

October 20, 2024 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 AM Worship

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

PRELUDE AND BELLS

AS WE GATHER

(Misplaced trust is a theme that finds itself repeating in the Bible over and over again. So easily a person's trust is placed in wealth, possessions, status, or other things that will someday fail. Our lives are blessed when our greatest treasure is found in God and His promises. Welcome to God's House today!)

WELCOME (put prayer requests on yellow cards)

HYMN LBW #231 "O Word of God Incarnate"

O Word of God Incarnate 231 10 in - car Word of God Ο Wis - dom from on high, nate, -2 The Church from you, dear Mas ter, Re - ceived the gift di - vine; 3 Oh, make your Church, dear Sav of bur-nished gold ior, А lamp Ο un-changed, un - chang - ing, O Truth Light of sky: our dark And still that light lift - ed O'er all the shine. is earth to To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light, old: as of diance That from the hal - lowed page, We praise you for the ra -It is the chart and com pass That, all life's voy - age through, Oh, teach your wan-d'ring pil grims By this their path to trace, our foot - steps, Shines on from А lan - tern to age age. to Mid mists and rocks and quick - sands Still guides, O Christ, to you. Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see you face. face to

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt. Tune: Neu-vermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693

OPENING SENTENCES: (Psalm 62:1, 6-8)

- P: In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen
- P: My soul finds rest in God alone;
- C: My salvation comes from him.
- P: He alone is my rock and my salvation;
- C: He is my fortress, I will not be shaken.
- P: My salvation and my honor depend on God;
- C: He is my mighty rock, my refuge.
- P: Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him,
- C: For God is our refuge.

WE CONFESS OUR SINS TO GOD

- P: We live our lives in the presence of our God and are called to be holy and live holy lives,
- C: Yet we sin daily and fall short of holy lives.
- P: Then we come to God today to confess our sins and seek His forgiveness. O Lord God,
- C: You have created us and You have called us to be Your own. But we have been reluctant children at best. We have not done the good You demand and have done the wrong You forbid. Our deeds show us that we are by nature sinful and unclean. Therefore, for the sake of Jesus our Savior, we ask for Your forgiveness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

WE HEAR GOD'S GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS

- P: Jesus is the One who takes away the sin of the world. On account of Christ Jesus, God is gracious to you. Through Him you have been sanctified, cleansed of sin, and covered in His holiness. As a called and ordained servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, I assure you that He is faithful. Your sins are completely washed away, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen and Amen.

BAPTISMAL HYMN (vs 1 & 2)..... LBW #474 "Children of the Heavenly Father"



BAPTISM

Baptized today is Jack Adam Lloyd, son of Joshua & Kara Lloyd. Jack's sponsors are John Grinsteiner and Char Syverson. We welcome Jack as our newest member of First Lutheran.

SPECIAL MUSIC Kyra Block "Make This Child Yours"

BAPTISMAL HYMN (vs 3) LBW #474 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READINGEcclesiastes 5:10-20 (It is not necessarily joyful to have more wealth for easily it entangles in its trap. Rather, these words call us to humbly live and to serve, using our wealth in God pleasing ways.)

¹⁰He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. ¹¹When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? ¹²Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. ¹³There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, ¹⁴and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. ¹⁵As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. ¹⁶This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? ¹⁷Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger. ¹⁸Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. ¹⁹Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil — this is the gift of God. ²⁰For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

⁹So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. ¹¹Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. ¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶Let 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.

ALLELUIA



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter.



GOSPEL READINGJohn 10:22-30 (To those who have been victims of misplaced trust in the world, Jesus speaks words of unparalleled comfort. "No one can snatch you out of my hands!")

²² At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one." P: The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON Pastor Paul Krueger "You Are In Mighty Hands" – John 10:22-30

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

OFFERINGS ARE RECEIVED





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

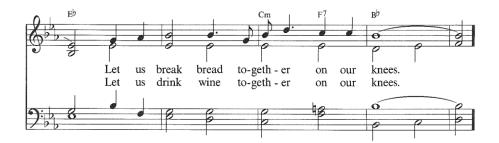


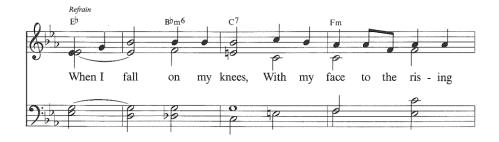
LBW #213 – "I come, O Savior, to Your Table" LBW #212 – "Let Us Break Bread Together" LBW #481 – "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

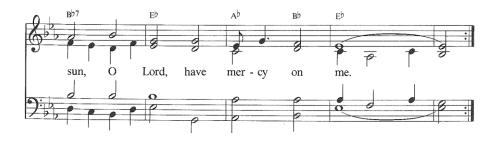


© Text: Friedrich C. Heyder, 1677-1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Ms., Municipal Library, Leipzig, 1756 HOLY COMMUNION

