

Holy Communion
Sunday, September 1, 2019
Pastor - Rev. Fran Odden
Organist - Lori Free

Organ Prelude

Pastor's greeting

Opening Hymn: **#408 Come, Thou Almighty King**

Order of Worship: pages 94-96, 147-150

Prayer of the Day - Celebrate

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalm: 112

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sermon: Who Do You Invite?

Hymn of the Day: **#742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

Apostle's Creed: page 105

Prayers of Intercession - Celebrate

Offertory: Hymn 186 in Service Music - "Create in me..."

Communion: pages 152 - 155

Communion Hymn: **#863 My God, How Wonderful Thou Art**

Sending Song: **#689 Praise and Thanksgiving**

Dismissal

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS
CELEBRATING OUR 137th YEAR
IN HIS SERVICE
1882 - 2019

Rev. Fran Odden was born and raised in Decorah, Iowa. He is a graduate of Luther College in Decorah and Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He served parishes in Sandusky, Ohio, Minneapolis and Albert Lea, Minnesota and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He also did interim ministries with churches in conflict, as well as working mainly with inner city congregations for the Greater Milwaukee Synod during a transitional period. He was involved in community services such as YMCA, Lutheran Social services, Outreach for Hope, campus ministry, Whitefish Bay High School ethics committee and spent twelve years on the Luther College board of Regents.

Miriam and Fran have a son and daughter and four grandchildren. They love Door County and its beauty and appreciate being with you at Bethany.

We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today. If you spend time in Door County please consider becoming a member of our special ministry. Contact any member for information.

All baptized Christians who celebrate the Real Presence in the Sacrament of Communion are invited to the Lord's Table.

Restrooms are located in the Pioneer School

**Visit us at BethanyEphraim.org,
and follow our worship service live, and archived,
on the web site.**

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Sustained and nurtured by our generous God, we gather as one to pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God of peace, we pray for the leaders, teachers, and preachers who fearlessly share your word and who reveal you through humble sacrifice. Uphold and sustain all who seek to live in a way that is pleasing to you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of generosity, we pray for crops growing ripe in the fields and fruit becoming ready to harvest. Grant safety to workers who will gather this bounty, and bless the yield to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of power, we pray for humility, kindness, and generosity to be instilled in the leaders of all nations. Inspire them to become models of servanthood, and to work for worldwide peace and prosperity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, we pray for all those who are forgotten or pushed aside; for those who are suffering from poverty, neglect, physical or emotional trauma; and those who are homeless or are without a homeland (especially). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, we pray for students of all ages and disciplines, teachers and professors, teaching assistants and aids, substitute teachers, and administrators. Provide safety in travel and in the classroom, so that a spirit of learning is fostered for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of mercy, we remember those you love who now rest from their labors. Grant all your beloved saints a place at your eternal banquet table. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our prayers before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, 1872) Psalm 119:65-72. **Tuesday** Titus 1:1-9. **Wednesday** Isaiah 57:14-21. **Thursday** Psalm 1. **Friday** Colossians 4:7-17. **Saturday** Deuteronomy 29:2-20. **13th Sunday after Pentecost** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33.

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Tracks 1 and 2



Celebrate

Sunday, September 1, 2019
12th Sunday after Pentecost

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at the banquet table of the Lord. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Proverbs 25:6-7

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great;

⁷for it is better to be told,
"Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the
presence of a noble.

or Sirach 10:12-18 [not printed]

The book of Sirach, like the book of Proverbs, is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. In the reading for today, the writer of the book warns against the sin of pride, proclaiming that God will utterly overthrow the proud.



Hallelujah! Happy are they who ¹ fear the LORD
and have great delight in ¹ God's commandments!
**²Their descendants will be mighty ¹ in the land;
the generation of the upright ¹ will be blessed. R**
³Wealth and riches will be ¹ in their house,
and their righteousness will ¹ last forever.
**⁴Light shines in the darkness ¹ for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full ¹ of compassion.**
⁵It is good for them to be gener- ¹ous in lending
and to manage their af- ¹fairs with justice.
**⁶For they will nev- ¹er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast- ¹ing remembrance. R**
⁷They will not be afraid of any ¹ evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting ¹ in the LORD.
**⁸Their heart is established and ¹ will not shrink,
until they see their desire up- ¹ on their enemies.**
⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness
stands ¹ fast forever;
they will hold up their ¹ head with honor.
**¹⁰The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and ¹ pine away;
the desires of the wick- ¹ed will perish. R**

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to mimic God's gracious hospitality to the poor and the broken.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to

you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."