Siloah Lutheran Church & School 3721 N. 21st St. Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53206 (414) 873-5770 / (414) 873-8240

Pastor Brady E. Coleman

**\*\*\*\*** 

# **SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT**

**December 31st, 2017** 

# Christmas 2

HYMN #56- Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Pastor Coleman: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ(†), and the love of God, and the fellowship of The Holy Spirit, be with you.

#### Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor Coleman: God invites us to come into His presence, and worship Him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask Him to forgive us.

All: 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.

Pastor Coleman: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us, and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor Coleman: For all that we need in life, and for the wisdom to use all Your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



Pastor Coleman: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from Your love, and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



Pastor Coleman: For the well-being of Your holy church in all the world, and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



Pastor Coleman: Merciful God, Maker and Preserver of Life, uphold us by Your power, and keep us in Your tender care.



Pastor Coleman: The works of The Lord are great and glorious; His name is worthy of praise!



Pastor Coleman: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, You gave us Your very heart when You sent Jesus into the world. Help us to love Him, honor Him, and cherish Him. He veiled Himself in flesh, so that we might live with You forever and ever. Hear our prayer for Jesus' sake. The Word became flesh, and pitched His tent with us.

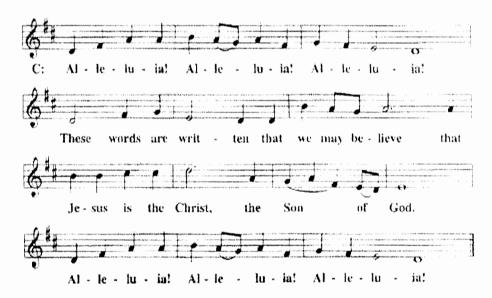


#### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 45:20-25 Hebrews 2:10-18

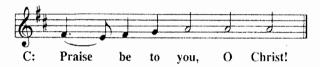
#### VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia! Alleluia! But when He again brings The Firstborn into the world, He says, 'Let all the angels of God worship Him!' (Hebrews 1:6) Alleluia!



#### **Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:19-23**

Pastor Coleman: This is the gospel of our Lord!



HYMN #67-

#### Message for the Soul: GOD PROTECTED THE CHRIST-CHILD

#### THIS WE BELIEVE – Sung to the melody of Hymn# 486

We believe in God Almighty, Maker of the Heav'n and Earth. We believe in Christ, our Savior, God's own Son of human birth. Virgin-born, The Word Incarnate, whom The Spirit did conceive; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; He's the God whom we believe.

Crucified, was dead and buried, He descended into hell From the grave, He rose victorious; now, in Heav'n, He deigns to dwell. There at God's right hand, He's ruling, by His will the world is led. He will come to judge the nations, both the living and the dead.

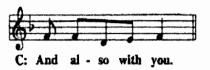
We believe in God The Spirit, He has called His chosen band. They are joined in sweet communion, holy, in His sight, they stand. All our sins have been forgiven, and we shall arise again. We shall live in heav'nly glory; this is true, "Amen! Amen!"

#### SIGN INFORMATION CARDS

# GATHERING OF DONATIONS & LOVE OFFERINGS PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

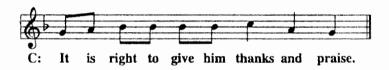
Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen. Pastor Coleman: The Lord be with you.



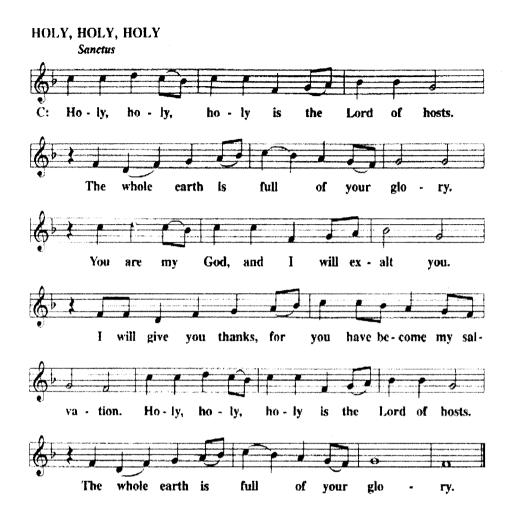
Pastor Coleman: Lift up your hearts!



Pastor Coleman: Let us give thanks to The Lord, our God!



Pastor Coleman: Praise to The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love, He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent fort His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 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, forever and ever.



