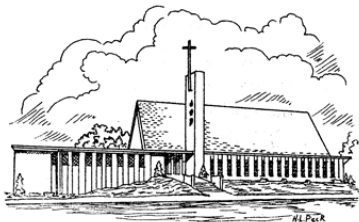


Volume 26, Issue 10
October 2019
"Christ in Every Home,
Every Day."

Life Together

A Publication of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Humboldt, KS



Special points of interest:

- Midweek Meal Menu
- Shepherding Our Strays
- Thanksgiving Eve Service
- Community Thanksgiving
- Mitten Tree Information
- Reverse Advent Calendar
- Advent/Christmas Decorating
- Christmas Store
- Christmas Dinner
- Life Conference
- Voters Minutes

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Grace and peace to you,

As we head into the long, cold winter months the struggles of mental health increase. Lack of sun, cold temperatures, increased time indoors, and decreased amount of social activity all have a negative effect on mental wellness. Being mindful of how winter can affect your mood gives you an advantage in the fight.

First and foremost, do not forget who God has created us to be: His children! When you find yourself trapped inside take the opportunity to spend time with your Heavenly Father in His Word and in prayer. Keep yourself occupied by giving yourself a challenge: can you memorize an entire portion or book of Scripture? Or refresh yourself on the doctrines of the catechism. If you'd like some podcast or video ideas, I would be more than happy to give you some! The more we inwardly digest His Word the more we feed off that living bread that gives us everlasting life.

As God's children we are also called to be part of His family. He created us to be dependent upon one another, and so coming to church actually improves mental health in addition to all of the spiritual benefits! Come to the midweek meals and the chapel services. Participate in Advent services. Try to schedule regular time to be with family and friends and your church family. Don't hesitate to share with them your burdens as well as your joys. That's what we are here for! And in your time together, don't be afraid to be in God's Word! Read the Psalms as a family. Do a devotion around the Thanksgiving table. Be together as the family that God has made us to be.

Also, don't forget that he has made us body and soul. We don't always treat our body as we should during the holidays...the treats are just too tempting! Take care of your physical health and it will help your mental health. Eating right and exercising is not only being a good steward of the body God has given you, but when your body is healthy it makes you more resilient in your mind as well.

Lastly, if you feel the effects of mental illness weighing down on you, please reach out! Reach out to me, to friends and family. If it is effecting your daily routine, please seek professional help! Seeking help is NOT a sign of weakness.

And don't forget, you are loved. Your heavenly Father loves you so much He gave you His Son. Jesus loves you so much He gave you His life. The Holy Spirit loves you so much He dwells within you and makes you new every morning. I cannot give you the great blessings as our Triune God, but please know that I love you too. Blessings on your winter season!

In Christian love,

Pastor Timothy Roth

Catechetical Corner

Lessons for the Life-Long Lutheran

The Augsburg Confession: Article I: God

Luther never intended to start a new church. His desire was to reform, or purify, the one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. For that reason the Lutheran



Reformers took great care to root their confession in orthodox Christian teaching. The Book of Concord (BoC) begins with the three Creeds: Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian. The Augsburg Confession (AC) continues on to strongly affirm the doctrine of the Councils of Nicaea (325) and Constantinople (381). God is one

divine essence in three distinct persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is a great mystery revealed in the Scriptures and confessed by all Christians. The AC also condemns ancient heresies concerning God as well as the contemporary reprisals of them. The first article of the AC is as follows:

Our churches teach with common consent that the decree of the Council of Nicaea about the unity of the divine essence and the three persons is true. It is also believed without any doubt. God is one divine essence who is eternal, without a body, without parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness. He is the maker and preserver of all things, visible and invisible [Nehemiah 9:6]. Yet there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit [Matthew 28:19]. These three persons are of the same essence and power. Our churches use the term *person* as the Fathers¹ have used it. We use it to signify, not a part or quality in another, but that which subsists of itself.

Our churches condemn all heresies [Titus 3:10-11] that arose against this article, such as the Manichaeans, who assumed that there are two “principles,” the one Good and the other Evil. They also condemn the Valentinians, Arians, Eunomians, Muslims, and all heresies such as these. Our churches also condemn the Samosatenes, old and new, who contend that God is but one person. Through sophistry they impiously argue that the Word and the Holy Spirit are not distinct persons. They say that *Word* signifies a spoken word, and *Spirit* signifies motion created in things.

This is the mode of the BoC. Each article states what Lutherans affirm and what we reject. You may recall that Luther’s opponents tried to lump him and the Lutheran Reformation with radical reformers and even heretics, going as far as attributing their quotes to Luther. Keep in mind, to be a citizen of the Holy

Roman Empire and receive the benefits thereof one must be “Christian”. If the reformers didn’t convince of their Christian faith, execution was likely. The lives of the Lutheran reformers were on the line as they tried to clearly articulate what it is that they did and did not believe and demonstrate that the pope and Rome are the ones who departed from the faith.

They established their orthodoxy by appealing to the Fathers¹, the great theologians who came after the era of apostles to help the church struggle through articulating and set the standard for what it is that the church believes and teaches. The Fathers span the first several centuries of Christianity and lead the seven church councils. Appealing to authority for such a purpose is not new. Even the authors of the New Testament did this when they referred back to writings of the Old Testament.

