

# Christ Lutheran Church - St. Catharines

The 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024



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

**Phone: 905-685-8294**  
**Church Website: [www.christlutheransc.ca](http://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](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca)

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Rev. Todd Hoeffs 289-362-0113 [pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com)  
**Deaconess:** Louise Gondosch 905-329-8579 [parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Business Manager:** Emily Fernando 905-685-8294 [business.manager@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:business.manager@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Secretary:** Bronwyn Goodburn 905-685-8294 [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca)  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC](http://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

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## **WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH – ST. CATHARINES!**

### **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**

Faithful and merciful God, you have made us your daughters and sons in Christ. Open our hearts that we may hear more clearly your message of love and live more closely in accordance with your will. We ask this in his name, Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS**

Monday: Psalm 140                      Wed: Esther 8:1-17                      Friday: Job 4:1-21  
Tuesday: Esther 5:1-14                      Thurs: Job 2:11-3:26                      Saturday: Job 7:1-21

**Musician** – Louise Gondosch + **Reader** – Tom Kuhl + **Greeter** – Ralph & Mary Muller

**ALSO HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN**

Monday: 10 – 11 AM Luther Manor Bible Study  
1 PM "Sewing Circle"  
7:30 PM Choir Practice  
Tuesday: 9:30 – 10:30 AM Prayer Meeting  
9:30 – 11 AM Precious Moments  
7:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting  
Thursday: 10 – 11:30 AM SOUL  
7:15 PM Promise Band Practice  
Sunday: 9 – 9:50 AM Sunday School and Coffee Hour  
10 AM – Worship



***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**



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**October 2024 Worship Schedule**

October 6<sup>th</sup> – Morning Praise  
October 13<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Creative Holy Communion  
October 20<sup>th</sup> – Scripture & Song Mission Service  
Mary Martha LWML Sunday (Band)  
October 27<sup>th</sup> – LSB Setting 3 Communion Reformation Day

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**Donations have been made to the Nicaragua Mission Fund by Ruth Cole,  
Tammy Ellis, Lois Munz and Gary and Wendy Kuenzel in memory of Greg Munz.**



**A donation has been made to Haiti Missions Society by Gary and Wendy Kuenzel in honour of Howard and Beth's marriage.**

+ + +



*God is good! He has blessed us with a caring church family here at Christ Lutheran. We thank you for all the beautiful cards we received, each one different, each with a heartfelt verse and good wishes. When we entered the sanctuary for the wedding ceremony we were overwhelmed to see the church so full. It was humbling to know so many people were sharing in our happiness. God bless you all. Howard and Beth*



In today's lesson, "A Laughable Promise", participants study the birth of Isaac. The Lord and two angels appear to Abraham in human form, promising the birth of a son to Abraham and Sarah within the year. Sarah conceives and gives birth to Isaac, as the Lord fulfills His promise of generations to come and the promised future Offspring – the Saviour, Jesus.

**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.



*Please come out and help with the yard clean up around the church on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 9am to 12 noon. Contact Tim or Garth.*



**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](http://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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024: 98**

#### WEEKLY OFFERINGS

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>2024-09-22</u>	
				<u>YTD</u>	<u>+ / (-)</u>
Current	303,899.00	5,844.21	2,580.00	136,471.34	(85,608.70)
LCC Missions	17,500.00	336.54	205.00	15,258.86	2,470.40
Property Improvements			62.00	3,859.50	

#### LWML-C/MARY MARTHA EVENTS



Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, at 10 AM -LWML-C Sunday  
Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM – Bazaar planning  
Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM – Christmas Bazaar  
Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM – Warm feet for the Street packaging  
Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM – Christmas Pot Luck  
Everyone at Christ is welcome to attend.

OUR ANNUAL **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** this year will be held on  
**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 9AM to 2PM.**

\*\*\**Save the date*---Please note that it is *2 wks. earlier this year*\*\*\*

Support our efforts to raise funds for various Missions *around the world and* help for our Community.

\*\*\*Please start spreading the word to help us advertise & plan to attend!

\*\*\*It's not too early to make items or gifts for the Craft Table.

\*\*\*Any items you may have for the "Nearly New" Tables may be brought in any time now and placed in the back-room downstairs. Please bring only good quality items (*not white elephant*) in nearly new or gently used condition.

They should be packed in a box or tied bag and placed neatly on the cupboard or shelves that are labeled Bazaar.

