



*My grace  
is sufficient  
for you.*

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9



**July 4, 2021  
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
9:30 AM Worship**

First Lutheran Church  
709 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. – P.O. Box 218  
Washburn, North Dakota 58577  
[www.flcwashburn.com](http://www.flcwashburn.com)  
701-462-3775

## PRELUDE AND BELLS

### AS WE GATHER

*(Today, our nation celebrates its place as the land of the free and the home of the brave. At times, this reality causes us to thump our chest to let the world know how great we are. The apostle Paul, too, could claim his place among the greats. Paul was “circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ” (Philippians 3:5–7). Yet, he was not mightier than the thorn. As Paul followed Jesus, he was plagued by a thorn in the flesh to keep him from becoming conceited. He asked God to take it away, and God said, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9). So, too, God’s grace is sufficient for us no matter where this life takes us, because when we are weak, then we are strong.)*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INVOCATION

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

**C: Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

*1 Corinthians 10:12–13; Hebrews 4:15–16*

P: Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.

**C: God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.**

P: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

**C: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION      *Philippians 1:6; 2:7-8*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess to You our pride, arrogance, and boasting. Forgive us for all our sins in our thoughts, words, and works for the sake of Jesus, who “made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us. For Jesus' sake, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you for all of your sins of thoughts, words, and works in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN (On next page) ..... WOV #712  
“Listen, God Is Calling”**

## Listen, God Is Calling

712

*Refrain*  
Leader

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing through the Word in - vit - ing,

of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort and joy. joy.

Leader

1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news  
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.  
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader

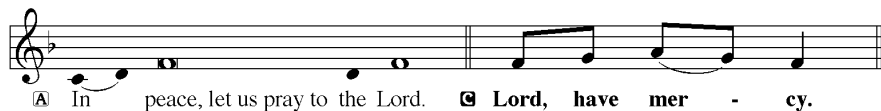
that he came to save us and set us free.  
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.  
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

*Refrain*

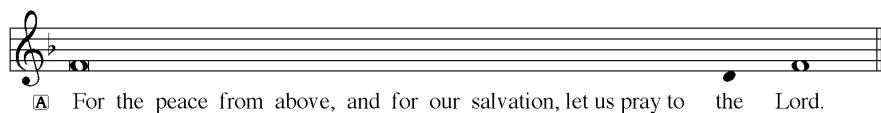
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## KYRIE



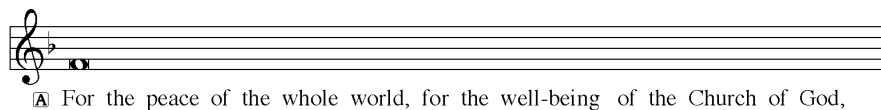
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



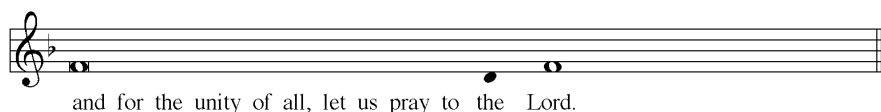
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



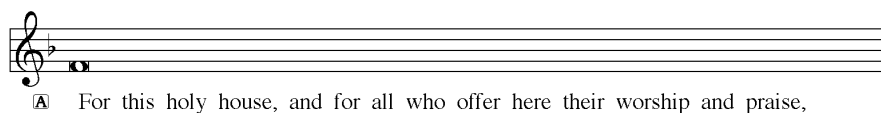
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



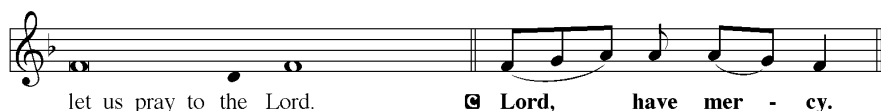
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

# SALUTATION



♩ The Lord be with you.

♩ And al - so with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

**C: Gracious and ever-loving God, we thank and praise You for the freedom we have in You and also the freedom we celebrate today in our nation.**

**As Your grace has been sufficient for Your people throughout all time, grant that it be sufficient for us as well for Your power is made perfect in our weaknesses; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST READING ..... Isaiah 61:1-7

61 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,

because the Lord has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor;

he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,

and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup> to grant to those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;

that they may be called oaks of righteousness,

the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

<sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins;

they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,

the devastations of many generations.

