# Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me

**MARK 9:37** 

# Introduction

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

> Our Saviour Lutheran Church 300 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette 743-2931 www.osluth.org Pastor Randy Schroeder

> Purdue Lutheran Ministry 330 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette 743-2398 www.plm.org Pastor Kristin Rice

> > September 22, 2024, 9:00 л.м.

*All are welcome here* All people of faith, All people of doubt All people of any origin, race, ability, sexual orientation or gender expression All people who seek a compassionate community

> *All are welcome here* Welcome to worship, Welcome to pray Welcome to learn, Welcome to give thanks Welcome to serve God and neighbors

*All are welcome here All are redeemed by a gracious God* 



# The Gathering

### **Prelude Music**

*Thy Holy Wings* (Arr. by Mark Sedio, 1997 Augsburg Fortress) *Lord of All Hopefulness* (setting by Joel Raney, 2006 Hope Publishing)

Call to Worship (inspired by James 3:13- 4:8, posted on Literature & Liturgy. https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/)

PK Who among you is seeking the wisdom of God?

C We long to hear God's Word spoken to our hearts.

- PK Who among you is seeking God's bright and holy truth?
- C We long to learn the ways of wisdom and righteousness.
- PK Who among you is seeking a Spirit-filled life?
- C We long to live lives of holiness and light.
- PK God grants God's wisdom generously to all who ask. Come near, people of God!
- C Let us worship in wisdom and truth

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

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

- PK Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C Amen.
- PK Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

PK Gracious God,

C have mercy on us.
We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes.
In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves.
We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

- PKGod promises to forgive our iniquity<br/>and to remember our sin no more.<br/>By grace you have been saved.<br/>In the name of + Jesus Christ,<br/>the source of eternal healing,<br/>your sins are forgiven.
- C Åmen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW (red), hymn 526: God Is Here!





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#### Greeting

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

#### **Hymn of Praise**



# **Prayer of the Day**

- PK O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

Sit

# The Word

L A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

#### Jeremiah 11:18-20

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds.
<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.
And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying,
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!"
<sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

- L The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 54 (Read responsively by whole verse)

<sup>1</sup> Save me, O God, by your name, and vindicate me by your might.
<sup>2</sup> Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.
<sup>3</sup> For the insolent have risen against me; the ruthless seek my life; they do not set God before them. *Selah*<sup>4</sup> But surely, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.
<sup>5</sup> He will repay my enemies for their evil. In your faithfulness, put an end to them.
<sup>6</sup> With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.
<sup>7</sup> For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies. L A reading from the book of James.

# James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.<sup>4:</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

- L The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Stand

# **Gospel Acclamation**



God has called us through the proclamation of <sup>|</sup> the good news,\* that we may obtain the glory of our Lord <sup>|</sup> Jesus Christ.

PK The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the ninth chapter.

# C Glory to you, O Lord.

# Mark 9:30-37

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;<sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

PK The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

**Children's Sermon** 

Sermon

**Pastor Kristin Rice** 

Hymn of the Day, ELW (red), hymn 641: All Are Welcome



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## PR 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 holv catholic church. the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### Prayers

A Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need. (*A brief silence*.) Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God.

#### C Your mercy is great.

A Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. We pray for Shanghai and all in the path of Typhoon Bebinca and for those affected by the Houston pipeline explosion. Hear us, O God.

# C Your mercy is great.

A Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations, especially in Gaza and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, Syria, Sudan, Myanmar, and all areas of conflict. We pray for the safety of political leaders amidst threats of violence. We ask your Spirit to guide us in healing divisions in our country and local communities, so that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God.

#### **C** Your mercy is great.

- A Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer especially Carl & Sara B. and family, Dru, Sally, John and Jeanette, Danny D., Zarema, Zera, and their family in Crimea, Zach, Lynn, Lawrence, Nathan and Haley, Sheila, Suzanne, Jean, and Megan. We pray for the Haitian community of Springfield, OH; for Wittenberg University and all schools and institutions under threat. Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.

- A Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A May your Spirit surround us as we discern our way forward as OSLC. Help us to listen, notice, and connect to your Spirit's leadership. You have called us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we may go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love is supporting us. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- PR We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

# Peace

- PR The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

# The Meal

# As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, please read the following:

For today's distribution of Holy Communion, after the Invitation to the Table, the presiding pastor will invite the worship assistants (lector, assisting minister, usher) to commune behind the altar. The presiding pastor will then commune those worshiping online and those in the sanctuary who wish to commune in their pews. Then the presiding pastor will commune those who wish to come up to the altar while the Lamb of God is played.

