**25th Sunday After Pentecost**
**Little Prairie United Methodist Church**
**November 15, 2026, 9:30 a.m.**



***Don't Bury what God had Given YOU***

2980 130th ST E, P.O. Box 276, Dundas, MN 55019
507.663-6150
www.littleprairieumc.org

Our Vision
Creating a welcoming community that worships well, disciples well, and serves well; transforming the world for Jesus Christ.

## WELCOME AND GATHERING

**Gathering Music** *Marcia Yernberg*

**Welcome** *Theresa Siemers, Certified Lay Minister*

**Centering Time** *Marcia Yernberg*

**Call to Worship**
God has blessed each of us with gifts and purpose.
**We are here to recognize and celebrate those gifts.**
We are called to share our gifts, not hide them.
**Help us use what God has given us to serve others.**
Let us worship God with grateful hearts!
**Amen!**

**Hymn** *Lord, I want to be a Christian (UMH #402)* ***All***

**Opening Prayer**
Heavenly Father,
We come before You this morning with grateful hearts, thankful for another day and another opportunity to gather in Your presence.
**Lord, quiet our minds and open our hearts. Help us set aside the distractions, worries, and things that may be weighing on us so that we can hear what You are speaking to us today.**
You have given each of us gifts and abilities, some that we recognize and others that we may not even realize we possess. Help us see ourselves through Your eyes and recognize the purpose You have placed within us.
**As we hear Your Word today, challenge us to look honestly at how we are using what You have entrusted to us. If fear, doubt, or comparison has caused us to hold back, give us the courage to step forward.**
May this time together remind us that every life has value, every person has purpose, and every one of us has something meaningful to offer.
**Guide our time together, Lord, and let everything we say and do bring glory to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**Sharing the Peace**

**Children's Moment**

## The Word

**Scripture Readings**
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

**5** Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. **2** For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there

will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

**Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30**

**The Parable of the Talents**

[14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;[15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.[20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

**Message** *Don't Bury what God had Given YOU* *Theresa Siemers, CLM*

**Response to The Word**

**Hymn** *UMH # 593 Here I am Lord* ***All***

**Joys and Concerns and Prayers of the People:**
Heavenly Father,
We come before You with grateful hearts, bringing both our joys and our concerns. Thank You for the blessings that bring us happiness, and for the people who walk alongside us. We also lift up those who are hurting, struggling, lonely, or in need of Your comfort and healing.
You know the prayers spoken aloud and those held quietly in our hearts. Surround each person with Your love, give strength where it is needed, and remind us that we can be a blessing to one another.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Hymn** *UMH # 399 Take My Life and Let It Be* ***All***

**Offering** *Marcia Yernberg*

**Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow UMH #95*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**
Heavenly Father, Thank You for reminding us today that You have entrusted each of us with gifts, talents, and opportunities to make a difference.
**Thank You that our gifts don't have to be extraordinary in the eyes of the world to be meaningful in Yours. Thank You for the gift of kindness, the ability to encourage, the willingness to listen, the wisdom we gain through experience, and the love we can share with others.**
Lord, thank You that our purpose doesn't expire. Whether we are young or old, strong or struggling, confident or uncertain, You can still work through us.
**As we leave here today, help us not to forget the commitments we have made. When we see that little coin, remind us that what You have placed within us is worth using. When we encounter someone who needs encouragement, help us respond. When we see an opportunity to serve, give us the willingness to step forward.**

And when fear or doubt makes us want to bury our gifts, remind us that we don't have to do great things to make a difference. We simply need to be faithful with what You have given us.
**Thank You for loving us, believing in us, and giving each of us a purpose. May our lives be a reflection of Your love, and may we use what You have given us to bless others. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.**

**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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Hymn** *Freely, Freely UMH # 389* ***All***

**Sending**

Go forth with grateful hearts, remembering that God has given each of us gifts and purpose. Don't hide them, don't underestimate them, and don't bury them. Share your gifts, encourage one another, and let your lives be a reflection of God's love.
Go in peace and put what God has given you to work. **Amen!**

**Postlude** *Marcia Yernberg*

## Little Prairie UMC UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sundays, Worship at 9:30 am**
**Tuesdays, 8:30 am:** Breakfast Club, at L&M
**Wednesdays, 6-7:30 pm** Fall Book Study Philippians thru Nov.18
**9-10:30 am** James Gang coffee shop with Pastor Penny
**Saturdays 9-11 am** Soul Sisters (see Theresa for details)

**Sat. Nov. 21, 3-7 pm** Ham Dinner Supporting CAC local food shelves
**Sun. Nov. 29, 9:30 am** Hanging of the Greens service Advent begins
**7:00 pm Cluster Charge Conference at Little Prairie**
**Thurs. Dec 24, 4:00 pm** Candle light Christmas Eve Service
See our website for more details at www.littleprairieumc.org.

**Website** **Online Giving**