<sup>5</sup> Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks;

foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers;

<sup>6</sup> but you shall be called the priests of the Lord;  
they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God;  
you shall eat the wealth of the nations,  
and in their glory you shall boast.  
<sup>7</sup> Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion;  
instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot;  
therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;  
they shall have everlasting joy.

PSALM (Read responsively) .....Psalm 119:41-48

<sup>41</sup> Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord,  
your salvation according to your promise;  
<sup>42</sup> **then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me,  
for I trust in your word.**  
<sup>43</sup> And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth,  
for my hope is in your rules.  
<sup>44</sup> **I will keep your law continually,  
forever and ever,**  
<sup>45</sup> and I shall walk in a wide place,  
for I have sought your precepts.  
<sup>46</sup> **I will also speak of your testimonies before kings  
and shall not be put to shame,**  
<sup>47</sup> for I find my delight in your commandments,  
which I love.  
<sup>48</sup> **I will lift up my hands toward your commandments,  
which I love,  
and I will meditate on your statutes.**

SECOND READING ..... 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

<sup>1</sup> I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. <sup>3</sup> And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— <sup>4</sup> and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. <sup>5</sup> On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— <sup>6</sup> though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears

from me. <sup>7</sup> So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

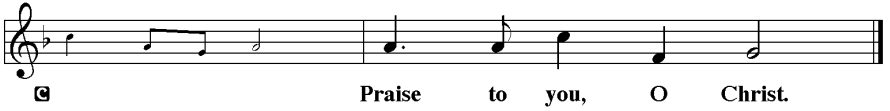
GOSPEL READING ..... Luke 22:24-30

<sup>24</sup> A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. <sup>26</sup> But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. <sup>27</sup> For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

<sup>28</sup> “You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, <sup>29</sup> and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, <sup>30</sup> that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.



P: The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON ..... Pastor Chuck Mann

**HYMN (On last page)..... LBW #507**  
**“How Firm a Foundation”**

**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**

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God and all people according to their needs.

Almighty and most holy God, we thank and praise You for all You provide us freely by Your grace. We are especially thankful for the freedoms we enjoy and celebrate today as we gather to worship You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for the leaders of our nation, state, and community. We acknowledge that You have placed them in these positions to govern us and all people of this land. Grant them wisdom and lead them to make decisions that are in line with Your will for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Amid the thorns of this life, we lean on Your grace, knowing that it is sufficient for us and in our weakness Your strength shines through. We ask for Your grace and healing for those who grieve, [*especially . . .*]. We ask for Your grace and healing for those struggling in body, mind, and spirit, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We live in a nation and in communities where we are thankful to have brothers and sisters in Christ, yet there are also many who have either disconnected from You and Your Church or who have never known You. Lead us to share Your grace with others. Guide our conversations and grow our relationships with those who do not share the hope we have. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: No matter where life takes us, we know we are in Your hands. So, we confidently come before You as Your children and place these prayers and all our concerns into Your gracious hands, in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## OFFERINGS ARE RECEIVED

## OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the

seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the

prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your

pres - ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Merciful Father,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

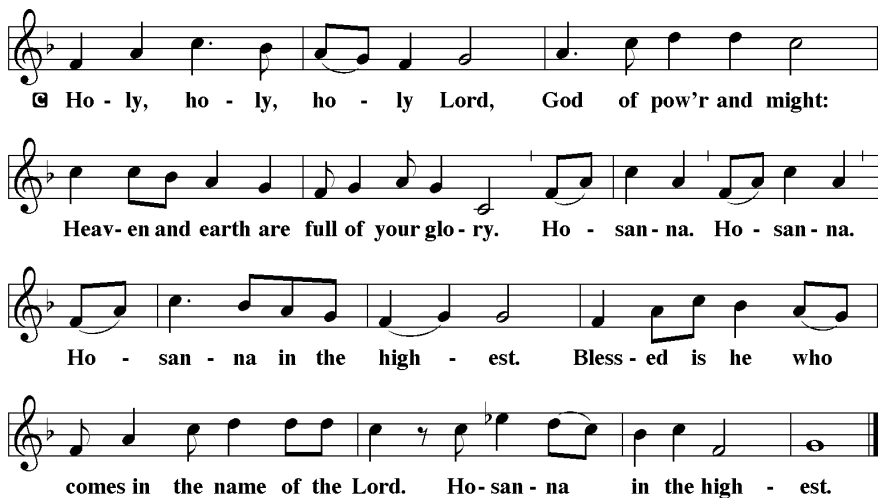
Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

#### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark  
 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;  
 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✕ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### 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 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)

### HYMNS DURING COMMUNION



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

WOV #699 – (On next page) “Blessed Assurance”

# Blessed Assurance

699

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sa-vior am hap-py and blest,

Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove e-choes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*

This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sa-vior all the day long:

this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sa-vior all the day long.

