

The Church Door



Thank you to everyone who assisted with the Annual Book & Bake Sale on October 20! Your donations, contributions and time spent volunteering were greatly appreciated! There were a variety of used books, homemade items and baked goods for sale. It was a great success!



The Second Annual Blessing of the Pets in honor of St. Francis Day was held on Thursday, October 4. Despite the less than perfect weather a few congregation members and their furry family members showed up for a prayer and a brief blessing. Thank you to all of those who participated!



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PASTOR'S CORNER

Light your candles quietly, such candles as you possess, wherever you are.

Fr. Alfred Delp (1907-1945)

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is Advent again. For us Christians another year has passed and a new one has begun. Advent (meaning “coming/arrival”) is a season of preparation. Preparation not for Christmas, but for our Lord’s return. Yet the Church has a funny way of preparing. We don’t have a list of chores to do, rather, we have words to hear. The Church prepares, we are prepared, for Christ’s return, by hearing His Word. Our lessons for the first Sunday of Advent remind us that it’s His return for which we wait, for which we hope. But by the second and third Sundays of Advent we go backwards in time, hearing of how John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for the Lord. The fourth Sunday of Advent takes us further back to the Blessed Virgin Mary’s visit to her cousin Elizabeth when John the Baptist, still in utero, greets Our Lord in Mary’s womb. And then on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we hear once again how our Lord came to us, God in flesh, come to dwell with us.

Our Gospels are set up this way for a reason. God’s people have a specific way of looking forward by looking backward. We prepare ourselves for His second Advent by hearing again about His first. It’s our way of saying to each other, “Look! I know it’s been a long time. I know it may seem like God will never keep His promise. The centuries drag on, the world gets worse, sin and death are still with us, injustice carries the day. But God kept His promises in the past. He led His people out of Egypt and slavery. He brought the exiles back from Babylon to the Promised Land. And in the fullness of time the Word of God, God the Son, took on flesh and dwelt among us, lived with us, and died and rose for us. God did what He promised Eve, and Noah, and Abraham and Sarah, and Moses, and Joshua, and David, and the Prophets. He came and redeemed us from sin, from death, from the devil. So, if He kept His promise then? Then even if it takes another two thousand years or more, He will keep His promise.”

God prepares us through His Word so that we may have faith and hope. He prepares us by leading us to repentance in the preaching of John the Baptist. He prepares us by pointing us to the child in Mary’s womb who is born to die for you, born to rise for you.

