

A close-up photograph of a condensation-covered surface, likely a window or glass door. A large, dark, cross-shaped stain is visible, resembling a cross. The stain is dark blue/black at the top and transitions to a bright yellow at the bottom. The background is a light grey/blue color with numerous small, clear water droplets scattered across it.

Psalm 32:1

**Blessed is the
one whose
transgression
is forgiven.**

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Washburn, North Dakota

Sunday, September 6, 2020

9:30 AM Worship Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost LBW Setting One Communion

PRELUDE AND BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC Gwen DeMontigny, Peggy Moran
Arden Wagner, Rick Richard
“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

C: God of grace, through your Son you have reconciled your creation to yourself. Still, we continue to find ways to divide and destroy the unity you intend for us. Preserve your church that, assured of Christ's presence among us, we may exemplify the peace and reconciliation that can only come from you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

PSALM.....Psalm 32:1-7

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
² Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,”
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.

⁷ You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

SECOND READING Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

ALLELUIA

C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 18:1-20

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it

would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

SERMON Pastor Curt Hanson

SPECIAL MUSIC Gwen DeMontigny, Peggy Moran
Arden Wagner, Rick Richard
“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P: Words of Institution

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 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, for ever and ever. Amen

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

(Single Aisle Station – one side at a time, social distancing)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving, Alleluia, Alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

BENEDICTION

**HYMN On Next Two Pages
"Earth and All Stars!"**

POSTLUDE

Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

- INTERIM PASTOR Pastor Curt Hanson
- READER.....Jeff Schmidt
- COMMUNION ASSISTANTJeff Schmidt
- ORGANISTLeAnn Richard
- USHERS/GREETERS Andrew & Shenille Lillejord
- ALTAR GUILD Janet Hanson & Maybell Job
- SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORSDwight & Margaret Rasmussen

Earth and All Stars!

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets! Sing to the
 2 Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm! Sing to the
 3 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals! Sing to the
 4 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers! Sing to the

Lord a new song! Oh, vic - to - ry!
 Lord a new song! Flow - ers and trees!
 Lord a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre!
 Lord a new song! Lime - stone and beams!

Loud shout - ing ar - my! Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Loud rus - tling dry leaves! Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Loud hum - ming cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Loud build - ing work - ers! Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

He has done mar - vel - ous things.

I too will praise him with a new song!

5 Classrooms and labs!
Loud boiling test tubes!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band!
Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

6 Knowledge and truth!
Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son!
Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

© Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
© Tune: David N. Johnson, b. 1922

EARTH AND ALL STARS
457 457 and refrain

CCLI #2465135

Our Mission

“Working hand in hand to know Christ and make Christ known through Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Caring Ministries, and Service.”

Welcome to all who have come to worship.

The psalmist declares that “the Lord takes pleasure in his people” (Psalm 149:4). As we gather before the God who delights in us, may we also delight in God. Welcome.

Visitors

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today.

Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Receive the bread into your open, flat palm. Ask if you wish to receive grape juice or a gluten free wafer. Alert an usher if you, or someone you know, needs communion served in the pew.

Nursery

The nursery, located beside the narthex, is available for use for any parent feeling the need to use it during worship services with their child.

Thank you for your giving

Sunday, August 30th Attendance – 115

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$5,460.00

Prayer Requests

Wes Sauer, Taylor Gardner, Virgil Wisdom, Harold Holtz, Cindy Delmonicao – Mother to Melissa Kugler, Elaine Renfrow – Mother to Lynette Sondrol, Sandi Femling – Cousin to Melanie Beckman, Laren Holznagel, Harlow Tatum – Daughter to Brea (Gutknecht) Tatum, Melisa Chrest, Ruth Lund – Mother to Doddie Kuntz, Derek Laning, Jacklyne Carlson, Amber Selken – Sister to Wendy Miller, John Krebsbach – Brother to Peggy Wollmuth, Arlo Omoth – Brother to Jeneen Loe, Shirley Nelson, Bob Miller, Rodney Jaeger

After Worship

We ask that after the worship service today, if you don't plan to take your bulletin home with you to please throw it in the garbage can in the narthex on your way out. Also, if you plan to visit, please step out of the building and do so with social distancing in mind. Thank you!