# Offering

Please feel free to send your regular tithe in the mail, drop it off to the church office or if you have not checked out our website and the "Your Offering Made Easy" tab, this could be your opportunity. (Ted Heise is available to answer any questions about the Vanco Online giving option. His email address is **theise@panix.com**)



Stand

# **Offering Prayer**

- A Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation.
  By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

# The Great Thanksgiving

- PR The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- PR Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- PR Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

# C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PR 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:



PR 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**.

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C Amen.
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# The Lord's Prayer

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.

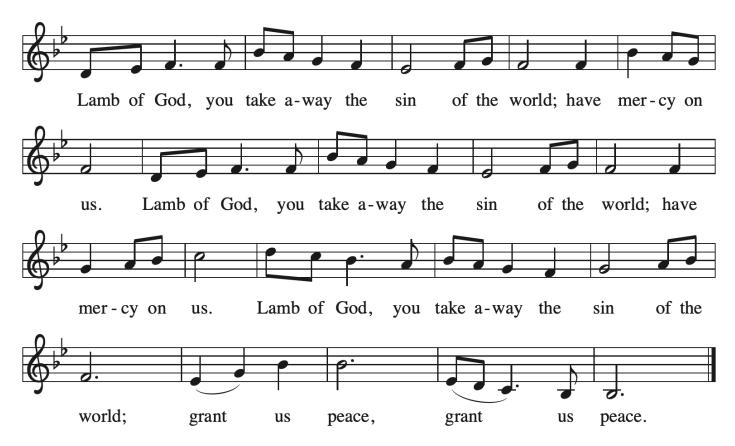
## **Invitation to Communion**

PR The table set by Jesus is open to all, and in resurrection Christ is present in this simple food and festive drink. Jesus welcomes friends and strangers to this feast, where the grace of God's love and goodness meet us wherever we are. Here we are welcomed, affirmed, and celebrated with the gifts of God, for us, the people of God.

# Distribution

There are gluten-free wafers and grape juice. Please indicate your need to the server.

# Lamb of God



Communion Hymn: ACS, hymn 966: Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007 Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

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- PR The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and for ever.
- C Amen.

#### **Prayer after Communion**

A Holy God,

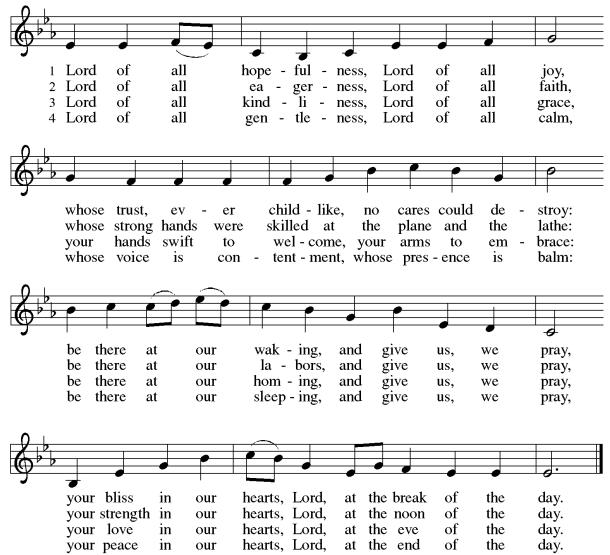
you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

# The Sending

# An Invitation

Sending Hymn: ELW (red), Hymn 765: Lord of All Hopefulness



Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional Text © Oxford University Press 1931. All rights reserved. Used with permission. under OneLicense.net, License # A-702953

# Blessing

- PR God all mighty, God most merciful + bless you, keep you, and give you peace.
- C Amen.

# Dismissal

- A Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
- C Thanks be to God.

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**Worship Assistants Today:** Julie Huetteman, Krista Gearhart (Musicians), Russ Hillberry (Cantor), Bob Nielsen (Assisting Minister), Dick Rahdert (Lector), Jesse Grogan (Usher), Mike Williams (A-V Specialist), Matt Ohland (Assistant to Mr. Williams)

Pastor Randy is available for pastoral care. Please contact him at: 260-402-4476 or by email: randy@osluth.org

Pastor Kristin is available for campus ministry-related care and support. Please contact her at: 262-758-1235 or by email: pastor@plm.org

We collect toiletries (travel size) to donate to the homeless shelter. The basket for your donations is in the narthex. (Look beneath the buffet.)

