



**What therefore  
God has  
joined together,  
let not man  
separate.**

**Mark 10:9**

**October 6, 2024  
Twentieth 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

*(The people in our lives are intended to be blessings from God. Yet, human sinfulness so often causes heartache and pain. Today God speaks to our hearts and challenges us to regain the blessing that he intends for us to receive through the people around us. Welcome to God's house today.)*

WELCOME

(put prayer requests on yellow cards)

**HYMN ..... LBW #356**

**“O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts”**

# 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.

Text: atr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808-1887, alt.  
 Tune: W. Gardner, Sacred Melodies, 1815

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS .....p. 56

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

**C: Amen**

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

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful God,

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

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

**C: Amen**

L: 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

**C: Triune God, you created humanity in your image, intended for life-giving relationship with you and one another. Heal our selfish brokenness and teach us to trust in you as we learn to love and forgive one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns**

**with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.  
Amen.**

FIRST READING .....Genesis 2:18-25  
*(From the very beginning, the Holy Scriptures show us God's perfect and beautiful design for husband and wife, the foundational relationship for the good of human life itself.)*

<sup>18</sup>The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." <sup>19</sup>Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup>So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." <sup>24</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

PSALM (Read responsively) .....Psalm 128  
*(Happy are those who fear the Lord, sings the Psalmist. God is the creator of the human family and each member within the family is a gift to the others.)*

<sup>1</sup>Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways!

**<sup>2</sup>You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.**

<sup>3</sup>Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

**<sup>4</sup>Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>The LORD bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!

**<sup>6</sup>May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!**

SECOND READING ..... Hebrews 2:14-18  
*(Jesus himself embraces our faults and failures, whether in our relationships or other failures, so that by his suffering and death we might experience God's mercy and healing.)*

<sup>14</sup>Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup>For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### 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. Mark, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

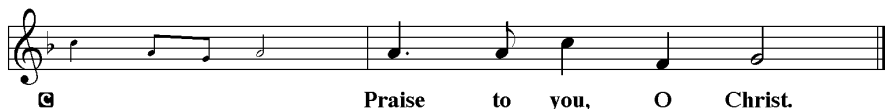
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING ..... Mark 10:2-16  
*(Even as the Pharisees seek to trap Jesus in his words, our Lord both addresses their treachery and calls us to embrace his glorious design for our lives and relationships.)*

<sup>2</sup>Pharisees came up and in order to test {Jesus} asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” <sup>3</sup>He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup>They said, “Moses allowed

a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.”  
<sup>5</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” <sup>10</sup>And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” <sup>13</sup>And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. <sup>15</sup>Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” <sup>16</sup>And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON ..... Pastor Paul Krueger  
 "... but God has something better!" - Mark 10:2-16

APOSTLES' CREED .....p. 65  
**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**

CHOIR ..... “Come by Here”

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 CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.



Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION (2 Aisle Floor Stations)

### HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

Lamb of God – p. 72

♩ 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 #771 – “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

**WOV #783 – “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”**

**LBW #532 – “How Great Thou Art”**

771

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
 2 Sum-mer and win - ter and spring-time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -  
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 man - i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful-ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith - ful-ness! Great is thy faith - ful-ness!

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960  
 Music: William M. Runyan, 1870-1957  
 © 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

FAITHFULNESS  
 11 10 11 10 and refrain

## Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

783

*Descant*

Al - le - lu - ia, al -  
 D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its  
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and  
 3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 D Em A<sup>7</sup> D F#m

rig - teous - ness, and all these things shall be  
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be  
 ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
 G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
 mouth . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

## How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er  
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the  
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to  
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, And take me

all the\*worlds thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the \*roll - ing  
 birds singsweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain  
 die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly  
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
 gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
 bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
 ra - tion And there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, How great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to

thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!

© Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940 (Swedish); Stuart K. Hine, b. 1899 (English)  
 © Tune: Swedish folk tune; arr. Stuart K. Hine, b. 1899

O STORE GUD  
 11 10 11 10 and refrain

**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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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**

BENEDICTION

*Psalm 32:10*

L: 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.**

**HYMN ..... LBW #260**  
**“On Our Way Rejoicing”**

260

## On Our Way Rejoicing

1 On our way re - joic - ing Glad - ly let us go.  
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther Joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; Van - quished is the foe.  
Un - to God the Sav - ior Thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;  
Un - to God the Spir - it Bow we and a - dore,



Who, if we be faith - ful, Can our hope de - stroy?  
On our way re - joic - ing Now and ev - er - more.

*Refrain*

On our way re - joic - ing; As we for - ward move,

Hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.  
Tune: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

HERMAS  
65 65 65 D



First Lutheran Church  
709 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. - PO BOX 218  
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701-462-3775

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 pm

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.**

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, ... God’s special possession.” Welcome to worship, where we are invited to “declare the praises of him who called [us] out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9,NIV).

## **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 29<sup>th</sup>

Attendance – 148

Online Viewing – 18

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$2,496.00

## **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.

## **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.

## **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:** Sharon Nelson

**Prayers of Christian Sympathy:** Family of Vernon Smith and Leon Guenthner

## ***Long Term prayer requests:***

**Members:** Al Rall, 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:** Lakyn Williams (Steve & Peggy Wollmuth), Nancy Liffbrig, Liam Williams (Steve & Peggy Wollmuth), Randy Hall, Helen Samuelson

**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.

### **Altar Flowers**

Altar flowers today are from Terry & Donna Gunderson in honor of their daughters, Susan and Jessica, birthdays this month.

