

**God is
our refuge
and strength,
a very present
help in trouble.**

Psalm 46:1

**October 27, 2024
Reformation Sunday
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

(On this Reformation Sunday we hear familiar words of Jesus and St. Paul, reminding us of the truth that we are sinners in need of God's grace. Through Christ's sacrifice on the cross of Calvary we are freed from sin and death, ready to live new lives for God's glory. 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 #320
"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

O God, Our Help in Ages Past **320**

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne Your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight Are like an eve - ning gone,

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

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.

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: **Sovereign God, we pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to reform the church of Christ. Keep it in the true faith, restore, correct, and inspire its teachings, and embolden it to bear witness to the life-giving message of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING Revelation 14:6-7
(St. John's vision reminds us that the Gospel, God's good news of forgiveness of sin through Christ Jesus, is at the center of a Christian's life as we live to honor him.)

¶ I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation

and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

PSALM (Read Responsively)..... Psalm 46
(The Psalmist writes of God's abiding love and protection. What is there to fear when God is our refuge and strength?)

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

SECOND READING Romans 3:19-28
(St. Paul brings us back to the truth of the Christian faith, that we are saved by grace, through faith, without any merit or worthiness on our own.)

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law,

although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it — ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

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!



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



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 John, the 8th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING John 8:31-36

(Jesus calls us to hold the truth of His word near and dear to our hearts. In Christ's truth we find freedom for our souls.)

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN **LBW #229**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

THE WORD

229

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat-'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The treble staff contains the melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with four verses of text. The first verse is: "1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -". The second verse is: "2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -". The third verse is: "3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat-'ning to de -". The fourth verse is: "4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who".

to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom
 vour us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They
 fear it; For God him - self fights by our side With

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

Has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 In bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 Goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way,

He arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 They can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

© Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version, 1978
 Tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

“Day by Day”

CHRISTIAN HOPE

746

Day by Day

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens

to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me

draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter

mor - tal meas - ure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,

lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

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.



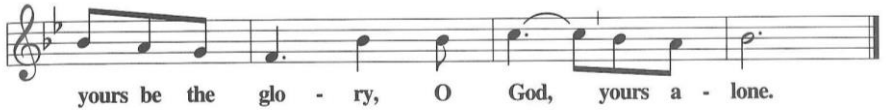
Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



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.

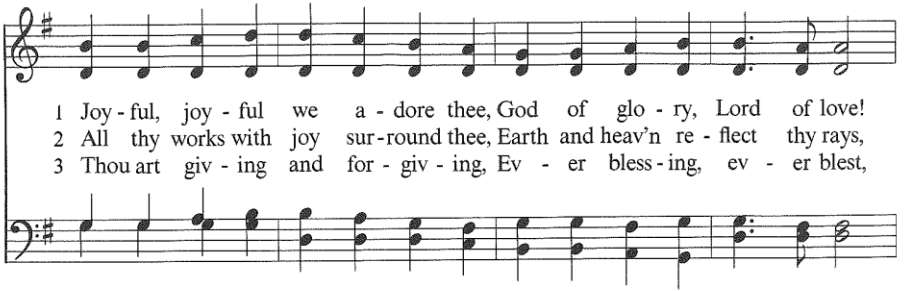
C: Amen

Romans 15

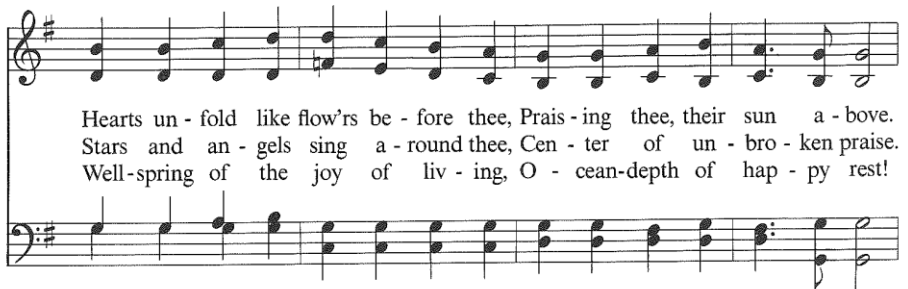
SENDING SONGLBW #551
“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