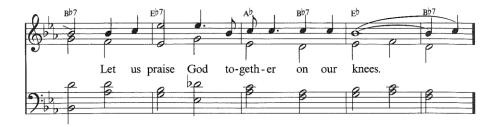




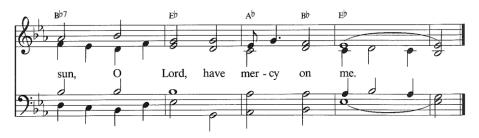












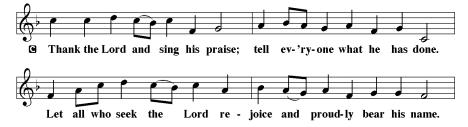
Text: Negro spiritual Tune: Negro spiritual BREAK BREAD TOGETHER 10 10 with refrain

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



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

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE





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 (Spoken Together)

Psalm 32:10

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

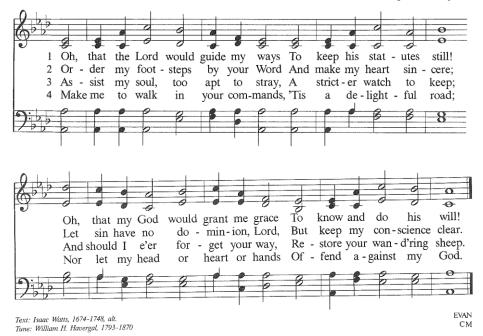
The Lord look upon you with favor and
[™] give you peace
Numbers 6:24–26

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

HYMN LBW #480

"Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

480 Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us for fellowship/coffee hour after worship.

DISMISSAL

- P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
- C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Volunteers – Thank You!
Pastor Paul Krueger
Joah Holznagel & Kylie Fiedler
Ken & Maybell Job
Emily Retterath
Emily Retterath, Jolene Scholl
Brenda Suckow
Theresa Petersen
Nadine Berger & Leslie Fiedler
Gary & Cindy Thiel
ORS Rick & LeAnn Richard
Randy & Janet Hanson

First Lutheran Church 709 5th Ave. - PO BOX 218 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 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.

Beloved of Christ, welcome to worship, faith education and Christian fellowship this day. May you sense the embrace of God's love through the people you interact with here.

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, October 13th Attendance – 133 Online Viewing – 0 (Had problems with YouTube, so unable to know a number.) General Fund & Plate Giving - \$6,608.97

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: Emily Scheresky

Prayers of Christian Sympathy: Family of Al Rall

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: Rick Richard, Sharon Nelson, Lakyn Williams (Steve & Peggy Wollmuth), Nancy Liffrig, Liam Williams (Steve & Peggy Wollmuth)

Friends & Family:

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 Wes & Audrey Sauer in honor of their wedding anniversary.

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.

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Anna Rall and family on the death of her husband, Al Rall. Al's funeral is this Thursday, October 24th, in Queen Creek, AZ. May God give them comfort in this time of sorrow.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone that donated to the special offering for Hurricane Helene tragedy. We collected a total of \$1,705.00. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Pastor Appreciation

Today is Pastor Appreciation Sunday. We will be honoring Pastor Paul & Susann during the worship service. Along with the normal goodies during coffee hour, we will have cupcakes in their honor baked by Janet Hanson and decorated by FLY.

Private Baptisms

Being baptized today in private baptisms is:

- ⇒ Joshua Parks Bagwell & Hilary Sorenson and their children Mya Jo Bagwell and Mitchell Bagwell. Mya and Mitchell's sponsor is Sarah Martinson.
- ⇒ Aurora Lynn Boeshans, daughter of Anatolie Boeshans & Morgan Olson. Sponsors are Kristi Jaeger and Maddie Jaeger.

We welcome Joshua, Hilary, Mya, Mitchell and Aurora as our newest members of First Lutheran.

FLC Budget Meeting

There will be a FLC budget meeting tomorrow, October 20th, at 5:30 pm.

Education Committee Meeting

The Education Committee will meet this Tuesday, October 22nd, at 6:30 pm.

Friendship Bible Study

Friendship Bible Study will begin this Wednesday, October 23rd at 9:30 am here at First Lutheran.

Quilting

Women of FLC, please join us this Thursday, October 24th, from 9:00 am – noon for quilting. Come for quilting and fellowship. Learn how to quilt if you don't know how.

Super Sunday Supper

Join us next Sunday, October 27th, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm for Super Sunday Supper. They will be serving Tatar Tot Hotdish. Everyone is welcome. Freewill offering.

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 24 kids and adults going!

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 16th. Blessing of the shoeboxes will be on November 17th 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.

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!

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.