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-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

**C: His steadfast love endures forever.**

P: Let us pray.

**C: We thank You, Lord, for You have again fed and nourished us on our way through this world to the one to come. Guide us in living out Your grace until that day when we experience it in all of its fullness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### BENEDICTION *Psalm 32:10*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace

*Numbers 6:24–26*

In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**





lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry,  
glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

*Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819–1910  
Tune: American, 19th cent.*

BATTLE HYMN  
15 15 15 6 and refrain

## DISMISSAL

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C:** Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

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## Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

PASTOR ..... Pastor Chuck Mann  
COMMUNION ASSISTANT ..... Steph Mann  
READER ..... Steph Mann  
ORGANIST ..... Theresa Petersen  
USHERS/GREETERS ..... Dick & Carla Bickert  
VIRTUAL SERVICE ..... Melissa Rothe  
ALTAR GUILD..... Claudette Ness & Maybell Job  
FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR ..... Donna Gunderson  
SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS ..... Terry & Donna  
Gunderson

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Washburn ND 58577  
701-462-3775

PASTOR Chuck Mann email: [pastorchuck@westriv.com](mailto:pastorchuck@westriv.com)

Cell phone: 701-891-9443

Parsonage: 701-462-3774

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY: Jeannette Rost

Church Office: 701-462-3775

Email: [flc@westriv.com](mailto:flc@westriv.com)

Website: [www.flcwashburn.com](http://www.flcwashburn.com)

OFFICE HOURS: T-T-F 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, 1:30 - 3:30

W – 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

YOUTH DIRECTOR: Laura Gardner

Cell phone: 701-315-0212

Email: [fly@westriv.com](mailto:fly@westriv.com)

ORGANISTS: Theresa Petersen and LeAnn Richard

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Randy Hall

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Gwen Hall

CUSTODIAN: Jeff Schmidt

## **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.**

As our nation celebrates Independence Day, let us remember and proclaim that God so loved the whole world that he sent Jesus to share in this life. Let us join in praise!

## **Visitors**

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today and ask that you sign our guest book in the narthex.

## **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, June 27<sup>th</sup>, Attendance – 93

Facebook Online Viewing – 91

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$2,295.00

## **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. **Our members and guests are reminded to register their communion participation for each person taking communion (bread, wine or grape juice) using the green pew cards for accurate record keeping. Please list each person instead of putting family as these records are needed to figure out voting members and the secretary does not know which family members are communing if listed as family. Put the green cards in the offering plate.**

## **Altar Flowers**

Altar flowers today are from Mac & Judy Beaudry in celebration of our freedom.

## **Flowers**

Other flowers today are from the memorial service of Pat Lindell which was held this past Friday. Please keep the family in your prayers.

## **Pastoral Care**

Please call Pastor Chuck if you or a loved one are in the hospital or know you will be going to the hospital. The church does not usually get informed of your stay by any of the hospitals even if you are registered under our congregation's name. We want to make sure you get pastoral care. Thank you!

## **Prayer Requests**

Family of Pat Lindell, Family of Sheila Koehler on her death – Friend of the Kurle family, Kathy Key, Curtis Yunker, Karen Goehring, Michelle & Jason Burger, Hunter Feigum, Olivia Retterath, Pat Anderson, Kristi Olson, Mardella Aanderud – Mother to Melanie Beckman, Mary Ann Monsebroten – Sister to Jackie Olson, Kathy Solomonson, Ross Lorentzen, Keith Hammerbeck – Family friend of the Kugler's, Deborah Davenport – Mother of Laura Gardner's friend, Virgie Emineth, Cindy Delmonico – Mother to Melissa Kugler, Ruby from Pine Ridge, Claire Boucher – Friends of Aaron & Lexie Solomonson newborn, Jamie Baumann, Taylor Gardner, Harold Holtz, Elaine Renfrow – Mother to Lynette Sondrol, Sandi Femling – Cousin to Melanie Beckman, Laren Holznagel, Harlow Tatum – Daughter to Brea (Gutknecht) Tatum, Ruth Lund – Mother to Doddie Kuntz, John Krebsbach – Brother to Peggy Wollmuth, Arlo Omoth – Brother to Jeneen Loe, Bob Miller, Rodney Jaeger

