



**Ordination and Installation of Justin Wilkens
as Pastor at Bethel Lutheran, York & Grace Lutheran, Seward
at
Bethel Lutheran Church, York, Nebraska
July 17th, 2022**

GATHERING RITE ON THE WORD OF GOD

God's people long to gather together for strength from God and for mutual encouragement. This alternate beginning for worship may be used on any occasion to remind God's people of the blessings of his Word.

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

C: Amen.

HYMN: 919 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

(Sung) **Blessèd 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!

(Psalm 119:97-99,103)

(Sung) **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.

(2 Timothy 3:16,17)

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.**

(Sung) **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 Church now 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" (*John 20:31*). 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: *(spoken)* **Amen.**

(Sung) **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.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with favor on those whom you have called to minister to your people. Fill them with doctrine, and clothe them with holiness of life, that they may joyfully serve to the glory of your name and for the benefit of your Church, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Joshua 1:1-9

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46A The LORD Almighty Is with Us (CW 46)

Refrain

The LORD Al - might - y is
with us; the God of Ja - cob is our for - tress.

God is our ref-/uge and strength,
an ever-present help in / trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the / earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart / of the sea,

though its waters / roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their / surging. *Refrain*

There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-/y of God,
the holy place where the Most / High dwells.

God is within her, she / will not fall;
God will help her at / break of day.

“Be still, and know that / I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted / in the earth.”

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

as it was in the be-/ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

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SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 5:1-7

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble.”

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



VERSE OF THE DAY:

Alleluia. Let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. Alleluia.
(Jeremiah 23:28)

HYMN: 633 **Speak, O Lord** (*Choir sings stanzas 1 and 2, Congregation sings 3*)

- 1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
to receive the food of your holy Word;
take your truth, plant it deep in us,
shape and fashion us in your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all your purposes for your glory.
- 2 Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility;
test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail,
let their truth prevail over unbelief.
- 3 **Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds,
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us,
truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your Church is built,
and the earth is filled with your glory.**

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GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 9:35-10:4

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: 895 Preach You the Word

sts. 1-4

- 1 Preach you the Word and plant it home
to those who like or like it not,
the Word that shall endure and stand
when flow'rs and mortals are forgot.**
- 2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task
your servant bids us undertake:
to preach your Word and never ask
what prideful profit it may make.**
- 3 The sower sows; his reckless love
scatters abroad the goodly seed,
intent alone that there may be
the wholesome loaves that people need.**

- 4** Though some be snatched and some be scorched
and some be choked and matted flat,
the sower sows; his heart cries out,
“Oh, what of that, and what of that?”

SERMON: The Lord Your God Will Be with You Wherever You Go

Joshua 1:9

⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”



Thank you, Blue River Circuit Pastor Steve Kahrs, for sharing the Word with us!

HYMN OF THE DAY: 895 Preach You the Word

sts. 6

- 6** Preach you the Word and plant it home
and never faint; the Harvest Lord
who gave the sower seed to sow
will watch and tend his planted Word.

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OFFERING

Offering plates will be set at the rear of church so you can give your offering as you leave the service.

THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF REV. JUSTIN WILKENS

M: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said to his Church: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).



Holy Scripture assures us that our risen and ascended Lord will always provide the Church with the gifts necessary to carry out this commission. The apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians: “Christ ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe. It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Ephesians 4:10-12).

EXHORTATION TO THE PASTOR-ELECT

M: Dear brother in Christ, this congregation has called you to serve in the office of the holy ministry. It is good that you should hear again what God in his Holy Word impresses on his pastors concerning this sacred office.

St. Paul states that a pastor “must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap” (1 Timothy 3:1-4, 7).

St. Paul urged Timothy to “set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Watch your life and your doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers” (1 Timothy 4:12-13, 16).

In the final chapter of his second letter to Timothy, the Apostle gives additional words of encouragement: “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction. Keep your

head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry” (2 Timothy 4:2, 5).

The ability to carry out this calling is not in us but comes alone from God, as St. Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians: “Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God” (2 Corinthians 3:5).

PROMISES BY THE PASTOR-ELECT

M: In keeping with the Word and will of the Lord, you are about to be installed as pastor of Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church. I ask you in the presence of God and this congregation:

Are you fully determined to carry out this work according to the grace which God will give?

