



Worship Notes

Friday, November 6, 2020

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear Friends and Family,

Well, the wonderful weather has carried us into this weekend. This slight respite has been a nice distraction from all that the world is bogging our souls' down with. Take a moment to join us in worship this weekend, either in-person at 9 AM or when the worship video link is sent out on Mondays. Worship is another great place to get some respite from the weariness of the world. Music, prayer, the Word of God, a taste of Jesus, all combine to provide a balm for our aching insides.

Let Jesus be the respite for you this weekend.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry

Did you hear Gary Martin's message from last Sunday? It was a message to make a mother's heart proud. He used all the polite words. That's an inside reference for those who have seen it, and a plug in case you missed it. You can find it in last week's worship service.

Join us this week as we hear from Gary Sanberg as our stewardship theme continues throughout November.



Please keep in prayer the following:



Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Brad and Jodie Haist, Cassie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, Bob Kerschke, Ila Roseberry, Norman Worthington, Evelyn Volz, Darrell Thirtyacre, Donna Larson, Beckie Bean, Joy Johnson, Pat Root, Jim Johnson, Kay and Glenn Bailey, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Matt Council, and Sgt. Lacey Elliott, who continues to serve our country

Please let the church office know any updates that are needed to our prayer list.

In-Person Worship Habits

Our goal is to reduce the risk of the spread of the pandemic as much as possible. We require masks for all gatherings at church, and during worship we will not sing or use responsive replies from the congregation.

Our pattern of worship may look and feel very different, but it remains very familiar. Hand gestures are used by worshippers as the pastor and a worship assistant lead the holy dialogue that is our liturgy.

We have spaced out our communion receiving stations and distribute with gloves, only holding out the bread or cup for the individual in the moment.

Our congregation is to be commended for following all the guidelines and grace continues as we strive to new habits.

This week in worship



We will explore God the Creator as we discover the brokenness of the land and hear God's ability to restore and heal all of creation, including the very land we labor on to cultivate our livings.

Our message will be different. We will use a relaxation/visualization exercise to connect with God's Word. The gentle breathing will connect us with the breath of God. The inspiration in our mind will remind us, even during a crazy pandemic and an even more crazy political season, that God the Creator really does have us in divine care.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER opportunities



This Week

Worship Assistant: Judy Sanberg

Usher: Doug Cruce

Thank you to all who volunteer to assist in leading worship.

We have openings for altar flowers

November 8

November 15

November 22

November 29 Glenna Martin



Check out our Worship Tab on our website. It features a lectionary PDF. This is designed to share the upcoming readings, the prayers of the day, upcoming living the creed concepts, and also lists who is helping in worship as worship assistants and ushers.

The current lectionary posts continues through November 22nd and features the entire Season of Creation series we are following this month.

Past worship service videos and print resources are also available.

Living the Creed

This is your Sunday School—At Home Version

The Land around us is home, it is resources, it is wide open prairie spaces, it is farmland, city scapes, and so much more. In scripture, Land is featured prominently at creation, in the salvation moment of Christ's death and resurrection, and in the final new heaven and earth arriving soon right here among us.

Download this week's PDF to learn about how scripture speaks to our broken relationship with the Land and how God is actively restoring the earth and all creation.

Blessings

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16

November is a season of thankfulness. It has been said in many and various ways, that we teach more about our faith through what we do than what we say. Maybe that is because words can become empty if we betray those words by not living according to them. Here is an example: a person may say "I give thanks in all circumstances", but if that same person goes around complaining about why life seems unfair, then the giving thanks has become empty words.

If that same person says, "I give thanks in all circumstances" and is witnessed saying thank you to people holding doors open and sending "thank-you" notes. Now, these words are not so empty. But anyone can say thanks and send a card. Our faith in Jesus teaches us to take our thankfulness to the next level. And this next level is what people who have no faith are watching to see if we live by. Do we truly give thanks to God at all times? Again, words can be empty. Actions speak volumes. Do we truly give thanks to God by giving God a portion of what God has first given us?

This can happen in many ways. It certainly happens as we give through our offering. It also happens as we support local charities in our community. It happens as we reach out to that beggar on the street corner. It happens as we support St. Jude's Hospital or LOMC or the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. For some, learning to live with this kind of thankfulness takes a lifetime to achieve. For others, living with this kind of thankfulness is natural, and for many they may not even realize their giving is such a sign of thankfulness. Yet it is. It is a sign that we are thankful to God for we know God has given us everything to begin with. The earth we live on, the air we breath, the opportunity to work, the ability to share, the ability to rely on others for help when we need it most. It is all gift from God. May your actions of thankfulness to God be what others see and may they learn what it means to be faithful to such a generous God through your thankfulness.

In Peace,

Pastor Jamie