

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

October 3, 2021

Interim Pastor: Rev. Karen Parsh - 814.881.3266 – pastorparsh@gmail.com

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Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

Prelude ~ 8:30am Adult Choir and Pastor Parsh, flute

I Am Your Servant -V.Ambrosetti

10:30am *How Majestic is Your Name* M.W.Smith

Welcome and Announcements ~ Today, we welcome Sheryl Williams' daughter, Rev. Stephanie Volland as guest preacher. Stephanie, along with her husband, is a missionary in Northern Germany.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

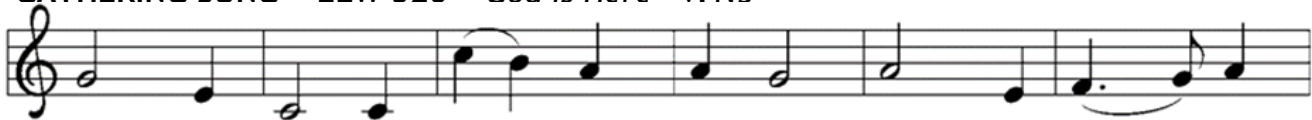
Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

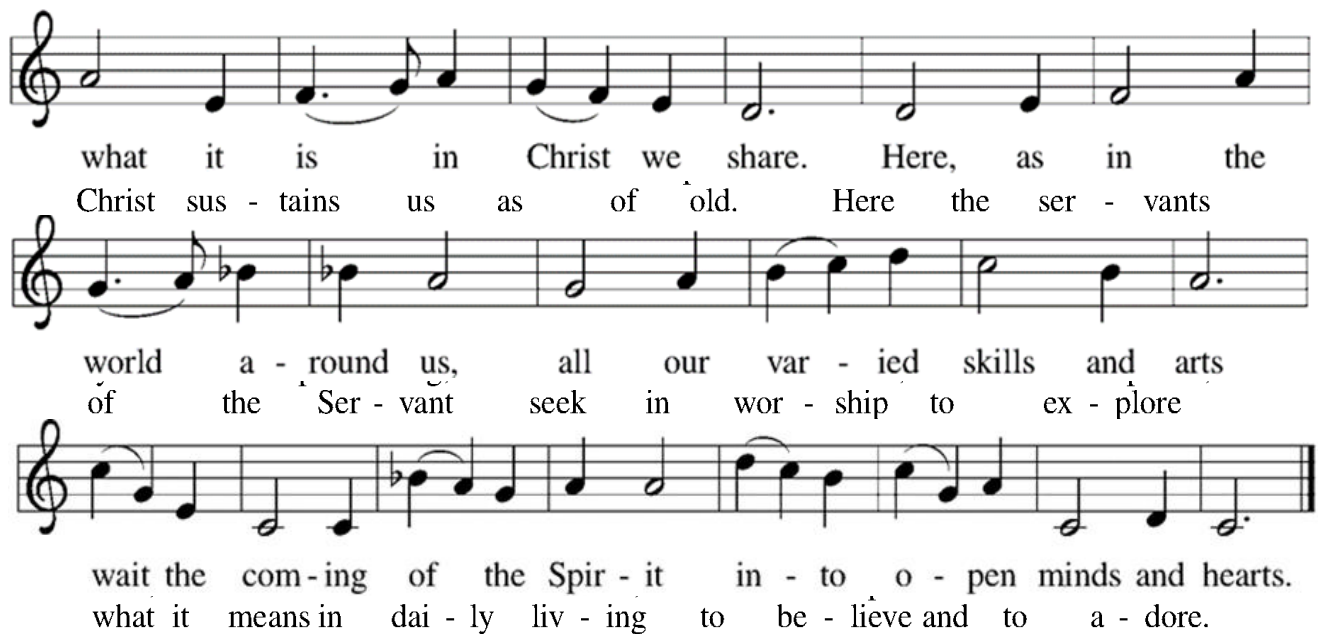
GATHERING SONG ~ ELW 526 *God Is Here* v.1.3



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.

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.

Hymn of Praise



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo - ple on earth.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord

God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo - ple on earth.
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus
Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. A - men, a - men.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER of the DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other “one flesh.” The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.”

