

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, August 15th, 2026,
Sunday, August 16th, 2026,

4:30 pm
9:00 am



In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

300 Logan St.
Merrill, WI 54452
Pastor Justin Smoot

715-536-5813
www.oslcelca.org
Bea Lebal, Organist

Welcome to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
We are a worship-centered, joyful community,
serving where Christ leads.



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

At OSLC, we have a tradition of participating in worship, because it is our gathering to practice prayer and fellowship.

- Bold Print indicates responses spoken by all.
- You are encouraged to listen to your body and stand if you are comfortable doing so.
- Children are welcome in worship. If they want to help out with any portion of the service they can do so, just ask the pastor. There is also a place for them to color and play on the north side of the worship space. Sitting up front is also an effective way to help them see what is going on.
- On Sunday morning, the ushers will pass the offering plates, but we also have a QR code that will take you to our Vanco (online giving) site.
- All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at Our Saviour's. Please come forward as indicated. Please fill out a communion card so that we can have a record of who communion. You can also use the communion cards or visitor cards to reach out to the pastor.
- We have large print bulletins if you need them as well as hearing devices with headphones



GATHERING

*For where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them. (Matthew 18:20)*

Altar flowers are given by.....Emily Edmund

Sing for Joy is sponsored by..... Our Saviour's Church to the Glory of God

God of friendship

*I come to know your love and care
through the embodied presence of others.*

*Weave me together with kindred spirits,
knit me more closely with friends of the soul,
cultivate in me a kinship with humanity
so that I recognize my struggles and joys in others.*

*In my loneliness reveal to me this communion
and may I be a solace to others who ache for connection.*

Transform me through conversation and loving presence.

*Help me to see how I am part of a great circle
of pilgrims, witnesses, ancestors, and mystics who guide me to true
connection with You.*

*Gather me into your great wide heart,
so I might discover I am never separate
but always held in love*

**Confession and Forgiveness*

Blessed be the holy Trinity,† one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

...Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

**Gathering Hymn*

ELW 712

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**Greeting*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

**Prayer of the Day*

Let us pray,

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crating to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press

WORD

*So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty. (Isaiah 55:10-11)*

GENESIS 45:1-15

Moved to tears by Judah's plea on behalf of Benjamin, Joseph declares, "I am Joseph!" and asks, "Is my father still alive?" Despite the brothers' evil intent, God used Joseph to preserve many lives at a time of famine.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 133

¹ How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity¹

² **It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³ It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life for evermore.

How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity.

Visual Liturgy

Tecate, Mexico Interviews

**Gospel Acclamation*

*We stand and sing to welcome the Gospel reading
as we would welcome Christ.*



**MATTHEW 15:[10-15],21-28*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 14th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

The Gospel of Our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pr. Justin H. Smoot

In Christ There Is No East or West



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their high com - mu - nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

**Apostles Creed*

... let us profess our faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

**Prayers of Intercession*

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each petition ends with the following response.

...Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Announcements

MEAL

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)

Offering

Saturday: Please place your offering in the plates in back.

Sunday: The ushers will collect the offering, if you wish to give electronically, please visit our website: oslcelca.org or scan the QR code.



**Offertory Prayer*

Let us pray,

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

**Dialogue*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Eucharistic Prayer*

**Lord's Prayer*

Gathered around our Lord's Table, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

**Invitation to Communion*

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast.

Distribution

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD'S TABLE

We have gluten-free hosts available. The lighter colored drink is non-alcoholic. Please fill out a communion card or a visitor card and hand it to the ushers who will direct you down the center aisle.

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**Post Communion Canticle*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

**Benediction*

Almighty God, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

**Sending Hymn*

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**Dismissal*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord
Thanks be to God.

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Community & Tecate, Mexico Interviews – © The Work of the People. Used with Permission.

Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
300 Logan St. Merrill, WI 54452
Monday – Friday 9:00am – 1:00pm
oslcelca.org office@oslcelca.org 715-536-5813
Pastor@oslcelca.org

Sing For Joy

Sunday morning at 10:00 am, we broadcast the St. Olaf Collage's Sing for Joy radio program. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in honor of, or in memory of, anyone, or just because you love religious music, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway. You can also contact the church office as well.