**Our sanctuary is served by a hearing loop.** Wearers of hearing aids should turn their aids to the setting marked T, or T-coil, or Telephone.

**Kid's Worship Bags and Family Room:** The kids' worship bags have been updated with new items that help children follow along with the worship service, storybook Bibles and fun activities to do. For little ones there are quiet toys, books, and activities in the family in the back of the church for the children to play with during the service. Please feel free to let your children explore.

# Dates OSLC is Closed in 2024:

November 28 and 29: Thanksgiving December 24 and 25: Christmas December 31 and January 1 (2025): New Years

# Nursery is Available

OSLC has a nursery for children from infants through 5 years old in our lower level staffed with a paid nursery attendant, Crystal. Crystal is a Purdue Student majoring in Elementary Education and has completed the Red Cross Adult, Child, and Infant First Aid and CPR course. Crystal will welcome your child(ren) during our 9:00 am service and Faith Formation hour. For more information or questions, contact Missy Schroeder at <u>missy@osluth.org</u> or 260-402-4477.

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School is from 10:15 am to 11:15 am. We have classes for children ages 2-5 in the Nursery with Crystal. We offer Godly Play for our elementary school-age children in grades K -5 and confirmation classes for 6th -8- 8th children. Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for a coffee hour around 10:00 am. The children will be welcomed to the Godly Play Worship Center (the Sunday School room) and Nursery at 10:15. If you have any questions or want more information, contact Missy Schroeder at <u>missy@osluth.org</u> or 260-402-4477.

## **Adult Forum**

**September 22nd (TODAY)-** Christian Spiritual Practice Experiential Learning time with Missy Schroeder (This is part of OSLC's discernment process.)

**September 29th-** Christian Spiritual Practice Experiential Learning time with Missy Schroeder (This is a part of OSLC's discernment process.)

**October 6th-** No Adult Forum-Servant Sunday Congregation is invited to help assemble LWR School kits

**October 13th-** Rev. Karl Biermann-Regional Gift Planner for the ELCA Foundation Indiana, Kentucky, and Southern Ohio

**October 20th-** OSLC Congregational Values Exercise led by Missy Schroeder (This is a part of OSLC's Listening Together discernment process.)

October 27th- TBD

### **Centering Prayer Group**

Join us every Monday morning for Centering Prayer online via zoom from 9:00 - 9:30 am. The zoom link will be sent out on Fridays with the worship zoom link.

#### Luncheon Lectio Divina- Praying with Scripture

Join us every Wednesday at noon via zoom for Lectio Divina. The zoom link will be sent on Fridays with the worship zoom link.

# **Purdue Football Game Parking**

It is that time of year again, Football season! That means we need parking attendant volunteers. Volunteers arrive three hours before the game, collect funds for the parking, and park the cars. (There are detailed instructions for the attendants.)

The parking proceeds go to our youth gathering event fund and PLM. The next youth gathering is in July 2027. PLM is taking the October 18th game. OSLC must fill the slots for the rest of the home games. Please click on the link or scan the QR code to the Sign Up Genius to find a date for when you can help. I will have a paper copy on the table near the office door. The first three games listed have times; the November game's time is TBD. I will update the Sign Up Genius as soon as I know the time. Thank You! <u>Purdue Football Parking Sign-Up</u>



# Book Club

Holly Black and Sandra Vana will host a virtual Book Club this fall. The Book Club will read three books and will meet via Zoom. The second meeting will be Tuesday, October 15th and we will be reading and discussing "Shelterwood" by Lisa Wingate. If you have any questions or need the Zoom link, email Sandra Vana at <u>donklady3@gmail.com</u>.

# Hearts and Crafts

Hearts and Crafts will begin again on Thursday, October 17th, at 1:30 in Fellowship Hall. We plan to meet monthly- we will have a small make-and-take project (easy Halloween decoration) and then time to work on our own crafts. (May alternate between Tuesdays and Thursdays.) For more information, contact Holly Black at <u>hmwb26@aol.com</u>

# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Quilters Group

Holy Trinity Quilters meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:00 a.m. They welcome anyone interested in joining a local quilting group. For more information, contact Nell Kretzschmar at jonelkretzs@gmail.com or 765-474-3861.

# Lutheran World Relief School Kits

We need folks to fill the bags on October 6 after the morning service.

The blessing of quilts and kits will be on October 13.

We need folks to box quilts and kits.

We need folks to load the truck, van, or whatever vehicle is used.

