



MARK TIMES

August 20, 2017 + Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



Celebrating 40 Years in God's Grace + Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future

From your Bishop...

Are you planning to watch the **solar eclipse** tomorrow (August 21)? The total eclipse will travel in a southeast direction across the United States, catching a large swath of Illinois just south of Interstate 64. It is along this Illinois stretch that the total eclipse will last the longest in any one spot across the entire path of the eclipse: a point in Shawnee National Forest (just south of Carbondale) will see the totality for 2 minutes and 44 seconds. People will flock to the path of the total eclipse, and millions will pause to see the eclipse (total and partial) wherever they are in the U.S. Why? Because the **eclipse** will be **awesome**.



Awe is the sensation of experiencing something vast that transcends your own place of the world – a sense of wonder, reverence, and amazement – the feeling that there are profound truths to be grasped in this place, this moment, this event. Awe comes in many forms and from widely varying experiences: looking out over the Grand Canyon; listening to a soaring violin solo; looking at a great work of art; holding someone's hand as she or he stops breathing in death; sitting still as an infant grips your thumb.

Awe makes us feel small, but not in a negative sense. It is a self-awareness that is the opposite of

self-absorption. The sensation of awe is associated with a calmer state of mind, which in turn, encourages clearer thinking, kindness, generosity, and creativity. Whereas **anxiety** and **fear** create a "fight or flight" reaction, awe creates a "stop and think" posture. Awe pulls us together, in that the realization of our smallness takes us from "me" to "we" (Think, for example, of the peculiar kinship you feel even with strangers when you are watching a sunset together in silence).

God created us for awe. Awe at the wonders of God's creation, yes. But more so, awe of the Lord our God. "Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of God" (Psalm 33:8).

Oh, for cultivation of awe in our worship services! As God's church, we ought to be really good at this. Our worship services are meant to be awe-inspiring, because our **focus**, the object of our attention, prayers, songs, & adoration is **God**.

When the moon passes in front of the sun, awe of God is the awe beyond what awes us.

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

- Bishop S. John Roth

Food Pantry Needs...

The food pantry continues to need your donations of canned meats, as well as canned fruit, and rice/pasta side dishes (i.e., stroganoff, Suddenly Salads). You can bring donated items to the church Welcome Area on Sundays or the office during the day. Thank you!



Church Basement Ladies

NEXT Sunday, August 27, at 2:00PM is our date for *Church Basement Ladies* at the Playhouse at Westport Plaza. Pick up your ticket from Kathy Rothgangel. We will **carpool from church at 12:30PM**, or feel free to meet us at Westport.



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday	2:00PM	Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
Friday		<i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>
Sunday, 8/27	9:00AM	The Divine Liturgy
	10:20AM	Coffee & Fellowship
	2:00PM	Church Basement Ladies at Westport

Offerings for August 13, 2017

Sunday worship attendance:	73
General Fund Donations	\$3,574
Coffee Fund	\$27

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
7/30-8/5	\$2,031	\$8,468.86	-\$6,437.86
8/6-8/12	\$2,646	\$559.78	\$2,086.22
8/13-8/19	\$3,574	\$4,553.49	-\$979.49
YTD	\$99,890.20	\$103,429.74	-\$3,539.54

Church Picnic

Plan to be at our church picnic on Sunday, September 17 from Noon-4PM at Schranz Memorial Park (360 Honeysuckle Lane) in Swansea.



The Discovery of King Tut at SLSC

We will be putting together a group to visit this exhibit at the St. Louis Science Center. Watch for more information soon!

“God’s Work Our Hands” Caps!

The ELCA national day of service (“God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday) is **September 10**. Many of us have the yellow shirts; now they are offering caps with the same logo. They cost \$26 each, but drop to \$24.50 if we order 13 or more. Please sign up for one or more on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall or the Welcome Area.



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Sunday, August 27, 2017

LOOKING AHEAD

READINGS:

Isaiah 51:1-6
 Psalm 138
 Romans 12:1-8
 Matthew 16:13-20

WORSHIP SERVERS

President: The Rev. Brian M. Robison
Preacher: Mr. Brian Moeller
Assisting Minister: Jill Thompson
Acolyte: Braden Valerius
Crucifer: Corbin Moeller
Chalice Bearer: Mike Murakami
Lector: Don Muller
Ushers: Jim Jolley & Roland Jacquot

Rally Day/“God’s Work. Our Hands.” Day

On Sunday, September 10, our Sunday School staff and Evangelism/Social Ministry committee will host a light breakfast after our 9AM worship. Come greet our teachers & helpers, have a bite to eat, and stay to cut out and assemble parts for our “Sole Hope” shoe cutting party, sponsored by Thrivent.



To help with the shoe project, we are being asked to collect coins in a sock or shoe that will be sent to Uganda to help pay tailors and cobblers to craft the shoes to be given to children who typically have chiggers, sores, and infections in their feet. Sole Hope asks for \$10 to be sent for each pair of shoes cut out. Socks will be collected on that day and other donations can be made.

We will need thin plastic for the heels of each pair. Please collect clean plastic milk, laundry detergent, dish liquid, and 2-liter soda bottles (with paper labels removed). There will be a box in the Welcome Area for collection.

We are looking forward to this BIG day and hope to see you there!

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