



Worship Notes

Friday, September 25, 2020

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Custodian: Chris Algren

Musicians: Janice Algren
Jamie Reynolds

Dear Friends and Family,

Welcome to autumn. The beginning of our 3rd season of the year certainly has started off beautifully. It was a nice week to spend time out at our church camp, Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center in Oregon, IL. My sons and I used the camp Wi-Fi for school and work, the trails were hiked in the late afternoons, and campfire cooking—can't beat it.

Now we return to the weekend and home projects and looking forward to joining with our community in worship, both in-person and on-line. I hope you all are having a good start to your autumn season as well.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry

Thank you to all who bring offerings to worship.

Thank you to all who mail offerings to the office.

Thank you to all who continue electronic offerings.

Thank you to all designate offerings for special projects, like our capital fund campaign, vision and purpose giving, and many other ministry projects.



Please keep in prayer the following:



Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, Elizabeth, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Brad and Jodie Haist, Cassie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, Bob Kerschke, Ila Roseberry, Tucker Smith, Marjorie Swanson, Norman Worthington, Carmen, Evelyn Volz, Darrell Thirtyacre, Donna Larson, Jodie and Brad Haist, Beckie Bean 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

Thank you. We are doing a great job reducing the risks of the pandemic as we continue following these habits:

- * If you are sick, please stay home.
- * Face masks are required for attending in-person worship. The church has extra masks if you forget yours at home.
- * Social distancing in the pews means we sit at least 6-feet apart from other family units.
- * Offering plates are at each entrance for you to place your giving as you enter or depart.
- * Communion practices include social distancing as well, follow the signs on the floor for where to receive and where to consume.

This week in worship



Moses is learning really quickly that leading a large group of people is not easy. They have complained ever since they left Egypt—we can't pass this sea and the Egyptian army will get us, God opened the sea; we have no water, God provided water; we have no food, God provided food; we have no water—again—, and God provides water—again. What will it take for the people to trust God will always provide and they don't have to complain to get it? Join us Sunday, either in-person or online when we share our video, and find out how Moses and the people respond to getting water from the LORD.

WORSHIP
VOLUNTEER
opportunities



This Week

Worship Assistant: Pam Best

Usher: Linda McGuire

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

We have openings for altar flowers



**Altar
Flowers**

September 27

October 4

October 11

October 18

Diane Carlson and
Janice Algren

Linda McGuire

Youth Happens at First

Mentors for our new ministry involving youth at First LC are welcome to volunteer. We are trying a new focused approach to help our youth become active in ministry. This is not just a program that happens at the youth. This is a ministry that happens by the youth. All youth are welcome to join and be part of this exciting ministry.

For more information, please speak with Pastor Jamie or Mark and Ellen Shrader.

Living the Creed

Living the Creed is an opportunity to grow in faith at home.

This week's at home Living the Creed activity examines the water crisis around the globe. With stats provided for by the website "thewaterproject.org" and learning about the way that charity actively works to solve the water crisis, your family will be inspired to donate to make a difference in a community across the world. And maybe, just maybe, your family might be inspired to pay more attention to this little overlooked molecule of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom that we call: water.

Blessings

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12-13

What is God up to in your life today? That seems like a fairly reasonable spiritual question to ask, and yet it is one we tend to shy away from. We don't easily talk about God being at work in our lives. Especially not as a pandemic rages around us, and we complain constantly about not having things the way we are used to them. God can't be at work, right? If God were at work, things would be normal, right?

But would it surprise you to know God is in fact at work within you right now. God is working out your salvation. God is working into your lives forgiveness and grace. God has to work a bit harder right now, as we have this major stumbling block in our way preventing us from seeing God's wonderful work. But God has not stopped working.

How do we know God is at work? Well, take a pause for a moment from everything you are doing. Focus on the breath coming in and out of your body. Check your pulse, and see your heart is still beating. You might think, yeah, so what. But this breath is the breath of God, this heart beat is the tempo of God's heart. These basic signs tell us God is still at work in our life. God has not given up on us yet.

We may have much to complain about, but the absence of God working in our life is not one of those things. May we rejoice today and always that God never gives us, and is always at work in our lives drawing us closer to his wholeness and eternal life.

In Peace,

Pastor Jamie