Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance Hebrews Of faith. 10:22

## November 17, 2024 Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 AM Worship

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

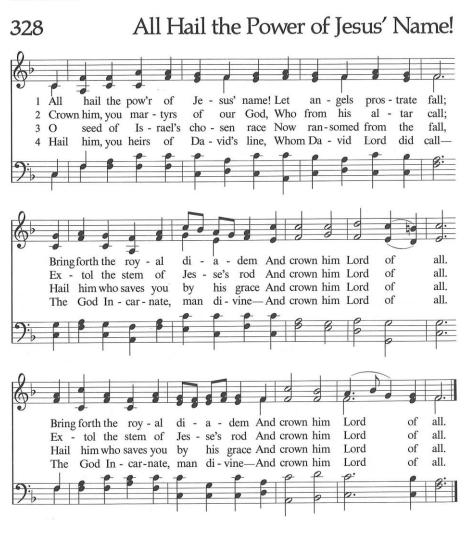
## PRELUDE AND BELLS

## AS WE GATHER

(The Christian Church is no stranger to trials and suffering. Jesus taught his disciples that suffering will grow worse for Christians as the end of time draws near. Yet, He also promised that He will never fail nor forsake His children. Welcome to God's house!)

WELCOME (put prayer requests on yellow cards)

HYMN ...... LBW #328 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" CHRISTIAN HOPE



5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall, Go, spread your trophies at his feet And crown him Lord of all. 6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe On this terrestrial ball To him all majesty ascribe And crown him Lord of all.

7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at his feet may fall!We'll join the everlasting song And crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, alt. Tune: Oliver Holden, 1765–1844 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: Sovereign Lord, only through trust in your Son shall your people find salvation. Through all the trials and tragedies that assail us, strengthen our faith and keep us steadfast in lives that follow your Son; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING ......Daniel 12:1-3 (Daniel promised an impending calamity for God's people of old, yet God does not leave His people without hope.)

<sup>1</sup>"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. <sup>2</sup>And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup>And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

PSALM (Read responsively) ......Psalm 16 (Though trials and tribulations will come, the psalmist reminds us that in the Lord there is refuge and strength.)

<sup>1</sup>Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup>I say to the LORD, "You are my LORD; I have no good apart from you."

<sup>3</sup>As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

<sup>4</sup>The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

<sup>5</sup>The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. <sup>6</sup>The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

<sup>7</sup>I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

# <sup>8</sup>I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

# <sup>10</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

<sup>11</sup>You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING ...... Hebrews 10:11-25 (The writer to the Hebrews lifts up the believer's hope in Jesus Christ, a hope that holds fast and will carry each one to the end of time.)

<sup>11</sup>Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup>But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. <sup>14</sup>For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. <sup>15</sup>And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, <sup>16</sup>"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," <sup>17</sup>then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." <sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

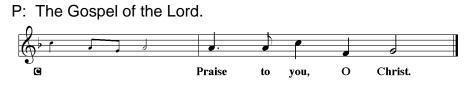
ALLELUIA Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

GOSPEL READING .......Mark 13:1-13 (As the end time draws near, Jesus speaks of great suffering for faithful believers. Yet, holding fast to Christ, each believer is encouraged to remain faithful to the end.)

<sup>1</sup>As {Jesus} came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" <sup>2</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." <sup>3</sup>And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup>"Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" <sup>5</sup>And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. 6Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup>And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>8</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains. <sup>9</sup>But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. <sup>10</sup>And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. <sup>11</sup>And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it

is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. <sup>12</sup>And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. <sup>13</sup>And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."



