

21ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME | PROPER 16
AUGUST 23, 2026

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

**All those able, please stand*

Preparing for Worship: God is at work through faithful people who trust God's purpose, even in uncertain and challenging times. May we offer ourselves as living sacrifices, confess Jesus as the Christ, and use the gifts God has given us to build up the body of Christ.

Prelude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Accompanist

Welcome and Greetings in Jesus' Name

***Opening Hymn #** "Amazing Grace" **Worship Team**

***Opening Prayer (Stand)**

Song of Faith # 588 "Sanctuary" *SANCTUARY*

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Pat Carpenter

The First Reading Exodus 1:8-2:10

The Second Reading Romans 12:1-8

Gospel Reader: Deacon Janelle Hood

***The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ** Matthew 16:13-20

***Responsorial # 26** "Blessed Be Your Name" *BLESSED BE YOUR NAME*

***Greeting our Family and Neighbors (Stand)**

The Children's Sermon (No Children's Church – Summer Recess)

Announcements, Prayers of the People and The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations – The Apostle wrote: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (Hebrews 13:16). May God smile upon each giver and gift we offer to Him in faith in Jesus' name.

Offertory

A Prayer of Illumination: God of Miriam and Moses, you are our help from age to age. Accept our worship, our living sacrifice, and transform us by your Spirit, that, being many members of one true body, we may dare to pray together in the name of Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The Message "The Question That Changes Everything"
The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

Voltaire: "Judge a man by his questions rather than by his answers."

WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH AND SERVICE

Invitation to Faith and Fellowship – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God's forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

***Hymn (Stand) # 534** "Take My Life and Let It Be" *HENDON*

***Spoken Benediction**

Postlude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Accompanist
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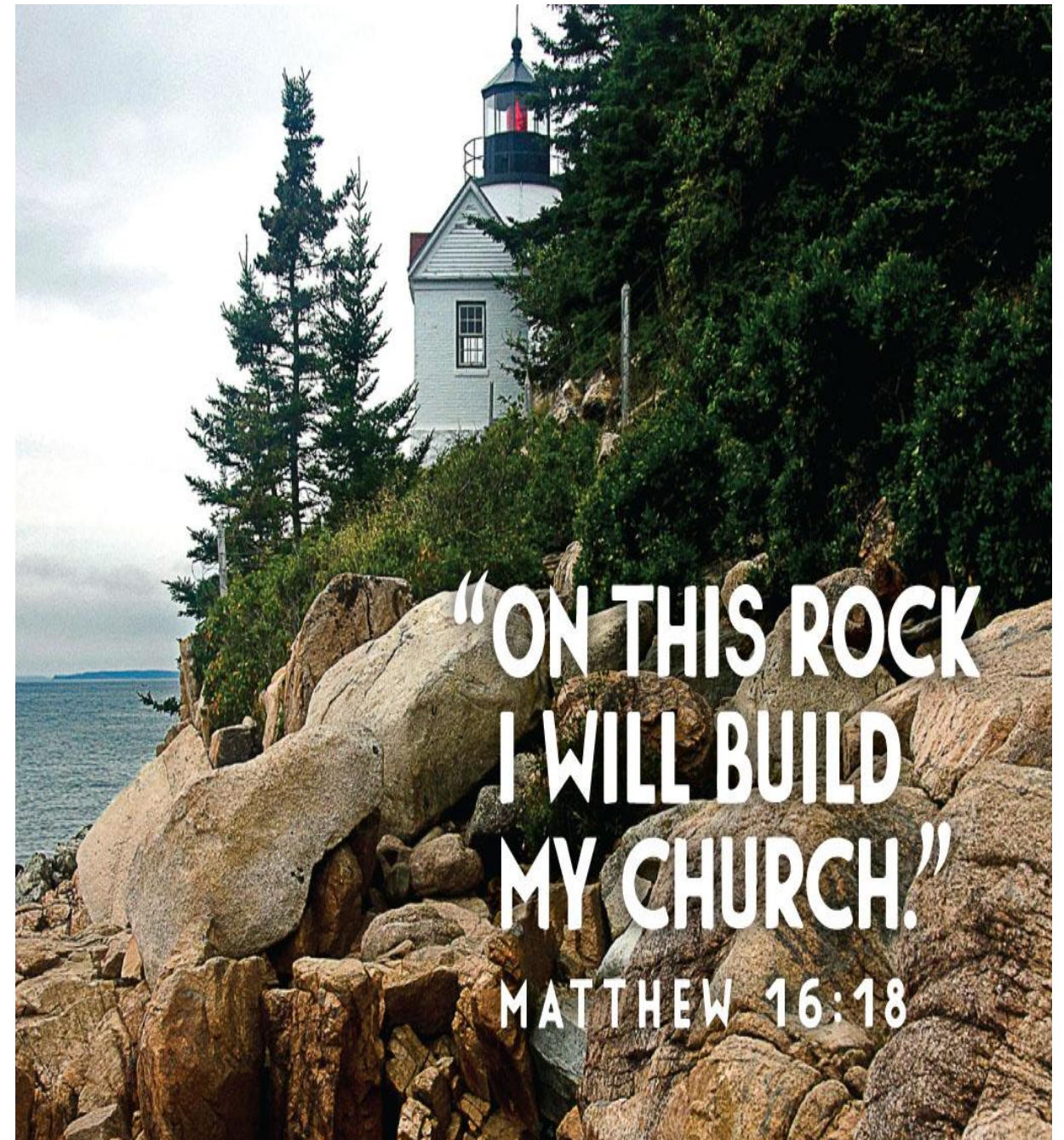
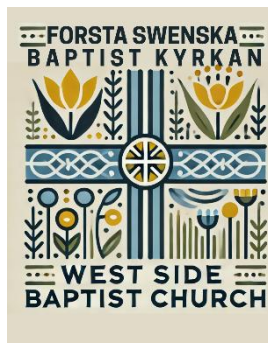
HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

GOOD NEWS! God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you have done wrong things (sinned) that have hurt God and others. Apologize to God, turn away from harmful behavior, and start doing good things (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD** – Accept and trust that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross in your place and give God the credit for raising Jesus from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD** – Make a religious commitment to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Rescuer, Redeemer (Savior), and Ultimate Leader (Lord). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE JESUS WAY** - Tell your family and friends about your new trust in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly share your decision to be a follower of Jesus (Christian).

HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COME FORWARD – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and accepting the Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church, may join this Christian church. Persons interested in affiliating should speak with the Pastor or come forward at a congregation meeting. A person may join by Believer's Baptism, Letter of Transfer from a previous Christian church with prior baptism, or a Satisfactory Statement of Christian Faith.

OUR MISSION – We love God, and we love People, by sharing the Good News of God's forgiving, renewing love in Jesus Christ by word and deed to improve the lives of neighbors. West Side Baptist Church is an independent, autonomous Christian church partnering for mission support with like-minded people of faith in our City, County, State, Nation, and World.



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