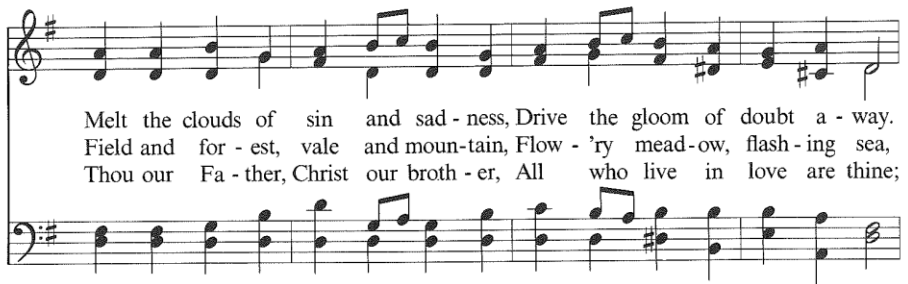
551



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, Prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, All who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 Chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in thee.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di-vine!

Please join us for fellowship/coffee hour after worship.

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
- ACOLYTES Noah Holznagel & Kylie Fiedler
- READERAyzlee Carlson
- ORGANIST LeAnn Richard
- USHERS/GREETERS Jordan Swanson & George Swanson
- COFFEE HOUR Chelsey Brandt & Janet Lazier
- ALTAR GUILD..... Nadine Berger & Leslie Fiedler
- SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORSRick & 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

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.

The church is always being called to reform, to become more loving, to resemble more closely the kingdom of God. Welcome to worship this Reformation Sunday.

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 20th, Attendance – 165

Online Viewing – 15 w/issues

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$4,565.00

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: Bob Weisgarber, Dennis Abel, Joan Zimmerman

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: Emily Scheresky, Rick Richard, Sharon Nelson, Lakyn 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.

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.

Super Sunday Supper

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

Guatemala Mission Trip Meeting

The Guatemala Mission Trip team will meet on Tuesday, October 29th, at 7:00 pm in the basement.



Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed this Saturday, November 2nd, or you will be early for church.

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.

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 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 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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TODAY	8:30 AM	Bible Study
	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 AM	Sunday School
		Fireside Bible Study
	4:00 – 6:00 PM	Super Sunday Supper
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting
TUES.	8:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
	7:00 PM	Guatemala Mission Trip 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
THURS.		Reformation Day
SUN.		All Saints Sunday
		Confirmation Sunday
	8:30 AM	Bible Study
	9:30 AM	Worship w/Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 PM	Sunday School
		Fireside Bible Study
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Reformation Sunday – October 27, 2024

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.

*Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea.”*

–Psalm 46:1-2–

There is a common perception that the phrase “fear not” occurs 365 times in the Bible thus conveying the message that there is a “fear not” for each day of the year. While this is a nice sentiment, it is not true. A much better approach is to see the context in which the words “fear not” occur.

In Psalm 46, we are given the message that we will not fear. The reason we have not to fear is because of the abiding presence of the Lord our God. Much like the little girl who goes running to Daddy because she fears the “monsters” under the bed, God is near to us in circumstances that can certainly cause us to be afraid.

God is near when the tsunami warnings ring out. God is near when the earth shakes to the point of bringing down homes, buildings, etc. God is near when the warnings are issued that tornados have formed and are cutting through communities. God is near when individuals are confronted with the pain of a terminal diagnoses. Throughout this psalm we are assured of the Lord’s presence in circumstances over which we have no control.

The lack of control is something that many people fear. The lack of control is closely related to how we view the future, and the unknown associated with our future. Such fear plays into the hands of sin, death, and the devil. It was the devil that wanted Jesus to satisfy himself, glorify himself, and take control. Instead, Jesus stayed true to the nearness of the Father in refuting such temptation with the Scriptures, in his day those being the Old Testament.

No matter what our fears may be, they do not change the truth that God chooses to be near his people. Even as we walk through the “valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me” (Ps. 23:4). We need not fear the accuser, for it is Jesus who sets us free. Because of the dwelling of Jesus with humanity (see John 1:14), who took on flesh, suffered, died, and rose from the dead, “you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36).