

Welcome to MoeLutheran Transfiguration Sunday Installation of Deacon Joanne Swonger



Transfiguration: Amazing Then and Now

Imagine what would happen if someone from the days of Jesus were suddenly transported to our present. How would someone accustomed to walking everywhere respond to driving in a car at top speed, let alone flying in a jet? How would someone who spends their life depending on—at best—oil lamps for light respond to electric lights? It is fun to muse at how people might respond, as we reflect on how sophisticated we are.

Now imagine if the scene were reversed. How would someone accustomed to understanding much in the world around them respond to an event as otherworldly as the transfiguration? We understand volcanoes and the northern lights. We can explain lightning and thunder. We know about germs and disease transmission. So what would we do when confronted with something so amazing, awesome, and unexplainable?

The transfiguration is one of those ancient events that still puzzle us. What really happened to Jesus that day? Since we cannot go back to that time, we are left to speculate. We take stabs in the dark and make educated guesses, but at the end of the day we are left with a holy mystery to ponder.

Whatever happened that day, there is a timeless spiritual reality behind the physical details Mark gives us. God sometimes uses extreme and amazing methods to transform us when we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit. God's spirit transfigured Jesus then. That same Spirit is still transforming people today. We don't have to explain first-century miracles to trust that God's transforming Spirit is timeless and at work within each of us today. We do not have to understand everything to see the beauty of God at work in the world, continually transfiguring us into the people we were created to be.

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Welcome to Moe Lutheran Church

*The purpose of Moe Lutheran Church is to nurture spiritual unity,
With the help of our Lord, through worship, teaching, service, and sharing*

February 14, 2021

9:15 a.m.

~ We Gather for Worship ~

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Holy God,

C: you search us and know us.

You are acquainted with all our ways.

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love.

We distrust those who are not like us.

**We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.**

Forgive us, gracious God,

for all we have done and left undone.

**Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them;
receive them in your divine mercy.**

Amen.

L: How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.
Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,
we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" - ELW 843

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.

Leader sings:

- 2 *Praise the One who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.*

- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

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***GREETING**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all you lands.

**C: Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.
Give glory and honor to the Lord!**

L: Worship the Lord, in holy attire;
tremble before him, all the earth;

**C: Say among the nations:
The Lord is king, he governs the peoples with equity.
Give glory and honor to the Lord!**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: *ELW Holy Communion Setting 10, page 205

(Tune: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee)



Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.



Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

L: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray: **Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC:

Janet Johnson

~ We Hear God's Word ~

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

¹Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of

your spirit.” ¹⁰He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 50:1-6

¹The mighty one, God the Lord, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.**

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the people.**

⁵“Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,
for it is God who is judge.**

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Dearest Jesus, at Your Word” – ELW 520**

Dearest Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given
draw us wholly up to heaven.

***GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark the 9th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and

his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY - “Be Thou My Vision” – ELW 793

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

SERMON

Bishop Bill Tesch

~ We Respond as God's People ~

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth,
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Presentation

The assembly stands. The deacon to be installed and a representative of the calling body come before the presiding minister and the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Having been authorized by the church to install Joanne Swonger, our co-worker the gospel, as deacon, I now ask for certification of this call.

A representative of the calling body addresses the presiding minister.

After prayerful deliberation, we, of Moe Lutheran Church, have called Joanne Swonger as deacon. I present Joanne and this letter certifying the call.

The representative gives the presiding minister the letter certifying that the call has been received and accepted. The assembly is seated.

Address and Questions

A reading from Mark: Jesus said, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (*Mark 10:42-43, 45*)

A reading from Romans: As in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (*Romans 12:4-8*)

A reading from First Peter: Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. (*1 Peter 4:10-11*)

Joanne, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call the church?

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

Will you carry out this ministry in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church? Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

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

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

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

Trusting in God's care, will you witness to Jesus Christ in word and deed, pray for God's people, seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?

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

Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

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

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

The assembly stands.

People of God, will you receive Joanne into this ministry as one called and sent to serve all people in Christ's name?

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

Will you pray for Joanne? Will you help and honor Joanne in carrying out this ministry? In all things, will you strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

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

The presiding minister addresses the deacon being installed.

Joanne, the office of deacon is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessing

The newly installed deacon may kneel for God's blessing.

Gracious God, as you have called workers to varied tasks in the world and in your church, so you have called Joanne to this ministry. Grant to your servant joy and a spirit of bold trust, that this work may stir up each of us to a life of fruitful service; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

A member of the congregation escorts the deacon to the place of baptism.

ALL: You have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

They proceed to the place of the word.

ALL: You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.

They proceed to the place of the meal.

ALL: You have been called to be among us to preside at the Lord's supper.

The presiding minister address the assembly with these or similar words.