R: I am.

M: Do you believe that the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

R: I do.

M: Do you accept the three Ecumenical Creeds – the Apostles’, the Nicene, and the Athanasian – as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?

R: I do.

M: Do you believe that the Unaltered Augsburg Confession is a true exposition of the Word of God and a correct presentation of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and that the other confessions in the Book of Concord are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith: the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, and the Formula of Concord?

R: I do.

M: Do you solemnly promise that all your teaching and your administration of the Sacraments will conform to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions?

R: I do.

M: Will you give faithful witness to Christ in the world that God’s love may be known in all that you do and say?

R: I will, and I ask God to help me.

M: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

EXHORTATION TO THE CONGREGATION

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, you have heard the solemn promises given by the one you have called to be your pastor. I urge you, therefore, to receive him as your pastor and to keep in mind always what the Word of God expects of you as members of his flock:

Listen eagerly to the preaching of the Word, receiving it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the Word of God (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

Take to heart his scriptural words of warning and encouragement, humbly accepting the Word planted in you (James 1:21).

Work together with him for our Lord's kingdom so that by your works of service the body of Christ might be built up (Ephesians 4:12).

Help him by your word and example in teaching the young, remembering how the Scriptures urge you to bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

Honor and love him, as the apostle Paul says, "Respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work" (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

Pray for him continually, that his ministry among you may be greatly blessed and that, with all his responsibilities, he may continue to have a cheerful spirit.

Provide also for his physical needs, for the Lord says, "The worker deserves his wages" (Luke 10:7), and the apostle Paul says, "Anyone who receives instruction in the Word must share all good things with his instructor" (Galatians 6:6).

Finally, remember what the Scriptures say, "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you" (Heb. 13:7, 17).

PROMISES BY THE CONGREGATION

M: I now ask you in the presence of God:

Are you willing to receive your pastor as a public minister of God? Will you show him the love, honor, and obedience in the Lord that you owe to a shepherd and overseer placed over you by the Lord Jesus Christ, the chief Shepherd and Overseer of souls? If so, answer: We will, and we ask God to help us.

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

M: The almighty and merciful God strengthen and assist you always.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

M: Justin Wilkens, I now ordain you as a minister of the gospel and install you as pastor at Bethel Lutheran Church and Grace Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord pour out on you his Holy Spirit for the work you have been called to do that you may faithfully carry out all your duties and responsibilities with the Word of God as your confidence and guide.

LAYING-ON OF HANDS¹

Brothers who serve in the pastoral ministry lay hands on the newly-installed pastor and speak words of encouragement from the Scriptures. In so doing, they commend him to the Lord, testify to his fitness for public ministry and the legitimacy of his Call, and commit the Lord's work to his care.

¹ The rite of laying on of hands was common in the Old Testament when something was to be committed to God in a special way. The Apostles out of Christian liberty retained and used that common rite as a thing indifferent and helpful in teaching many things... Therefore we also in our churches observe the same rite. For through laying on of hands the person called is set before God, so that there might be a public and outward testimony that the call is not only a human matter, but that God himself calls, sends, and appoints that person for the ministry, though by regular and legitimate means. Moreover, by this solemn act he that is to be ordained is consecrated to Christ for the ministry. Besides, by that rite, as in the sight of God, the church is entrusted to the minister and the minister to the church, through whose ministry God wants to teach, exhort, administer the Sacraments, and work effectively in us... Therefore that minister is presented to the Lord of the harvest through the laying on of hands, and the church, reminded of the institution of the ministry and of the divine promises attached to it, reminds God of His promises and asks that by their power He would graciously be with the present minister with His Spirit, grace, blessing, efficacy, working, governance, and direction (Martin Chemnitz, *Ministry, Word, and Sacraments: An Enchiridion*, Question 30).

PRAYER

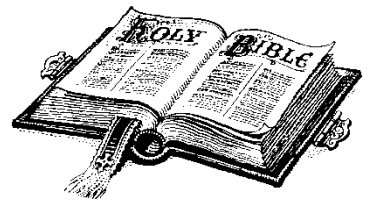
M: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal and only Son of God, you sit at the right hand of the Father and give gifts to men, sending out pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ, the Church, may be built up. We thank and praise you that you have again provided this flock with a faithful shepherd. We ask you to grant your grace to both pastor and people, that they may do what pleases you, holding on to faith and a good conscience, and finally, with all the elect, obtain eternal life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**



M: Go, then, and take up the work to which you have been called.

