



# Let the Little Children Come to Me!

## A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

FOR THE LORD'S BLESSINGS ON 25 & 40 YEARS  
OF FAITHFUL SERVICE IN THE PUBLIC TEACHING MINISTRY  
by

**Andrew Mildebrandt & Emil Schuh**

St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
September 20, 2020

## BELLS

### GATHERING RITE ON THE WORD OF GOD

*stand*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

♪ **Blessed Jesus, at your Word We are gathered all to hear you.  
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear you,  
By your teachings, sweet and holy, Drawn from earth to love you solely.**

M: Oh, how I love your law!

**C: I meditate on it all day long.**

M: Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,

**C: for they are ever with me.**

M: I have more insight than all my teachers,

**C: for I meditate on your statutes.**

M: How sweet are your words to my taste,

**C: sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

♪ **All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness shrouded  
Till your Spirit breaks our night With the beams of truth unclouded.  
You alone to God can win us; You must work all good within us.**

M: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

**C: so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

M: Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in**

eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

♪ Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light from Light, from God proceeding,  
Open now our heart and mind; Help us by your Spirit's pleading.  
Hear the cry your people raises; Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

M: God gave his Word so "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name". The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

♪ Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Praise to you and adoration!  
Grant that we your Word may trust, Confident of our salvation,  
While we here below must wander, Till we sing your praises yonder.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have committed to your Church the task of making disciples of all nations. Enlighten with your wisdom those who teach and those who learn, that, rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may worship and serve you from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*be seated*

#### THE FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

*Christian education is a way of life.*

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup>Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup>These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. <sup>7</sup>Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the

road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup>Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup>Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

#### RESPONSE

*I Pray You, Dear Lord Jesus | CW 510*

I pray you, dear Lord Jesus, My heart to keep and train  
That I your holy temple From youth to age remain.  
Oh, turn my thoughts forever From worldly wisdom's lore;  
If I but learn to know you, I shall not want for more.

#### THE SECOND LESSON

2 Timothy 1:1-5; 3:14-17

*Paul reminds us of how vitally important it is to hand God's Word down from generation to generation.*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>3</sup>I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. <sup>4</sup>Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. . . . But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

*Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd | CW 508*

Gracious Savior, gentle Shepherd, Children all are dear to you;  
May your loving arms enfold them In your care their whole life through.  
Gently tend and safely keep them In your mercy strong and true.

By your holy Word instruct them; Fill their minds with heav'nly light.  
By your pow'rful grace convince them Always to approve what's right.  
Let them feel your yoke is easy; Let them find your burden light.

Taught to love the holy praises Which on earth your children sing,  
With their lips and hearts, sincerely, Glad thankoff rings may they bring,  
Then with all the saints in glory Join to praise their Lord and King.

*stand*

M: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 18:



## GOSPEL

Matthew 18:1-14

*Jesus stresses how precious children are.*

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”<sup>2</sup>He called a little child and had him stand among them. <sup>3</sup>And he said: “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup>And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. <sup>6</sup>But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. <sup>7</sup>Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come! <sup>8</sup>If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. <sup>9</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell. <sup>10</sup>See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. <sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. <sup>14</sup>In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



*be seated*

## “Thank God for 65 Years of Serving Jesus’ Precious Lambs”

1. Following their example. 2. Being their example.

*Pastor Michael J. Zuberbier*

## PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

*stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Most merciful God, our Heavenly Father, we praise you for all your gracious gifts to us. We give you thanks for establishing and maintaining the holy ministry to nourish the congregation of believers with your precious Word. You have done great things for us and we are glad. Today we lift our hearts in gratitude and rejoicing for the goodness you have bestowed on your servants Emil Schuh and Andrew Mildebrandt, whom you have called as teachers in your Church. O Lord, you have mercifully granted them grace to serve in the office of the public ministry for forty and twenty-five years and have showered a multitude of blessings on their ministries. In spite of all human frailties, you have enabled them to teach your saving truth among us. As wise and faithful stewards of your mysteries, they have declared the whole counsel of God. You have given them strength to bear their burdens of labor and hardships and supported them when crosses weighed heavily. For this abounding love and favor toward your servants, we thank and praise you. In your goodness grant them continued guidance and sustain them with your tender care. Give them joy in serving you and your people, and fill their hearts with your peace. Abide with all who confess your holy name, keeping us steadfast in faith and sound doctrine. Help each of us to serve you with gladness and faithfulness. Bring us and all your saints at last into eternal joy. Graciously hear us, O God of our salvation, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

## THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **♪And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **♪We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **♪It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **♪Amen.**

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

♪ O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall* | **CW 506**

Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall, Where Jesus Christ is all in all!  
A home that is not wholly his-How sad and poor and dark it is!

Oh, blest that house where faith you find And all within have set their mind  
To trust their God and serve him still And do in all his holy will.

Oh, blest the parents who give heed Unto their children's foremost need  
And weary not of care or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!

Blest such a house; it prospers well. In peace and joy the parents dwell,  
And in their children's lives is shown How richly God can bless his own.

Then here will I and mine today A solemn promise make and say:  
Though all the world forsake his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

*Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain* | **CW 514**

Lord, help us ever to retain The Catechism's doctrine plain  
As Luther taught the Word of truth In simple style to tender youth.

Help us your holy law to learn, To mourn our sin and from it turn  
In faith to you and to your Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One.

Hear us, dear Father, when we pray For needed help from day to day  
That as your children we may live, Whom you in baptism did receive.

Lord, when we fall or go astray, Absolve and lift us up, we pray;  
And through the sacrament increase Our faith till we depart in peace.

*stand*

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, since you have committed the care and nurture of children to your people, graciously enlighten those who teach and those who are committed to their instruction that they may know the truth and trust in you all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

**BLESSING**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

*be seated*

**CLOSING HYMN**

*Bless Our Loved Ones, Holy Father* | CW 504

Bless our loved ones, Holy Father; Hear our anxious prayer;  
By your mercy keep them always In your care.

May the joy of your salvation Be their strength and stay!  
May they love and may they praise you Day by day!

Holy Spirit, let your teaching Sanctify their life;  
Send your grace that they may conquer In the strife.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God forever true,  
Bless them, guide them, save them, keep them Close to you.

**ORGANIST**

Ruth Koepsell

**GREETERS**

7:45 ~ Travis & Brindah Birkholz    10:30 ~ Jim & Marcia Pflum



**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BAPTISM** Pearson James Roehl, newborn son of Travis and Lindsey Roehl, will be received into the Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday. May Pearson always remain faithful to his baptismal covenant.

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS** Our sister in the faith, Gladys Faubel, will turn 90 on September 28. She is at Crossroads Care Center and has not had a visitor since the lockdown began. We would like to show her our love by asking you to send her a birthday card. Thanks for sharing your love with a sister in Christ. Her address: Gladys Faubel, Crossroads Care Center, 115 E. Arndt St. Room 203, Fond du Lac, WI 54935.

**COMMUNICATING CHRIST** Beginning Wednesday, September 23, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, we will be hosting our Communicating Christ Information Class. This class is open for all parents who may want a refresher course on our Christian faith, who are interested in church membership, or who just want to come and learn more about what we are spiritually teaching their children. The class will run on consecutive Wednesday nights for 1 hour. Babysitting can be provided, but please let Pastor Guse know beforehand.

**LMSG** If any church member has an immediate family member actively deployed in any of our armed forces and would like to have their picture and address information posted in the narthex, please call Joe Schneider at 948-1968 for more information. WELS/ELS has an on-line sign up form for service members to be contacted by a military chaplain for in-person or on-line support wherever they are stationed in the world. They also have a program for family support. More information is on WELS.net and click on military services.

**MISSION FEST** will be held on Thursday, October 22 and Sunday, October 25 with guest pastor Timothy Dolan speaking on the Apache Land. The Mission Festival dinner has been cancelled due to Covid-19.

<i>First Fruits to the Lord 2020:</i>	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Thank offerings in support of the unified budget	\$21,293.59	
Other receipts in support of the unified budget	2,526.00	
Total receipts in support of the unified budget	23,819.59	\$1,023,208.16
Requirement to support proposed unified budget	31,127.02	1,151,699.74
Overage (Shortfall)	(7,307.43)	(128,491.58)
Improvement Fund	345.00	
WLA Forward in Trust	451.00	
Honoring the Lord!	1,575.00	
SPLS Tuition Assistance	20.25	

*Last Week's Stewardship*

Worship: 121 + 131 + 115 = 367

*Daily Bible Readings*

09/20 Psalm 68:19-35	09/24 1 Kings 1
09/21 Psalm 69	09/25 1 Kings 2
09/22 Psalm 70, 71	09/26 1 Kings 3, 4
09/23 Psalm 72	

**Emil Schuh Biography**

Emil Schuh was born in Mobridge, South Dakota, on December 21, 1956. His parents, Benjamin and Doris, settled down on a ranch near the small town of Isabel where he attended grade school. Emil attended high school at Northwestern Lutheran Academy in Mobridge and graduated in 1975. After high school he helped his father on the ranch and then found employment in the oil fields near Gillette, Wyoming.

He then attended college at Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota, and graduated in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. He has taken post graduate classes from UW Whitewater, South Dakota State University, Martin Luther College, and UW Green Bay.

Emil has three brothers and two sisters who all live west of the Mississippi River. The Lord has blessed Emil with a wonderful wife, Deb, whom he married in 1993. He has also been blessed with three children: Travis, currently attending Moraine Park Technical College; Cody, a senior at Wisconsin Lutheran College; and Alyssa, a freshman at Wisconsin Lutheran College. His father entered eternal glory in 1998. His mother followed in 2018.

In 1980, Mr. Schuh was assigned to teach at St. Paul's in Lake Mills, WI, where he taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 5-8 Phy Ed and Health. He served as athletic director, coach, and Sunday School Superintendent. He also served on the Lakeside Board of Regents. Some of the sports he had experience in coaching include: 5-6 boys and girls basketball, 7-8 boys and girls basketball, flag football, junior varsity high school football at Lakeside Lutheran High School, 7-8 boys soccer, 5-8 track, 5-8 wrestling, 7-8 boys volleyball and 7-8 boys and girls softball.

In 1998, Mr. Schuh accepted the call from St. Peter's to teach fourth grade and serve as athletic director. In 2014, he moved to teaching sixth grade at St. Peter's. Emil loves living in Fond du Lac since one of his favorite past-times is fishing. He also enjoys hunting when he gets the chance. He feels very blessed by the Lord for being able to serve for so many years.

**Andrew G. Mildebrandt Biography**

**Background**

Andrew Mildebrandt was born in North Fond du Lac, WI, in 1972. He spent his childhood years here as a native of the Fond du Lac area. His parents and family still reside in the area, and all attend one of our area congregations.

**Education**

Mr. Mildebrandt attended Redeemer Lutheran Elementary School from Kindergarten through the eighth grade. He is an alumnus of our congregation's own Winnebago Lutheran Academy. Upon high school graduation in 1990, he headed to New Ulm to Dr. Martin Luther College. He graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree in 1995, having been synodically certified for teaching both elementary and high school through the STEP program. The following year, he married Cindy MacKain in Watertown, WI.

**Family**

Andy and Cindy have been blessed with three children. All three children are alumni of WLA, and the two younger ones are alumni of St. Peter's Lutheran School. Samuel is currently employed at Mercury Marine and enjoys traveling. Abigail graduated this past spring from Bethany Lutheran College with a degree in theater. Caleb is enrolled as a sophomore at UW Platteville studying computer science, which also happens to be his main hobby. Together, the family enjoys traveling and camping in their free time.

**Past Ministry**

Mr. Mildebrandt was first assigned to teach grade 6 and oversee the music and drama programs at St. Mark's Lutheran School in Watertown, WI. This call eventually changed to include departmentalized Math, Literature, & Catechism for the upper grades, as well as duties of overseeing the fine arts department and coaching football. In 2001, he accepted a call to Shepherd of the Hills, La Mesa, CA, to teach in a two-room school in a suburb of San Diego. As principal, athletic director, coach, youth choir director, and 4-8 grade teacher, he wore many hats in this ministry during his ten years of service there. In 2011, he accepted St. Peter's call to serve as principal and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, where he served for the past nine years at our congregation. In spring of 2020, he accepted a call to teach at our congregation's high school – Winnebago Lutheran Academy.

**Current Ministry**

Mr. Mildebrandt currently serves as the head of the theater department at WLA. His teaching duties as instructor include three sections each of Senior Religion and World History. He's enjoying teaching many of his former St. Peter's students who are now juniors and seniors at WLA.