

Help my unbelief.

Mark 9:24



**September 15, 2024
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM Worship**

First Lutheran Church
709 5th Ave. – P.O. Box 218
Washburn, North Dakota 58577
www.flcwashburn.com
701-462-3775

WOV SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRELUDE AND BELLS

AS WE GATHER

(God has promised to hear our prayers. He responds by bringing healing and wholeness to his people in ways we don't even realize we need. As God's redeemed children, we call on the name of the Lord, knowing that he will hear and respond. Welcome to God's House today!)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(put prayer requests on yellow cards)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESSp. 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 SONGLBW #520
"Give to Our God Immortal Praise!"**

520

Give to Our God Immortal Praise!

1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
 2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save From guilt and
 3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; The King of

truth are all his ways; Won - ders of grace to
 dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
 kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; Re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 God be - long; Re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 shall en - dure When lords and kings are known no more!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
 Tune: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

DUKE STREET
 LM

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?

III 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: **God of righteousness, you who restores voice to the mute and hearing to the deaf, by the guidance of your Spirit help us to tame our tongues, that our words may uplift our neighbors and glorify your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-10
(Isaiah speaks of the promised Savior, the Suffering Servant, who's faithfulness brings hope to us all.)

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. ⁷But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. ⁸He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my

adversary? Let him come near to me. ⁹Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. ¹⁰Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

PSALM (Read Responsively).....Psalm 116:1-9
From the depth of despair, the Psalmist reminds us of God's unwavering promise to deliver his people.

¹I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

²Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

³The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

⁴Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!"

⁵Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

⁶The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

⁷Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

⁸For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;

⁹I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

SECOND READING James 3:1-12
(Do our words build up or do they destroy? James calls us to guard our tongues, reflecting Christ with words that truly seek to bring out the best in others.)

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are

driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

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:



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



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



Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip-tures.



L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 9th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READINGMark 9:14-29
(Even what appears impossible is possible for Jesus. His words invite us to trust. "All things are possible for the one who believes.")

¹⁴When {Jesus, Peter, James and John} came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. ¹⁶And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" ¹⁷And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." ¹⁹And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." ²⁰And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²²And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." ²³And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." ²⁴Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" ²⁵And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him

and never enter him again.” ²⁶And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

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

HYMN**LBW #365**
“Built on a Rock”

Built on a Rock

1 Built on a rock the Church shall stand, E - ven when stee - ples are
 2 Not in our tem - ples made with hands God, the Al - might - y, is
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for his own hab - i -
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is

fall - ing; Crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, Bells still are
 dwell - ing; High in the heav'n's his tem - ple stands, All earth - ly
 ta - tion; He fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, Grant - ing us
 bless - ing; Hith - er we come to praise his name, Faith in our

chim - ing and call - ing— Call - ing the young and old to rest, Call - ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove Deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Were two or three to seek his face, He in their
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, Mak - ing with

souls of those dis - tressed, Long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, Mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst would show his grace, Bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, Grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
Grant that, when church bells are ringing,
Many may come to hear God's Word
Where he this promise is bringing:
I know my own, my own know me;
You, not the world, my face shall see;
My peace I leave with you. Amen

© Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt.
Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-1887

KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS
88 88 88 8

SERMONRick Richard

HYMNLBW #403

“Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak”

403 Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak

1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak In liv - ing
 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead The wan - d'ring
 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach The pre - cious
 4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, Un - til our

ech - oes of your tone; As you have sought, so
 and the wa - v'ring feet; Oh, feed us, Lord, that
 truths which you im - part; And wing our words, that
 ver - y hearts o'er - flow In kin - dling thought and

let us seek Your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 we may feed Your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach The hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
 glow - ing word, Your love to tell, your praise to show.

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.



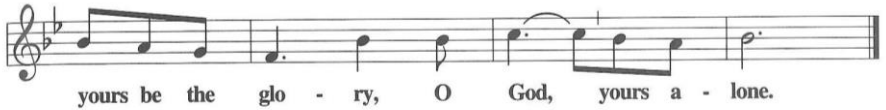
Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



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 PRAYERp. 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 SONGLBW #221
“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

221

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con - fess - ing, The
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing, The

peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take leave.
 tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed The
 Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing, Em -

fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve. The
 brac - ing his chil - dren of each tribe and race. With

seed of his teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing, Shall
 your feast you feed us, With your light now lead us; U -

bles - som in ac - tion for God and for all. His
 nite us as one in this life that we share. Then

grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us To
 may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing Give

work for God's king - dom and an - swer his call.
 hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

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.....	Rick Richard
READER	Randy Hanson
ORGANIST	LeAnn Ricard
USHERS/GREETERS	Keith, Suzy & Parker Jacobson
VIRTUAL SERVICE	Wade & Stacy Boeshans
COFFEE HOUR	Tana Larsen & Kitty Tweeten
ALTAR GUILD.....	Sonja Bergstedt & Carla Bickert
SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS	Emily Retterath Suzy Jacobson & Beth Knutson

First Lutheran Church
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Washburn ND 58577
701-462-3775

PASTOR: Paul Krueger email: revpaulkrueger@gmail.com

Cell phone: 701-240-4712

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY: Jeannette Rost

Church Office: 701-462-3775

Email: flc@westriv.com

Website: www.flcwashburn.com

COORDINATOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES: Melissa Rothe

Email: 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.

God told Moses to raise a bronze serpent on a pole so people who were sick could look at it and be healed (Numbers 21:4-9). Likewise, we look to Christ, raised up on a cross, and our souls are healed. Welcome to worship.