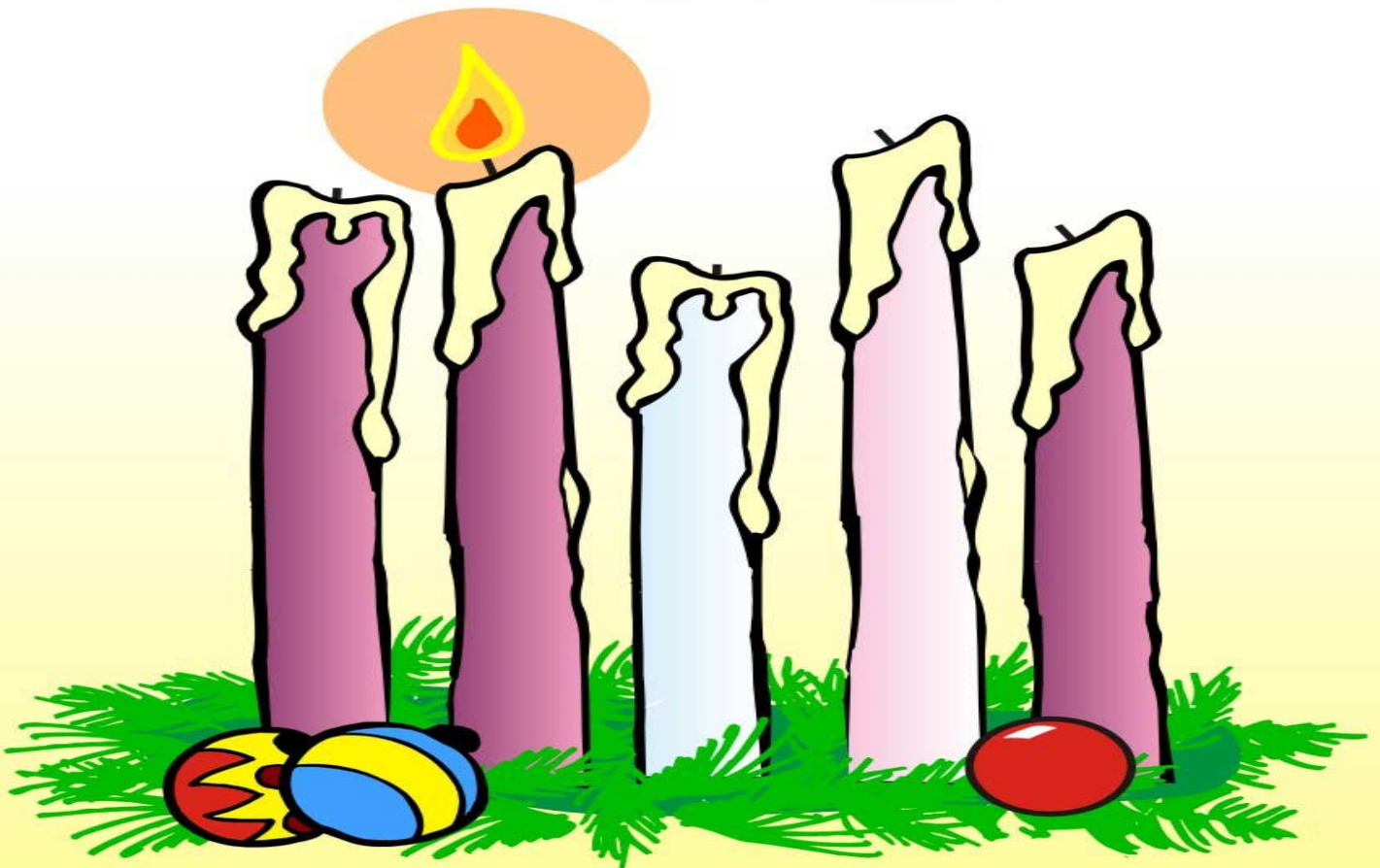
So, light your Advent candles, decorate the house for the Christmas feast, and come to worship and hear again His Word and let it prepare you for what it is to come, the Advent of our God. Amen, and Come, Lord Jesus!

In Christ,

Pastor Mike

Katie, Sam, and I would like to invite everyone to our home (*2471 Pine Grove St., Muskegon*) on Sunday, December 16 from 4:00pm-6:00pm for a Christmas open house. All are welcome and we hope to see you there.

-Pastor Mike



Advent Dinner

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Following worship

Sponsored by the Church Council

We will be serving:

Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Vegetables, Salad,
Rolls & Butter, and Dessert along with Punch & Coffee.

Everything will be provided.

*Poinsettia order forms
are now available!*

*Please place your order before De-
cember 16. The price of the plants
is \$7.25 this year.*

*If you have any questions please
contact Cindy
Borreson.*

LESSONS & HYMNS

December 2, 2018— First Sunday of Advent

Deacon Andrew Kitchka
Accomp. John Deppe
Lector Dustin Shunta
Acolyte Makenzie Pastoor
Ushers Mike Sellon & Russ Tilden
Safety Tom Proksa & Ray VanderStelt
Nursery Jan Ward
Counters Tom & Donna Whitehead,
Cindy Borreson

Lessons

Jeremiah 33:14—16
Psalm 25:1—10
1 Thessalonians 3:9—13
Luke 21:25—36

Hymns-

#436—Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying
#263—Savior of the Nations, Come
#435—Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
#241—O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
#257—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

