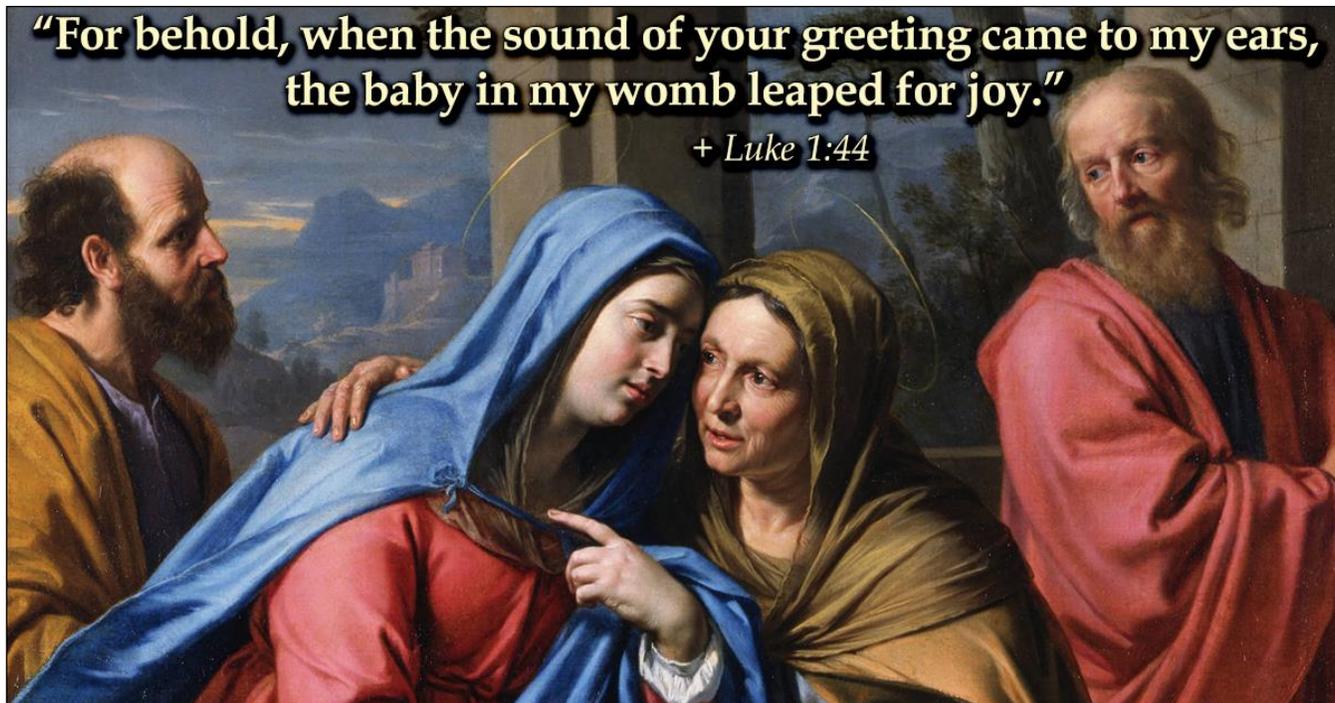




My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

+ Luke 1:46b-47

**THE FEAST OF SAINT MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD** August 15, 2021



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

When Joseph and Mary brought the infant Jesus to the temple at Jerusalem, the aged Simeon blessed them and prophesied of the baby’s mother that “a sword will pierce through your own soul also” (Luke 2:35). The mother of our Lord had her times of sorrow, reflected in her name, which in Hebrew means bitterness. And yet she also knew times of joy—so much joy that she could exclaim “my spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Luke 1:47).

In all of the sorrowful and joyful seasons of our lives, God is with us so that we, like Mary, can live confidently in accord with the promise-filled Word of God: “Fear not, for I am with you” (Isaiah 43:5). We can say with her, “Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor’s Phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor’s Email: [pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org](mailto:pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org)

## ✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

### HYMN OF INVOCATION: Only-Begotten, Word of God Eternal

LSB 916



1 On - ly - be - got - ten, Word of God e - ter - nal, Lord of cre -  
2 Ho - ly this tem - ple where our Lord is dwell - ing; This is none  
3 Hear us, O Fa - ther, as we throng Your tem - ple. By Your past  
△ 4 God in three per - sons, Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, Son co - e -



a - tion, mer - ci - ful and might - y: Hear us, Your ser - vants,  
oth - er than the gate of heav - en. Ev - er Your chil - dren,  
bless - ings, by Your pres - ent boun - ty, Smile on Your chil - dren,  
ter - nal, ev - er bless - ed Spir - it: To You be prais - es,



as our tune - ful voic - es Rise in Your pres - ence.  
year by year re - joic - ing, Chant in Your tem - ple.  
and in grace and mer - cy Hear our pe - ti - tion.  
thanks, and ad - o - ra - tion, Glo - ry for - ev - er.

