

Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church

"Growing Relationships with God, Each Other, and Our Neighbors in the Way of Jesus"



Saturday, July 26, 2025, 5:00 PM

Sunday, July 27, 2025, 9:00 AM

Welcome...There's a place for you here!

Welcome to the Lord's Table

All Christians—including visitors of all denominations or no church membership—are invited to the altar to receive Holy Communion. If you prefer to take communion while remaining in your seat, select a prefilled cup from a basket at the top of the ramps before the service begins.

Worshippers may come forward via the center aisle to receive communion at the altar, then return by the side aisles. Bread, wheat wafers or gluten-free wafers are offered, as is a choice of wine (lighter color, outer rings of tray) or grape juice (darker color, inner rings). Paper towel-lined baskets are provided for empty cups at the end of the first pew and at the top of the ramps. Those who are not yet communing may also come forward to receive a blessing, crossing your arms to indicate this choice.

Children have a place here, too!

During our Sunday services, children are invited to come forward for the children's time. They may also receive communion at whatever age their adult(s) agree(s) they may. "Busy bags" are hung along the wall in the sanctuary for use during services. Toys and books are also found in and near the "cry room", the window-enclosed room at the front right side of the worship space.

You'll find one changing table in the bathroom near the top of the spiral staircase in the entryway, and another behind the door at the front of the sanctuary behind the choir section. Our unstaffed nursery is located at the bottom of the spiral staircase as a place for an adult to stay with their child, if needed.

Restrooms are located in the entryway on either side (mirrored cubes).

Note: our Sunday service is livestreamed, and some worshippers may be seen in the broadcast. Those seated behind the ramps will not be seen on camera.

(thank you for silencing your phone as you worship)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

(silence is kept for reflection)

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life.

Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ☩ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"What a Friend we have in Jesus"

ELW 742

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Colossians 2:6-15

A reading from Colossians:

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him,⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were

also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it

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

PSALM: Psalm 138 (*read responsively*)

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³ When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”² So he said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,’⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish?¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion?¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pastor Beth Ann L. Stone

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Seek Ye First”

WOV 721

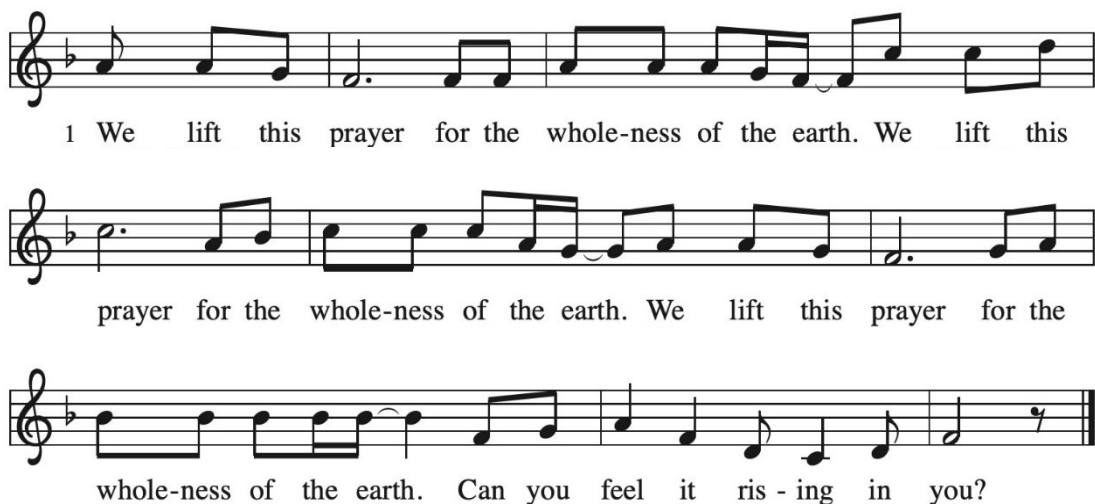
**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia**

**We do not live by bread alone, but by ev’ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allell, Alleluia**

SONG FOR PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*sing once before and once after prayers*)

“For the Wholeness of the Earth” (ACS 1067, vs. 1)



PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY

Use the QR code to reach our online giving page:



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,

that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

ACS 1089 (in English)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

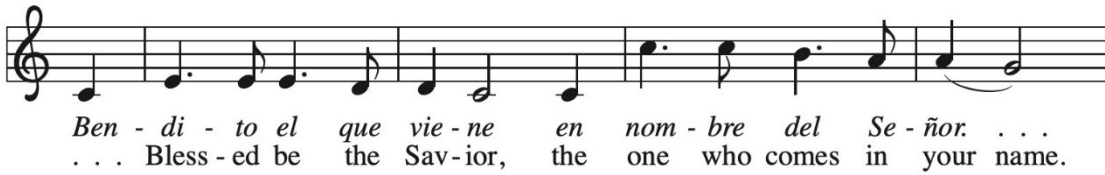
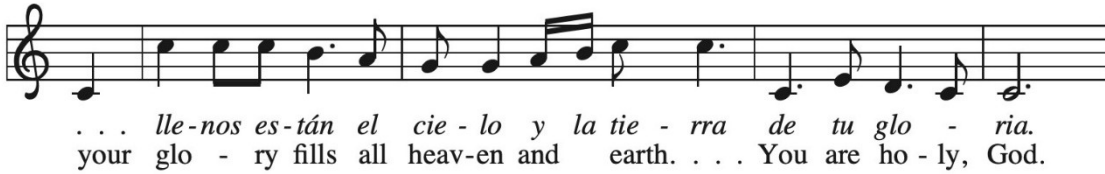
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

. . . The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.
Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION *(see inside of bulletin cover for communion directions)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG "Go My Children with my Blessing" ELW 543

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Today's Worship Leaders

Preacher: Pastor Beth Ann Stone

Musician: Michael Becker

Sun. Greeter: Nancy Clausen

Coffee Hour Refreshments: Peggy Svoboda, Candy Zicarelli

Sat. Reader: Kathy Behm; Sun. Reader: Stephen Gifford

Sun. Communion Assistants: Tim Graves, *Two Needed*

Video Producer: John Simpson

Worship Leaders for 8/2 & 8/3:

Sun. Greeter: *One Needed*

Coffee Hour Refreshments: Diane Kelly, Becky Litwin

Sat. Reader: *One needed*; Sun. Reader: Zack Steenrod

Sun. Communion Assistants: Brenda Booker, Karen Magee

Video Producer: Becky Litwin

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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THIS WEEK AT MPLC: July 26 - Aug 3

Sat. July 26

5:00 PM: Worship (Sanctuary)

Sun. July 27

9:00 AM: Worship (Sanctuary)

10:00 AM: Coffee Hour (Fellowship)

10:15 AM: Adult Ed - The Chosen (Fellowship)

Tues. July 29

11:00 AM: Chair Yoga (Fellowship)

Sat. Aug 2

5:00 PM: Worship (Sanctuary)

Sun. Aug 3

9:00 AM: Worship (Sanctuary)

10:00 AM: Coffee Hour (Fellowship)

10:15 AM: Adult Ed – Word of the Week (Fellowship)

10:15 AM: Prayer Shawl Ministry (Fellowship)

MPLC STAFF DIRECTORY

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|---|--|
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Ship's Blog: "Built on a Rock, the Church Shall Stand"

MPLC's "unusually shaped building" was completed in 1975, becoming the new center for worship and faith formation for the congregation of Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church. In 2025, we give thanks for its role in launching missions and ministry in our community for the past fifty years.

Have you ever wondered what holds up our sanctuary? Most rectangular church buildings have trusses or beams across the wide expanse of the sanctuary, helping to support the roof and keep the walls from bowing out. Interior, load-bearing walls help to bear the weight of what's above them.



Construction of the building framework, circa early 1975.

Our round church building was constructed on a compression ring, according to MPLC member Harold Solberg. "This steel reinforced concrete ring rests on the foundation wall which loads the wide footing that distributes those forces over stable subsoil," Harold explained. "The compression ring bears the load of the whole building, not just the load pressing down from above, but also the load pressing in or out from the sides."

The circular shape of the building distributes the weight of the load across the whole ring, making the construction very solid, but also virtually impossible to modify. While it would be great to consider adding an elevator or raising the main entrance door threshold that many a tall person has had to duck under—such changes would compromise the integrity of the construction that has kept this building 'round for fifty years. "It has worked amazingly well!" Harold added.

Read more of our building anniversary blog posts on our website at
<https://www.spaceshipchurch.org/blog>

We are called by Jesus to **love God and one another**, to practice generous hospitality, and to serve all unconditionally. We fully welcome you to join us, embracing your race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical abilities, mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, background, and wherever you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God and are welcome here. You are accepted and openly affirmed just as you are. We commit ourselves to undertaking the work of racial equality and social and economic justice. We invite you to join us as we joyfully and inclusively love and serve God and our community, as **we are all one in Christ Jesus.**