December 9, 2018— Second Sunday of Advent

Deacon Janeen Pastoor
Accomp. Ardy Bulthouse
Lector Rose Justian
Acolyte Hope Shunta
Ushers Brad Johnson & Ray VanderStelt
Safety Andrew Kitchka & Mike Sellon
Nursery Michelle Ward
Counters Brad & Lauren Johnson, Randy
Borreson

Lessons

Malachi 3:1—4
Luke 1: 68—79
Philippians 1:3—11
Luke 3:1—6

Hymns

#264—Prepare the Royal Highway
#255—There's a Voice in the Wilderness
#256—Comfort, Comfort Now My People
#254—Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
#250—Blessed Be the God of Israel
#244—Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

December 16, 2018— Third Sunday of Advent

Deacon Tom Whitehead
Accomp. Nancy Gibson & Barb Anderson
Lector
Acolyte William Pastoor
Ushers Randy Borreson & Dustin
Shunta
Safety Russ Tilden & Jeff Ward
Nursery Donna Whitehead
Counters Tom & Betty Proksa, John
Moore, Tom Whitehead

Lessons

Zephaniah 3:14—20
Isaiah 12:2—6
Philippians 4:4—7
Luke 3:7—18

Hymns

#259—Fling Wide the Door
#242—Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
#249—On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry
#253—He Came Down
#266—All Earth Is Hopeful
#260—The King Shall Come

LESSONS & HYMNS (CONTINUED)

December 23, 2018— Fourth Sunday of Advent

Deacon Jeff Ward
Accomp. John Bryson
Lector Cindy Borreson
Acolyte Braxton Ward
Ushers Michelle & Jeff Ward
Safety Randy Borreson & Dave Justian
Nursery Lauren Johnson
Counters Randy & Cindy Borreson,
Michelle Ward

Lessons

Micah 5:2—5a
Psalm 80:1—7
Hebrews 10:5—10
Luke 1:39—55

Hymns

#257—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
#265—The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
#251—My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness
#239—Hark, the Glad Sound!
LBW #24—Come, O Precious Ransom
#267—Joy to the World

December 24, 2018— Christmas Eve

Accomp.
Lector 1
Lector 2
Lector 3
Lector 4
Lector 5
Lector 6
Lector 7
Lector 8
Lector 9

Lessons

Hymns

Once in Royal David's City
#271—I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve
#288—Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
#295—Of the Father's Love Begotten
#275—Angels, from the Realms of Glory
#272—Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
#265—The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
#277—Away in a Manger
#296—What Child is This
#300—The First Noel
#281—Silent Night, Holy Night!
#270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

December 25, 2018— Christmas Day

Presiding
Deacon
Accomp.
Lector
Acolyte
Ushers
Safety
Nursery
Counters

Lessons

Isaiah 62:6—12
Psalm 97 (11)
Titus 3:4—7
Luke 2:1—20

Hymns

#283—O Come, All Ye Faithful
#289—Angels We Have Heard on High
#267—Joy to the World
#291—Let Our Gladness Have No End
#282—It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Cas Radosti/Come Rejoicing, Praises Voicing
#279—O Little Town of Bethlehem
#278—Away in a Manger
#276—Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
#290—Go Tell it on the Mountain

GROUP NEWS

The Dorcas Circle meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 am. They will meet next on December 7 at 10:00am at Whitlow's for breakfast. All are welcome to attend. Last month Dorcas sponsored the annual Book and Bake Sale. In December they will be drawing the winners for their annual raffle. Tickets are on sale now! For more information on the Dorcas Circle please contact Betty Proksa.

The Men's Club meets for breakfast the second Saturday of each month for a time of fellowship and to discuss or take care of miscellaneous things around church. The men's club assisted with the Annual Book & Bake Sale, offering a delicious Chili lunch that was a crowd favorite! The next meeting is Saturday, December 8, at 9:00am at Whitlow's Forerunner Restaurant. Contact Tom Whitehead at 231-740-2144 for more information.