\*\*\*Monetary donations also gratefully accepted (cash or cheques made out to Mary Martha Society)

\*\*\*More details to follow but if you have any questions, please contact Carole Pink or any of our M.M./LWML ladies.

Christmas  
Bazaar

**BOOK LAUNCH PARTY!** Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 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!



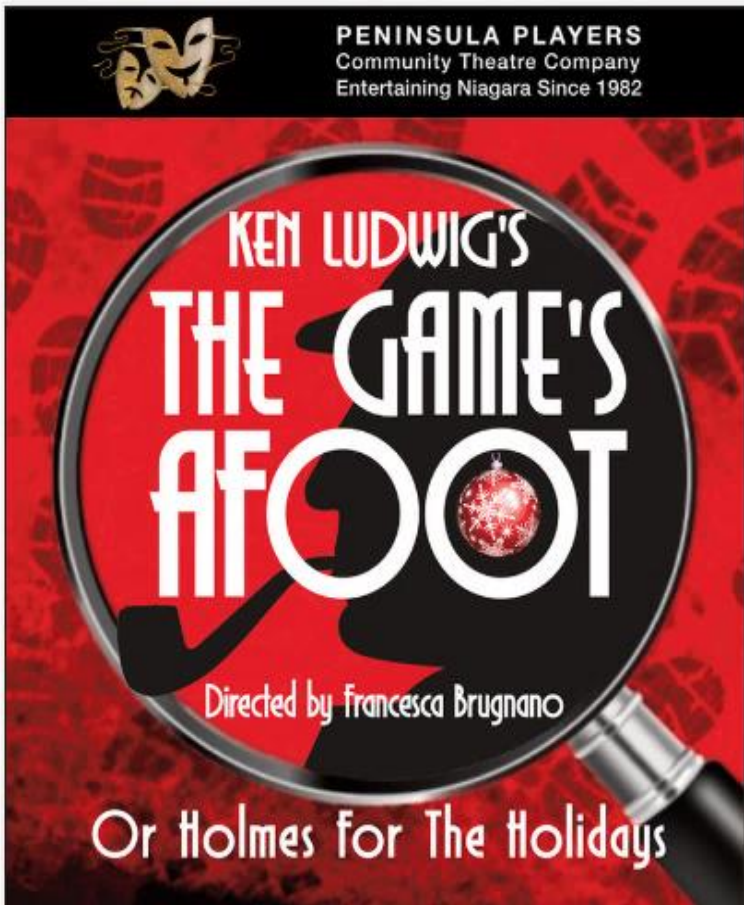


**THANKSGIVING DONATIONS / DISPLAY FOR THE SEMINARY!!!** As we do each year in thanks to God for His rich blessings to us, we are gathering food, both produce & non-perishable goods to use in our Thanksgiving Display (October 14<sup>th</sup>). We display these things as a way of focusing our attention 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!***



## November 23rd, 2024

Yes, it will be one year already on November 23rd that our family: Kareem, Hamida, Ameer, and Asser arrived in Canada. The Fellowship Committee and your Refugee Committee are planning a first anniversary dinner for our family on that Saturday. Please keep tuned for further details. Everyone is welcome.



**The Fellowship Committee presents**

Peninsula Players

**THE GAME'S AFOOT,**

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

100 Main St. West, Grimsby

**GALA NIGHT**

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 4<sup>th</sup>**

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.

But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,  
whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree  
planted by the water that sends out its roots by the  
stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves  
are always green. It has no worries in a year of  
drought and never fails to bear fruit.

**Jeremiah 17:7-8**

A serene landscape photograph featuring a single tree silhouetted against a vibrant sunset sky. The sky transitions from deep purple and blue at the top to bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The tree stands on a dark, low hill that is reflected in the calm water in the foreground. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

DailyVerses.net



# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Martin Luther's Small Catechism Service

## The 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

September 29, 2024 + 10 AM worship

HYMN

### "There's A Wideness In God's Mercy"

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea.  
2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of the mind.

There's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.  
And the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven.  
If our love were but more faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's word,

There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.  
and our lives re - flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

WORDS: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863)  
MUSIC: Dutch melody; arr. Julius Röntgen (1855-1932)

IN BABILONE  
8.7.8.7.D.

[https://hymnary.org/text/theres\\_a\\_wideness\\_in\\_gods\\_mercy](https://hymnary.org/text/theres_a_wideness_in_gods_mercy)

## INVOCATION & BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

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

What does baptizing with water show us?