### **Sympathy**

Our sympathy goes out to:

- ⇒ Russell & Robyn Smith and family and Jessie Smith and family on the death of Russell’s father and Jessie’s father-in-law, Vernon Smith.
- ⇒ Jenny Dutoit and family and Duane & Marlys Knell on the death of Jenny’s father and Duane’s cousin, Leon Guenther.

May God give them comfort in this time of sorrow.

### **FLCW Women’s Retreat**

FLCW is having a Women’s Retreat on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm here at the church. There will be a program, Bible Study, crafts, muffins in the morning and lunch at noon. The theme is “When Life Gives You Lemons”. All women are welcome to attend. Today is the last day to sign up for the retreat. Please join us.

### **FLCW Executive Board Meeting**

The FLCW Executive Board will meet this Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

## **Men's Bible Study**

Men's Bible Study will begin this Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 am. Men of all ages are welcome.

## **Church Council**

Church council will meet this Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm.

## **Wall of Envelope Fundraiser**

Envelopes are numbered \$1 through \$100. Please select any envelope and make a donation of that amount towards the trip. Please return the envelope to the bucket in the narthex. We will include something we would like you to pray about for us during the next year and/or during our mission trip and an optional card for you to fill out about your prayer requests from us. At this time, we have 19 kids and adults going!

## **A Special Offering – Hurricane Helene Tragedy**

The heartbreak following the aftermath Hurricane Helene continues to grow worse. With caring hearts, we are asking FLC members to help meet some of the horrific needs. Both today, and next Sunday, as you leave the worship services, we will be receiving a special door offering to help. Our gifts will be channeled through the disaster response arm of the North American Lutheran Church, which is already in Ashville, NC starting recovery services to families in need. As you exit our worship services, please consider a heartfelt gift for those in need.

## **Socktober**

Kole Albers is once again working on "Socktober" as his service project. Socktober is a nationwide movement that collects new or gently used socks to donate to homeless shelters, resource centers and other charities to help those in need. Kole will be collecting socks and winter hats from October 7 thru November 1. Totes will be placed in the entry of church to leave donations in and will be emptied weekly. Monetary donations can also be left in the Albers mailbox in the narthex. Please consider helping Kole on his journey to donate warm socks and hats to those in need! Thank you!

## **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes**

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are in the narthex. A pamphlet with a list of suggested items, how to pack the shoebox and labels is with the boxes. Shoeboxes need to be returned to the church no later than November 16<sup>th</sup>. Blessing of the shoeboxes will be on November 17<sup>th</sup> during the worship service. They will then be delivered to Bismarck for shipping to a distribution center to be sent worldwide. A \$10 donation per box is suggested to help cover shipping and other project costs.

## **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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 October - December 2024 issue of *Portals of Prayer* are in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy to use with your daily devotions.

## **COMMUNITY AND AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Max will have their **Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner** on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 5:00 pm. They will be serving lutefisk, lefse, meatballs & gravy, mashed potatoes, buns, corn, cranberries, pickles and apple crisp. Cost is: \$25.00 Adults and \$10.00 age 6-12.



## THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TODAY	8:30 AM	Bible Study
	9:30 AM	Worship w/Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 AM	Sunday School
		Fireside Bible Study
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting
		Al-Anon Meeting
MON.	10:00 AM	FLCW Executive Board Meeting
TUES.	8:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
	6:30 PM	Church Council Meeting
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
SAT.		
	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	FLCW Women's Retreat
SUN.	8:30 AM	Bible Study
	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 PM	Sunday School
		Fireside Bible Study
		7:00 PM
		Al-Anon Meeting

# Listening for the Promise

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22) – October 6, 2024**

*“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh.*

*What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

*- Mark 10:7-9 -*

Jesus is quoting the Scripture, specifically Genesis 2:24. This is God’s design for the human family from the very beginning. It continues to be God’s design for the human family. The world in its fallen nature may deem other relationships as equivalent to that of marriage. That does not change God’s loving purpose for the lifelong union of one man to one woman. From the beginning, God designed man and woman in such a wondrous way that we would experience a glimpse of the miracle that is the creation of life. And should the union of man and woman not result in children, that does not make one’s marriage a failure or any less beautiful.

I’ve been blessed to officiate at the weddings of couples young and not as young. I’ve seen couples in their best days and yes, in their most difficult of circumstances. One of the most beautiful things I’ve seen is the loving care given to a husband by his wife and vice versa as they approach their final years, months, and days. I’ve seen the love of a wife who came daily to visit her husband in the Alzheimer’s Unit long after he became bed ridden and could only mumble incoherently. That didn’t stop her from sitting with him, singing to him, and telling him Bible stories. Likewise, is the man who cared for his wife day after day at home when all she knew of this man was that he was kind and nice.

When a man and woman make a promise before God, no one on that wedding day knows the joys and struggles that will come. What we do know is that couples will face temptations that, if followed, will lead to the destruction of the marriage. The voice of the tempter is a powerful voice who seeks to place doubt in our minds that God’s intent is different from what is stated in Scripture.

The beauty of a life-long union of man and woman who are blessed with 50, 60, or 70 plus years as husband and wife is their witness to the world. Such a witness includes grace, mercy, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you, patience or what some translations of the Bible call long-suffering that together husband and wife endure the trials and struggles together. In these small ways, we see God’s faithfulness to us.