The B.I.B.L.E. Club meets immediately following the Children's Sermon during Sunday worship. Watch for updates on fall activities! Please contact Dawn Snider at 616 791-4413 for more information.

Congregational Life sponsored many events in October including geocaching and a trip to a Muskegon Lumberjack's game for family and faith day. They are also hosting a monthly book study on Biblical fiction the second Monday of every month at 6:00pm. Watch for updates on winter activities. Please contact Lauren Johnson for more information.



MILITARY FAMILY

Please remember those serving

**Master Chief Russ
Tilden, Jr.
United States Navy**

**Staff Sergeant Lance
Hughson
United States Air Force**

Council News

Council met on October 2, 2018. Meeting was called to order by Marcia Kitchka and pastor led with a reading from Mark 10 and a prayer. Pastor has started having two daytime Bible studies a month with Dorcas Circle on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays. Property Committee discussed the selection of a plow service for the upcoming winter and announced all three bells are now working! A new alarm system was installed on October 29 and the lights in the ceiling of the sanctuary that are not working are being scheduled for replacement. Dorcas Circle held their annual book and bake sale with the Men's Club contributing a chili lunch. Council meets again on December 4, 2018 at 6:30pm.



Prayer List



Roger Anderson

Pari Bailey

John Bryson

Betsy Colella

Tom Fortenbacher

Gene Fortune

Ada Filka

Ann Hamil

Tom Hulka

Barbara Hvizdos

Tillie Jandris

Carissa Jones

Jan Kerekrety

Charlie Majersky

Danny Moore

Christine Praskac

Noah & Kaylee Shafer

Stanley Swiatek

CALENDAR OBSERVANCES-DECEMBER 2018

Monday, December 3

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

Francis Xavier (SAYV-yehr) was born in the Basque region of northern Spain. Francis's native Basque language is unrelated to any other, and Francis admitted that learning languages was difficult for him. Despite this obstacle he became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. At each point he learned the local language and, like Martin Luther, wrote catechisms for the instruction of new converts. Another obstacle Francis overcame to accomplish his mission work was a propensity to seasickness. All his travels to the Far East were by boat. Together with Ignatius Loyola and five others, Francis formed the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Francis spoke out against the Spanish and Portuguese colonists when he discovered their oppression of the indigenous people to whom he was sent as a missionary.

Tuesday, December 4

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

Born to a wealthy family in Damascus and well educated, John left a career in finance and government to become a monk in an abbey near Jerusalem. He wrote many hymns as well as theological works. Foremost among the latter is a work called *The Fount of Wisdom*, which touches on philosophy, heresy, and the orthodox faith. This summary of patristic theology remained influential for centuries.

Thursday, December 6

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342

Though Nicholas is one of the church's most beloved saints, little is known about his life. In the fourth century he was a bishop in what is now Turkey. Legends that surround Nicholas tell of his love for God and neighbor, especially the poor. One famous story tells of Nicholas secretly giving bags of gold to the three daughters of a father who was going to sell them into prostitution because he could not provide dowries for them. Nicholas has become a symbol of anonymous gift giving.

Friday, December 7

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397

Ambrose was a governor of northern Italy and a catechumen when he was elected bishop of Milan. He was baptized, ordained, and consecrated a bishop all on the same day. While bishop he gave away his wealth and

lived in simplicity. He was a famous preacher and is largely responsible for the conversion of Augustine. He is also well known for writing hymns. On one occasion, Ambrose led people in a hymn he wrote while the church in which they were secluded was threatened by attack from Gothic soldiers. The soldiers turned away, unwilling to attack a congregation that was singing a hymn. Ambrose is credited with authorship of three hymns in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, including "Savior of the Nations, Come" (ELW 263).