We need someone to take the kits and quilts to Fort Wayne (8am to noon) or Valparaiso (2-5pm) on Saturday, October 19.

You can feel free to contact Sandra Vana (donklady3@gmail.com) with questions or to volunteer for the above activities.



# **Listening Together- OSLC Discernment Process**

You are invited to participate in our Adult Forum on **September 22nd (TODAY) and 29th.** We will explore and experience Christian Spiritual practices that help us listen to God individually and as a community. Our discernment process begins with prayer, centering ourselves, and attuning to the Spirit of God. Missy Schroeder will facilitate these experiential learning sessions. Come, and let's listen and pray together.

# Working Mom's Group

You are invited to join us for OSLC's Working Mom's Group on the first Saturday of the month from 9:30 -11:00 am. Our next meeting is on Saturday, October 5, at Java House, 4729 Meijer Ct., Lafayette, IN 47905. This casual group meets to support one another as moms and women working outside the home. If you have any questions, please contact Missy Schroeder at missy@osluth.org or 260-402-4477.

# **Blessing of Pets**

October 4th is St. Francis of Assisi's feast day. He is the patron saint of animals and the environment. Following his example to bless and honor all of God's creatures, we will hold a pet blessing during the children's sermon on Sunday, October 6th. During this time, we will display your pet's pictures on the screens in the sanctuary and online and offer them a blessing. Please send your pet's photo and name to Missy at <u>missy@osluth.org</u> by September 30th so we can get them ready to view by October 6th. Any children who would like to bring their stuffed animals to receive a blessing are more than welcome to do so!

#### Exploration Acres Outing- October 12th from 3:30 to 6:30- ALL ARE WELCOME! Please RSVP here, Exploration Acres Sign-UP, or scan the QR code to

the right so that we will have enough food for everyone. Please join us for a fun afternoon exploring, playing, and enjoying God's creation at Exploration Acres. OSLC has rented fire pit #7 and will provide hot dogs, chips, carrots, apple sauce, bottled water, and smores! Getting into Exploration Acres is \$12/adult and \$9/ child. Five and under are free. Please bring chairs to sit around the campfire. We will meet at the admission building at 3:30, then head to our fire pit. Here is the link



# Listening Together Discernment Process: Congregational Values Exercise

On **October 20th**, during the Adult Forum, you are invited to join us for a **Congregational Values Exercise** led by Missy Schroeder. This will be an engaging and participatory activity for everyone involved. As we listen to God through prayer, we are also called to listen deeply to the stories and values that shape our congregation. This exercise is an important part of our discernment process. It provides an opportunity to reflect inward and honestly explore who we are as a faith community. Your participation is vital as we move forward together.

# Candy & volunteers needed for WL Fall Festival on October 25th

OSLC will be participating in the West Lafayette Fall Festival on Friday, October 25th at the Wellness Center. We need donations of Halloween candy to give out to the 2000+ kids and others who attend (please place donated candy in the basket in the Narthex). We also need a couple volunteers to help pass out the candy that evening. Talk to Scott Vana (<u>scottv1162@gmail.com</u>) if you can help.

## **About Our Nave**

Against the north wall is the Tree of Life, designed by the late liturgical designer Charles Pohlmann and constructed in 1996 by then-OSLC member Ted Marshall. The processional cross was given to OSLC in memory of Jennie Dana. Many of our paraments were designed and hand-woven by OSLC member Bea Stromberg. The west wall is lined with seven wood carvings depicting the life of Christ commissioned from the late Nigerian carver Lamidi Fakeye. At the center of the nave stands a marble baptismal font, a gift from members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The prints of paintings on the east wall are by nationally known liturgical artist He Qi. The center piece is given by the Church Council in honor of Sam Rasmy for his long-time service as Financial Secretary of OSLC. The Last Supper, by Guatemalan artist Angelina Quic Ixtamer, was purchased by the 2014 Guatemala Mission Team. The OSLC logo was redesigned in 2022 with elements reflecting the unique architecture of the sanctuary, the 2019 addition of the south stained-glass window, our affiliation with the ELCA, and the eternal presence of our Lord and Saviour.

References to the Tree of Life are found in both the Old and New Testaments. It has both literal and symbolic meaning for Christians: it is the literal tree of life in Genesis, and in Revelation it represents everlasting life granted to those who display fruits of the spirit and of righteousness aligned with God's principles.

#### Our Saviour's Vision, Mission, and Values (October 4, 2018)