SERMON ...... Pastor Paul Krueger "Great News For the Future" - Mark 13:1-13

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

HYMN ...... LBW #294 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"



Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

## 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.

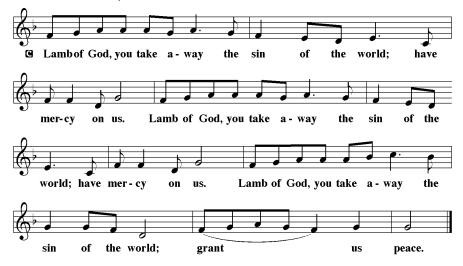
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 #327 – "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" LBW #390 – "I Love to Tell the Story" LBW #533 – "Now Thank We All Our God"

## Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



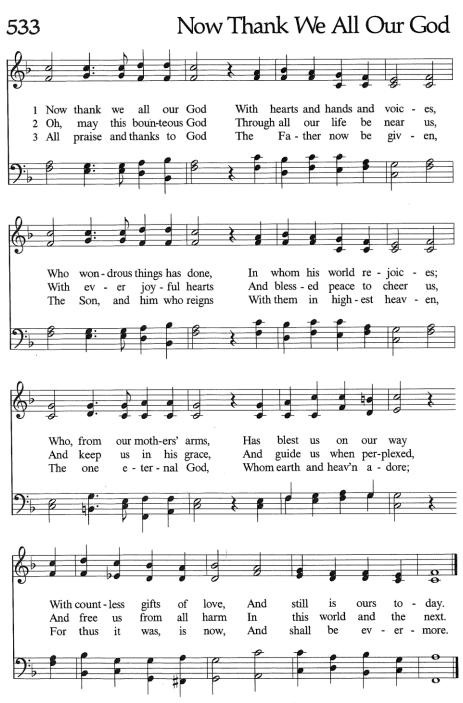
Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778 Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872 TOPLADY 77 77 77

WITNESS





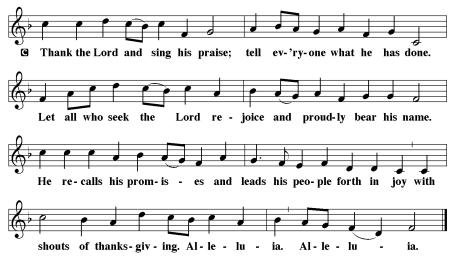
PRAISE, ADORATION



NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT 67 67 66 66

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

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX DEDICATION

- P: Loving God, we pray for your blessing of these shoeboxes for the mission of Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child."
- C: Loving God, we ask for your blessing.
- P: We pray for the hurting children and their families whose lives will be impacted by these boxes and the contents we've packed with love.
- C: Loving God, we pray for your loving touch.
- P: We pray especially that through these gifts the hearts of the children and their families will be opened to your love and the message of your grace through Jesus Christ.
- C: Loving God, we pray for your grace to be made known.
- P: We pray also for the children and their families who are suffering in the desperate circumstances of poverty, sickness or war, that you will meet their physical needs.
- C: Providing God, we pray for your bounty.
- P: We pray also that these shoeboxes will be useful tools to open doors for the proclamation of the gospel.
- C: Providing God, we pray for open doors.

- P: We pray, also for all those who are participating in some way to the mission of Operation Christmas, and for the process of collecting, processing, transporting and delivering of the boxes to their rightful destination.
- C: Providing God, we pray that you would smooth the way for these shoeboxes to be delivered to the right people who need to know about your love. To this end, in faith, we ask for your blessing. Amen.

## 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.

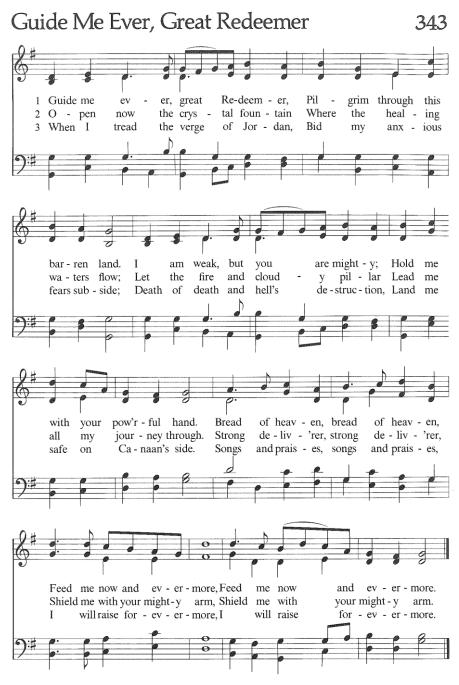
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

C: Amen.