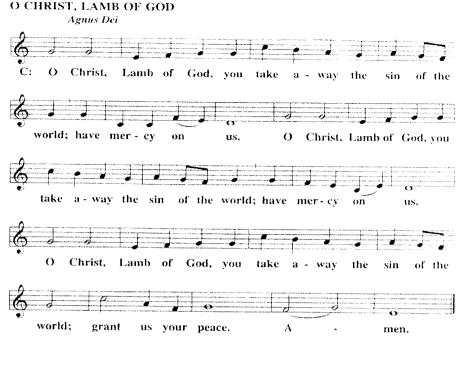
# WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor Coleman: 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."

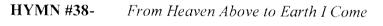
Pastor Coleman: The peace of The Lord be with you always.

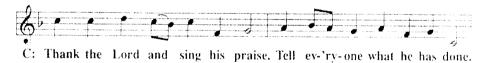




#### **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

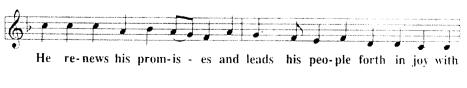
(During the distribution, the congregation sings)













Pastor Coleman: Hear the prayer of Your people,  $\bullet$  Lord, that the lips which have praised You here, may glorify You in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of Your Son, may long for His coming again, and that all who have received, in his true body and blood, the pledge of Your forgiveness, may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and The Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Pastor Coleman: Brothers and sisters, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve The Lord with gladness. 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.



## CLOSING HYMN #63- Angels We Have Heard on High

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please share the January 2018 Outreach Newsletter with others.

Mrs. Joyce McGee thanked us for beautifying the church by purchasing poinsettias for our altar. Purchased plants could be picked up after church service today.

# Do This For Those About To Receive Holy Communion In the sacrament of the altar. Jesus offers unworthy sinners a personal-pledge of forgiveness won by His perfect life and willing sacrifice. As He draws repentant sinners to Himself. He also draws them into a special bond with one another. We demonstrate this bond in what we call COMMUNION FELLOWSHIP. Newcomers and Visitors are asked to make a public declaration of faith to establish communion fellowship before communing. We are eager to help you take this step! Lord Jesus. You call all who are weary and burdened to come to You for rest. Rejoicing in Your grace, we now come to this heavenly feast in which You give Your children on earth Your true body and blood to eat and to drink. Remove from us the soiled garments of self-righteousness and sin, and clothe us with the righteousness purchased with Your blood. Strengthen our faith, increase our love, especially for those with whom we share this blessed communion, and after this life grant us a place at Your heavenly table.

During communion service, we ask that the first two rows of pews be reserved for members who are not able to climb or kneel on the altar. Members sitting in the **first row pew** will be served communion at the pew. Members sitting in the **second row pew** may stand and come forward to the base of the stairs to receive their communion.

Thank You!

# IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick and Shut-In: Dwayne Ross (son of William Ross), Dorothy Odems, Dorothy Swanigan (niece of Ann Mannery), Marcia Gray, Willie Mae Collier (cousin of Carol Davis), Shaunte Wigley, Lartha Moore, Margie Jackson, Phillip Cole, Paxton McClendon, Sr. (father of Paxton Carter), Michael Walters (brother of Denise Baker), Deborah Gilbert, Walter Bankhead (brother of Annie Mannery), Vanessa Mannery, Tizdrou Wigley, Theresa Wigley, Jennifer Brown, Elizabeth Brown, and Ted Crockett (brother of Josephine Adams).

**Our Condolences** To the Wilson family upon the passing of Cynthia's sister **Linda Phillips** on December 22nd and to the Teat family upon the loss of Deno's cousin **Yolanda Teat**, who passed away on Wednesday, December 27th. May the Lord grant perfect peace and healing to both families and to all who mourn.

<u>Happy Anniversary!</u> To Tim & Sandra Hammond (21 years); Kenneth & Paula Gaston (23 years); Walter & Janell Daniels (2 years)– 12/31; Roddy & Nea Guyton (4 years)- 1/4.

<u>Happy Birthday!</u> To Dee Whitfield, Fallon Sims– 12/31; Maureen Armon, Jadius McGhee– 1/2; Dorothy Story- 1/3; Samuel Stricklin, Rory Presley II– 1/5.