The Lord bless you and make you a blessing to many, that you may bear fruit and that your fruit may remain to eternal life.

HYMN: We Bid You Welcome in the Name

- 1 We bid you welcome in the name
Of Jesus, our exalted head.
Come as a servant—so he came—
We shall receive you in his stead.**
- 2 Come as a shepherd; guard and keep
This fold from hell and world and sin.
Nourish the lambs and feed the sheep;
The wounded heal; the lost bring in.**
- 3 Come as a teacher sent from God
With his whole counsel to declare.
Our souls encourage with the Word,
While we uphold your hands with prayer.**
- 4 Come as a messenger of peace,
Filled with the Spirit, fired with love.
God bless your work, your strength increase,
And guide us all to heav'n above.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, abr., alt.

CLOSING PRAYER²

M: Ascended Savior, Lord of the Church, hear our prayer for all whom you have called into the public ministry. Satisfy them with your rich and heavenly gifts. Grant them the wisdom to use faithfully the abilities you have given them to fulfill their ministries among your people. Cause your people to honor and respect them in their calling, and to support them as your gifts to your Church and as those whom your Holy Spirit has made stewards of your Word and Sacraments. Enable us especially here in this congregation to work together in a spirit of harmony, zeal, and love. Prosper the teaching and preaching of your Truth among us, so that your Kingdom may flourish and we may grow in faith, wisdom, and good works. In your name, we pray.

C: Amen.

² Pastor Wilkens, now installed as pastor of this congregation, “takes up the work to which he has been called” and presides at the remainder of the service.

BLESSING

M: 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.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 896 Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give

- 1 Dear Lord, to your true servants give
the grace to you alone to live.
Set free from sin to serve you, Lord,
they go to share your living Word,
the gospel message to proclaim
that all may know your saving name.**
- 2 They gladly go at your command
to spread your Word o'er sea and land.
Be with them, Lord, and make them strong
to heal sin's ills, to right the wrong.
Your rule is over wind and wave,
and mighty is your arm to save.**
- 3 When all their labor seems in vain,
revive their sinking hopes again;
and when success crowns what they do,
O keep them humble, Lord, and true
until before your judgment seat
they lay their trophies at your feet.**

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**Thank you for being with us on this special occasion!
Join us for a meal following the service!
God's richest blessings to you all!**

Pastor Justin Wilkens was born in Raleigh, NC to Gregory and Tricia Wilkens in December 1995 and was baptized at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. He is the youngest of two children. His older brother is Joshua Wilkens who is currently serving in the Air Force.

Justin's early childhood years were spent in Durham, NC where he attended Little River Elementary School from Kindergarten through 3rd grade. In 2005, the family moved to Haymarket, VA where Justin attended J.W Alvey Elementary School to finish his elementary education. Justin then attended Bull Run Middle School, during this time he was confirmed in the faith at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Manassas, VA. For his high school education, Justin attended Battlefield High School and graduated in 2014.

Justin attended Martin Luther College for his secondary education where he enjoyed his studies and competing on the Cross-Country team. Justin and Rebecca (Becky) met at Martin Luther College and got engaged during their junior year. They graduated on May 12th, 2018 and were married on May 19th, 2018.

Justin and Becky moved to Germantown, WI where Becky served as 3rd and 4th-grade teacher at Zion Lutheran Church in Hartland, WI and Justin started his seminary education at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in the fall of 2018. For vicar year (2020-2021) Justin served at Zion Lutheran Church in Denver, CO and Becky served as 1st and 2nd-grade teacher at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Thornton, CO. When they returned for Justin's senior year Becky served as 1st and 2nd-grade teacher at Lamb of God Lutheran School in West Allis, WI. At his graduation in 2022, Justin was assigned to serve as pastor at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church in York, NE and Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Seward, NE.

Justin is excited to begin his ministry and is especially looking forward to teaching people about the timeless truths found in God's Word. He enjoys various hobbies such as running, playing various sports, hiking, and playing board games.