## **Church Doors**

The council voted at their June meeting to have summer hours which the church doors will be unlocked and locked. They are:

Sunday: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Monday thru Saturday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

If you need in the church any other time, please contact Pastor Chuck or Jeannette Rost.

## **LCMC Annual Gathering and Convention**

The LCMC Annual Gathering and Convention is October 3-6, 2021 in Hilliard, OH. Early bird registration is August 15. If you are interested in going, please talk to Pastor Chuck, Matt Gardner or Jeannette Rost.

## **Connections Magazine**

The July/August issue of *Connections* is in the magazine racks. Pick up a copy today to get updates on LCMC and NALC along with other interesting articles.

## **Christ in Our Home**

The July/August/September issue of *Christ in Our Home* is in the magazine racks. Pick up a copy today to use with your daily devotions.

## **The Compassion of Jesus**

In a world full of hurting and broken hearts, we could use compassion. Jesus defined compassion during his life on earth. His love for people was evident in everything he did, especially in his actions towards marginalized groups. Now that he is no longer on the earth with us, it's our responsibility to carry out that care for others. Join Bill Crowder as he reveals the compassionate heart of Jesus and shows us how to use it to impact the people in our lives. A new devotion from Our Daily Bread titled *The Compassion of Jesus* is in the magazine racks for you to pick up. This book has seven sections to it.

## **Hearing Assist**

First Lutheran has some hearing assist systems to be used during the worship services. If you feel you could benefit from this, please talk to Pastor Chuck before the church service.

## **Altar Flower Signup**

There is a signup sheet in the narthex for altar flowers from now thru September 26<sup>th</sup>. Signup for the date you would like to supply flowers before your date is taken. Remember, you furnish the flowers and make sure they get to the church for that Sunday.

## **FLC Phone Number**

It has been brought to our attention that the First Lutheran Church phone number is incorrectly listed in the McLean County Phone Book. It is listed with the parsonage number. The church number should be 701-462-3775. All other phone books have it listed correctly.

## **Landline vs Cell Phone**

Have you dropped your landline phone and gone to just your cell phone? If so, have you given First Lutheran your cell phone number yet? If not, we would appreciate it so we can get ahold of you when needed. FLCW work group co-chairs need your number too! Call 462-3775 or email [flc@westriv.com](mailto:flc@westriv.com) with your cell number. Thank you!

## **LBW & WOV Hymnals**

Thank you everyone that donated money for the new hymnals. I am so overjoyed to tell you that we now have enough money to fully pay for all the hymnals ordered! What a wonderful congregation we have! God is good!!!

There are still a few LBW books in the narthex that are no longer good enough for use in the pews, but good enough for use at home. If you would like one or more of those hymnals, please stop at the church and take as many of them as you wish. Remember, it is only the ones in the narthex for your taking.

### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN**

TODAY	9:30 AM	Worship w/Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting
		Al-Anon Meeting
TUES.	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
THURS.	AM	Pastor Chuck at Text Study
SAT.	10:00 AM	Private Baptisms
SUNDAY	9:30 AM	Worship w/ Holy Baptism
	10:30 AM	Coffee/Fellowship Hour
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting
	7:00 PM	Al-Anon Meeting