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

TODAY	Y Coffee Fellowship/ Fellowship Hall Bible Class/Fellowship Hall No Sunday School (resumes 1/7/18) Worship Service w/Communion New Year's Eve Service w/Communi	9:00AM
MON.	Happy New Year! No School– Holiday Break (school resumes 1/3/2018)	
TUES.	Constitution Meeting	6:30PM
WED.	School Resumes School Chapel (all welcome)	
FRI.	Food Pantry	1-2:00PM
SUN.	Coffee Fellowship/ Fellowship Hall Bible Class/Fellowship Hall Sunday School (grades K4-8th) Worship Service Gospel Choir practice	9:00AM 9:00AM 10:00AM

#### SILOAH CHURCH NEWS Www.Siloahlutheran.org

**<u>2017 Offering Statements</u>** will be available the week of January 14, 2018.

**2018 Offering Envelopes** Your 2018 offering envelopes are available for pickup at the front entrance of the church. Envelopes are listed in alphabetical order. Contact our church office if you can not find yours. PLEASE DO NOT USE your envelopes until JANUARY 2018! Replacement envelopes are very limited, so please keep them in a safe place. *Thank you!* 

<u>Calling All Voices!</u> We have excellent choirs and directors. Why not come and sing to the glory of your Savior? We know your lives are busy with many activities, but it would be wonderful to have your voice praise God in one of our choirs. Please see or contact **Beth** Leyrer to join our Senior Choir at: <u>pmleyrer@gmail.com</u>. Any communicant member or students in grades 4th-8th are invited to join our Gospel Choir. Parents must contact director, Adrienne Hicks at <u>414</u> -412-4840.

<u>Christmas Food Drive</u> Thanks to everyone who helped us meet our goal of providing **12** families with a Christmas Holiday meal! Special *"thank you"* to **Patsie** and **Jennifer Brown** for providing **25** beautiful toiletry bags for our families. Congratulations goes to our **K4** classroom for bringing in the most foods. They will receive a pizza party hosted by our CEA (Christian Education Association). With your prayers and support we were able to bless these families with a Merry Christmas!

**Coffee Fellowship** Enjoy a hot cup of coffee, orange juice, sweet danish, bagels and warm fellowship each Sunday morning from 8:30am-9am in our Fellowship Hall. We thank our Pilgrims, Gospel Choir, Bereavement Committee, and CEA/School Staff for hosting our coffee fellowships each week.

<u>Don Roeber's Organ Concert Link</u> Thank you Don for a wonderful organ concert last week. If anyone missed out or would like to hear Don's beautiful Christmas music, you may catch it on You Tube at: https://youtu.be/cgXxnYJPuX0. Enjoy!

**Food Pantry** Food pantry hours are Wednesdays & Fridays from 1-2pm. Volunteers and donations of food, bags, etc., are appreciated. (*Teens can earn community service hours by volunteering*).

## SILOAH CHURCH NEWS

**<u>Gym & Hoffman Hall Rental</u>** Our Siloah Center and Hoffmann Hall are available for use. Book your showers, birthdays, recreational activities, etc. Call our school or church office at <u>414-873-8240</u> or <u>414-873-5770</u> for availability.

Last Week's Attendance: Sunday Worship Service, 90; Christmas Eve, 90; Christmas Day Service, 85.

Last Week's Offerings: Altar Guild, \$1.00; Bereavement Fund, \$46.00; Food Pantry, \$31.00; General Fund, \$3529.75; Gifted For Praise (total raised \$107,306.00); Military, \$1.00; Mission Fund, \$219.00; Prison/Institutional Ministries, \$5.00. GRAND TOTAL: \$3857.75. Thank you! God bless our offerings and pledges!

LWMS New Updates: (Lutheran Women Missionary Society): LWMS 2017 Fall Rally- was a great success this year! There were 99 attendees at the rally. The offering was \$1349.52 (25% to working fund, 75% to project #HM 2016-2017) and the furlough house offering was \$44.00. The Milwaukee Metro North Circuits contribution was \$6,190.47. Of this amount Siloah gave \$600.00. *Thank You!* Spring Rally 2018will be hosted by St. John and Trinity West in Mequon on April 28th. Don't forget the LWMS 2018 National Convention in Green Bay, WI on June 21-24. More details coming soon! 2018 Prayer Calendars- Stop by our LWMS desk located by our church bulletin board to pick up an order pamphlet. Any questions about LWMS please see our reporters, Annie Mannery and Erica Johnson. *Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our missionaries!* 