People of God, I present to you, Deacon Joanne. Let us welcome her in the name of Christ. *The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.*

OFFERING MOMENT: *What a privilege it is to share the gifts we've been given! In doing so, we honor God by caring for God's creation and God's children.*

OFFERTORY: *Gifts are brought forward to the altar.*

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

OFFERING PRAYER:

Loving God, you are never far from us. You heal the wounded spirit and give new life to the broken hearted. We offer these gifts to You, O God, as a sign of our desire to serve you and do your work on earth. Use us and what we have to bring your Kingdom near; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

Pastor Mary Gilthvedt

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.**

***BENEDICTION**

~ We Are Sent to Serve ~

***SENDING HYMN: "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve" - ELW 551**

- 1 The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.
- 3 We go to be the hands of Christ,
to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.
- 4 Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us;
we go in Jesus' name.

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***DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. C: **Thanks be to God.**



Announcements

Today we welcome Reverend Bill Tesch, Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. Bishop Bill will share the message and will install Pastor Dave as our new pastor. Bishop Tesch was elected by the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly on June 9, 2019 and began his ministry as bishop of the synod on September 1, 2019. **We also welcome Pastor Mary Giltvedt** as our intercessor for the prayers of the congregation. Pastor Mary serves Zion Lutheran in Warroad and is the Roseau Conference Dean. *We are pleased and privileged to have them join us this morning!*

Special Offering: In joyful celebration of the Swongers being installed as our new pastoral ministry team, Messiah and Moe are uplifting the opportunity to give to the NW Minnesota Synod's Sustaining Rural Ministry Fund. This fund was established in 1989 as a response to the large debt many seminarians incur while attending seminary. Pastors with significant educational debt can apply annually for debt reduction grants during their first five years of ministry in our synod. Offering baskets are at the sanctuary doors to receive your offering. Thank you!

We are in need of 2 adult supervisors for youth for the month of February. Please think about helping. Remember if you are a parent of a confirmation student you are required to help twice for the school year. To volunteer: sign up on the board in the narthex or go to the signup genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b48a5a72ea3fe3-7121> You can also email Katie_hedlund@roseauschool.org if you can't get sign-up genius to work!

“Lord, Hear our Prayer”:

Requests for public prayer during worship: We are revamping how we add names to the congregational prayers during worship. To be mindful of privacy concerns, we ask that the person requesting prayer sign a permission form. An assigned representative, such as a family member or one of Moe's prayer chain coordinators, may also sign on their behalf. This process allows us to print people's names in the bulletin and uplift them in public prayer during worship for a period of one month. Permission forms are available on the table in the narthex.

Requests for confidential prayer via the prayer chain: The prayer chain will continue to operate just as it has in the past. You may reach out to our Prayer Chain Coordinators, Sara Olson (*cell #218-242-0759*) and Sharon Pelowski (*cell #218-463-3025*). Your prayer concern will be kept confidential and will be uplifted in prayer by those who serve as intercessors on our congregation's Prayer Chain. *If you have any questions, please feel free to ask either Sara, Sharon, Deacon Joanne, or Pastor Dave.*

Announcements continued...

“The Cup of our Life” for Lent: Lent is a 40-day season that encourages us to sharpen our spiritual senses and experience our Lord’s saving grace in new ways. This year our Lenten series is “The Cup of our Life.” Each week we will consider how our lives are sacred vessels shaped for daily love and service by our Lord Jesus. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, 6:30 PM services will be held at both Moe and at Messiah every week.

Lenten Home “Devo” Kit: Lent is a time to refresh and renew our devotional life in Christ. Like a child holding up a cup for a drink of water, we can lift up our hearts to the refreshing work of the Holy Spirit in our midst! As our Lenten gift to you, every household is invited to take a “Devo” Kit to use as a devotional toolbox within your home throughout Lent. **These kits will be available in the narthex beginning Sunday, February 14th.**

New Bibles for 3rd Graders: The Sparks Bible was presented to 3rd Graders in worship on January 24th. If you didn’t receive a Bible, your Church School teacher has one for you! **There will be a “Meet Your New Bible” workshop held for 3rd Graders on Sunday, February 28th during Church School.** Deacon Joanne will be leading this workshop in the Fellowship Hall. Each 3rd Grader may bring one parent (or grandparent) along to attend the workshop with them. We look forward to this this time of helping you get acquainted with your new Bible!

Church Inventory: Reminder to committee’s to submit your inventories you have completed to the church office as soon as possible.

We are looking for helpers to assist in creatively promoting Moe happenings!

+ *Bulletin Boards:* Attractive promotion can really spark imagination! Let’s refresh our bulletin boards to create excitement and foster good communication!

+ *Photographers:* We need a couple designated photographers to take pictures of people and events happening at church throughout the upcoming year. These pics can be snapped on your phone and sent via email to the church office. We’ll use these pictures in a variety of ways as the year progresses. **If interested, contact Deacon Joanne and she’ll get you started!** (deaconjoannemlc@gmail.com)