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, September 8, Attendance – 187

Online Viewing – 50

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$3,910.00

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: Nancy Liffrog, Al Rall, Liam Williams (Steve & Peggy Wollmuth)

Prayers of Christian Sympathy:

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: Randy Hall, 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
- **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
SGT Tom Heidelberger – Army
2LT Tony Heidelberger – Air Force

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.

Life Experiences from the Foster Care System

Mady, a former foster care child, and her biological mom, Ashley, will share their life experiences with foster care. Come join us to learn more about the hardships and successes, ask questions, and get their firsthand account of foster care. See you September 18th from 6:30-7:30 pm or 7:30-8:30 pm in the church basement.

Deborah Bible Study

Deborah Bible Study will meet at 9:30 am this Thursday, September 19th, at the church. Arlene Schwarz & Sylvia Thompson host. Study is Tender Warrior – Lesson 8.

Newsletter Deadline

Please have all articles for the October newsletter to the church office no later than noon this Friday, October 20th. Articles not received by then will not be guaranteed to get in this newsletter due to the time crunch to get it in the mail.

Installation of Pastor Paul Krueger

Next Sunday, September 22nd, Pastor Paul will be installed during the **10:30 am worship service**. Please note the change in time of worship. Rev. Dr. Eric Reisen, President of the North American Lutheran Seminary, will be our guest preacher. Rev. Pam Thoreson, Dean of the Minkota Mission District will also be at the worship service. A meal will follow the service. The council will provide sandwiches and cake. The congregation is asked to please provide salads and side dishes.

Time change of Worship and Sunday School

Please note the time change for next **Sunday, September**

22nd: Sunday School – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

No coffee hour

Gifts for the Pastor at Installation

It is often customary that individuals choose to give a gift to a newly installed Pastor at the time of their installation. Rather than personal gifts, Pastor Krueger and Susann ask that you would honor them with a special gift in support of the North American Lutheran Seminary and the seminary's new Bonhoeffer House that serves the needs of future NALC Pastors.

You may direct your gifts in honor of Pastor Paul and Susann to:

The Bonhoeffer House
c/o The North American Lutheran Seminary
311 Eleventh Ave.
Ambridge, PA 15003

Should you prefer to place a cash gift in a card, Pastor and Susann would be happy to forward that gift on your behalf.

Sunday Morning 8:30 AM Bible Study

There will be no 8:30 am Bible Study on September 22nd & 29th. They will resume on October 6th. Study is "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. More information on the study can be found in the August & September newsletters.

Super Sunday Supper

Super Sunday Supper will be on Sunday, September 29th, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. They will be serving soup and sandwich. Freewill offering. Questions or meal delivery please call Judy at 220-4410 or Rhonda at 315-0656.

Confirmation Meal Signup Sheet

We are looking for volunteers to make and serve a meal on Wednesday nights for our confirmation students and volunteers. A signup sheet is in the narthex on the big poster board. Thank you to those who have already signed up.

Altar Flower Signup Sheet

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

Connections Magazine

The September/October 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 September/October/November 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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TODAY	8:30 AM	<u>NO</u> Bible Study
	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 PM	Sunday School
		Fireside Bible Study
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting
TUES.	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
WED.	5:30–6:15 PM	Confirmation Meal
	6:15 PM	Confirmation
	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:45 PM	Choir
	7:45 PM	FLY
THURS.	9:30 AM	Deborah Bible Study
FRI.	Noon	Newsletter Deadline
SUN.	8:30 AM	<u>NO</u> Bible Study
	9:30 AM	Sunday School
		Fireside Bible Study
	10:30 AM	Worship w/Installation of Pastor Paul
		Followed by Meal
		3rd Graders Receive Bibles
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 19) – September 15, 2024

*“I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.
Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.”*

– Psalm 116:1-2 –

The Power of Words

I could hear him coming even before the kitchen door banged open. “Mom!” my son, a middle schooler, yelled from about 4 feet away. “I’m right here,” I replied. “Listen to this! Colin told me that Jesus said, ‘Talk is cheap.’ Is that true?” I don’t remember what I said to settle that adolescent theological debate 25 years ago. I know what I would say today. As far as I know, Jesus didn’t say “talk is cheap.” In fact, what Jesus said and did communicated just the opposite: Words matter.

Mark 9:14-29 tells a story of wasted words and powerful prayers. As the incident begins, the air is filled with the sound of words accomplishing nothing, a fruitless argument between Jesus’ disciples and the scribes, apparently over a father’s request and the disciples’ failure to answer it.

Nothing is resolved until Jesus arrives and stops the argument by listening. Initially he hears only emptiness: “If you can do anything,” doubts the father. Jesus echoes, “If you can,” and then speaks God’s word of promise and power. The Spirit in Jesus’ words calls forth from the agonized father not simply a repeated petition, but a prayer of faith. In response, Jesus demonstrates the power of his word by exorcising the unclean spirit from the man’s son.

What have we learned from this exchange? That words can be empty or full of faith; that faith cries out to God; that God hears and answers the prayer of faith. Words have power. But the lesson has not ended. Even though Jesus has heard the father’s prayer and delivered the son, most of the surrounding crowd continues to speak without faith: To their eyes, the boy is not healed; “he is dead.” So Jesus demonstrates the effectiveness of his word by his action. He raises the boy up.

With the disciples, we are in Jesus’ classroom. Where did we go wrong, they ask; “Why could we not cast it out?” Jesus doesn’t explicitly connect the dots, but we can, “You went wrong by wasting your words in argument when you should have spent them in prayer.”