

Welcome to
West Denmark Lutheran Church
September 20, 2026



Statement of Welcome

West Denmark is a safe place to worship, study, and build relationships with God and others, regardless of race, creed, economics, cultural background or sexual orientation or identity. **We're glad you've come!**

17th Sunday after Pentecost
Installation of Pastor Jason Clifton-Meller
September 20, 2026

Numbered hymns and page numbers will be found in the cranberry hymnal. The Psalms are found in the front section of the hymnal, after the last red tabs.

Prelude

Welcome

Ringling of the Bells

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Lord our God, you are the light for the blind and strength for the weak. Listen to our souls and hear them crying out of the depths.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Compassionate God,

Help us turn and seek you, for you have not forsaken your creatures as we have forsaken you, our Creator. Draw us to turn and seek you, for we know you are here in our hearts, when we confess to you, when we cast ourselves on you, and weep in your arms after all our rugged ways. You gently wipe away our tears, and we weep again for joy, because you, Lord who made us, remake us and comfort us.

L: Lord, hear our prayer, and grant that we may grow in our love for you. Rescue us, Lord, from every temptation, even to the end. **AMEN**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **AMEN.**

Hymn: *In Christ Called to Baptize*

#575

1. ALL 2, High Voices 3. Low Voices. 4. ALL

Greeting:

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

C: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise: This is the Feast

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Prayer of the Day:

God of wisdom and grace, you have faithfully brought us, your church, to this time and place. You have called us to serve you and one another, and in serving to lead one another toward greater love and service. Grant us the grace and wisdom to both follow and to lead, that you, Dear God, may be glorified in everything we do. Amen.

First Lesson: Jonah 3:10-4:11

Margaret Gehret

Psalm: *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Trad., arr. Wilberg

West Denmark Choir

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30

Gospel Acclamation *Alleluia!*

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Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon

Pastor Randy Olson

Hymn: *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

#808

The Installation of a Pastor

Presentation

Pastor Olson: Having been authorized by the church to install Jason Clifton-Meller our co-worker in the gospel, as minister of word and sacrament, I now ask for certification of this call.

Council President: After prayerful deliberation, we, of West Denmark Lutheran Church have called Jason Clifton-Meller to serve as a minister of word and sacrament in the position of pastor. I present Jason and this letter certifying the call.

Address and Questions

A reading from John: Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (*John 20:21-23*)

A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore 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 that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

A reading from First Timothy: Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

(*1 Timothy 4:12-16*)

Jason, 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 of the church?

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

Will you preach and teach 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?

Jason: 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?

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

Trusting in God's care, will you love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

Jason: 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?

Jason: 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.

Congregation: Amen.

People of God, will you receive Jason as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard Jason as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

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

Will you pray for Jason? Will you help and honor Jason in carrying out this ministry?

In all things, will you strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

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

Procession

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

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

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

Johanna: You have been called among us to minister to our youth.

Pastor Olson: Jason, the office of Pastor is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Pastor Olson: People of God, I present to you Jason, your pastor. Let us welcome Pastor Jason in the name of Christ.

Prayers of Intercession

Barb Kass

Peace

Offering

Offertory:

Doxology: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

#885

The Great Thanksgiving

p.144

The Lord's Prayer

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**

**From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

Communion

Lamb of God

p. 146

Communion Hymn: *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

#712

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

Hymn: *Rise Up, O Saints of God*

#669

Dismissal L: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Announcements

Our Ministry Team

Rev. Jason Clifton-Meller, Pastor

Christy Wetzig, Parish Associate

Liz Dodge, Church Administrator

Our Music Team

Christine Johansen, Pianist

Charles Parsons, Organist

Harry Johansen, Cantor and Choir Director

We welcome everyone to a time of coffee and fellowship after the service.

Today's refreshments are provided by the Church Council.

Please remember in your prayers, calls, and visits:

Our elders, those who are ill, those who don't get out much: Nolan, Martha, Dan, Jeff, Valerie, Keith, Will, Al, Larry, Kristan, Marlis, Danny and Marilene.

For Jackie, facing loss of Temporary Protected Status.

For all firefighters, especially Silas Roode.