**that the old Adam in us should,**

by daily sorrow and renewal, be drowned and die with all sins, and,

**a new person daily rises up, living before God in righteousness for all times.**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

So, the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment says, you shall have no other gods. What does this mean?

**We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.**

Let us then confess our sins in the presence of Almighty God and one another:

*(Brief prayerful silence for reflection)*

O Almighty God, merciful Father,

**I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities, with which I have ever offended You, and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them and I pray You of Your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death, of Your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

As our God promises grace and every blessing to all who keep His Word and holy commands, we should also love and trust in Him. He is merciful and strengthens faith. So in the place of Jesus Christ and by His holy command, I as His called servant, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GLORY TO GOD *"All Glory Be To God"* (LSB Tune # 947) [www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org)

S 159

All Glo -- ry be to God a -- lone, for -- ev -- er more the  
high -- est One! Who did our fall -- en race be-friend, and  
grace and peace to us ex - tend! A - mong us may His  
Gra -- cious will all hearts with deep thanks -giv-ing fill, we →  
praise and bless You, Fath -- er!

**Lord God, our King on Heav'n's high throne,  
O Lord, the sole-begotten One  
Dear Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, true God from all eternity,  
O Lamb of God, to You we flee, You take the whole world's sins away,  
Have mer-cy on us Je-sus!**

*Text & Music: Martin Luther, trans. G.Pollack, 1890-1950, public domain*

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O God our Father, since without You we are not able to please You: Mercifully help us so that Your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

**The Old Testament:** *Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29*

The camp followers with them had a strong craving, and the Israelites also wept again and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic, but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at....Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom as a wet nurse carries a nursing child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me, saying, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery." So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting and have them take their place there with you....So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD, and he gathered seventy of the elders of the people and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders, and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen

men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!" This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Epistle** *James 5:13-20*

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Holy Gospel** *St. Mark 9:38-50*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter:

#### **Glory to You, O Lord.**

John said to [Jesus], 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.' And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. 'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

#### **Praise to You, O Christ!**

AUGSBURG CONFESSION *from the Book of Concord*

#### Article on Justification

They teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works,

**but are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favour,**

and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, who, by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins.

**This faith God gives for righteousness in His sight.**

## CHILDREN'S LESSON

### GOSPEL SONG "In Christ Alone"



1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my  
light, my strength, my song. This Corner - stone, this sol-id  
Ground - Firm through the fierc- est drought and  
Storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are  
stilled, when striv-ings cease; My Com-fort-er, my All in  
All here in the love of Christ -- I stand. →

**2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid -- here in the death of Christ I live.**

**3. There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again.**

**And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine - bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.**

**From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home - here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!**

*Words & Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend © 2002 Kingsway Music*

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## MESSAGE

### SUNG CREED

### "We All Believe"

[www.hymnary.org/LW](http://www.hymnary.org/LW)



1 We all be - lieve in one true God, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,  
2 We all be - lieve in Je - sus Christ, Son of God and Mar - y's son,  
3 We all con - fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who from both in truth pro - ceeds,



Ev - er - pre - sent help in need, Praised by all the heav'n - ly host;  
Who de - scend - ed from his throne And for us sal - va - tion won;  
Who sus - tains and com - forts us In all tri - als, fears, and needs.



All he made his love en - folds, All cre - a - tion he up - holds.  
By whose cross and death are we Res - cued from all mis - er - y.  
Blest and ho - ly Trin - i - ty, Praise for - ev - er yours shall be.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-78, alt.  
Tune: Kirchengesangbuch, Darmstadt, 1699

WIR GLAUBEN ALL AN EINEN GOTT  
87 77 77

## THE OFFERINGS *are gathered* & SHARING OF THE PEACE

### PRAYERS DRAWN FROM THE CATECHISM

O Lord, our God, You teach us to have no other gods in the place of You. May we respect, love and trust in You above anything or anyone else. As we keep Your holy day, help us never neglect Your Word or its proclamation or Your Sacraments of grace. Let us ever regard the church and her gifts as beneficial for ourselves and for our neighbours. As this is most certainly true— **listen to our prayers, O God.**

Your Son, Jesus Christ, is our Lord and Redeemer. At great cost He saved us all not with gold or silver but with His most precious Blood and innocent death on the cross. Thanks be to You that through Christ we are Your own, living under You and in Your Kingdom. May we serve You in here in time and forever in eternity where Your rule is supreme. As this is most certainly true— **listen to our prayers, O God.**

Your Holy Spirit enables us to believe in Jesus Christ, which we could not do on our own. We are grateful that You have called us by the Gospel through the Church. Bless our parish, our sister churches, our district and Synod and all Christians who gather around Your Word and Holy Meal. Preserve the church from succumbing to worldly interests. Help us all witness the faith You have sewn in our hearts. Give us wise vision for the future as we depart forgiven and set free. As this is most certainly true— **listen to our prayers, O God.**

You give daily bread to all people of the earth. For this we give our thanks. May we enjoy food and clothing, home and property, work and income, family life, orderly community, good government, favourable seasonal weather, health, strength, a good name with true friends and neighbours. As this is most certainly true—

**listen to our prayers, O God.**

We are humbly grateful for all the benefits You bless us with in our Baptisms. May we daily be drowned in the watery remembrance that all sins, devilish traps and threats of hell are gone and we rise up in our Baptism forgiven and set free.

As this is most certainly true— **listen to our prayers, O God.**

Help us be rightly prepared for all that we face in this life. Be with those who face illness or pain, anxiety or medical intervention, especially we remember before You..... Inspire our compassion towards them and all who suffer. May Your Sacrament of Holy Communion comfort them and us as simple eating and drinking brings the Body and Blood of Christ to our lips and hearts. As this is most certainly true—**listen to our prayers, O God.**

O God, thank You for grace, love and mercy which helps us gladly do as You teach and trust in You always; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. **Amen.**

#### THE 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

#### LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

**I thank You, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. And I pray that You would keep me this day, also, from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe have no power over me. Amen.**

#### GREETING & BLESSING

Let us praise the Lord -- **Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you + all. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "God Be With You"

1. God be with you till we meet a - gain; By God's  
 2. God be with you till we meet a - gain; 'Neath God's  
 3. God be with you till we meet a - gain; When life's  
 4. God be with you till we meet a - gain; Keep love's

coun - sels guide, up - hold you, With God's sheep se - cure - ly  
 wings pro - tect - ing hide you, Dai - ly man - na still pro -  
 per - ils thick con - found you, Put God's arms un - fail - ing  
 ban - ner float - ing o'er you, Smite death's threat - ning wave be -

fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 fore you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Till we meet, till we meet, Till we

meet at Je - sus' feet, Till we meet, till we  
 till we meet,

meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Text, Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904  
 Tune, GOD BE WITH YOU, 9 8 8 9 with refrain, William G. Tomer, 1832-1896





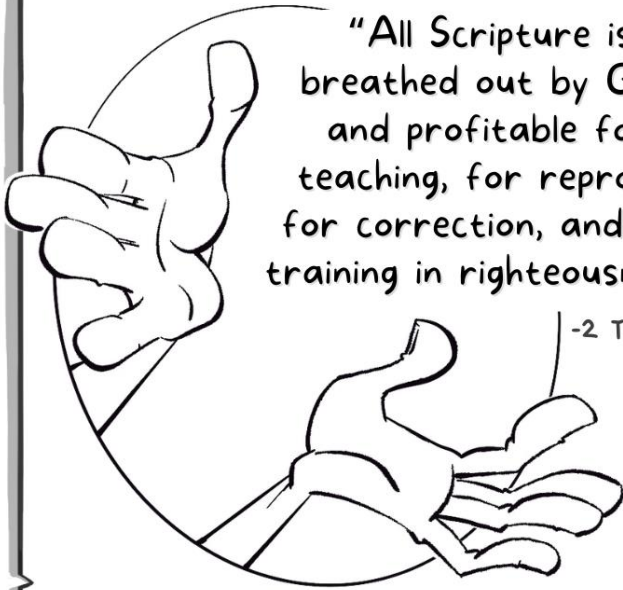
Kids Lectionary Learning  
19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Bible Lessons**

GENESIS 32:22-30  
2 TIMOTHY 3:14-4:5  
LUKE 18:1-8

"All Scripture is  
breathed out by God  
and profitable for  
teaching, for reproof,  
for correction, and for  
training in righteousness,"

