

Christ Lutheran Church - St. Catharines

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 15th, 2024



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Christ Lutheran Church
140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, ON
L2R 1W1

Phone: 905-685-8294
Church Website: www.christlutheransc.ca

Romans 10:15 - - *How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday – 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Todd Hoeffs 289-362-0113 pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
Deaconess: Louise Gondosch 905-329-8579 parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager: Emily Fernando 905-685-8294 business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary: Bronwyn Goodburn 905-685-8294 secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
CLChurch YouTube channel Christ Lutheran Church-YouTube (*link*)
Pastor Todd's YouTube channel "Gathering the Scattered" (*link*)
Rev. Noel Richard, Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary Colloquy Student Fieldworker

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We're glad you've joined us for worship!

Please be aware that our Worship Services are ***recorded and posted on YouTube and Facebook.*** There is, although very slight, a possibility that your image might be posted. If you have any concerns, please either speak to the Elder on duty or alternatively seat yourself more towards the back of the sanctuary or along either of the outside aisles. May our gracious and loving Lord bless you as you worship Him. We pray we all remain safe and healthy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIPPING

O God, save us from ourselves, from double standards and divided hearts, and give us light and life in Jesus Christ our Lord. All Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS

Monday: Psalm 73:21-28 Wed: John 7:25-36 Friday: Proverbs 30:18-33
Tuesday: Proverbs 25:1-28 Thurs: Psalm 1 Saturday: Matthew 23:29-39

Musician – The Promise Band + **Reader** – Paul Wachs

ALSO HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

- Monday: 10 – 11 AM Luther Manor Bible Study
1 PM "Sewing Circle"
- Tuesday: 9:30 – 10:30 AM Prayer Meeting
9:30 – 11 AM Precious Moments
7 PM – Mary Martha Guest Speaker Pastor Gery Luck
Board Member and volunteer with LAMP and Heather Simons
- Thursday: 10 – 7 PM – Women’s Bible Study
- Sunday: 9 – 9:50 AM Sunday School and Coffee Hour
10 AM –Communion



YOU ARE INVITED!! EVERY SUNDAY!!

***COFFEE & TEA TIME
CHRIST CAFÉ DOWNSTAIRS
SUNDAYS FROM 9 – 9:50 AM
ALL ARE WELCOME.***

Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please contact Judy Mason



September 2024 Worship Schedule

- September 22nd – LSB Setting One Communion
- September 29th – Lutheran Catechism Service

A donation has been made to SOUL at Christ Lutheran Church by Susan Honey in memory of Beverley Schwenker Whittington.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The lesson this week is "Handmade", as students study the creation of Adam and Eve. God creates man in His own image with His own hands and breathes in him His own breath. Formed from the dust of the ground, Adam needs more than just animal companionship. So our heavenly Father makes the perfect complement to man, creating woman from Adam's rib, and places them in the garden.



GREGORY JOHN MUNZ

June 8th, 1945 – September 5th, 2024

OBITUARY

It is with heavy hearts we announce the loss of our dearest Gregory, who passed away at Mount Sinai Hospital on Thursday, September 5, 2024, at the age of 79. Gregory may be gone from this world, however he lives on in the stories and memories he has left with those whose lives he touched.

As per Gregory's wishes, and those of his family, a private cremation will be taking place. Visitation at SMITH'S FUNERAL HOME, 1167 Guelph Line (one stop light north of QEW), BURLINGTON (905-632-3333) on Friday, September 20, 2024 from 6-9 p.m. Celebration of Life will be held at PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1299 Brant St, BURLINGTON, on Saturday, September 21, 2024 at 11 a.m. An interment will be taking place at a later date at Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa. If desired, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to the **Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation** or to the **Lutheran Church of Canada's Nicaragua Missions** would be sincerely appreciated by the family. Please go to www.smithsfh.com to sign the online book of condolences.

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Correction: Please note new members' names should read Paytra Schurmann-Smith and Derrick Smith. Sincere apologies for the error.

MEMBERS MEETING to be held on today, **September 15th, immediately after the Service** in the Sanctuary. The agenda will be Board of Directors status update on Incorporation deliverables - information only. All are welcome to attend.

LUTHER MANOR BIBLE STUDY – every Monday morning in September from 10 to 11 AM.

PRAYER MEETING every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Join us in praying for our church, our community and our nation.