Thursday, December 13

Lucy, martyr, died 304

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Apparently she had decided to devote her life to God and her possessions to the poor. Beyond that, however, little is known for certain about Lucy. However, her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (the name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year. A tradition arose of a girl in the household, wearing a crown of candles, bringing saffron rolls to her family early in the morning on the day of Lucia.

Friday, December 14

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591

John was a monk of the Carmelite religious order who met Teresa of Ávila when she was working to reform the Carmelite Order and return it to a stricter observance of its rules. He followed Teresa's lead and encouraged others to follow her reform. He was imprisoned when he encountered opposition to the reform. His writings, like Teresa's, reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation. In one of John's poems, "The Spiritual Canticle," he cried, "Oh, that my griefs would end! Come, grant me thy fruition full and free!"

Thursday, December 20

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katharina (Katie) was five when her mother died and she was sent to live in a convent. She later took vows as a nun, but at about age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.



PRAYER SHAWL RAFFLE

"Shawls ...

made for centuries universal and embracing.

They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace,

mother, hug, shelter and beautify.

They are symbolic of an inclusive,

unconditionally loving, God.

Inspirational book included.

Second prize

**Gift certificate from Diane Sparks of
the Finishing Touch Hair Salon,
for shampoo and cut, and a basket of salon gifts.**

\$75 value

Drawing after worship on Sunday December 2, 2018

\$1.00 PER TICKET

OR

7 TICKETS FOR \$5.00

Sponsored by the Dorcas Circle

Thank you to all who participated in the Communion Bread instruction with Dawn Snider on November 3rd. We are grateful for Dawn's years of dedication to providing communion bread for DMLC. For future baking sessions we invite all who want to join in fellowship with the Communion Bread Team!

Altar flowers for Reformation Sunday were given by Olivia and Braxton Ward in honor of Jeff and Shelly's 15th wedding anniversary October 18, 2018 and Shelly's birthday on October 26, 2018.

Brad and Lauren Johnson celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on October 23, 2018!

Pastor Mike and Katie celebrated their 3rd wedding anniversary on October 30, 2018!

Paul and Ada Filka celebrated an October wedding anniversary this year of 60+ years!

Congratulations and many blessings to all of you!



Kolache is still available from the bake sale. Walnut and Poppyseed rolls are \$18.00 per roll, half roll for \$10.00.

The Men's Club also still has chili available for \$5.00 per pint. Contact any Dorcas member if you're interested in purchasing anything!



B.I.B.L.E CLUB RALLY DAY!

Contributed by Barb Anderson



THE BIBLE CLUB RALLY DAY HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9 AFTER WORSHIP FEATURED A LUAU THEMED LUNCHEON AND COSTUME ACCESSORIES. A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL AND THE FOOD WAS PRETTY TASTY ALSO! THE MEAL INCLUDED BBQ PORK, HAWAIIAN BUNS, COCONUT RICE, FRUIT SALADS AND A WONDERFUL HAWAIIAN PUNCH. THE DESSERT TABLE FEATURED PINEAPPLE UPSIDE DOWN CAKE, COCONUT COOKIES AND TROPICAL ORANGE CUPCAKES. THERE WERE FLOWERS FOR THE LADIES HAIR AND FLOWER LEIS AND BUBBLES FOR EVERYONE!



Fun and fellowship before the meal begins!



Samuel was center of attention, of course!

Deciding below who wanted to start the hula first!



DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 First Sunday of Advent Worship 10:00am Advent Dinner Dorcas Raffle Following Worship	3 Congregational Life 7:00pm	4 Church Council 6:30pm	5 Adult Education 6:00pm	6	7	8 Men's Club @ Whitlows 9:00am Cocoa & Canvas Fundraiser 2:00m-4:00pm
9 Second Sunday of Advent Worship 10:00am	10 Book Study 6:00pm Parish Education 7:00pm	11 NO Finance Committee NO Worship & Music	12 Adult Education 6:00.pm	13	14	15
16 Third Sunday of Advent Worship 10:00am	17 Property Committee 5:30pm	18	19 Adult Education 6:00pm	20	21	22
23 Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship 10:00am	24 Christmas Eve Worship 7:00pm	25 Christmas Day Worship 10:00am	26	27	28	29
30 First Sunday of Christmas Worship 10:00am	31					

Monday, December 10, 2018 6:00pm

DML Book Club!