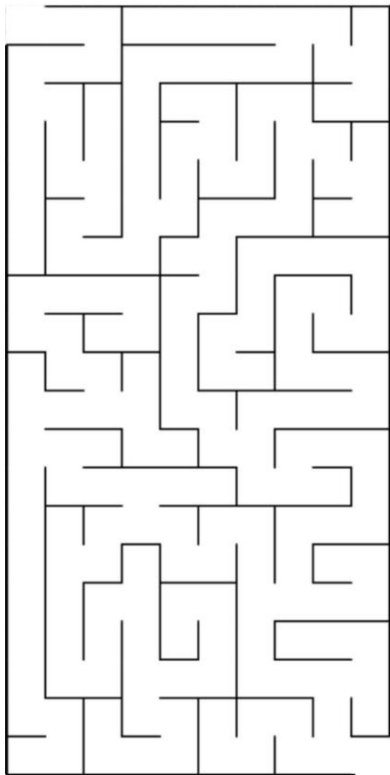
-2 Timothy 3:16



TODAY WE LEARN ABOUT FAITH,  
PRAYER, THE WORD, AND  
WRESTLING WITH GOD?

GRAB YOUR BIBLES AND READ OR  
LISTEN TO LESSONS FOR TODAY  
AS WE GROW IN GOD'S  
GRACE AND TRUTH.

START



END



"Give me justice  
against my adversary."

- Luke 18:3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Mark 9:38-50

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

disciples

teaching

believe

faith

share

peace

Jesus

love

John

God

REV. TODD HOEFFS  
Pentecost 19  
Mark 9:14ff  
September 29, 2024

My own pastor, who baptized me, confirmed me & ordained me,  
Called this little white square tab in our clergy shirt A MILLSTONE.  
Sits right at the throat, over the voice box.

It's a vivid reminder and warning to all pastors [even to all believers]:  
make sure what you say speaks of Christ to all we encounter.

IOW Walk the talk.

Speak corrective law and grace-filled Gospel.

A millstone is a heavy large flat rock.

Attached to a stone container and grinds grain into powdery flour substance.

No doubt a few are visible when Jesus' gives this warning.

Deadly if attached to a person.

Better to drown to death weighted down in the sea

than to cause a little believer to get lost.

We don't want to stumble nor be the cause for others to stumble.

The Twelve disciples think they've unearthed a scandal:

Someone outside their elite circle has been caught in the act. Doing what?

Sinning? No.

Acting in Jesus' name (in this case, casting out demons in His name).

That's supposed to be the job of the disciples.

How amazing. Earlier in Mark chapter 9,

none of the Twelve could exorcise an unclean spirit from a boy.

Now they forbid someone who is doing the same thing, but successfully.

Jesus stops this privileged status.

Anyone acting in a good work in Jesus' name has faith and authority.

Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

'In the name of Jesus' isn't a formula to stick on the end of a prayer,

It expresses the reality of a life lived under the reign of God's Kingdom.

Any act or thought in the name of Jesus means faith in action.

Jesus wants His disciples to cease nitpicking or else they'll cause him to stumble.

Jesus speaks of Gospel and condemnation in this issue.

As a Gospel point, when you act compassionately

(giving a cup of water to a little one,)

GOD IS PLEASED.

As a condemnation point, perilous danger awaits anyone causing

'one of these little ones who believe in [him]' to stumble.

Little ones follow Jesus in faith.

Not little as in kid, or little as in weak;

Little as in we come as God's children -- who trusts in being dependent on God.

The Stumble meaning here, like tempt to sin, is SKANDAL in Mark's Greek text.

Originally used as bait on the end of a fishing hook.

Like wafting a piece of chocolate cake under the nose of a person with a sweet tooth.

It's placing a stumbling block in the way as a trap to cause someone to fall.

The Gospel, the Cross, the Word of God, are all such scandals.

If that Scandalous stumbling block gets in the way of a person's belief

The offender will be condemned in the end.

Pharisees, Temple leaders and religious experts in Jesus' day are such stumbling blocks.

How do we know?

Well, ask, do they care about only themselves or Christ and His people?

It's easy to blame the little one –

That they must be overly sensitive or haven't developed a thick skin.

Not so.

Little ones are precious in God's sight

Who sends Jesus to gather up the least.

Jesus isn't going to the cross to die for the world

only to have His inner circle disciples

turn faith into a work and His church into a commandment factory.

The temptation is huge, greater than you can imagine.

We're out there in the world "competing" for religious following.

It's a consumer driven society.

People know what they want, and the wise marketer supplies it.

People want rigid principles, give them rigid principles.

People want a good feel, give them a quick fix.

People want promises of success, give it to them.

