David Poczalski dealing with serious health issues; Deb Grandos niece, Susie, as she battles metastatic breast cancer; Doug, a friend of Toot's daughter-in-law, is in stage 4 cancer; prayers for strength and comfort for the Tschannen's, as well as those that will be helping them as they enter a new phase of their journey with Alzheimer's; Tim Chichester for his diabetes struggle; Lorel Chichester for her knee problems, Cindy and Nancy's son, Jacob, as he navigates a mental health crisis; Char's friend, Pam, who was diagnosed with cancer; Georgene's friend, Belinda, as she seeks medical answers; Donna Geary's great nephew, Teddy, a one year-old recently diagnosed with cancer; Ruth Young's nephew, John Young, after receiving a heart pump but may need another; Ruth's daughter-in-law, Roberta, whose stomach tumor removal surgery went well; Lisa Horist's Aunt Joy Ann, who is settling in to her new home; and Donna Geiger's niece, Fay Anne, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Church Office Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 8:30-2:00

Wednesday: 8:30-2:00

Thursday: 8:30-2:00

Friday: Closed

*If you need something in the bulletin, please send the information to Susan by **Tuesday**. You can call the office or email Susan at secretary@millburnchurch.org. Thank you for your help.

Pastor Miranda's Office Hours:

Pastor Miranda's ministry often takes her out of the office. While she maintains an office presence Mon, Tues, and Thursday, her hours vary. In order to best meet your needs, feel free to call or email at pastor@millburnchurch.org to schedule a meeting. Do not hesitate to contact her at 860-751-4452, especially in the event of an emergency. She looks forward to supporting you and serving the community at Millburn and beyond.

Mission Committee Food Drive

The Mission Committee is having a food drive this fall to benefit the Lake Villa Township Food Pantry with includes the Lake Villa and Lindenhurst communities. This pantry supplies food for approximately 40 families each month. Below is the list of items that are needed at this time! Place the items in the wicker basket near the altar and thank you for your support!

Canned veggies, canned protein (tuna, chicken), pasta and soup

Paper products such as toilet paper, tissue, paper towel

Soaps such as dishwashing soap and body soaps

Dog and cat food are also needed.

Coffee Hour Sign-up - We need your help. Please consider providing items for our Sunday Coffee Hours following the 10 a.m. worship service.

Seeking men and women ages 15 to 100 to fill several open positions.

Contact Becky Fuller and Kris Franks of our Music Department. They are looking for people to join the choir, band, and handbell choir. Even if you think you can't read music, you can be a part of providing praise through music on Sunday mornings. We will show you how! All three groups meet on Wednesday nights: handbell choir at 6:15, choir at 7:15. and band at 8:00. __Stop in to practice and check us out. Practice dates are listed on the church calendar. Come for one and stay for all three!!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT MILLBURN CHURCH:

Council Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month

Millburn Rummage & Bake Sale – October 4th 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.,
October 5th 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Highway Cleanup – October 6th 11:30 a.m., at Millburn Church. **ALL** are welcome to participate as well as students who need volunteer hours.