Text and tune: Public Domain

*Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

*[Hebrews 10:22]*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

*Psalms 124:8*

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Psalms 32:5*

*Kneel (or remain standing) — Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

*Mark 16:16; John 1:12*

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### INTROIT

Psalm 34:2-5; antiphon: v. 1

*The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.*



(Antiphon) I will bless the LORD at | all times;\*

His praise shall continually be | in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup> My soul makes its boast | in the LORD;\*  
let the humble hear | and be glad.

<sup>3</sup> **Oh, magnify the | LORD with me,\***  
**let us exalt His name to- | gether!**

<sup>4</sup> I sought the LORD, and He | answered me\*  
and delivered me from | all my fears.

<sup>5</sup> **Those who look to Him are | radiant,\***  
**and their faces shall never | be ashamed.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*The antiphon is repeated.*

### KYRIE

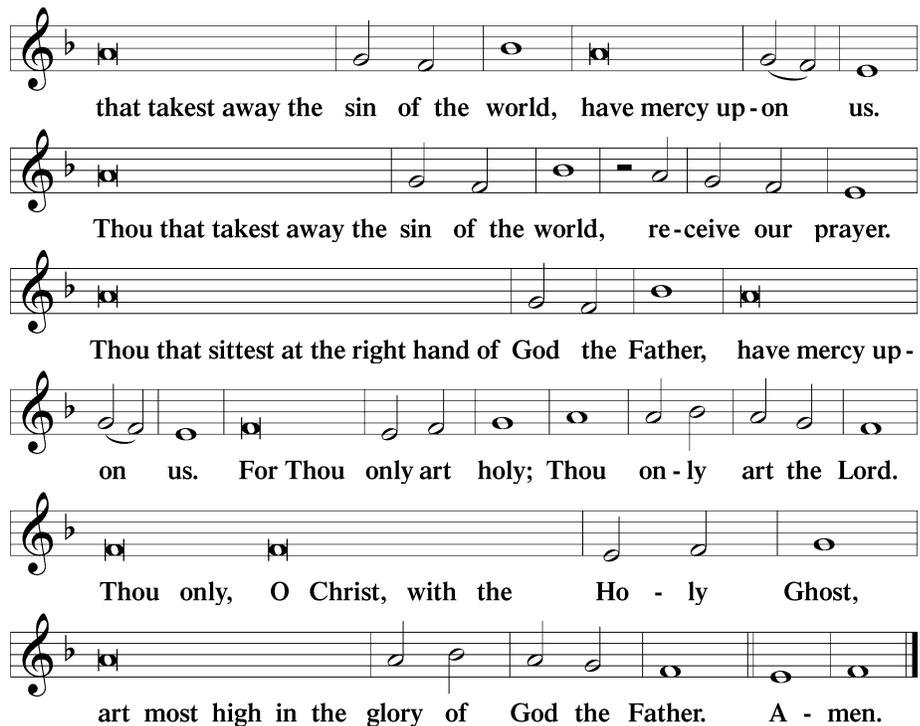
Mark 10:47

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.  
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

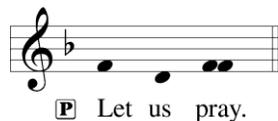
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You chose the virgin Mary to be the mother of Your only Son. Grant that we, who are redeemed by His blood, may share with her in the glory of Your eternal kingdom; 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.

*Sit*

**OLD TESTAMENT**

*Isaiah 61:7-11*

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 61.

<sup>7</sup>Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

Psalm 45:13–14

*The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.*



All glorious is the princess in her | chamber,\*  
**with robes interwo- | ven with gold.**  
In many-colored robes she is led | to the King,\*  
**with her virgin companions following be- | hind her.**

## EPISTLE

Galatians 4:4–7

**P** The Epistle is from Galatians, chapter four.

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA & VERSE

Luke 1:46b–47



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Alleluia. My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Alleluia. *The alleluias are repeated.*

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39–55

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the first chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. <sup>50</sup>And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; <sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away. <sup>54</sup>He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, <sup>55</sup>as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

HYMN OF THE DAY: The Magnificat

LSB 248

*Refrain*

**C** My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -  
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the  
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.

1 For — He has re - garded  
 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to . . . . . me,  
 3 He has shown strength with His . . . . . arm;  
 4 He has filled the hungry with good . . . . . things,  
 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the . . . . . Son

1 the lowliness of . . . . . His hand - maiden.  
 2 and holy . . . . . is His name;  
 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
 4 and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.  
 5 and to the . . . . . Ho - ly Spirit;

1 For be - hold, from this . . . . . day  
 2 and His mercy is on those who . . . . . fear Him  
 3 He has cast down the mighty from their . . . . . thrones  
 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy  
 5 as it was in the be - ginning,

1 all generations will . . . . . call me blessèd.  
 2 from generation to . . . . . gen - er - ation. *Refrain*  
 3 and has exalt - ed the lowly.  
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.  
 5 is now, and will be forever. . . . . A - men. *Refrain*

Luke 1:46–55

©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; refrain: David Schack; verse: Paul J. Grime ©2006 Concordia Publishing House.

**SERMON**

Rev. Doug Griebenaw

*After the sermon, the pastor may say:*

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
 keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12



**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

*Kneel (or remain standing)*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1–4)

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their need.
- P** Lord of time and eternity, we remember Your acts of kindness to Your people through the ages. We bless You for the unspeakable love shown to us in the incarnation of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary. As Your Holy Spirit works in us, we magnify You and rejoice in our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.
- P** We pray for the world in which we live, that world to which our Lord was willing to come as an infant. On this day we pray for all mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and all those who nurture children. Bless them with the ability to guide the children entrusted to their care with compassion and love. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.
- P** We pray that we would be ready servants, eager to fulfill Your will for our lives as we live in the communities You have placed us. Give us a full appreciation for the gift that each person is in the circles of our acquaintance. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.
- P** We pray for those with special needs and concerns these days, remembering the sick, the shut-in and the hospitalized, and all those we name in the silence of our hearts. From Your treasury of grace, meet the needs of all who call to You, granting them whatever is best for their lives. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.
- P** With gratefulness, we remember Your saints of all time, including Mary, whose sacrifice and dedication is celebrated on this day. Inspire us by her faithful witness as we seek to serve You constantly all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.
- P** Gracious Father, in Your great mercy You sent Your Son, Christ Jesus, to be born of the Virgin Mary, born under the law, to redeem those under the law by His cross and passion. Grant that we who receive this mercy at His Holy Supper would do so in faith, that His true body and most precious blood may be for our highest good. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

*The live-stream concludes with the following:*

## LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:  
**C** **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.**

## CONCLUDING COLLECT

- P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** **Amen.**

*The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. Please sing/read aloud the closing hymn.*

## CLOSING HYMN: Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

LSB 918

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious  
bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;  
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar  
fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,  
Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,  
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,  
Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,  
bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no  
strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and  
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to  
more; Feed me till I want no more.  
shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.  
Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

Text and tune: Public Domain

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠  
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Whew! It was quite a week visiting Saint Louis, Missouri! With the time-change and some jet-lag, my poor kiddos are tuckered-out! Sam didn't sleep on the flight TO Saint Louis but he sure passed-out on the flight BACK to El Centro!

I think the highlight of our trip for Leo and Sam was the visit to "Magic House" (a sort of children's museum with multiple floors and tons of rooms filled with different experiences to engage in science, art, and good old-fashioned play). We were treated to the experience by our former pastor from Denver, Colorado, Rev. Michael Meyer and his family (Pastor Meyer baptized and confirmed Holly, and conducted the blessing of our marriage back at our then-home-congregation). Rev. Meyer now serves as the Director of Disaster Training for the synod.



However, the second-best thing was our trip to the West County Center (what used to be call a "mall") where Leo and Sam got to run-free in the play area. Sam was ecstatic to be stomping around with his big brother! And I caught a smile of pure joy on Leo's face while he rode in a fire engine!

This was also a chance for Mom and Dad to sit down (sort-of—we had to keep Sam from making a break for it into the mall) and talk about the trip and the Divine Call to KFUE.

**Brothers and Sisters, after much prayer and wrestling with God, I believe He has called me to serve Him in a new capacity as the Mission Advocate with KFUE Radio in Saint Louis, Missouri.** To this very moment, it still pains me to recognize that this means I must depart from this flock—from all of you, whom I love and for whom it has been my privilege, honor, and responsibility to serve as Christ's undershepherd. I love you all!

After informing Gary Duncan, the KFUE Executive Director, that I have accepted God's Call to KFUE, I took Leo with me into the Chapel at the LCMS International Center to explain to him what would be happening. We sat together in the back row of the chapel in silence for a few moments before I told him that we would be moving to Saint Louis and that I wouldn't be the pastor of a congregation—of our congregation—any longer, but that he and I and Mom and Sam would all together be ministered to by a pastor at a church in Saint Louis. As I spoke those words—as I came to the full realization that I wouldn't be your pastor anymore—I began to cry. Perhaps this was unwise—to burden such a little guy with his father's tears—but Leo's response was the last thing I ever expected: Leo stood up and looked at me very seriously and said, **"Dad, if you're sad, I'm gonna give you a surprise EVERY DAY to make you happy."** Well, you know I was crying even harder then, so Leo gave me a big hug and hung on to me for at least three minutes! And with that, I really did feel better.

Now, I realize you must be asking "What does this mean?" or "What happens next?" Well, in short, I am still your pastor until I and my family pull out of our driveway for the last time. We will continue to have Divine Service every Sunday and our Bible Study every Tuesday and our Prayer Service every Wednesday. I do not have a firm date when we shall depart—there are so many logistical hurdles that need to be cleared—but KFUE has asked that I make every effort to begin my service in October of this year. The church leadership and I will be working together to facilitate the transition to what is next but remember this: Christ Jesus is with you always, just as He promised!

In the time that we have left together, I truly hope to see you for our **study of the Psalms every Tuesday at Noon on "Zoom."** This week we'll be **studying Psalm 52.** And I would love to have you tune-in or come by the church for our **prayer service on Wednesday at 7:00pm.**

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either "669-900-9128" or "346-248-7799" and enter 7603525715#
- The password for computer and telephone is "12345"

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box: Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw