***August 22, 2021 – Listening Hearts***

**Introduction:** God speaks, touches, and reveals in God’s own way and in God’s own time. Still, the presence of certain conditions, such as trust, prayer, and patience, makes discernment of God’s call more likely.

**OPENING HEARTS**

Prelude Music & Silent Prayer *Give Thanks*

Welcome and Service Introduction

\*Call to Worship

Jesus said, “Come unto me all of you who are weary and I will give you rest.” **We long for our souls to rest in the peace which Jesus gives.** Jesus also said, “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me.” **We come today to learn from the God of all knowledge.** Jesus said, “My Yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” **As we come to worship, let us cast our burdens on the Savior and find that he bears our burdens and lightens our load. Jesus invites us to “come.” It is our joy to say yes to his invitation.**

\*Greeting Time *We know you want to hug, but for now we greet with words.*

# Prayer for Illumination

God our creator, you have made us one with this earth,

to tend it and to bring forth fruit.

May we so respect and cherish all that has life from you,

that we may share in the labor of all creation to give birth to your hidden glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**OPENING MINDS**

First Lesson 1 Kings 19:4-14

Gospel Lesson John 8:31-45

Children’s Sermon

Sermon *What Conditions Help Discern God’s Call?*

Special Music *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus* Maggie Riemer

**OPENING DOORS**

Prayers of the People… ...The Lord’s Prayer

LET US PRAY . . . for those who are ill or desiring our prayers:

Bob & Lorraine; for God to send us a new musician; Butch Sherman (Lin’s husband); Pastor Al now back at ALTCU and able to have visitors; Cora.

Call to Action

**WORSHIPING AT WEST KEWAUNEE: NEXT SUNDAY August 29 @ 10:00 am.** We are looking forward to hosting a combined worship service on Sunday, August 29th. We will have one worship service only that day at 10am. Please bring a lawn chair. Anyone who would like to is welcome to bring a picnic dish to share. Burgers and brats will be provided. We would appreciate an RSVP by Sunday, August 22 so we have enough meat. While masks will not be required for the outdoor worship service, it would be good to have one for while we are serving food. We look forward to an opportunity to all worship together out-of-doors with music provided by our group that went to canoe camp. All are welcome to this time of celebration. Invite friends, family, neighbors. Rain date: September 5.

Our Offerings for Christ

Offertory Prayer

\*Commission and Blessing Romans 8:28-39

***For we know that in all things God works toward a good end with those who love God, who are called according to God’s design.*** For God has always known his own and has established that they are to be conformed to the image of God’s Son, so that Christ is but the first-born child among a whole multitude of sisters and brothers. **For those whom God has thus established, God has also called; and those whom God has called, have indeed been fully accepted; and those whom God has accepted, God has also clothed in splendor.** What then shall we say about these things? If God be for us, who can stand against us? **For indeed, God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all. How will he not with Christ lavish upon us every other good gift?**

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has called? God has accepted. Who, then can condemn? **It is Christ Jesus, who died, rather, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or anguish or persecution or hunger or nakedness or danger or sword?*** As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are considered sheep to be slaughtered.”

**But in all these things through the love of Christ we have surpassed the need to conquer. *For I am confident that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created things will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

\*Postlude  *My Hope Is Built*

*Thank you for worshiping with us today.*

**GPS: Grow, Pray Study**

Here are some ways we may prepare to hear God’s call:

TRUST: First & foremost, we have to be willing to trust God.

(Ps.37:5 & Rom. 8:28)

LISTENING: With open hearts and open minds, especially to what we do not want to hear, letting go of preconceptions & expectations. (Ps. 81:13 & 1 Kings 19:11-13)

PRAYER: We seek for ourselves total attentiveness to God’s all-embracing presence. Our whole life can become prayer in action. (Ps 105:4 & 1 Sam. 3:10)

KNOWLEDGE OF SCRIPTURE: The more familiar we are with Scripture, the more ready we are to experience it as the living Word of God for us. (John 8:31-32)

HUMILITY: A true sense of one’s self helps us avoid doubt and allows us to be open to God’s turning us in a new or unexpected direction. (Ps 25:9 & Matt. 11:29)

DISCIPLINE & PERSEVERANCE: It is essential to set aside a time & place to be in solitude so that we can be receptive to God’s presence through silence. (Prov. 8:17) PATIENCE & URGENCY: We need to be content to listen to God with patience without progressing quietly and comfortably toward inaction. (Ps. 37:7)

PERSPECTIVE: Stay in the space of knowing & loving God, not ego. Be true to what is inside, open to others with sufficient tenacity to live it out. (Matt. 12:10)

*But there are some IMPEDIMENTS to discernment.*

(Ps. 106:36 & Jer. 22:21)

These can include prosperity, self-righteousness, desire for certainty, & self-doubt.

# John 8:31-45 New Revised Standard Version

**31**Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; **32**and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” **33**They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

**34**Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. **35**The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. **36**So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. **37**I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. **38**I declare what I have seen in the Father’s presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.”

**39**They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing what Abraham did, **40**but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. **41**You are indeed doing what your father does.” They said to him, “We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself.” **42**Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me. **43**Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my word. **44**You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **45**But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.

# 1 Kings 19:4-14 New Revised Standard Version

**4**But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.” **5**Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, “Get up and eat.” **6**He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. **7**The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, “Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.” **8**He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. **9**At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” **10**He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

**11**He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; **12**and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. **13**When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” **14**He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

**Opportunities for Action**

**DESTINATION DIG VBS:** Discover amazing finds and exciting evidence that proves biblical events were not just stories. They really happened! At Destination Dig, we will unearth more than just dirt. We’ll discover real-life archaeological finds that have helped to uncover the truth about Jesus. Join the fun at Algoma UMC THIS WEEK Aug. 23-26, 9am-noon. People of all ages are invited! We are looking for volunteers to help staff this event. Many thanks in advance to the loving and dedicated individuals who will step up to help!

**BEGINNER-LEVEL EXERCISE**: Program for Older Adults **10-Week Program** Group Exercise + Lifestyle Class. Exercise 60 minutes Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays + 30-minute lifestyle class after exercise on Tuesday. 10 Weeks of Follow-Up Sessions with Free Consultations. Have Fun and Get Healthier. A Successful Program Based on the Latest Research. Sign up today, **free** for all seniors! LOCATION: Algoma Youth Center, 620 Lake Street, Algoma, WI 54201.

##### TIME: Starts August 23rd Through October 28th

Mondays (8:30-9:30am), Tuesdays (8:30-10:15am), & Thursdays (8:30-9:30am)

**MOWERS ARE APPRECIATED!** A big thanks to Robert Rader, Jr., who has kept our grass nice and trim over the last couple of summers. He owns the small engine repair business next door to AUMC and mows our lawn for FREE! We will be thanking him in August. You could show your appreciation by making them a plate of cookies or buying them a box of popsicles or making a card or using your own creativity to show that you are thankful for his work. Tokens of appreciation can be delivered directly to their house or bring them to church and Pastor Jennifer will make sure they get there. Thank you all for your gifts!

**Ministry Opportunity Schedule: August 22-29**

**Sunday**

8:30 AM Worship Service West Kewaunee

10:15 AM Worship Service Algoma & Online

**Monday**

9-12:00 PM Vacation Bible School AUMC

**Tuesday**

9-12:00 PM Vacation Bible School AUMC

**Wednesday**

8:00 AM Men’s Fellowship North Water Bakery

9-12:00 PM Vacation Bible School AUMC

**Thursday**

9-12:00 PM Vacation Bible School AUMC

10:00 AM Backpack Food Distribution AUMC Kitchen

**Friday -** Pastor Jennifer’s Day Off

**Saturday -** Pastor’s Day Off

**Sunday**

10:00 AM Worship Service West Kewaunee & Online

11:15 AM Picnic West Kewaunee