# *Listening for the Promise*

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – July 4, 2021**

*“...and began to send them out two by two...” (Mark 6:7)*

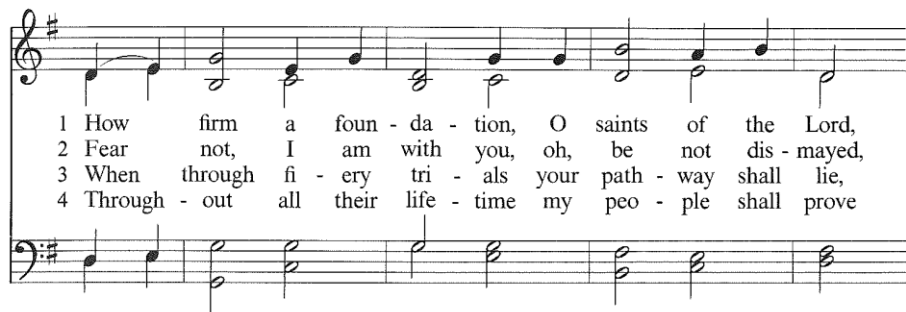
Jesus, after getting resistance to his ministry and message in his hometown of Nazareth, regroups and sends out his twelve disciples to preach the good news and to represent him out in the greater world. Jesus sending out these twelve confused men is surprising, because the disciples show they aren't necessarily the sharpest knives in the drawer. Yet, Jesus sends them out to do his work.

The hometown boy, Jesus, is dismissed as being “only” a carpenter from a town where nothing good comes out of it. The crowd listens to him and witnesses his miracles, but they respond with, “Where did this man get these things?” Interestingly, Jesus responds to the crowds' questions about him and his work by pairing up and sending out the Twelve Disciples. These are the ones who “followed him” (6:1). Those who follow are now being sent. It's rather amazing that these disciples, who have shown they are quite confused and really don't understand him, are now sent by Jesus to do some of the same ministry he did. Jesus gives them the same power that he himself wielded.

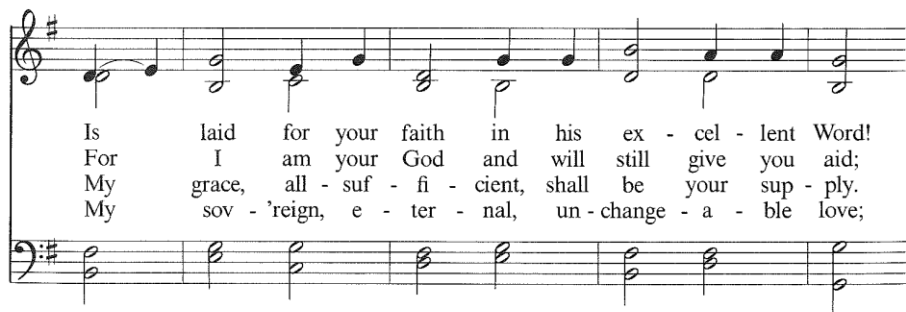
The Twelve are sent out with little instruction with no bag or change of clothes, and are to live as beggars relying on the goodness of strangers. They perform exorcisms and cure the sick. Yet these good works do not stop the opposition that thwarts them along their journeys. It was best just to shake the dust off and move on. Followers of Jesus do good work and suffer rejection, just like Jesus did.

But Jesus isn't surprised by all this. He responds to their rejection by sending out his empty-pocketed, poorly prepared, and misunderstanding disciples to do what he wants done. His intentions for the world will not be hindered or stopped by human or demonic forces, even if he has to send out some below average followers to do his work for him. He sends out the unlikeliest of people, that is, people like us. Though we don't understand everything about Jesus, and are maybe confused about what we *do* know, it is the nature of Jesus to work through ordinary people like us, to send out his disciples to take his good news to the streets. What is Jesus' plan for bringing the world back to himself? He sends US! Amen.

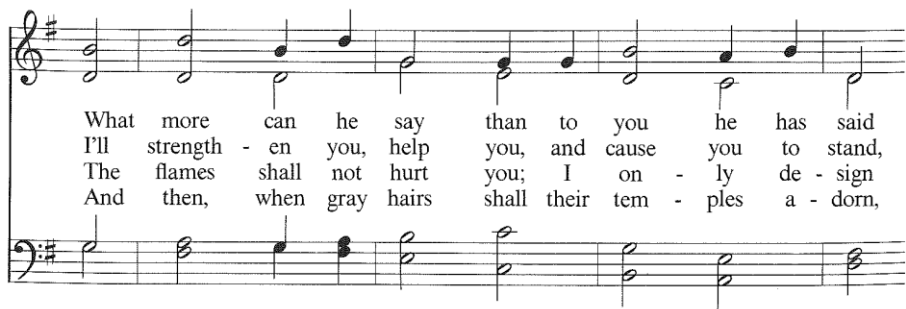
## How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 4 Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



Is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent Word!  
 For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
 My sov - reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 And then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 Up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.  
 Like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne.