

**August 25, 2024**  
**Fourteenth 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

# WOV SERVICE OF THE WORD

## PRELUDE AND BELLS

### AS WE GATHER

*(The Word of the Lord is wisdom for all aspects of our lives. Though the world around us may not like what it says, its precepts bring the blessings of our Creator into our lives. It's as if Jesus says, "This is how life works." Today we gather to let God speak to our hearts with wisdom from above. Welcome to God's house today!)*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(put prayer requests on yellow cards)

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS .....p. 10

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

**C: Amen**

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires know, 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**

L: 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.*

L: 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**

**L:** Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**C: Amen**

**GATHERING SONG .....LBW #230**  
**"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"**

**Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word 230**

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word; Curb those who  
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, For you are  
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from your  
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend your ho - ly Church, that  
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to nought all he has done.  
 we May sing your praise tri - um - phant - ly.  
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

GREETING – (Season after Pentecost).....p. 46

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

2 Corinthians 13:13

**C: And also with you.**

L: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

**C: a people holy to the Lord our God.**

L: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

L: One does not live by bread alone,

**C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8

SCRIPTURE SONG.....p. 47

**SCRIPTURE SONG**

*This canticle or another scripture song or hymn may be sung.*

*Refrain*

Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to

Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O God of the u - ni - verse;

just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na - tions.

*Refrain*

Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and sing the glo - ry of your name?

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All

na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,

for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.

Revelation 7:10, 15:3-4

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

L: Let us pray.

**C: Merciful God, you bestow the riches of your grace upon your sons and daughters. Grant that we may faithfully serve you in this life and rejoice in your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING ..... Isaiah 29:11-19  
*(God's wisdom is beyond our understanding. That's why he's God and we're not. So often we have it backwards. Should the potter ask the clay for advice, or the creator ask the creature for understanding?)*

<sup>11</sup>The vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." <sup>12</sup>And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot read." <sup>13</sup>And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, <sup>14</sup>therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,

and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden.”  
<sup>15</sup>Ah, you who hide deep from the Lord your counsel, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, “Who sees us? Who knows us?” <sup>16</sup>You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, “He did not make me”; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, “He has no understanding”? <sup>17</sup>Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest? <sup>18</sup>In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. <sup>19</sup>The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

PSALM (Read Responsively)..... Psalm 14  
*(In the midst of foolish times, the psalmist cries out for wisdom. Like today, true wisdom is from above and found in the revealed Word of God.)*

<sup>1</sup>The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.

**<sup>2</sup>The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.**

<sup>3</sup>They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

**<sup>4</sup>Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the Lord?**

<sup>5</sup>There they are in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous.

**<sup>6</sup>You would shame the plans of the poor, but the Lord is his refuge.**

<sup>7</sup>Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

**SECOND READING** ..... Ephesians 5:22-33  
(To “submit”, means to give of our very best. In these words, St. Paul writes about the sacrificial love of Husbands and Wives and the unbreakable bond that God creates when we, like Christ, give the very best of ourselves to one another.)

<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup>that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup>so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup>In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup>because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** ..... p. 48

*Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*This acclamation or a hymn, song, or canticle may be sung before and/or after the Gospel:*



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!



L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING .....Mark 7:1-13  
*(Merely going through the motions of faith is meaningless and futile. That's what Jesus says to the Pharisees long ago. His words call us to take God's wisdom to heart and let it shape all aspects of our lives.)*

<sup>1</sup>When the Pharisees gathered to {Jesus}, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, <sup>4</sup>and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) <sup>5</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup>And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' <sup>8</sup>You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men." <sup>9</sup>And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! <sup>10</sup>For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and,



'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' <sup>11</sup>But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban"' (that is, given to God) — <sup>12</sup>then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, <sup>13</sup>thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.  
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN** .....**LBW #269**  
**"Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun"**

## Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

269

1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun Thy  
 2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept And  
 3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -  
 4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, All

dai - ly stage of du - ty run; Shake off dull sloth, and  
 hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from  
 perse my sins as morn - ing dew; Guard my first springs of  
 I de - sign or do or say, That all my pow'rs, with

joy - ful rise To pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.  
 thought and will; And with thy - self my spir - it fill.  
 all their might, In thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.

- 5 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise him, all creatures here below;  
 Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

370

F Gm7 Dm Bb

1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in  
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our  
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual  
 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we

F Bbmaj7 C Bb6 F

Chris - tian love; The u - ni - ty of  
 ar - dent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our  
 bur - dens bear, And of - ten for each  
 shall be free; And per - fect love and

Bb6 C7 Dm Bb6 F Bb F C7 F

heart and mind Is like to that a - bove.  
 aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.  
 oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 friend - ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.  
Tune: Johann G. Nügel, 1773-1836, adapt.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD.....p. 49

L: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.** *Ephesians 1:13-14*

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: 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**

L: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C: pray in the Holy Spirit.** *Jude 20*

L: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *Jude 21*

L: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!** *2 Corinthians 5:17*

L: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

L: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

L: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**C: Amen**

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

*2 Corinthians 13:11*

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

**C: And also with you.**

## OFFERING

OFFERTORY – (Season after Pentecost) .....p. 50  
“Glory to you”



**C** (*Advent to Transfiguration*) Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
(*Lent to Pentecost*) Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
(*Season after Pentecost*) Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



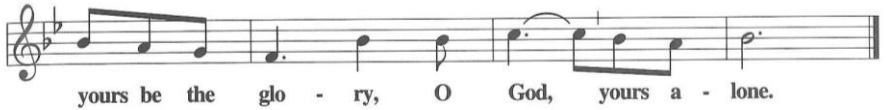
Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



OFFERTORY PRAYER – (Season after Pentecost).....p. 51

L: Let us pray.

L: God, our Creator,

**C: you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

THE PRAYERS

L: As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

*Each portion of the prayers concludes with these words:*

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C: Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER .....p. 52

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: 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**

**BLESSING**

L: May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing.

**C: Amen**

L: May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**C: Amen**

L: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

Romans 15

**SENDING SONG .....LBW #356**  
**“O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts”**

356

## O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, The fount of life, the  
 2 Your truth un - changed has ev - er stood; You plead with all to  
 3 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, And long to feast up -  
 4 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, Wher - e'er our chang - ing

light of all: From ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -  
 call on you; To those who seek you, you are  
 on you still; We drink of you, the foun - tain -  
 lot is cast; Glad, when your smile on us you

parts We turn, un - filled, to hear your call.  
 good; To those who find you, life is new.  
 head; Our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.  
 turn, Blest, when by faith we hold you fast.

- 5 O Jesus, ever with us stay!  
 Make all our moments fair and bright!  
 Oh, chase the night of sin away!  
 Shed o'er the world your holy light.



DISMISSAL

L: 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 Paul Krueger  
 WORSHIP LEADER..... Brent Petersen  
 READER ..... Cathy Sheldon  
 ORGANIST ..... Theresa Petersen  
 USHERS/GREETERS ..... Dick Brewster & Candace Wieger  
 VIRTUAL SERVICE ..... DJ Winter  
 COFFEE HOUR ..... Nadine Berger  
 ALTAR GUILD..... Brenda Ankenbauer & Val Swanson  
 SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS ..... Terry & Donna  
 Gunderson, Dwight & Margaret Rasmussen

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PASTOR: Paul Krueger email: [revpaulkrueger@gmail.com](mailto:revpaulkrueger@gmail.com)  
 Cell phone: 701-240-4712

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)

COORDINATOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES: Melissa Rothe  
 Email: [fly@westriv.com](mailto:fly@westriv.com)

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

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.**

Friends and guests, welcome to worship in the name of Jesus, who is both Savior and Friend and who welcomes all.

## **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, August 18, Attendance – 124

Online Viewing – 14

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$8,401.00

## **Altar Flowers**

Altar flowers today are from Mac & Judy Beaudry in honor of their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary which was this past Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Sympathy**

Our sympathy goes out to Elmer & Arlene Schwarz on the death of Arlene's sister, Leona (Lonnie) Mattheis. As of the printing of this bulletin no arrangements have been made. May God give them comfort in this time of sorrow.

## **Hearing Assist**

First Lutheran has hearing assist systems to be used during the worship services. If you feel you could benefit from this or want to try it, please see the ushers in the narthex.

## **Pastoral Care**

Please call Pastor Paul (701-240-4712) or the church office (701-462-3775) if you or a loved one are in the hospital or know you will be going to the hospital. The church does not 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!

### *This week we pray for:*

#### **This Week's New Prayer Requests:**

**Prayers of Christian Sympathy:** Family of Leona (Lonnie) Mattheis

### *Long Term prayer requests:*

**Members:** Alton Krebsbach, Howard Johnson, Karen Goehring

\* The person in parenthesis is who the person is related to or friends of. Please feel free to ask these individuals how best you can pray for their family/friend.

### *This month we pray for:*

**Members:** Helen Samuelson, Sande Wagner, Arlene Schwarz

**Friends & Family:** Komal Petersen (Brent & Theresa Petersen), Clara Olson (Sharon Chrest), Steve Reynolds (Brad & Cathy Sheldon)

### *This Quarter we pray for:*

**Members and Nonmembers:** Corrine Kerzmann (Donna Gunderson), Marion Narum (Peggy Moran), Ty Brown (Jody & Nicole Brown), Alice Richard, Jackie Olson

## **Military Prayer and Card List**

We pray for the Men & Women in our Military who protect our country, especially those assigned to serve overseas or away from home.

- **Members of First Lutheran on Active Duty in the Military and the National Guard:**  
SGT Bryce Rost – Army National Guard  
SPC Olivia Retterath – National Guard - Deployed  
SPC Cassidy Sommer – National Guard  
SGT Jonathan Melvard – Army National Guard
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- **Friends and Family on Active Duty in the Military and in the National Guard:**  
SGT Dustin Enockson – National Guard  
Emily Johnson – Air Force  
Bryar Anderson – Marines  
1SGT Jordan Ternes – Army National Guard  
Tech. SGT Andre Austin – Air Force  
Hunter Feigum – National Guard  
Morris Duffy – Medical Air Guard  
Adam Walsvik – National Guard

***Notice of Prayer List Policy***

We have a monthly /quarterly prayer list cycle. When you add someone to our prayer list the request will remain on our monthly list for four weeks and then be removed. If you would like to have the request moved to our quarterly list, please contact the office and the request will be added to our “This Quarter we pray for:” list for the next three months. Please help us keep our prayer list current by communicating updates to the office at 701-462-3775. Thank you all for your faithful prayers for all of God’s people.

**Large Print Bulletins**

We have large print bulletins for those wanting or needing larger print. Ask the ushers for one.

**Jean Sunday**

Today is Jean Sunday. If you wore jeans to church today, consider donating \$1 or more to FLY to help with expenses for activities throughout the year. Even if you didn’t wear jeans, you are still welcome to donate. A jean’s can is on the bulletin table for your donation.

## **Carpet in Basement Sunday School Rooms**

Thank you to everyone that donated to the Sunday school carpet fund. A total of \$3,332.00 was raised.

## **Confirmation Parent & Student Meeting**

All parents and youth of grades 7-10 are encouraged to be at the confirmation meeting this Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm. If you will not make the meeting, please talk to Pastor Paul or Melissa Rothe.

## **Mission Trip Informational Meeting**

Calling young and old to join us on a mission trip to Guatemala in June 2025! Anyone seventh grade and older is welcome (including adults)! We will have an **informational meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** to discuss cost, activities in Guatemala, fundraising opportunities, and answer questions! Individuals will need to commit to go by October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Questions - contact Melissa Rothe.

## **New Sound and Video System Training**

On **Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm**, there will be a training for the new sound and video system. **Anyone interested** in learning more about the systems are welcome at the training! We are always looking for more individuals to help with streaming our services! Questions - contact Melissa Rothe.

## **Sunday Morning 8:30 AM Bible Study**

Bible study led by Cathy Sheldon on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am will begin on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Study will be "A Life God Rewards" by Bruce Wilkinson w/David Kopp. Study guides are \$8.00 each and can be picked up in the church office from Jeannette. There are 13 books left. More information on the study can be found in the August newsletter.

## **Helping Hands Volunteer**

Helping Hands is looking for a volunteer from First Lutheran Church to be on the committee. If you have any questions, please call Elaine 460-1307.

## **Altar Flower Signup Sheet**

A signup sheet for altar flowers through September 29<sup>th</sup> is on the table in the narthex. Signup for that Sunday you want before it is taken. You furnish the flowers and make sure they get to the church.

## **Connections Magazine**

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

## **Our Daily Bread and Portals of Prayer**

The June/July/August issue of *Our Daily Bread* and the July - September 2024 issue of *Portals of Prayer* are in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy to use with your daily devotions.

## **Lutheran World Relief Projects Items Needed**

*When you purchase the following items, please bring them to the quilting closet by September 18th. Thank you for helping out with this much needed project.*

### **SCHOOL KITS:**

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper - **Need lots**
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other (wooden or hard plastic only)
- One pencil sharpener – large w/catcher
- 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**

## **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

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## **PERSONAL CARE KITS:**

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

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN**

TODAY	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 PM	Fireside Bible Study
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting
TUES.	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
WED.	6:00 PM	Confirmation Parent & Student Meeting
	7:00 PM	FLY
SUN.	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 AM	Fireside Bible Study
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting

# *Listening for the Promise*

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 16) – August 25, 2024**

*<sup>6</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of  
you hypocrites, as it is written,*

*‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;  
<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines  
the commandments of men.’*

*<sup>8</sup> You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”*

*-Mark 7:6-8-*

Traditions. I love traditions. Growing up, I learned about many of the traditions from my mother’s side of the family, who had come over to Nebraska from Denmark in the 1870s. Recently, since having my own children, I have continue to pass along some of those traditions. Other traditions we’ve instituted within the last decade.

Traditions can certainly be good. They can often remind us of where we came from. Church traditions can help us to focus on Jesus during our worship services. Unfortunately, traditions can lead to disagreement, conflict, and turmoil. Churches have split over traditions. A Lutheran congregation in a small town got in a big disagreement early on in their establishment. Many were German immigrants. One group wanted to keep the tradition of worshipping in their native language of German. Another group thought it was time to speak the language of America and hold worship services in English. Sadly, they couldn’t come to some sort of compromise, so they split into two congregations. One group built a church just three blocks away from the other one. Ironically, both congregations worship in English to this day.

Why do churches split over traditions? When we treat a tradition like it’s God’s command, etched in stone, it can lead to conflict and discord. The Pharisees viewed Jesus to be a bad person because he was breaking their traditions. Their traditions seemed good and were meant to honor God. However, they judged people by how well they kept the traditions and not how much they loved God. As we hold on to our traditions above anything else, we are not honoring God with our hearts. We are in reality honoring him with just our lips. May we place our focus on what’s most important: that which Jesus has called us to do. And may we not become so fixated on what a tradition calls us to do.