Prayer List



Lois Ullman, Adam Norman, Cash Beyer, Carri Leyk, Laurie Sprague, Earleen Fox, Katie Hahn, John Hahn, Andy Semling, Chad Semling, Gene Bebel, Gilman Smoot, Richard Ollmann, Elayne Ollman, Megan (Latzig) Tugnoli, Sarah Willman, Jane Eshleman, Jerrald Laak, Lee Ann and Lindy Lindquist, Larry Lebal, Barbara Kampstra (Bea Lebal's Sister), Scott Buttke and Halena Anderson.

Lutheran World Relief...

Is in urgent need of Personal Care kits. It is our goal to create 100 of these this year. You can help by purchasing dark colored bath towels (Walmart has appropriate ones for \$2.97), and bath size bars of soap. If you prefer not to shop, we will do it for you. Make donations out to **WELCA**. Disasters continue and these kits are a first need in these areas. Thank you very much.

Peace, Kathi P

This Week's Events August 9th – August 15th

AUGUST 16TH	9:00 am Worship Service
AUGUST 20TH	8:30 am Mission Sewing
AUGUST 22ND	9:00 – 11:00 am Diaper Closet
	4:30 pm Worship Service



Birthdays This Week – August 9th – August 15th



August 16th	Barb Gremler Tammy Latzig Erin Murray
August 17th	Calvin Leyk Russ Leyk
August 18th	Barbara Erickson Tammi Peterson Jay Tlusty
August 20th	Pat Beyer
August 21st	Ava Arseneau Ed Dohm Thomas Koss Chris Schlender Norma Thompson

If you know of additions or corrections to the Birthday list, please let the office know so that we can update our records.

Sunday Fellowship

Pr. Justin will usually make a pot of regular coffee; all we need is some treats from you. Sign up in the lounge or surprise us!

August 16th Julie Osness



Corn Fest is Coming:

Next Saturday August 29th is our annual corn festival. We will start at 3:00 pm. We still need volunteers to help with this event and bring treats to share. See the signup sheets at the back of the church.

Scrip Update

Just an update on our Scrip program – we are no longer carrying the following cards:

Arby's McDonalds Pizza Hut

If you are not able to make it to church to get your scrip cards, you can still drop off your orders during the week, and we will get them filled for you. Call the church office if you have any questions 715-536-5813.

Empty Printer Ink Cartridges

Don't forget to bring in your empty ink cartridges – we can recycle them for you and benefit from it as well. Any questions reach out to Shirley Engle. Thank you.

Mid-Year Financial Update

People have been asking about the congregation's finances, which is understandable given the decline in attendance.

General offerings continue to trail the budgeted amount by about \$18,000 and total income also lags by nearly the same amount. Expenses YTD (excluding the \$25,000 donations to local organizations) are under budget but exceed actual income by roughly \$12,000. Please realize that the donations made to the 3 local nonprofit organizations appear as expenses in this year's financial reports. The income that made those payments possible was recognized in previous years.

Our investment accounts continue to perform well. We have 5 CDs of varying amounts and maturities with the Mission Investment Fund. We have investment accounts with Thrivent and Edward Jones. The Thrivent account basically holds the dedicated account's funds. The mutual funds we own are considered moderate risk, with a combination of stocks and bonds.

We thank you for your financial support of Our Saviour's ministry to the Merrill community. We hope that you will continue your support, whether or not you are able to attend services. Remember that we offer online contributions through Vanco. It's easy to set up an account and you can control the amount and timing of your contributions. Just go to <https://www.oslcelca.org> and navigate to the give page.

Some people make contributions using their IRA require minimum distributions. If you instruct the custodian to send your desired contribution directly to Our Saviours, you will not have to pay income tax on that amount. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

Some News from East Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA

Synod Address Update

We would like to inform you that the Synod Office has a new mailing address:

East Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA

PO Box 10385

Green Bay, WI

54307

 www.EO.travel/mytrip Tour = DT27 Date = 060827 Code = W ID = 64031

"THEY WILL NOT BE
JUDGED BY THE COLOR
OF THEIR SKIN BUT
BY THE CONTENT OF
THEIR CHARACTER."

-MLK

Join Bishop Anne Edison-Albright & Bishop Katherine Finegan

Civil Rights Tour

June 9 - 15, 2027



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Our Saviour's Cornfest 2026

Free Corn on the Cob
Music by the *Dixie Time Band*



Saturday, August 29th
3 - 7 pm. 300 Logan St.
West-side parking lot

Rain location will be the church basement