Connections

The September/October issue of *Connections* is in the magazine racks. Pick up a copy today to read updates from LCMC & NALC plus other interesting articles.

Our Daily Bread

The September/October/November issue of *Our Daily Bread* is in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy to use with your daily devotions.

Bell Choir and Choir

This Wednesday, September 9th, Bell Choir begins at 6:45 pm and choir at 7:30 pm. Come ring the bells and lift your voices in praise! Questions? Talk to Gwen Hall about bells and Randy Hall about choir.

September 13

Next Sunday, September 13 will be a morning full of excitement with the following:

- **Pastor Chuck Mann** will begin preaching here at First Lutheran!
- **Sunday School Teacher Installation** - All Sunday School teachers, subs and music people will be installed during the worship service. We are still looking for teachers and subs. If you are willing to help out, please talk to Stacy Boeshans.
- **Bibles for Third Graders** - The following third graders will receive their Bibles from the FLCW during the worship service: Bekka Bentz, Kylee Fiedler, Aubrey Holzmagel, Mia Klabunde, Ever Kugler, Axton Meadows, Olivia Schmidt and Zack Vollmuth.
- **Rally Sunday** - All youth ages 3 years – 9th grade is encouraged to join us for music and games. You will meet in the sanctuary following worship.

LCMC 20th Annual Gathering Delegates

LCMC 20th Annual Gathering will be held on Monday, October 5, 2020 at North Heights Lutheran Church in Arden Hills, MN. Yes, one day only this year. This is due to the current restrictions placed on group gatherings in the state of Minnesota due to COVID-19. Breakout sessions, fellowship and networking activities, and vendors have been canceled for this year.

Registration is limited to 250 people at the gathering and is first come first serve, online only, and limited to voting delegates.

First Lutheran is allowed two voting delegates. The deadline to register is September 30th. The event will be live streamed as usual, however this year they plan to offer a more interactive experience for those who will be “attending” the event from home. If you are interested in being a delegate, please see Jeannette in the church office.

LWR Kits

With school supplies going on sale, now is the time to help put together kits for LWR. Put the items in the quilting closet at the bottom of the front stairs when you bring them to the church. Bolded items are especially needed. The following are items needed to make one school kit, one baby care kit and one personal care kit:

Personal Care Kits:

- One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" & 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- 2 or 3 bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail clippers, remove packaging

School Kits:

- **Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper**
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- **One pencil sharpener**
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- **One 2 1/2" eraser**
- One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

Baby Care Kits:

- Two lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies)
- Two long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- Two receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
- Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, *or include a baby cap*
- Two pairs of socks
- One hand towel, dark color recommended
- 2 or 3 bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 or 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars.
- Two diaper pins or large safety pins

First Lutheran Church Updates as of September 2, 2020

- First Lutheran will keep maintaining worship services as is, limiting up to a total of 150 people. **Face masks are strongly encouraged but not required. Bring your own mask, if you don't, masks will be available for your use.** As of now Facebook Live services will continue.
- It was determined that small groups of no more than 24 people are the only groups allowed to meet at the church at this time with the exception of Sunday School and Pastor Ordination reception. **No food to be prepared in the kitchen at this time and no coffee hour.** Please make sure to have your group scheduled through the church office.
- Doors will be open daily from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.
- Watch the church website www.flcwashburn.com and Facebook for further updates.
- We ask that you remember your tithing for the church. Either send your payment to the church or drop it off at Farmers Security Bank in Washburn notating it is a donation for First Lutheran Church if you will not be attending worship at the church.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TODAY	9:30 AM	Worship w/Holy Communion
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting
TUES.	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
WED.	6:45 PM	Bell Choir
	7:30 PM	Choir
SUNDAY	9:30 AM	Worship w/Holy Communion
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting

Thoughts on the Readings

First Reading - Ezekiel 33:7-9

We used to play war games when I was a child in Ohio. Our bombs were harvested corn stalks. The loamy soil clung to the roots as we easily pulled these stubs from corn rows. We hauled these "dirty bombs" up in trees and waited for the other side to walk beneath us. Eventually, they got smart and sent scouts ahead to look out for our positions in the trees. It is difficult to imagine such a watchman, seeing us waiting in a tree but not reporting it to his friends. They might not be friends much longer.