PRECIOUS MOMENTS: We invite you to bring your "Precious little one" Tuesday mornings between 9:30 - 11:00 am. During our time together we play, sing songs about Jesus, read and learn Bible stories, make a special craft and have a snack. This year we are also adding a devotion time for 'Moms.' We meet downstairs in the church nursery. The coffee and tea are always on and you will be greeted with friendly smiles. Feel free to drop in.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Fall is upon us and our opportunity to jump back into studying God's Word together! We will plan to meet at the church **Thursday, September 19th at 7:15**. If you have suggestions for topics for us to consider please let Louise know in the next week. Please feel free to join us.

SOUL ministries resumes on **Thursday, September 26th (10-11:30 AM)**. Look forward to seeing all of you again!

LWML-C/MARY MARTHA EVENTS



Tuesday, September 17th at 7 PM – Guest speaker Pastor Gery Luck & Heather Simons
Sunday, October 20th, at 10 AM -LWML-C Sunday
Tuesday, October 22nd at 7 PM – Bazaar planning
Saturday, November 16th at 9 AM – Christmas Bazaar
Tuesday, November 19th at 7 PM – Warm feet for the Street packaging
Tuesday, December 17th at 7 PM – Christmas Pot Luck

All about LAMP ministries! On **Tuesday, September 17 at 7pm** we, the women at Christ Lutheran Church, 140 Russell St., St Catharines, are happy to host Pastor Gery Luck, a volunteer and board member of LAMP, and Heather Simons, who recently returned from a trip to Kingfisher Lake with LAMP ministries. Pastor Luck will talk about their 55 for 55 Initiative and Heather about her trip in August. (Pastor Jeff Swords may also attend if his schedule allows.) **Please join us** to learn about this wonderful ministry to support this wonderful ministry. **Everyone at Christ is welcome to attend.**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, FISHERVILLE, is hosting their annual Sausage and Sauerkraut Supper on **Saturday, September 21, 2024, 4:30 - 7:00 pm** Continuous. Tickets are Adult: \$25, Children (ages 5-10): \$10, and Children Under 5 are Free. Dine in or Take Out Available. **Advance Tickets Only** – ticket purchase/reservation cut off is Sunday, September 15, 2024. Reserve your tickets on-line at www.trinityfisherville.ca or call Kathy Mehlenbacher at 905-745-5019.

CLTS – OPENING SERVICE: The opening service for the 49th academic year at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary will take place on **Sunday, September 22nd at 4:00pm**, in the seminary chapel. We invite the church community to join the students, staff, and faculty for this festive occasion. The service will be live-streamed from the CLTS YouTube channel. During the service the seminary will present the Emeritus Crucis award to Rev. Dr Robert Bugbee, pastor of First Lutheran Church and Christian Academy, Windsor, Ontario. Pastor Bugbee also served for ten years as President of Lutheran Church–Canada.



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRY SERMONS: *These highly regarded sermons are broadcast each Sunday morning on 99.5 FM WDCX, Buffalo, at 10:30 A.M. Check the website for participating stations or you can listen any time to a podcast or MP3 or read the text at www.lll.ca.*

They are a worthwhile addition to your regular observance of the Lord's Day and a particularly helpful alternative if you know you will be unable to attend our regular Worship Service at Christ Lutheran Church for any reason. The Lutheran Hour speaker is Rev. D. Michael Zeigler.

JOURNEY THROUGH DEPRESSION



This is one of the newest Project Connect Booklets from Lutheran Hour Ministries. We will have some available this month in our LLL Track Rack at the back of the church. We need to be aware that there are many different types of depression. Some kinds of depression turn out to be the result of a larger health issue that also needs treating, like a thyroid problem. In years gone by, many people felt ashamed about struggling with depression or other mental disorders, and this stopped them from reaching out for help.

The booklet answers questions: ***What Causes Depression? Recovering from Depression. What Can You Do to Help? How is God with Me in My Depression? Spiritual Myths About Depression. Where is God in My Dark Night of the Soul? The Comfort of Jesus Through Suffering!*** The booklet also includes a list of Additional Resources.

You are NOT alone! Whatever pain we are in, whatever is troubling us, Jesus invites us to believe, to know, that we are not alone. **He is with us.** He loves us so much that He gave His life to rescue us. He is our Saviour now and for eternity, and He promises to give us rest and refreshment. One of the things people who are depressed feel deeply is that no one loves them, but the most important thing to always remember is that **Jesus loves you**, always and forever. It is Jesus who gives purpose and meaning to our lives.

Last Sunday's Attendance – September 8th, 2024: 97

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>2024-09-08</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>+ / (-)</u>
Current	303,899.00	5,844.21	3,617.00	131,742.34	(84,493.49)	
LCC Missions	17,500.00	336.54	408.00	14,936.86	2,484.94	
Property Improvements			320.00	3,768.50		

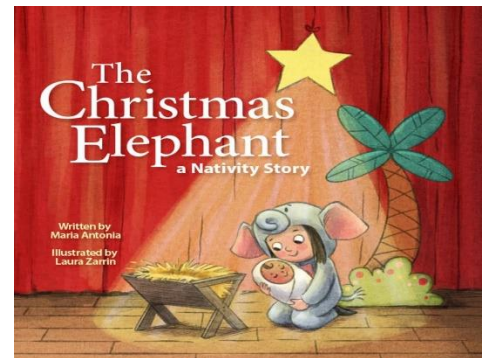


SEPTEMBER is the month to renew your Seminary Guild membership. Your \$10.00 helps to support the needs of the students at the Seminary with gift certificates for books in first year, their first clerical collar, a portable communion set when they graduate, pantry items as needed, and so much more. Please prayerfully consider supporting our pastors of the future in this small way. **Please see Gail Julie if you are interested in membership.**

YOUTH GO-KARTING: We are planning to go Go-Karting next Sunday, September 22nd. Following the service we will enjoy a pizza lunch together (sponsored by Board of Youth) and then drive to the track in Niagara Falls. (Go-Karts Niagara). There is an online promo 6 laps + 3 free + mini putt (\$34). We can purchase and print the tickets off before we leave. Friends are welcome to join in the fun!



BOOK LAUNCH PARTY! Saturday, October 19th, from 2-4 pm at Heritage Christian Book Store. Join in the excitement of meeting the Author of "**The Christmas Elephant**" a nativity story; Maria Antonia (daughter of Pastor and Jill Munoz). Free activities for kids, elephant cookies and so much more!

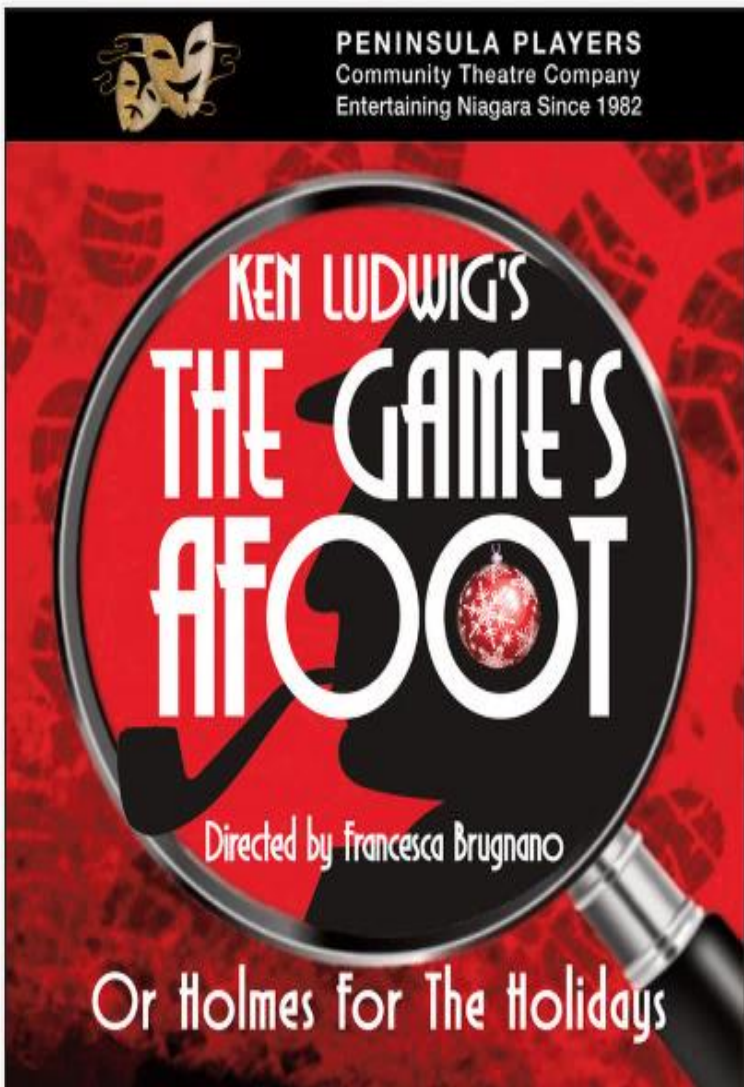


THANKSGIVING DONATIONS / DISPLAY FOR THE SEMINARY!!! As we do each year in thanks to God for His rich blessings to us, we are gathering food, both produce & non-perishable goods to use in our Thanksgiving Display (October 14th). We display these things as a way of focusing our attention on God's abundant blessings to us. We will then donate the food items to the Seminary Pantry, and so we multiply our thanks because of their thankfulness to God for our generosity. **Please place in the collection bin at the back of the church. Thank you!**



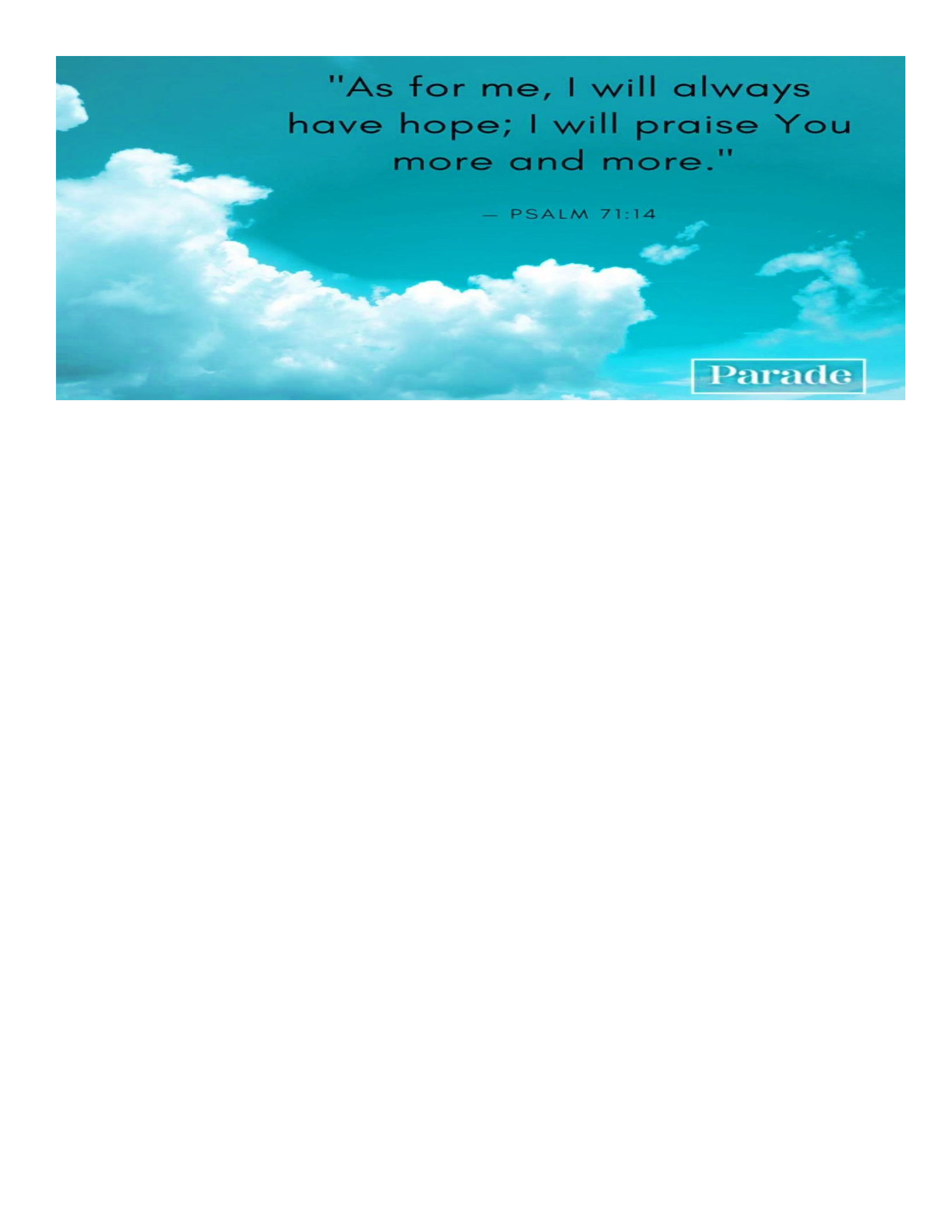
FOOD HANDLER CERTIFICATION – It is time for those who obtained their Food Handler Certification in September, 2019 to update their certification. Currently there are 13 members who have completed their certification. There are 2 options available for re-certification. One is to review the Food Handler’s Training Manual and attend a Refresher course with exam and the other is to do a self-study of the Food Handler’s Training Manual and an in-person exam at the Region office.

In order for a representative of Niagara Region Public Health to attend at the church, and do the refresher course and exam, participation of 15 people is required. The cost for either option is \$25 per person. Please advise Judy Slingerland as soon as possible of your intention to participate as which option we intend to use to complete the Refresher course will be discussed at the Mary Martha meeting in September. Information is available should anyone who has never been certified wish to complete the full course.



The Fellowship Committee presents
Peninsula Players
THE GAME'S AFOOT,
TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
100 Main St. West, Grimsby
GALA NIGHT
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8th, 2024
8:00 p.m.
Tickets \$30 each includes wine and cheese
You must order and pay for your tickets from any Fellowship Member by **FRIDAY OCTOBER 4th**
Contact Tim & Elly Reck or Judy Mason

Plot: This play tells the story of Broadway star William Gillette, who has invited his fellow cast-members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. The festivities in this isolated house of tricks and mirrors quickly turn dangerous. Then it's up to Gillette himself, who just happens to think he's Sherlock Holmes, to figure out this glittering whodunit set during the Christmas holidays.



"As for me, I will always
have hope; I will praise You
more and more."

— PSALM 71:14

Parade

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Service of Prayer & Preaching

Adapted from: *Lutheran Service Book Pages 260-267*

THE 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 15, 2024 + 10 AM Worship

FIRST HYMN

"For God So Loved The World"

F. Townsend © 1948

For God so loved the world he gave his on-ly Son, to die on Cal-v'ry's
tree, From sin #to set me free, Some day he's com-ing back, what
glo - ry that will be! Won - der-ful His love for me

**He came unto His own, His own received Him not
But all who would believe, the power to receive
To be the heirs of God, by trusting in his name
I'm so glad Jesus came.**

**If God so loved the world, then we can love them too
by grace we live for Him all people seek to win
So they'll be faithful when Christ comes to earth again
Glorious His coming be.**

Frances Townsend, Alfred Smith gospelchoruses. wordpress.com/2014/12/29/for-god-so-loved-the/

SPOKEN SCRIPTURE SENTENCES

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

This is the day which the Lord has made:

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

The name of the Lord is to be praised!

Better is one day in Your courts, O Lord, than a thousand elsewhere:

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents
of the wicked.**

Make me to know Your ways, O Lord,

Teach me Your paths.

Sanctify us in Your truth.

Your Word is Truth.

Psalm 116:1-9 with repeated verse refrain

I love the Lord because he listens to my prayers for help. He paid attention to me.

So I will call to him for help as long as I live.

The ropes of death bound me. The fear of death took hold of me. I was troubled and sad.

So I will call to him for help as long as I live.

I called out the name of the Lord, saying "Please save me!" The Lord is right.

So I will call to him for help as long as I live.

Our God is merciful. When I was helpless, he saved me. I said to myself, "Relax, because the Lord takes care of you."

So I will call to him for help as long as I live.

You have stopped my eyes from crying. You have kept me from being defeated. So I will walk with the Lord in the land of the living.

So I will call to him for help as long as I live. Amen.

SCRIPTURE SONG *"Living Waters"*

©2016 Getty & Kash



1. Are you thirst - y? Are you emp - ty? Come and drink these liv - ing wat - ers.
2. Christ is call - ing, find re - fresh - ing at the cross of liv - ing wat - ers.
3. Spir it mov - ing, mer - cy wash - ing; Heal - ing in these liv - ing wat - ers.



Tired and bro - ken, peace un - spo - ken, rest be - side these liv - ing wat - ers.
Lay your life down, all the old gone, rise up in these liv - ing
Lead your chil - dren to the shore - line, life is in these liv - ing



There's a riv - er that flows with mer - cy and love, bring - ing joy to the cit - y of our God; There our
hope is se - cure, do not fear an - y - more, praise the Lord of liv - ing wat - ers.

**4. Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.**

Love, forgiveness, vast and boundless, Christ He is our living waters.

(Chorus)

**There our hope is secure, do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O Lord God, through suffering and rejection You bring forth salvation in Your dear Son and in the glory of the cross our lives are transformed. For the sake of the Gospel, help us turn away from the lure of evil, take up the cross and follow Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Saviour, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament *Isaiah 50:4-10*

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant, who walks in darkness and has no light, yet trusts in the name of the Lord and relies upon his God? This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle *James 3:1-12*

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Spoken Gospel Verse

Alleluia! Alleluia! God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel *St. Mark 9: 14-29*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 9th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. He asked them, 'What are you arguing about with them?' Someone from the crowd answered him, 'Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.' He answered them, 'You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.' And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it threw the boy into convulsions, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood. It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.' Jesus said to him, 'If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes.' Immediately the father of the child cried out, 'I believe; help my unbelief!' When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, 'You spirit that keep this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!' After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, 'He is dead.' But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, 'Why could we not cast it out?' He said to them, 'This kind can come out only through prayer.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

10 COMMANDMENTS

From Luther's Small Catechism

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honour your father and mother. You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house.

You shall not covet your neighbour's spouse, workers, animals, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And 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. On 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. 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL SONG "King Of Kings"

© 2019 Hillsong

VERSE 1 & 2

$\text{♩} = 68$



D/F# G

1. In the dark - ness we were wait - ing, with - out hope,
(2.) the king - dom com - ing and to re -

2



A D D/F# G

with - out light, till from Heav - en You came run - ning. There was mer -
con - cile the lost, to re - deem the whole cre - a - tion You did not

4



A D D/F# G

cy in Your eyes. To ful - fil the law and pro - phets, to a vir -
des - pise the cross. For e - ven in Your suf - f'ring, You saw to

6



A D D/F# G A

gin came the Word from a throne of end - less glo - ry to a cra - dle in the dirt.
the oth - er side. Know - ing this was our sal - va - tion, Je - sus, for our sake You died..

CHORUS

D G Bm Asus A D

Praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, praise the Spir - it, three in one. God of Glo - ry,

TAG

45 G Bm G A D D/F# G A

maj - es - ty, praise for - ev - er to the King of kings. Praise for - ev - er to the King of

50 D

kings.

1 2

To re - veal And the morn-

VERSE 3

Bm G A D Bm G

ing that You rose all of heav - en held its breath till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb

25 A D Bm G

had con - quered death. And the dead rose from their tombs, and the an -

27 A D Bm G A D

gels stood in awe, for the souls of all who'd come to the Fa - ther are re - stored. And the Church

VERSE 4

D/F# G A D D/F# G

of Christ was born, then the Spir - it lit the flame. Now this Gos - pel truth of old shall not kneel,

33 A D D/F# G A D

shall not faint. By His blood and in His Name, in His free - dom I am free, for the love

36 D/F# G A D

of Je - sus Christ who has res - ur - rect - ed me.

CHORUS

D G Bm Asus A D

Praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, praise the Spir - it, three in one. God of Glo - ry,

TAG

45 G Bm G A D D/F# G A

maj - es - ty, praise for - ev - er to the King of kings. Praise for - ev - er to the King of

50 D

kings.

MESSAGE

OFFERING SONG *"Refiner's Fire"*

♩ = 72

E B/D# C#m F#m7

1. Pu ri - fy my heart, let me be as gold and
2. Pu ri - fy my heart, cleanse me from with - in and

4

Bsus B Bsus B E B/D# C#m7 F#m7

pre - cious sil - ver. Pu - ri - fy my heart, let me be as gold,
make me ho - ly. Pu - ri - fy my heart, cleanse me from my sin,

CHORUS

8

E/B B E A2 B E A2 B E/B E

pure gold. Re - fin - er's fire: My heart's one de - sire is to be
deep with - in.

14

B E A Bsus B E B

ho - ly, set a - part for You, Lord. I choose to be ho - ly,

19

E A Bsus B F#m7 Bsus B Bsus/C#

Last time to Coda ⊕

set a - part for You, my Mas - ter; Read - y to do Your will.

29

F#m7 Coda ⊕

Bsus B E

Read - y to do Your will.

CCLI Song # 426298
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CCLI License # 775293

THE OFFERINGS *are gathered.*
THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the Holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who labour, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

We pray especially for...[personal petitions offered now...]: let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Blessed Lord God, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Help us so that we may hear, read, mark, learn and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Who lives and reigns with You, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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 is not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, Son + and the Holy Spirit, bless, protect and keep you always. **Amen.**

LAST HYMN "Lead Me, Guide Me"

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Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the
 way, for if you lead me, I can - not
 stray. Lord, let me walk each day with
 thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Fine*

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and power to
 2. Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness, Be my
 3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me
 aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am
 blind with - out thy Light to see, Lord, just

through the dark - ness thy face to see,
 put - ting all my trust in thee.
 al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

D.C.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me. _____
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me. _____
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me. _____

Mark 9:14-29: Jesus heals a possessed boy

R D Z S T D G Z S C Z N D A U G O S E P N J D D
 J P M O Q S W K H U K M P L N C C U O M M A M O
 P R A Y E R E P C N P B Y I J X R S R O U M W O
 A L S H K F N Z D L L T H G P L E E U C U X F T
 A T S E V E I L E B T T H O C B H J I W P X L S
 L L I U A W R Q R D Y F E E P E T H H J J S C J
 S W L C A T E P W R D P L A L R A T B E R X Y T
 N E L S D E A F E N A M P C C P F U T D G H K L
 O O T E I K A V V X K Z H S O H N O J N Z H P B
 I L S E R U E Y I D O S T T M E E M F U P I V Z
 X A F Q P E M H J W U A D U O A I R E O E B C P
 P C O B K S V H O D N N Y C E I O R I R G C M H
 D V I T U P M E E Q A L W H W K L F L G D W M W
 E F M P W L I T I M L M K I Q G M B E R E K T P
 S U H H A O F T M L Y E U L D A V U B D P B O P
 S M X N X I N O Y C E F P D O E N A N N M K F O
 E E G C L X C D Z Q U B R H S Q A N U A U E K S
 S K Z G E A P T E J Z L G O N F G D E H T X E S
 S E N Q W G I Y G R Y D I O O I U L B N E Y Y I
 O X F O Y R P T C W Q R U D W O Y T P S K D U B
 P U P Z I D P Z G I H V W K F V H X N O Q T J L
 D I W P G H M E W O R X U B A N N J W M K P G E
 Y R S C O M E O U T P L R S R U N I J A X A R Q
 W O S W O R H T J G I R S D E U L T T E A N X T

Everything Possible	Childhood Command	Possessed Believe	Come out Teacher	Unbelief Prayer	Believes Lifted
Father	Ground	Throws	Spirit	Wonder	Stood
Mouth	Foams	Jesus	Hand	Dead	Mute
Deaf	Help	Pity	Son	saw	

REV. TODD HOEFFS

PENTECOST 17

Mark 9:14-29

"But ya gotta have faith, faith, faith"

September 15, 2024

Demons are really not that scary.

Exorcist movie is just that, a movie.

Demons are not that powerful.

Over the course of nearly 25 years of public ministry

God led me into many opportunities to cast out demons.

Not out of people,

But demons who oppress people and their lives.

One thing worked. One thing.

Home Communion celebrations.

At one time I felt the demons depart as soon as I opened up my communion set.

The people in the home could hear the demons run across the floor.

That's not me. That's not Todd.

That is Christ in me.

That's why the demons left that poor little boy in the Gospel reading.

Jesus' presence is POWERFUL.

That power we often do not consider as we live day to day.

We are believers,

Filled with Christ and the Holy Spirit,

working with a fully stocked new overflowing wellspring of life,

yet we choose to run our engine on empty.

Christian faith is not a convenient faith of lip service.

Christian faith is not a thin veneer over a countertop.

We all have sins, shortcomings, problems, troubles, worries, fears.

We all have the remedy.

We all deal with demons,

But Christ within rids us daily.

That father of the son with demons has some sort of faith.

Maybe his desperation overshadows the faith.

When Jesus arrives He's interrupting an argument with crowds and Scribes.

They are the religious lawyers over the Old Testament Law.

Jesus' disciples tried to help but couldn't.

This probably adds to the lack luster faith of God's people.

Plus, the Old Testament book of Leviticus outlines some rituals to ward off demons,

Mostly just trusting in the Lord,

But like today, many have no clue or don't believe it exists.

The Scribes would blame the boy and man.

It's a transactional faith.

Someone did something wrong for this to happen.

But they can't go to the Temple, then all worshippers would be contaminated.

It's terrible, blaming the victim, especially from religious people.

You don't abuse the messenger who warns of a problem –
you seek to solve the problem together.

No wonder the father says to Jesus, "please help if you can."

We have faith in Jesus, but we are desperate for Him to help us, "if only he can..."

we have faith in the concept of salvation and justification

by the death of Jesus on the cross in the resurrection from the grave,

but are skiddish about living as if that faith matters.

That it is not a life-changing event.

We come here in faith today, like that dad;

Some of our children, though not possessed by demons, may be far from God.

Some of us, though healthy, may be dealing with a great sickness in our heart, or
conscience.

Maybe even a bodily illness draining our life.

And this is probably the greatest chink in the armor of our church culture:

We know the faith as theology and traditions,

but we don't experience the faith as a part of life.

We expect great things at the end of this life as a result of the faith we hold dear,

but we aren't ever looking for the blessings of faith right now,

in the midst of the life we've been given.

When we feel down we want a quick lift.

A feel-good fix.

Which doesn't last.

So we need another.

Our way, what makes us comfy.

That's human nature.

We want a good sense from God but He won't give it

We may even become only wanting our Lord to validate what we want at all costs,

Right or wrong.

Jesus offers better, more, identity, purpose. LIFE

He loves you and me,

enough to take us out of the center and places HIMSELF in the center.

Christ is Center

Of all things, creation, universe, in all an with all.

What He loves is all at the heart of Who He is.

Only that love builds trust.

We can't make ourselves the Center.

It can be scary, but wherever we are Jesus is and that's not scary but joyful.

We are made not to live in fear but in HOPE.

And this is Jesus' point to the father of this young man.

"Why have faith in me if you don't think I can help you?"

Jesus' has been working to help and teach people.

He is the Living Word and His Words matter.

If words didn't matter, we'd never swear in court or recite vows in a wedding.

Yet, words are confirmed with fulfilled promises to create a narrative of truth.

And truth builds trust.

"All things are possible for believers."

Jesus wants this father to know that healing for his son is possible.

That healing comes by faith.

What better response than asking to HELP the unbelief.

That's honest.

That's heartfelt.

You and I have said that.

Jesus hears and answers.

The boy is rid of demons.

But it is not without cost.

The last line of our Gospel reading says why the disciples could not do this deed.

"This kind of casting our comes by prayer."

The English doesn't do the meaning justice.

Gospel writer Mark chooses words carefully.

Prayer is literally Intimate supplication and atonement.

Prayer in this way is between God and Jesus.

They are of one will.

The disciples are not there yet. They will be. Later.

Atonement.

This is not just a run of the mill act.

This is Jesus in the wilderness.

This is Jesus' testing from the devil.

This is the Good Friday nailed down to the cross kind of moment.

Atonement is HOW Jesus rids the entire world of evil.

When someone asks you why God allows so much evil to go on,

Share them this passage.

Union with God and dying on a cross IS HOW EVIL IS OVERCOME.

That is how you have faith.

You are one with God in Christ through the Spirit

Because of Calvary's cross.

It is finished.

And because of it, you are filled with faith.

You are ready for anything that comes your way.

If it's a road trip you fill the tank with gas and the tires with air
and make sure your car is in tiptop shape.

If it's a college degree you seek
you study for the entrance exam

and then you do all of your homework when you get there.
If you see someone you want to marry,
you let them get to know you and vice versa,
so that you grow to love each other.
But none of these enterprises is without risk, yet we embark on them anyway.
Tires can blow out on the highway.
We might fail out of school.
And mates may break our hearts.
But our journey of faith in Jesus is different
We already know our destination is secure.
Each step we take there is safe as well,
though they may be in the wrong direction, or even a stumble, or cause us to fall,
Jesus promises to save us and keep us safe.
Moreover, he promises that whatever we need for the journey is available
"All things are possible for one who believes."
Our prayers are just as intimate.
Ask in faith as if you know its coming.
Prayer allows us to talk with Jesus
And that positions us to listen for his reply and his will for us in life.
Not just something we think we need to do to get something.
But because we trust in a prayerful life.
Always anchored to His Word.
Shaped in Baptismal water which is a wet version of the Word.
Nourished by the Word in the Bread and Wine of Communion.
Communion which scares the demons.
If they are afraid of a piece of Bread and a drink of Wine,
Then what a wonderful reassurance of His presence!
Looking back on life seeing how you made it because of Jesus.
Because He controls the outcome.
He holds us and our future.
That's worth talking about.
Faith doesn't say IF you can help Lord;
Faith lives with the expectation of help.
And the demons will flee.
Amen.