This Months book is The Big Machine

Ricky Rice is a middling hustler with a lingering junk habit, a bum knee, and a haunted mind. A survivor of a suicide cult, he scrapes by as a porter at a bus depot in Utica, New York, until one day a mysterious letter arrives, summoning him to enlist in a band of paranormal investigators comprised of former addicts and petty criminals, all of whom had at some point in their wasted lives heard what may have been the voice of God. Infused with the wonder of a disquieting dream and laced with Victor LaValle's fiendish comic sensibility, **Big Machine** is a mind-rattling mystery about doubt, faith, and the monsters we carry within us. You will need to borrow your own copy from the library or purchase a copy.

Please join us!

The Noisy Offering this month will go toward Family Promise of the Lakeshore.

This organization works to end homelessness by providing shelter and support services to families. They do this by utilizing area churches to provide overnight housing. They also provide a Day Center where the families can search for jobs and housing, obtain casework services and referrals, and receive Life Skills training. Their 14 host churches include First Lutheran and Our Savior's Lutheran.

There are many homemade dish cloths and pot holders available for sale, handmade with love by Tillie Jandris. Please let Barb Anderson or Dawn Snider know if you are interested in purchasing any! All proceeds go to B.I.B.L.E. Club! Thank you!

The Men's Club will be decorating the church Christmas Tree on Sunday, December 9, following worship.

Anyone wishing to help is welcome to join!

Relay for Life Cocoa & Canvas Painting Fundraiser

Saturday, December 8, 2018

2:00pm-4:00pm

Fellowship Hall

Event hosted by Team Praying for Hope (Amanda Shunta & Donna Whitehead)

Cost is \$25/person will all supplies provided by our artist. There will also be hot cocoa, snacks and baked goods for your enjoyment.

Create-a-Frame owner, Lacy, will be instructing us on painting an 11x14 Gingerbread themed painting just in time for the holidays!

All proceeds go to Relay for Life which is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Please let Amanda or Donna know if you're interested in attending!



DML's own Andrew Kitchka (pictured here with fan Hope Shunta) starred as Oliver Warbucks in the Grand Haven Central Park Players production of Annie last month. Andrew did a fantastic job and the performance was enjoyed by all! Thank you to everyone who attended!

Mission Statement

**We are a people of God in Christ,
called to believe and sent to
serve.**

The “Church Door” title is taken from the “Theses Door” of the Castle Church which has made Wittenburg so famous.

Just as the “Theses Door” was used as a bulletin board for notices in Luther’s time, this newsletter can also be used by our members to communicate with each other and our guests about church life and events. Published monthly, The Church Door is available the last Sunday of the month.

Please contact Andrea Iams (231-730-3584 or ai.dmlc@outlook.com) if you’d like to add an article or event to next month’s newsletter!

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays @ 6:00pm
Adult Education —Study of the Augsburg Confession

Sunday, December 2
Following Worship
Dorcas Annual Raffle Drawing. Tickets on sale now!
Annual Advent Dinner

Saturday, December 8
Following Men’s Club
Installation of Christmas Tree

Saturday, December 8
2:00pm—4:00pm
American Cancer Society/Relay for Life Canvas & Cocoa Fundraiser

Monday, December 24
7:00pm
Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

Dr Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church
1480 E. Hile Rd
Muskegon, MI 49444
231.733.0603
[Www.dmlc.org](http://www.dmlc.org)

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Dr. Martin Luther Ev. Lutheran Church
“Called to Believe-Sent to Serve”