**Sunday Morning Bible Class** Join us each morning at **9am** in our **Fellowship Hall** as we study God's Word. Don't miss out on the blessings that God intends for you, for others, and for his church. *Bring a friend!* 

<u>Sunday School</u> Our school children will be on Christmas break from December 25th thru January 2nd. Classes will resume on January 7th at 9am for grades K4 thru 8th. We will teach lessons from the Old Testament. Children are to meet in their respective classrooms. Our Sunday School teachers are: Alysia Greer (K4 & K5); Sharon Shoffner (1st & 2nd)/ Dee Whitfield (sub); Simon Robinson (Superintendent) 3rd & 4th; and Roddy Guyton (5th thru 8th). Encourage your children to stay in God's Word. Have a joyous and Christ-filled New Year!

<u>Thank You!</u> For your orders of Christmas poinsettias and to our Altar Guild for beautifying our church sanctuary! Please pick up your plants immediately after today's service. Thank you!



**Basketball Season** is starting soon! The season is very busy, therefore we need the help of *volunteers* in the following areas: scorers, hall monitors, and general crowd control. If interested, please see our Athletic Director, **Pat Marion**. Thank you!

\*\*Please Note: No Boys C or Girls B teams this season. Some games will only have specific teams playing that evening.

January 12th– 4:30pm & 5:20pm @ HOME vs St. Paul-Franklin January 17th-21st– St. Paul Tourney (TBA) @ St. Paul (TBA) January 19th– 4:30pm @ Risen Savior January 20th,21st– Christ St. Peter Tourney @ Christ St. Peter (TBA) January 25th– 5pm & 6pm vs Christ St. Peter @ Christ St. Peter

**Open Enrollment:** Our next open enrollment for the second semester is **January 1st-20th**. We encourage parents and students to enroll as earliest as possible because seats are limited. Please stop by our school office or contact Principal Scott Anthony via email or phone at: <u>scott.anthony@siloahlutheran.org</u>; office <u>414-873-8240</u> or cell <u>715-212-4841</u>. Don't forget to visit our website too at: <u>siloahlutheran.org</u> for additional information about our church and school.

School Staff: Our current enrollment average is 167! Our attendance rate is currently at 95%! Our staff include: Principal: Scott Anthony; Teachers: Ms. Mary Dittmar (K4), Mrs. Sandra Hammond (K5), Mrs. Darnell Anthony (1st grade), Mr. Charles Ungemach (2nd grade), Mrs. Sarah Roloff (3rd grade), Mr. Chris Arndt (4th grade), Ms. Julie Kent (5th grade), Mrs. Kim Marion and Mr. Jeff Knox (6th-8th grades); Educational Assistants: Ms. Bethel Haferman, Mrs. Yvette Harris, Ms. Kemicka McGhee, Ms. Ja'Mani Marion, and Ms. Cresandra Owens; Office Staff: Mrs. Elizabeth Roby (Administrative Assistant); Engineers: Mr. Duane Turman, Mr. Ricky Davis, and Mr. Carl Page. To reach any of our school staff please call <u>414-873-8240</u> or email: <u>siloahlutheranschool@</u> hotmail.com.

<u>Siloah Chess Tournament</u> Siloah will host our next chess tourney on Saturday, March 10th. Any student interested in joining our chess team must contact coach Charlie Rosenberg at <u>414-935-1945</u> for more information.

#### OTHER WELS NEWS www.WELS.net

Wisconsin Lutheran High School/WISCO/WLHC (330 N. Glenview Ave., Milwaukee WI) Wisconsin Lutheran Children's Choir—A few spots remain for the second semester of the Wisconsin Lutheran Children's Choir (WLCC)! Auditions (for new students at semester) are Thursday, January 11th, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. or Thursday, January 18th, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. For more audition information and WLCC schedule, visit www.wlhs.org/wlcc or contact Director Casey Pufahl at casey pufahl@wlhs.org or 414-453-4567 ext. 2572; Creation Museum Tour-Friends of Wisco are invited to attend a special bus tour to visit the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in Petersburg, Ky., June 7-10, 2018, hosted by WLHS president Pastor Ken Fisher and WLHS Foundation executive director Kristine Metzger. We expect the trip to fill up fast, so consider making this an early Christmas present to your spouse, yourself, or a family member! Deadline to register is Wednesday, January 31, 2018. Cost and registration details can be found at www.wlhs.org/creationtour.

Grace Lutheran Church Downtown (1209 N. Broadway Ave., Milwaukee). Happy Hobby Hour-Fitness with Coach Larry—Friday, Jan. 12, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at the Grace Center (250 E. Juneau Ave., Milwaukee)- New year, new you! Focus on fitness with MSOE Coach Larry Gardner. Coach Larry will help you stay determined and help you keep your fitness goals for 2018! Cost is \$5, and includes appetizers, beverage ticket, and raffle entry; Grace YP Ice Skating— Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018 at noon at Red Arrow Park (920 N. Water Street, Milwaukee). Stop by Grace Place Coffee for a hot chocolate and then walk over to Red Arrow Park for ice skating with Grace Downtown's Young Professional Group! Skating at the rink is free if you have your own skates, otherwise it is \$8 to rent a pair. Bring your friends and dress warm! Feel free to contact Josh Grefe with any questions, via email at <u>graceypgroup@gmail.com</u> or text 507-995-4934.

Read Through My Bible Read Through My Bible in Three Years/ Year 2 in Three Years/ Year 1 December 2017 January 2018 1. John 17:1-5 1. John 1:1-2:2 2. John 17:6-19 2. | John 2:3-27 3. John 17:20-26 3. | John 2:28-3:10 4. John 18:1-27 4. John 3:11-4:6 5. John 18:28-19:16 5. J John 4:7-5:3 6. John 19:17-37 6. I John 5:4-21 7. John 19:38-20:10 7. John 2.3 8. John 20:11-31 8. Isaiah 40 9. John 21:1-14 9. Isaiah 41 10. John 21:15-25 10. Isaiah 42:1-43:13 11. Isaiah 1 11. Isaiah 43:14-44:23 12. Isaiah 2,3,4 12. Isaiah 44:24-45:25 13. Isaiah 5 13. Isaiah 46.47 14. Isaiah 6 14. Isaiah 48 15. Isaiah 7:1-8:15 15. Isaiah 49:1-50:3 16. Isaiah 8:16-10:4 16. Isaiah 50:4-51:16 17. Isaiah 10:5-34 17. Isaiah 51:17-52:12 18. Isaiah 11,12 18. Isaiah 52:13-53:12 19. Isaiah 13:1-14:23 19. Isaiah 54 20. Isaiah 14:24-16:14 20. Isaiah 55 21. Isaiah 17,18,19 21. Isaiah 56.57 22. Isaiah 20:1-22:14 22. Isaiah 58 23. Isaiah 22:15-23:18 23. Isaiah 59 24. Isaiah 24.25 24. Isaiah 60 25. Isaiah 26,27 25. Isaiah 61:1-63:6 26. Isaiah 28 26. Isaiah 63:7-64:12 27. Isaiah 29:1-30:17 27. Isaiah 65 28. Isaiah 30:18-32:20 28. Isaiah 66 29. Isaiah 33,34,35 29. Matthew 1 30. Isaiah 36,37 30. Matthew 2 31. Isaiah 38.39 31. Matthew 3



Did you miss Sunday School last Sunday? We missed you too.

Join us for fellowship next Sunday. We want to meet your family.

At 8:30 A.M. we're serving pastries, coffee, and juice. At 9:00 A.M. we're serving God's word.

Parents may attend Bible study while children are in Sunday School.

Call 873-5770 for more information.

# 2017-2018 IMPORTANT DATES AT- A- GLANCE

<u>New Year's Eve Service w/Communion:</u> Service time on Sunday, December 31st at 7pm.

<u>Siloah Sunday w/Potluck</u> January 28, 2018. All committees' must give their annual reports and voters will meet to elect new officers.

<u>Ash Wednesday w/Communion</u> February 14, 2018. Service times are 9AM & 6:30PM. Supper will be served from 5:00-6:15pm in our Fellowship Hall.

<u>Wednesday Lenten Services</u>: February 21st, 28th; March 7th, 14th, 21st; Service times are **9AM & 6:30PM**. Suppers will be served from 5:00-6:15pm in our Fellowship Hall.

<u>Black History Sunday</u> February 25th. Service time at 10am. Dinner to follow in our Fellowship Hall.

\*Dates & times subject to change. Check weekly for new updates!

Reminders

• Update your household information by filling out a registration card or welcome envelope located in our church pews.

Please include your email address! Place card or envelope in our offering basket or give to one of our church ushers. Thank you!

- Please claim lost or missing items. See any church usher or Elder.
- Committee leaders don't forget to check your mailboxes frequently for important updates.

# **IN OUR PRAYERS**

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WED.	School Resumes	
FRI.	Food Pantry1-2:00PM	
SUN.	Coffee Fellowship/ Fellowship Hall8:30AM-9:00AM Bible Class/Fellowship Hall9:00AM Sunday School (grades K4-8th)	

The members of Siloah welcome you to our church service. We invite you to worship the great God who has created us, redeemed us, and who makes us good through His powerful Word.

Come as a sinner who needs God's forgiveness, earned by Jesus Christ, His Son, who out of infinite love, paid for our mistakes through His innocent death upon the cross.

Come as a forgiven sinner, sure that Heaven is your home, eager to praise the Lord for His wonderful kindness, eager to please Him with a new kind of life, eager to hear His Word and apply it to your life.

Come with all your troubles to Him who alone can give you peace of mind, rest for your soul and eternal life- Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our church constantly strives to be the best channel of God's grace, faithful in its use of the Bible, growing in its outreach to the unbelieving world, showing love towards one another and others, serving the Lord with gladness. "We love Him because He first loved us."

For this reason, Siloah supports the ministry of our pastor and a Christian Day School (K4 thru 8<sup>th</sup> grades). It provides channels for increasing Christian knowledge and service through the various organizations: voters assembly, church council, altar guild, choirs, ladies' societies, ushering staff, Bible classes, Sunday school and special programs throughout the year.

Counseling and help is provided for the sick or troubled through the pastor. We also have a small food pantry for those who need temporary help.

If you have any questions about joining the church, or bringing your child(ren) to Sunday school or day school, please see the pastor or call the church office.

> Siloah Ev. Lutheran Church & School 3721 N. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Milwaukee WI 53206 Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM Sunday Worship Service: 10:00AM

> > Pastor Brady Coleman Pastor.coleman@siloahlutheran.org 480-225-8029 (cell) Principal Scott Anthony School.Info@Siloahlutheran.org 715-212-4841(cell)

Church Secretary, Dee Whitfield Siloahchurchsec@siloahlutheran.org 414-873-5770 (Church Office)

Administrative Manager, Elizabeth Roby School Hours: Mon.-Fri.7:55AM-3:10PM 414-873-8240 (office) 414-873-8250 (school & church fax)





Visit siloahlutheran.org to read church bulletins, listen to the sermon, and view our calendar.

# God's Encouraging Word ... when I am fearful about the future

2018 is here. For some, it's scary how quickly 2017 disappeared. For others, they can't wait to turn the page because this is the year they plan to graduate or perhaps get married. In either case, however, who of us knows what 2018 will bring? In all seriousness, who of us knows what tomorrow will bring?

If you've ever worried or fretted about the future, our gracious God has given us a very powerful verse, nestled right in the middle of the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. The prophet Jeremiah was one who had very good cause to be worried about the future. Day after day he took a beating because he stood up for God's truth and proclaimed God's Word. But God lifted Jeremiah's eyes up to see the future and to know the truth about what was in store for him. God said to Jeremiah and he says to you: **"I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."** 

Talk about comforting and encouraging words! This is God's ultimate plan for all believers—a plan that meets its fulfillment in heaven, and yet believers find fulfillment of these promises even now. Let's be clear, God is not promising you an extraordinary amount of money in a sweepstakes. He's not saying that you won't ever get cancer or some other disease. He's telling you and me that HE KNOWS. He knows the plan—the ultimate plan—which centers upon Jesus.

Because of Jesus we have the sure hope of heaven. Because of Jesus we have a future that is free from all sin, shame, sorrow and sadness. Because of Jesus our Savior who lived and died and rose in our place, we don't have to worry or fret about what 2018 will bring. No matter what happens, through faith in Jesus our future is set. God knows it and he wants you to know it too.

As we journey into 2018, we can make plans, we can set goals. Above all, we can have confidence because our LORD God knows the ultimate plans he has for us—and he's already shared them with us! Live in this confidence and share these promises, for there are many around us who are deeply concerned what the future holds. Tell them about Jesus who knows!

Siloah Evangelical Lutheran Church 3721 N. 21st Street, Milwaukee, WI 53206 Pastor Brady Coleman For more information, call 414-873-5770 or visit us at siloahlutheran.org