



# **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

**November 3, 2024  
All Saints' Sunday  
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

## **Congratulations Confirmands!**

We congratulate the 12 youth that are reaffirming their baptism today. May God spiritually bless and guide you in your Christian faith throughout your life. Those coming forward today to publicly profess their faith are:

Kyle Albers

Baptized: 07/26/2009

Confirmation Verse: Matthew 6:33

Baptismal Sponsors: Larry Olson  
Jessica Bubel

Haylie Bentz

Baptized: 04/05/2009

Confirmation Verse: 1 Peter 2:21

Baptismal Sponsors: Michael Kunz  
Sean Bentz  
Stacey Bentz

Justin Dahl

Baptized: 10/11/2009

Confirmation Verse: Psalm 73:23

Baptismal Sponsors: LeAnn Rasmussen  
Bradley Dahl

Tanner Fiedler

Baptized: 03/18/2020

Confirmation Verse: James 5:12

Baptismal Sponsors: Phil & Miranda Quast

Brooke Knutson

Baptized: 09/20/2009

Confirmation Verse: 1 Peter 5:7

Baptismal Sponsors: Angie Berger  
Tim Berger

Brady Nelson

Baptized: 07/23/2009

Confirmation Verse: Joshua 1:9

Baptismal Sponsors: Chris Bowman  
Alexis Odden

Berandt Olafson

Baptized: 04/14/2009

Confirmation Verse: Psalm 30:5

Baptismal Sponsors: Jerick & Hope Hensen  
Bryce Thompson

Gracie Omlid

Baptized: 05-03-2009

Confirmation Verse: Psalm 139:14

Baptismal Sponsors: Amy Bohl

Ava Schmidt

Baptized: 12/13/2009

Confirmation Verse: Matthew 5:16

Baptismal Sponsors: George Hofmann  
Courtney Fisher

Jada Vetter

Baptized: 08/30/2009

Confirmation Verse: Malachi 3:6

Baptismal Sponsors: Chris & Lacey Becker

Brady Vollmuth

Baptized: 10/19/2008

Confirmation Verse: John 3:16

Baptismal Sponsors: Ryan & Nikki Wolf

DJ Winter

Baptized: 08/09/2009

Confirmation Verse: 1 John 4:4

Baptismal Sponsors: Andy Jagow  
Diane Schweitzer

# AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM - CONFIRMATION

## PRELUDE AND BELLS

### AS WE GATHER

*(Today finds our church family celebrating two very important events. It is both our Confirmation Sunday as well as the Sunday set aside in the church year calendar called, All Saints' Sunday, where we remember the faithful members of our Church family who are now with our Lord in Heaven. It is a day for us to thank God for their lives of faithful men and women and to be encouraged in our own walk of faith. Welcome to God's house today. Glad you are here!)*

### WELCOME

**OPENING HYMN.....LBW #543**

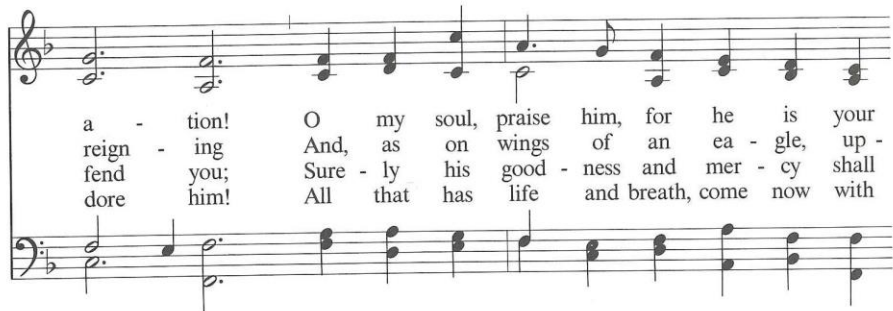
**"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"**

## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

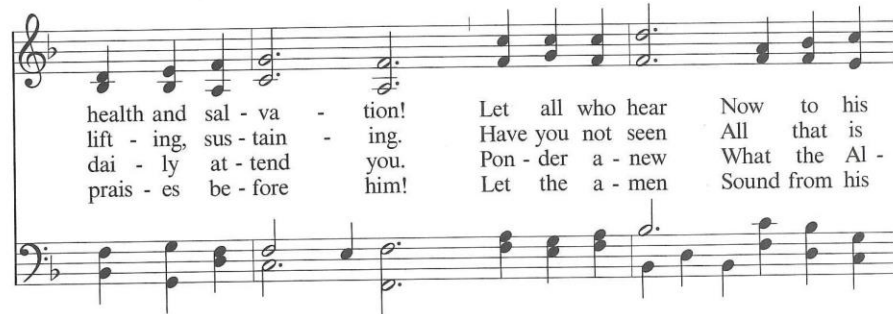
543



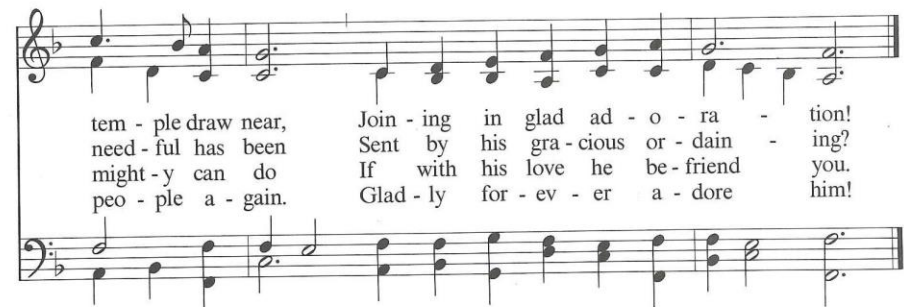
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -  
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your  
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -  
 fend you; Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall  
 dore him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to his  
 lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is  
 dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men Sound from his



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 need - ful has been Sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 might - y can do If with his love he be - friend you.  
 peo - ple a - gain. Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

**INVOCATION**

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

**C:** We celebrate this day our belief in the Triune God and profess our faith in our Lord. Amen.

**GOD THE FATHER – THE CREATOR**

**P:** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**C:** Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**Confirmands:**

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

**C:** He also give me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

**Confirmands:**

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

**C:** All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.

**All:** For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

**HYMN TO THE CREATOR (vs 1 & 2).....LBW #532  
“How Great Thou Art”**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed;

**Refrain**

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;  
Refrain**

### **GOD THE SON – THE REDEEMER**

**P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?**

**Confirmands:**

**Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil;**

**Confirmands:**

**Not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.**

**All: Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

**HYMN TO THE REDEEMER (vs 1, 2 & 3) .....LBW #345  
“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”**

**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer’s ear!  
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,  
And drives away all fear.**

**It makes the wounded spirit whole  
And calms the heart’s unrest;  
‘Tis manna to the hungry soul And to the weary, rest.**

**Dear name! The rock on which I build,  
My shield and hiding place;  
My never-failing treasury filled  
With boundless stores of grace.**

### **GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT – THE SANCTIFIER**

**P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?**

**Confirmands:**

**Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**C: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

**Confirmands:**

**In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.**

**C: On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.**

**All: This is most certainly true.**

**HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (vs 1, 2 & 3) .....LBW #257  
“Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”**

**Holy Spirit, truth divine, Dawn upon this soul of mine;  
Word of God and inward light,  
Wake my spirit, clear my sight.**

**Holy Spirit, love divine, Glow within this heart of mine;  
Kindle ev’ry high desire; Purge me with your holy fire.**

**Holy Spirit, pow’r divine, Fortify this will of mine;  
By your will I strongly live, Bravely bear, and nobly strive.**



CHILDRENS MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING ..... John 11:33-44

<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. <sup>34</sup> And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup> Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." <sup>44</sup> The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

BELL CHOIR..... "Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

SERMON .....Pastor Paul Krueger  
 "Faith For Every Tomorrow"  
 John 11:33-44

THE GIVING OF OUR OFFERINGS

SPECIAL MUSIC ..... Jada Vetter  
 "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

## 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.

## FLCW PRESENTATION TO CONFIRMANDS

WHY I CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS..... By the Confirmands

## THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

### THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### THE CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve your**

**present and eternal punishment. 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.**

#### **ABSOLUTION**

**P:** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

#### **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION (Spoken by Pastor)**

#### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

**(Two Aisle Stations)**

#### **HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:**

**LBW #439 - "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**

**LBW #296 - "Just as I Am, without One Plea"**

**LBW #346 - "When Peace, like a River"**

#### **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)**

**The Lord bless us and keep us.**

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

**The Lord look upon us with favor  
and give us peace. Amen.**

“Lead On, O King Eternal!”

COMMITMENT

495

Lead On, O King Eternal!

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;  
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: We fol - low, not with fears,

Hence-forth in fields of con - quest Your tents will be our home.  
 And ho - li - ness shall whis - per The sweet a - men of peace;  
 For glad - ness breaks like morn - ing Wher - e'er your face ap - pears.

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion Your grace has made us strong;  
 For not with swords loud clash - ing, Nor roll of stir - ring drums,  
 Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; We jour - ney in its light;

And now, O King e - ter - nal, We lift our bat - tle song.  
 But deeds of love and mer - cy The heav'n - ly king - dom comes.  
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; Lead on, O God of might!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us for fellowship/coffee hour after worship.

## DISMISSAL

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

CCLI #2465135, OneLicence.net #A-713378  
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### Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

PASTOR ..... Pastor Paul Krueger  
ACOLYTES ..... Carter Engesser & Aubrey Holznagel  
ORGANIST ..... Theresa Petersen  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS ..... Sadie Lauf, Gwen Hall  
Melanie Beckman  
USHERS/GREETERS ..... Claudette Ness, Brenda Suckow  
Kristi Jaeger, Jesslyn Hall  
ALTAR GUILD.....Janell Ziemann & Joann Brunsell  
COFFEE HOUR .....Jim & Kathy Kaiser  
SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS .....Randy & Gwen Hall  
Melanie Beckman

First Lutheran Church  
709 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. - PO BOX 218  
Washburn ND 58577  
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

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.**

Welcome to First Lutheran Church this All Saints' Sunday.

Together with the faithful of every time and place, let us worship God.

### **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 27<sup>th</sup>, Attendance – 140

Online Viewing – 14

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$1,105.00

## **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:**

**Prayers of Christian Sympathy:** Family of Dennis Able and Sandy Nelson

### ***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:** Bob Weisgarber, Joan Zimmerman Emily Scheresky, Sharon Nelson

#### **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.



## Flowers

Altar flowers today are from FLC in honor of the confirmands.

## Sympathies

Our sympathy goes out to:

- ⇒ Kollin & Char Syverson and family on the death of Char's father, Dennis Abel. Funeral for Dennis was this past Wednesday in Bismarck.
- ⇒ Marian Meyer and family on the death of her daughter, Sandy Nelson. Funeral for Sandy was yesterday in Sioux Fall, SD.

May God give them comfort in this time of sorrow.

## All Saints' Sunday

Today, All Saints' Sunday, we remember the First Lutheran members who have gone before us since last All Saints' Sunday. We remember the following: Melisa Chrest.

## Fall Harvest Festival Worship Time Change

Next Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, is our Fall Harvest Festival Worship. ***The worship service will be at 10:30 am followed by a potluck.*** Greg Hager will be our guest speaker/musician. A basket will be in the narthex for a freewill offering for FLCW.

## Youth Group Moonlight Mayhem

Moonlight Mayhem for our youth group will be this Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:00 pm thru Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 am here at the church. They will be playing games, hanging out, and eating food. **Each family is to bring a snack to share and drinks for themselves.** Students will not be able to leave until 1:00 am unless Melissa hears differently from a parent. If there is anyone who doesn't want their child traveling home at 1:00 am, Melissa will help make arrangements for them! **If anyone is willing to help chaperone, please contact Melissa.**

## Bible Study and Sunday School

Next Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be no 8:30 am Bible Study or Sunday School due to the Harvest Festival Worship.

### **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 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 November/December 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**

- ⇒ **Camp of the Cross Ministries Harvest For Camp 2024.**  
Our year-round ministry takes a lot of supplies to run programs. A list of items currently needed is posted on a tote in the Narthex as well as clipped on the entry way bulletin board for the taking. Donations of any kind and size are valued and appreciated through November 20, 2024. Thank you for your support of Camp of the Cross Ministries!

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TODAY

**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 AM Sunday School  
Fireside Bible Study  
11:45 AM Olafson Confirmation Using  
Fellowship Hall  
7:00 PM AA Meeting  
AI-Anon Meeting

TUES.

8:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
10:00 AM Mommy's Group

WED.

9:30 AM Friendship Bible Study  
Pizza Day  
5:30–6:15 PM Confirmation Meal  
6:15 PM Confirmation  
10-12 Grade FLY  
7:00 PM Bell Choir  
7:45 PM Choir  
7:45 PM 7-9 Grade FLY

FRI. – SAT.

7 PM – 1 AM Youth Group Moonlight Mayhem

SUN.

**NO** Bible Study  
9:30 AM Fireside Bible Study  
**10:30 AM Fall Harvest Worship**  
**Followed by Potluck**  
**NO** Sunday School  
7:00 PM AA Meeting  
AI-Anon Meeting

# Listening for the Promise

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

All Saints Sunday – November 3, 2024

*“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”*

-1 John 3:1-3-

When we go as a family to visit the gravesites of our loved ones who have died, we talk about our memories of them, that we miss them, and read aloud the words from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Sometimes, when we depart, the conversation is filled with questions about what we will be like in heaven. Since Grandpa died at 83 years old, will he be the same age in heaven? Since Great-uncle Wayne died when he was a 4-year-old, will he be a kid in heaven? Inevitably we are caught asking questions and, even more problematic, giving responses about what we will be like according to the old way of thinking according to the law, not according to the gospel and life eternal beyond the law: what we will look like, what age will we be, what about our weight, will I get my missing body parts back, and will I still have all my warts and scars.

Scripture tells us some things about what we can look forward to in the resurrected life, even if there are details missing we wish were laid out. We hear the oft read scripture at funerals from the Apostle Paul and from Revelation: “What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body” (1 Cor. 15:42-44), and “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new’” (Rev.21:3-5). The reality of the resurrected life defies our categories of law whether physics, biology, or math. Whether perishable, natural bodies, full of sin, crying, mourning and death, these things of ours under the old realm of the law have passed away. Eternal life is life not only one we shall finally see in the resurrection on the last day, but it is also life beyond the law and in Christ alone.

This also means that what 1 John 3:2 promises, “we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is,” is to be understood in categories beyond the law in Christ alone. To “be like him,” is not a category of morality or a righteousness according to the law. For Jesus Christ is not the law and definitely not my deed. In the life to come, we shall live and experience in our resurrected bodies life beyond the law in Christ who is the end of the law for righteousness. This is truly heaven and eternal freedom!