HYMN ..... LBW #343

"Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer"



Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. composite, alt. © Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932 CWM RHONDDA 87 87 877

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for coffee and fellowship hour following worship. DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

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| Today's Worship Leaders & | <u>&amp; Volunteers – Thank You!</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| PASTOR                    | Pastor Paul Krueger                  |
| ACOLYTES                  | Donnie Vetter & Olivia Schmidt       |
| USHERS/GREETERS           | Kristi Jaeger, Noah Jaeger           |
|                           | Kaitlyn Carlson, Tyge Sheldon        |
| READER                    | Jeff Schmidt                         |
| COMMUNION ASSISTANTS      | Jeff Schmidt, Ava Schmidt            |
|                           | Kacy Hardt                           |
| ORGANIST                  | Theresa Petersen                     |
| ALTAR GUILD               | Sue Winter & Brenda Suckow           |
| FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR    | Jeff & Amanda Schmidt                |
| SERVICE GROUP COORDINA    | FORS 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 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.

Welcome, The writer of Hebrews urges us to "not stop gathering together with other believers" but "encourage each other even more" (10:25, God's Word Translation). So let us worship.

## Visitors

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today and ask that you sign our guest book in the narthex.

## Nursery

The nursery, located beside the narthex, is available for use for any parent feeling the need to use it during worship services with their child.

## Thank you for your giving

Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> Attendance – 130 Online Viewing – Not available at this time. General Fund & Plate Giving - \$5,475.00

## **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:

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:** Bob Weisgarber, Joan Zimmerman, Emily Scheresky

## 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 Pastor Paul & Susann Krueger.

## **Office Hours**

Jeannette will be in the office this week Monday thru Thursday. She will be out on Friday.

## **Church Council**

Church council will meet Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

## **Newsletter Deadline**

Please have all articles for the December newsletter to the church office no later than noon this Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Evangelism Committee**

Evangelism Committee will meet this Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm.

## **Deborah Bible Study**

Deborah Bible Study meets this Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am.

## Super Sunday Supper Thanksgiving Meal

A signup donation sheet for items needed for the Thanksgiving meal is in the narthex. Please consider sharing your kindness by helping out.

Super Sunday Supper will be serving a Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm here at First Lutheran Church. **Call Judy at 701-220-4410** *no later than Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, for: Meal Delivery or takeout (ready by noon) and In-House Reservations -Required (1-3 pm).* 

## **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 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 December/January/February 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

- ⇒ Pasta Bar All you can eat Freewill donation. Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at the Washburn United Methodist Church. Menu: Spaghetti Bolognese, Chicken Alfredo, Salad, Breadsticks, GF, DF, and Veg options available. This is to support the work of Washburn Helping Hands.
- ⇒ 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!
- ⇒ Camp of the Cross Annual Scandinavian Supper will be on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Meal begins at 5:30 pm (doors open at 4:45 pm).Entertainment by Marty Malachowski of "Pickin N Grinin" from 6:15 to 6:45 pm. Tickets available for purchase NOW! Prices: \$40/meal – ages 12 and up; \$15/meal – ages 5 to 11; Free – ages 4 and under. To purchase tickets go to <u>www.campofthecross.com</u> or calling CCM office at 701-337-2246. There will also be a silent auction. If you are interested in donating an item or experience for the silent auction, please let them know by emailing <u>info@campofthecross.com</u> or calling CCM office.

| THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN |          |                          |
|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| TODAY                       |          | Bible Study              |
|                             |          | Worship w/Holy Communion |
|                             |          | Fellowship/Coffee Hour   |
|                             | 10:45 AM | 5                        |
|                             |          | Fireside Bible Study     |
|                             | 7:00 PM  | 0                        |
|                             |          | Al-Anon Meeting          |
| MON.                        | 6:30 PM  | Church Council Meeting   |
| TUES.                       | 8:00 AM  | Men's Bible Study        |
|                             | 10:00 AM |                          |
|                             | Noon     | Newsletter Deadline      |
| WED.                        | 9:30 AM  | Friendship Bible Study   |
|                             | 4:00 PM  | 5 5                      |
| 5:30–6:15 PM                |          |                          |
|                             | 6:15 PM  |                          |
|                             |          | 10-12 Grade FLY          |
|                             | 7:00 PM  |                          |
|                             | 7:45 PM  |                          |
|                             |          | 7-9 Grade FLY            |
| THURS.                      | 9:30 AM  | Deborah Bible Study      |
| SUN.                        | 8:30 AM  | Bible Study              |
|                             | 9:30 AM  | Worship                  |
|                             | 10:30 AM | I                        |
|                             | 10:45 AM | Sunday School            |
|                             |          | Fireside Bible Study     |
|                             | 7:00 PM  | AA Meeting               |
|                             |          | Al-Anon Meeting          |

## WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25 – 30

Mon., Nov. 25 Deadline for Thanksgiving Meal Reservations

Tues., Nov. 26

- 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study
- 10:00 AM Mommy's Group
  - 7:00 PM Choir

## Wed., Nov. 27

## 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Thurs., Nov. 28 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Thanksgiving Meal served by Super Sunday Supper

# Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

#### Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 28) - November 17, 2024

"For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified."

#### -Hebrews 10:14-

One of the great mysteries of God's work upon sinners in Christ crucified is that not only are the sins that we have committed in the past crucified and dead in Christ's body (tell me the one who can understand this?), but that even those sins which are presently, plainly obvious to myself and to others, with all their consequences being meted out, are no longer mine. The Holy Spirit imputes my sins from the past, present, and future, to Jesus Christ through the preaching of the absolution. When God the Holy Spirit is proclaiming Christ and him crucified to us, the Holy Spirit is doing his primary job of making sinners holy.

The writer of Hebrews makes this remarkable claim in verse 14, "For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified." In Christ, who was offered as a single sacrifice for all sin, once for all, you have been perfected! No doubt this perfection is very deeply hidden from our view, but that is, of course, what Paul promises, "Your life is hid in God with Christ" (Col. 3:3). But if we have been perfected in Christ Jesus, how can it be that we are still being sanctified? Was there something left to be done that Christ did not complete, this sanctifying business? There is nothing lacking in the work of Christ crucified and raised.

Luther observes in his explanation to the third article of the Creed of the Large Catechism, that we would never hear of Christ nor believe in him if the Holy Spirit did not proclaim the gospel to us. The faith in Christ created in us is the perfected creature of which verse 14 speaks. Our holiness is in heaven where Christ is (Phil. 3:20). At the same time, we are sinners in ourselves, under the burden of the law and its ceaseless demands. This old sinner is the one whom God is sanctifying, not by cajoling the old Adam or Eve in the law all the more, but by the daily repentance and forgiveness that shapes our everyday life through our vocations.

Those who are being sanctified are so by being justified, daily, through the forgiveness of sins, not by the sacrifice of piety and love, but by the announcement, "You sin is forgiven." And when God forgives your sins, he has Divine Amnesia: "I will remember their sins and lawless deeds no more." You may have a hard time forgetting your sins. Others may remind you of your many offenses. The devil loves to torment us with our trespasses. But for you, the comfort is that for God, whatever was put to death and buried with Christ remains locked up in the grave forever. And more than that, he has clothed you with the righteousness of his Son and given you all that belongs to him. For where there is the forgiveness of sins there is life and salvation.

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