



I Can Do
ALL THINGS

through
Christ

who
Strengthens Me
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

*The purpose of our Community is:
 ❀❀❀ "Building Committed Followers of Jesus Christ" ❀❀❀*

Prelude

Shirlene Everhart

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

Every worship service opens by invoking the name, the presence, and the power of the one true God, the God in whose name and by whose power we became members of the Holy Christian Church in our Baptism.

*(Pastor) In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 (Everyone) Amen.*

Prayer of Confession of Sin

[Everyone]: Gracious Heavenly Father, as today is the first Sunday in September, and this is Labor Day weekend, we recognize that time is flying and the summer is quickly coming to an end. As we rest from our labors tomorrow, let us each be thankful that Your Son Jesus Christ labored on the cross to set us free from our sins. We readily admit that we are poor sinners in desperate need of Your mercy and grace. Please grant us pardon, and forgive us our sins for Jesus' sake, as we look to His suffering and death for mercy. Give us the strength and joyful faith to follow Your guidance in our lives, and grant us a peaceful life of Christian service, as we labor in our lives to serve the Lord, and plead the merits of your Son, and our Savior Jesus Christ for forgiveness. In His Name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Grace

[Pastor]: The Bible tells us that we are to penitently and sincerely confess our sins. Having done so in faith, we now humbly seek God the Father's pardon. Christ has promised to us His forgiveness because of His suffering and death at Calvary. Thus, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Hymn

I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus, #376

Children's Sermonette:

*'Complain, complain, complain!...'
 Pastor McDonald*

Worship Through Our Giving

We express our gratitude to God as we give to support the work of the church so that more people may hear the Good News about Jesus. Please ask an usher if you need an envelope.

Offertory

We Worship Through Speaking and Hearing the Word of God

We read the Word of God to strengthen, encourage, and challenge us for the week ahead.

Old Testament Lesson

1 Samuel 8:1-12, 17-20 [NKJV]

¹ Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. ² The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; *they were judges in Beersheba.* ³ But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. ⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵ and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD. ⁷ And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. ⁸ According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. ⁹ Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."

¹⁰ So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king. ¹¹ And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint *them* for his own chariots and *to be* his horsemen, and *some* will run before his chariots. ¹² He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, *will set some* to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and *some* to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. ~~~ ¹⁷ He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. ¹⁸ And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day." ¹⁹ Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, ²⁰ that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 4:8-13 [NKJV]

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. ⁹ The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you. ¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the

Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: ¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

[If you are able, please stand for the reading of the Gospel]

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:21-26 [NKJV]

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. ²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." ²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

We Respond to God's Word by Confessing Our Faith

As we recite together the words of the Apostles' Creed, we join the worldwide chorus of followers of Jesus, who, for centuries, have confessed their faith through this simple declaration.

Everyone: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn:

O That the Lord Would Guide My Ways, #455

Sermon: *'True contentment is found only in Christ!'* *Philippians 4:11*
Pastor Robert McDonald

Message Notes:

Communion Hymn*Let Us Break Bread Together, #285***We Worship at the table of the Lord's Supper***Communion — If you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please hold up 2 fingers when you reach the person with the cups.**Everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is welcome and invited to join us. Together we receive anew the love and grace that God pours out to us through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Come hold in your hands and taste on your lips the love He poured out for you.**Pastor: The Words of Our Lord...(Consecration of the Elements)***Everyone: 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.***Distribution,***Benediction****Sending Hymn***Children of the Heavenly Father, #560**Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord.***Everyone: Thanks be to God**

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**Postlude Music**

## ***Things going on during the week:***

***Monday-Friday: 7:15 am to 5 pm Little Blessings Christian School***

***Thursdays: Choir practice is on vacation until after Labor day.***

## ***Birdhouse = Building Fund Donations***

Please place all and any donations for the Building Fund in the Birdhouse. This fund is needed to replace 'The Shack' and build for the future of this church. Being more visible to Mission Avenue we hope to attract Christians looking for a new home and non-Christians looking for what is missing in their life.

## ***Mark Your Calendars!***

***September 9, Saturday - Women's Bible Study, 10 am.***

***November 5, Sunday - Love Offering ... for Missions***

Once a quarter, we will be collecting a special offering in the 'Missions Giving Box' on your way out of the Sanctuary for our Missionaries. This offering is above and beyond our regular giving. In planning ahead, we will repeat the Love Offerings in 2023 on the first Sunday in February, May, August & November.