Psalm - Psalm 32:1-7

People tend to know when they are doing something wrong. Children comprehend this at an early age. We do not, however, always want to change. Often we slide along with the behavior of the folks we call friends—or of the greater society—even though we know it is wrong. For some, guilt grows heavy and they confess their wrongdoing, often to the one they wronged. When that person forgives them, they experience release from the burden they had been carrying.

All our wrongdoings, even if directed at another person, are sins against God. Remaining silent about our faults only increases the debt by being deceitful. Yet, the one who acknowledges her transgressions to God will find deliverance from guilt and preservation from further trouble.

Second Reading - Romans 13:1-10

The old saying goes that there are only two things certain in life: death and taxes. We owe the first to God because of sin (Rom 6:23). The second, we owe the government. Paying taxes is expected, whether we like it or not. But what do we owe each other? Certainly, we owe it to others to not covet or steal their property. We should not have an affair with their spouses. We should not murder each other. Paul brings this idea of our indebtedness to others to a head, summing up the expectation of the whole law: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love is all we owe each other; and that is a great sum.

Gospel - Matthew 18:1-20

Does Jesus ever answer us in the way we expect? When asked who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, they might have expected him to answer, “your heavenly Father” or even, “Moses” or “Elijah.” They were actually hoping he would name one of their own names. Instead, he pulled a child into the gathering and taught them to become like children. How does one become like a child?

Children receive other children. Generally, children do not try to do serious harm to others. They go to great lengths to find children they used to play with but who have not been around for awhile. They also easily forgive each other and settle disputes privately within their group of friends.

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Pentecost 14 - September 6, 2020

*At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying,
“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”*

- Matthew 18:1 -

It sure seems like there are a lot of people out there who think they're really great. Just ask them and they'll tell you so! Seems like if you're truly great, you won't have to tell anyone. They'll see it when they look at you, when they observe how you live your life, so there's no need to post on social media to try and convince people. In Jesus' opinion, it's not the CEO's of the world, or the top ten richest people, or even powerful elected officials. It's the most humble who are great in God's eyes. Maybe there's something to learn there.

In typical paradoxical fashion, Jesus pulls a small child onto his lap for an object lesson. “See this child,” he says to his disciples, “this here is what greatness looks like.” The child hadn't accomplished a thing. He hadn't even finished his schooling yet. He simply believed in Jesus and was open to his teaching. Greatness is a matter of faith; it's a simple, yet profound belief in the power and authority of Jesus, and that boy had it!

We all know that faith is a gift we receive from the Holy Spirit. It's not something we even ask for, it is simply given to us. However, it seems to be our human propensity to try and measure it, much as the disciples were trying to measure greatness. There are times, aren't there, when we wish we could give it to others. For instance when someone is struggling with a fatal disease and questions the very existence or goodness of God. But faith is not ours to give. We can pray for the Holy Spirit to give faith, but it's not in our power to bestow it on our loved ones or anyone else. If we had that power we would probably find a way to misuse it, anyway. Only the greatest to ever live has that power and he, when quizzed about who is truly great, points to a child as Exhibit A.

This is quite humbling to us, and it should be. We strive to be great leaders, great church people, great neighbors, etc. But still it all boils down to simple faith, faith like a child. It's not a contest anyway - it's an invitation to walk with Jesus as he transforms the world one heart at a time. It's okay not to be greatest! There's always going to be someone better. If you want to see who that is, just look at the child sitting in front of you.