For the people of Iran and Lebanon and other Middle Eastern countries caught up in war. Pray for peace.

For earthquake victims in Venezuela, Colombia, and Indonesia, victims of flooding in Nepal and Tibet, and all affected by climate change.

For the people of Cuba living with uncertainty.

For all immigrants.

For the suffering people of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and all war torn lands, that they may find help, healing, justice, and peace....

CALENDAR

Today:	Mindfulness Meditation in balcony, 8:30 am Sunday School, 9:00am Choir Warmup, 9:40 am Worship, 10:00 am Fellowship, 11:00 am
Monday:	Men's Breakfast, Tin Shed, 7:30 am Women's Breakfast, Tin Shed, 10:00 am Finance Committee, 5:30pm Church Council, 7:00pm
Tuesday:	Chair Yoga with Connie, 10:00 am in Parish Hall
Wednesday:	Bible Study, 1:00 pm in church fellowship area Choir Practice, 7:00 pm
Thursday:	Quilting, 10:00am Encore, 10:30am

Friday: Social Media Meeting, 11:00am
Saturday: AA meeting :9:00 am
Next Week:
Sunday: Mindfulness Meditation, 8:30 am
Sunday School, 9:00am
Choir Warmup, 9:40am
Worship 10:00 am
Pizza fellowship 11:00 am at the Hall

Please check the volunteer signup sheets outside the office and sign up to help as you are able. We need Scripture readers, intercessory prayers, and fellowship coming up in October and beyond.

ENCORE will meet on Thursday, September 24th, from 10:30 am till noon in the church fellowship area. Please bring a favorite poem to share.

Art, Liturgy and Music Notes

The picture on the cover is by Ostap Lozynsky (Ukrainian, 1983–), and is titled *I Am the True Vine*, 2015.

From now until Advent, we will be using Setting Three, with music composed by Richard W. Hillert, (1923-2010). He was Distinguished Professor of Music at Concordia University-Chicago and composed many hymns and pieces of liturgical music.

The version of the Lord's Prayer we are using today is from *A New Zealand Prayer Book / He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*.

In Christ Called to Baptize was written by Ruth Duck, (1947-2024), a United Church of Christ pastor and seminary professor. She wrote and adapted a number of hymns using inclusive language. The tune ST. DENIO is based on a Welsh melody, first published as a hymn tune in 1839.

In place of the Psalm, the West Denmark Choir will sing *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*, a versification of Psalm 23 written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748), a Congregational minister known as “the godfather of English hymnody.” It is one of many paraphrases of the Psalms which Watts adapted to add a Christian viewpoint. The text is Watts’s original wording, unlike the version at ELW 782. The tune RESIGNATION was first published in Freeman Lewis’s *Beauties of Harmony* (1828), and also appeared in Walker’s *Southern Harmony* (1835). The composer is unknown. Arranger Mack Wilberg (b. 1955) has been the conductor of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir since 2008 and has composed and arranged many hymns.

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song (Jésus, je voudrais te chanter) is credited to Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L’Arche Community. Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus is a Catholic order founded in the 20th century which began as a ministry to nomads in the Sahara and continues to minister to marginalized populations. L’Arche Community is an international organization of communities where neurotypical people live together with the mentally handicapped; Henri Nouwen’s book *The Road to Daybreak* tells of his spiritual transformation during time spent in a L’Arche Community. The tune LES PETITES SOEURS is similarly credited. The English translation is by Stephen Somerville (1931-2015), a Canadian Roman Catholic priest.

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service was written by Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984), a Congregational minister in Britain whose ministry spanned the years of the Great Depression and World War II. It is set to the tune BEACH

SPRING, which was first published in the songbook *The Sacred Harp (1844)*. It has been attributed to Benjamin F. White, co-editor of the songbook, and has been used for many hymns since then.

Rise Up, O Saints of God! appears to have been written as a modernization in inclusive language of the old hymn, *Rise Up, O Men of God!* It seems to have been the only hymn written by Norman O. Forness (1936-2009), a historian who taught many years at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. The tune FESTAL SONG was composed by William H. Walter (1825-1893), an organist at several Episcopal churches, probably originally as a setting for the hymn *Give to the Winds Thy Fears*.