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

- ⇒ Washburn's Lions Club is having their annual Lions Sized Breakfast today, October 20th, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Washburn Memorial Hall serving upstairs on the main floor. They will be serving ham, French toast, scrambled eggs, hashbrowns, juice and coffee. Freewill offering to raise funds for a Gateway to Science program for the Washburn School children.
- ⇒ Washburn United Methodist Church invites you to join them for Trunk or Treat, Halloween Treats, Food & Fun on Thursday, October 31st, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Decorate your car and join in the fun. Supper will be hot dogs, hamburgers, and mac & cheese. Everyone welcome.
- ⇒ Women's Retreat featuring Lauren Eberspacher on Saturday, November 16th, at Marshall Lutheran Church, 1926 Hwy 8, Marshall, ND. Registration is 9:00 am (MT) with speaker from 10:00 am (MT) – 2:30 pm. Light breakfast and lunch will be served. This is a free event. Please note there is no daycare provided. Lauren Eberspacher is an author, speaker, mom and farmer's wife. Author of Midnight Lullabies: A moment of peace for moms, Lauren's desire is to glorify God in everything she does. As a self-diagnosed recovering perfectionist, it is her deepest desire to help other women break the stigma of seeking the world's perfection, but instead seeking the purification of Christ. Learn more about Lauren at:

FROMBLACKTOPTODIRTROAD.COM

To attend, please rsvp no later than November 1st by scanning the QR code on the poster hanging on the bulletin board in the front entrance or texting Jessie at 701-425-6721.





Ty Brown Benefit

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, 2024, 11AM-3PM WILTON CITY MEMORIAL HALL

105 DAKOTA AVE WILTON, ND 58579 ~Free will Offering meal catered by County Line Cafe will be served 11am-1pm ~Silent Auction-Bidding ends at 2pm ~ Bake Sale

DECEMBER 26, 2023 TY DECIDED TO MAKE HIS GRAND ENTRANCE INTO THIS WORLD AS A MICRO PREEMIE, WEIGHING JUST UNDER 2 POUNDS. AT ALMOST 4 MONTHS OLD, TY WAS AIRLIFTED TO MAYO CLINIC NICU IN ROCHESTER, MN. AFTER 15 WEEKS HE WAS AIRLIFTED TO A HOSPITAL IN FARGO FOR FURTHER TREATMENT. TY HAS A TRACHEOSTOMY, G-TUBE AND REQUIRES A VENTILATOR TO BREATHE. TY'S MOM HAS BEEN AT HIS SIDE DURING HIS HOSPITAL STAYS. TY'S DAD TRAVELS TO VISIT AS WORK ALLOWS. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS CURRENT AND FUTURE TRAVEL, LODGING, MEDICAL NECESSITIES, NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE. TY STILL HAS A LONG ROAD AHEAD AND WILL REQUIRE AROUND THE CLOCK CARE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. TY'S FAMILY IS HOPEFUL HE WILL GRADUATE FROM THE NICU AND GO HOME FOR THE FIRST TIME-JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAY. TY IS THE OF SON OF JODY & NICOLE (KROLL) BROWN OF BALDWIN.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE SILENT AUCTION ITEMS OR BAKED GOODS PLEASE CONTACT: NOELLE KROLL 701-315-0400 OR MCKENZIE BROWN -651-274-9889

MONETARY DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT ANY LOCATION OF TRUCOMMUNITY BANK OR DAKOTA COMMUNITY BANK

There is also a Facebook page 'Ty Brown Benefit'.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN TODAY Pastor Appreciation Sunday		
TODAT	8:30 AM	Bible Study
	9:30 AM	Worship w/Holy Communion & Holy Baptism
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 AM	Sunday School Fireside Bible Study
	1:00 PM	Private Baptism
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting
MON.	5:30 PM	FLC Budget Meeting
TUES.	8:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
WED. 5:30	6:15 PM 7:00 PM 7:45 PM	
	7:45 PM	FLY
THURS.	9:00 AM	Quilting
SUN. 4:00	8:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:45 PM - 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Reformation Sunday Bible Study Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour Sunday School Fireside Bible Study Super Sunday Supper AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 24) - October 20, 2024

"Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

– Hebrews 4:11–12 –

Often is the time that I've been asked just how much work we can do on the Sabbath without breaking the Sabbath. I work six days, am I breaking the Sabbath by cleaning my house? Sunday is my only day off so that is the day we do things as a family. Pastor, what about those who must work on the Sabbath, nurses, doctors, police officers, etc. Like little children, we test the limits of what we can get away with that isn't breaking a rule or law.

What we frequently miss regarding the observance of the Sabbath and the memes on Facebook that suggest it's okay not to be in church because the church is not a building, is that Sabbath rest is time with the Lord. Sabbath keeping is not sitting on the couch binge watching your favorite television show. To observe the Sabbath is to be in the presence of the Lord.

Martin Luther wrote this explanation to the third commandment in the Small Catechism. "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it." (Luther's Small Catechism as printed in the Lutheran Study Bible, Concordia).

To hear the Word of the Lord is to be confronted with the law that cuts to the heart, convicts us of our sin and drives us to confess, seeking the forgiveness of God. The law leaves us "naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13).

The Good news is that the Word of the Lord points us to the "...great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God,... (Hebrews 4:14)." Because Jesus was faithful to God, endured temptation yet remained without sin, we can come before him with confidence, "that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

In your Sabbath keeping, join in the Psalmist who prays "I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word" (Psalm 119:16).

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