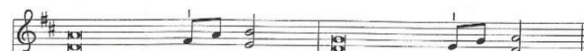
²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 8

Sung Responsively

Tone 1



¹O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

²you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:

⁷all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

⁹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Gospel Acclamation



GOSPEL: Mark 10:2-16

The gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

²Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." ¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

Sermon ~ Rev. Stephanie Voland ~ Spiritual Gifts

Hymn of the Day ~ ELW 656 Blest Be the Tie That Binds



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Apostles' Creed

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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You have established a diverse and beautiful creation. Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands. Cultivate in us a sense of wonder for the world you created. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You desire for us not to be alone and to live in community with one another. Strengthen relationships between nations and peoples, that we celebrate and support one human family. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You share in our experiences and struggles. Bless all who live with any mental or physical disability. Inspire creative communities, spaces, and environments that are accessible and hospitable.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You promise eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the people of faith who have gone before us. Strengthen our trust we have in you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly greets each other from their pew space, then is seated

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

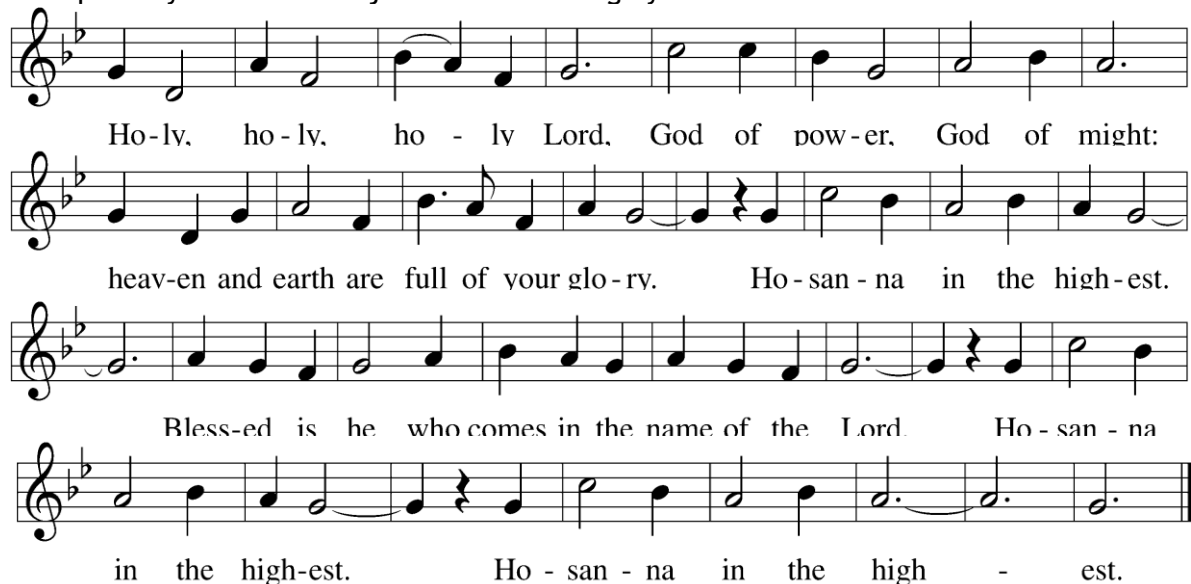
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour
out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. / The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Communion Hymn ~ As the Deer



VERSE

1. As the deer pant - eth for the wa - ter, so my soul long - eth af - ter
2. You're my friend and You are my broth - er e - ven though You _ are a
3. I want You more than gold or sil - ver, on - ly You can _ sat - is -



Thee. You a - lone are my heart's de - si - re, and I long to wor - ship
King. I love You more than an - y oth - er, so much more than an - y -
-fy. You a - lone are the real joy - giv - er and the ap - ple of my

CHORUS



Thee. You a - lone are my strength, my shield; To You a - lone may my
-thing.
eye.



spir - it yield. You a - lone are my



heart's de - si - re, and I long to wor - ship Thee.

Post Communion Canticle ~ Thine the Amen. Thine the Praise



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.

The assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ~ ELW 543 *Go My Children, With My Blessing*



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Dismissal

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

Postlude ~ *Day by Day* -S. Schwartz

GOSPEL MESSAGE - Blessings

"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs". Jesus, by bringing the children to him, identifies himself with those who were among the most vulnerable and helpless in society. In ancient times, children often were treated like property. They had few protections from those who would treat them badly. But Jesus came into the world for ones such as these children. Who, in our communities, is in the place of the children of ancient times? As Christ's church, do we provide a place of welcome and care for the most vulnerable and weak in our society?

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Parish Notes ~October 3,2021

Please pray for: For the family of Steven Naruswicz, John & Jacque Holmberg, Judy Nordin, Judi Pacileo, Joe Pacileo, Bishop Lozano, Bob Pacileo, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, Joyce Hersperger, Teresa Burgess. *Names will remain on our printed lists for four weeks unless renewed.*

Prayer Requests: Please call or email Pastor Karen with prayer requests or any **pastoral emergencies**. Contacts for Pastor Karen: **814-881-3266** or **pastorparsh@gmail.com**.

Fall/Winter Schedule for In-Person Worship: Sunday service is offered @ **8:30a and 10:30a**. The 10:30a service will live-stream on Facebook and then posted to the **AHLC** web page.

Adult Choir: Wednesday evening @ 6:00p.

Office Closed: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday October 4,5,6 - Monday October 11.

Bible Study: Continuing this Sunday and through the 1st week in November, bible study will be held weekly following the 8:30a service. Pastor Karen will lead a lively discussion and study of what it means to be Lutheran. The class will follow the text of the **AUGSBURG CONFESSION**: a contemporary commentary (written in plain and simple language). Twelve books are available. If more books are needed Pastor will order from Amazon.

Senior Group Invites YOU to be part of something new and growing and fun at Abiding Hope! You are invited to be part of an organizational gathering for seniors at Abiding Hope, **October 7 at 12:00 NOON**. Bring a bag lunch... but remember that we will provide table service, coffee and lemonade, tea AND Dessert!

On the agenda... 1. Setting up regular senior gatherings, 2. Opening devotion / brief worship, lunch. 3. Ideas for what kind of activities would you enjoy participating in, such as: speakers, educational programs, crafty opportunities, games, service projects, traveling to restaurants, shows etc.

This group will reflect your interests and needs, and is meant to include neighbors, friends, and anyone who might be interested in meeting new people or building friendships. For more info, contact Pastor Karen or Denise in the office.

Boscov's Coupon Shopping Event: Once again we are selling **\$5.00 coupons** for you to shop all day, **Wednesday, October 20th, 8am-11pm** and save **up to 25%** on your purchases. Best thing!the \$5.00 comes back to the church. The savings discount also applies to items on sale. You can purchase any number of coupons for family & friends. Please see Analee Cree or contact Denise in the office to purchase.

Ladies Dining Out: Mark your calendars! for **October 21st @ Chico's in Fairview at 5:30 pm**. Thirteen ladies enjoyed our last gathering! No agenda ... just good fellowship and food. (Dutch treat. RSVP to Jacque Holmberg @ 814 490-4470.

Reformation Day Events: Two events will take place on **Sunday, October 31st to celebrate**. At the **8:30a & 10:30a** service a Reformation Day Drama will take place and in between services a **Reformation Day Breakfast** will be served. Members along with family and guests are invited to enjoy great worship, good food and fellowship.

AED: Memorial funds have recently been used to purchase an AED (automated defibrillator device). This is a medical device to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. This new device is mounted on the wall near the restrooms on the upper level at church. Training on the use of this AED device- plus CPR - will be offered at Abiding Hope by a Millcreek Paramedic to those of you who are interested. The date for this training will be determined at a later time. Thank you to our Thrivent Financial Action Team for financially supporting this educational event. The signup sheet for this training is available in the narthex. If you have questions, please call Jeanne Tropper @ 814-823-1484 or hijeanneh@gmail.com.

If you wish to preview CPR/AED training before attending a class you may go to americanAED.com/dvd/onsite.

QUARTERLY STATEMENTS: The statements for 3rd Quarter 2021 will be emailed to you during the first half of October. They will also be printed and placed in your church mailbox. If you need to have the statement sent to you by US mail, please let Pat Wenzel know by either calling her at 814-864-1898 (leave a message) or email her at RNWenzel@gmail.com. Please verify the statements with your records and if you have a question or find an error, please notify Pat.

Financial Secretary: According to our constitution and bylaws, Pat Wenzel will be completing her fifth and final term as Financial Secretary at the end of December. We need someone to take over this position. The main duties are entering weekly contributions, composing monthly reports to church council and sending out contribution statements. It averages about 2 hours a week...any day or time that is convenient for you as long as the office computer is available. Please contact Pat or any member of the church council if you are interested in this volunteer position.

Bishop Lozano Is once again back in Sharon to continue his lengthy recovery. Prayers are powerful and are requested to be continued along with cards and notes, which can be the medicine he needs on days when it is hardest to keep strong. They will be forwarded to the Bishop several times. A box is on the table in the narthex.

WELCA - Lily Project: The Lily Project has teamed with St. Vincent Health Center to assist women and girls who have been assaulted by replacing clothing items after the assault. Often times, the victim does not have her clothing returned to her because it is ruined or is needed for evidence. This is an ongoing project to collect new/clean clothing for these victims to wear to return home. ALL items MUST be new according to health regulations. Items needed in sizes small to 2XL: Camisoles/cotton sports bras, cotton panties, socks, loose athletic pants, plain t-shirts. There is a poster in the narthex for more information and a box for your donations.

Finances at AHLCC

Current

\$ 5,165 current offerings received in September 2021

\$12,151 needed monthly to meet 2021 budgeted expenses (not adjusted for reduced pastor expenses)

Year-to-Date

\$101,932 as of end of September

\$109,359 needed for budgeted expenses (not adjusted for reduced pastor expenses).