But who on earth wants the only thing we need –

Jesus Christ, crucified, risen and given to all who believe.

Seems too easy, free, worthless, cheap.

It's so not.

One of my personal heroes in the faith is Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

In his book, COST OF DISCIPLESHIP, he writes:

Cheap grace, is "*preaching forgiveness without repentance;*

*it is baptism without the discipline of belonging in a church community ...*

*Cheap grace is grace ... without the cross, grace without the living Jesus Christ."*

Cheap grace, in other words, is thinking that we can get to Hollywood

[or join our fav hockey team] without practice,

that we can become a master musician,

or a professional athlete,

without putting in our concerted hours of work.

That doesn't mean if we try hard God is happy.

Or that if we practice daily we'll be in Jesus' good book.

Cheap grace is thinking that since Jesus went to the cross for our sins,

we don't have to deal with our sins anymore.

He's taken them away, so we don't have to confess any sins any more.  
We're saved, it's a one and done.

No.

That is a personal stumbling block.

Lutherans never believed once you're saved, you're always saved.

Anyone can fall away.

It's more like – since you are saved in the blood of Jesus,

You will grow in grace, be a living human Gospel in the community.

Once your life-light is lit, it glows and remains connected to the energy source.

Stumbling blocks to faith are till sure to come.

It might be the devil with his doubts and lies,

Could be the current hunger for instant gratification,

The overarching despair and hunger for power;

There's greed and jealousy.

It is even our own selves who fall,

with our guilt and shame and all that stuff in our lives that says,

"You can't possibly be a Christian, a disciple of Jesus. Look at you!"

Oh yes stumbling blocks to faith are sure to come.

The friend who wants you to doubt the Gospel,

who wants you working off your faith.

Your family member who thinks church is a waste of time.

The gossip running down peoples' lives behind their backs.

The spouse pushing you to take care of only yourselves and no one else.

Jesus has "zero tolerance"

when it comes to throwing stumbling blocks under the feet of his 'little ones' of faith.

For Jesus, grace is costly.

Grace cost Him His life-blood.

This grace invites us to long for time to spend learning about Jesus' gifts.

It is the grace that Jesus HAS DIED to give us.

The grace that is worth giving up an eye or an arm and a leg for.

Because it is the grace that ushers us into the very kingdom of God.

*Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again,*

*the gift which is always received, the door of welcome open to all sheep."*

Gospel and Forgiveness.

This is the church's work.

This is why sin is called out and confessed for the purposes of forgiveness.

If your brother sins, tell him he's wrong. Show him his fault. Name the sin.

Put it under the light. Bring it out into the open.

And if he repents, changes his mind, turns in his way, seeks forgiveness,

then forgive him.

You may remember the sin again, but each time you remember it, forgive it.

If the person's wrong wound up being a stumbling block for a little one,

Then they are still forgiven but may need a time of repentant renewal to live better.

In most addiction rehab programs, one of the mottoes is, "willing to go to any length". Meaning if an addict is not willing to go to any length to root out their addiction, including not going to places that might make them stumble, they will not stay sober.

Many times addicts try to "control and enjoy" their addiction but it almost always leads to them into full blown stumbling.

We Christians do the same thing with sin.

Well, a little bit won't hurt.

The problem comes – it speaks double message for a younger believer.

They see and do accordingly.

If a life of faith in the church isn't important and a parent walks away,

The kids will usually follow.

That doesn't mean a legalistic approach is necessary.

The Christian life isn't only about do's and don'ts.

Yet teachings from Jesus remind us to lead lives worthy of our calling.

Needing grace when we do stumble. And grace to overcome our weaknesses.

Keep in mind, when we're forgiven of our sins

This is precisely why we *are able to* repent of our sins and let the Spirit work.

Grace is both costly and free.

Grace calls us into a lifestyle.

Baptism is a full meal deal, where you are enveloped into the Trinity.

You are what God is.

And where God is we go forth.

And as you go forth the Word of God is carried along with you.

This is the salt and light Jesus ends with.

Usually a preserver, its sprinkled onto temple offerings.

Christ know sprinkles you with His Blood

and the salty Scriptures winged along by the Spirit's flight.

Our saltiness isn't meant to rub hurt into others' wounds

But to passionately speak of all that you believe.

Salted witness, peaceful living.

Your words will impact and you will breathe a sigh of relief at the end of the day.

You trust in Jesus.

His love for you carries you.

And we won't fear that big old millstone.

Amen.