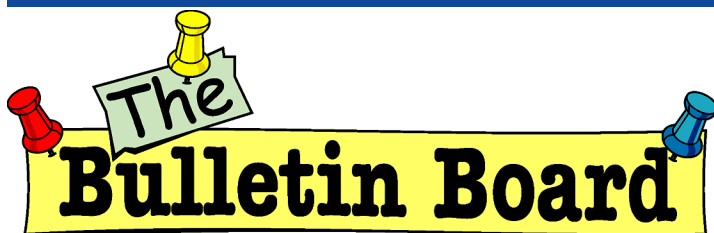
As Christianity spread throughout the Greek world there came a charge of polytheism, belief in multiple gods. Trinitarian theology was not a problem in the eastern mind, but when it confronted western Greek and Latin philosophy there need to be clarity. The Fathers used categorical terms such as “essence” and “person” to explain that the Christian faith was not polytheistic but monotheistic, believing in one God. The Fathers, and Article I, view God as a singular, distinctive divine essence. There is God and there is everything else. The essence has specific attributes: eternal, infinite, almighty, all-knowing, etc. There is also work that is only proper to this essence, such as the creator and preserver of all things. These are all attributes of the one indivisible God. This is the “unity” of the Trinity.

And yet there are three Persons who are of this one essence. The distinctions between the Persons are not in essence, nor ability, nor time. How exactly these persons are “different” cannot be grasped by human reason, yet we know they exist on account of the testimony of Scripture and so we confess thusly.

Rejected, then, are all of the false teachings on the Trinity. Any who taught religious duality (that there are two equal, eternal, opposing forces) are condemned, the Manichaeans and Valentinians named specifically. Mani combined elements of Christianity and eastern philosophy to have two antagonistic forces, light and dark. In this scheme it is impossible to believe in God as creator or incarnate Savior. Valentinus tried to unite Christianity with pagan philosophy. He taught that God and the physical world are both distinct and eternal realities, and to understand the ultimate nature of things one needed special knowledge beyond Scripture.

In addition, the article also condemns various anti-trinitarians. The most notable being the Arians. Arius taught that the divine Logos (the second person of the Trinity) was created by God as superior to humanity but is not God Himself, a sort of demigod. Thus,

Continued on Page 3



The Bulletin Board

The Month At A Glance

Fri, Nov 1st—Sat, Nov 2nd, LWML Retreat
 Sun, Nov 3rd, Arrowood @ 1:45 PM
 Sun, Nov 3rd, Grave Adornment @ 1:00 PM
 Nov 7th, Elders @ 7:30 PM
 Fri, Nov 8th—Sat, Nov 9th, Shepherding the Strays
 Tues, Nov 19th, Circuit Winkle @ Parsons
 Tues, Nov 26th, Pastor in Topeka @ Children and Family Life Committee
 Wed, Nov 27th, Thanksgiving Eve Service @ 6:00 PM
 Thurs, Nov 28th, Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed



All Saints' Day

On November 3rd we'll celebrate All Saints' Day to remember all who have died in faith and await the resurrection on the Last Day. During service we will remember those who have transferred to the Church Triumphant. There will be a time for everyone to speak names and light candles for loved ones, but if you'd like Pastor to read the name of someone who has died in the faith since last All Saints' Day

please inform the office.

At 1:00 we will go to plant butterflies, a symbol of the resurrection, on the graves of saints whose bodies rest in Mt. Hope. All are welcome to join.

Veterans Day & Operation Barnabas

We give thanks to all who have served our country in wartime and peace. It is thanks to your service that we are able to live in peace. Thank you!

On November 10th we will take a special offering for Operation Barnabas, the LCMS network of care to our military members, families, and veterans. You can give your offering to the church or send a check payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with a memo line or note designating "Ministry to the Armed Forces/Operation Barnabas."

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Or give by phone at 888-930-4438.



VETERANS DAY

Catechetical Corner—Continued from Page 2

Arianism cannot believe in a God who is a Trinity of equal Persons. Also condemned is Eudomians, a subtype of Arians who argued the Logos didn't even have a similar nature to the Father and rejection Trinitarianism as irrational.

It may seem odd that Muslims would be included on the list, but in truth they are also a Christian heresy. Though they look to Muhammad as the "seal of the prophets" or the last prophet, they believe Jesus to be the greatest prophet. They even believe that it will be Jesus, not Mohammad, who will come back for the Judgement Day. However, they go further than the Arians and are among those who consider Jesus *just* a prophet, merely human, nothing more. They are monotheistic and reject religious dualism, but they reject the Trinity and consider it blasphemy to count Jesus as God. In rejecting the Incarnation they reject other major tenants of Christianity as well.

Lastly, the Samosatens were condemned. They were "Monarchian" in that they taught that there is one Ruler, one God, not a Trinity. Jesus to them is a man divinely empowered. The Logos was not a person, but an infrastructure. The Spirit is only a means through which God works.

Though these heresies have ancient origins they were alive and well during the Reformation and even today. Often, they are dressed up and disguised as something new but are really the same thing. There are many who consider themselves Christians but do not hold to fundamental orthodox teaching. No doubt, if the Augsburg Confession were written today the Mormon church, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists, and Unitarians would certainly be on this list as they do not hold to this teaching.

In the end, the truth of our Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) can only be received and confessed through faith, the only Faith that is given by Jesus. May we too stand with the ancient church and the church of the reformation by affirming our faith in the Triune God. Amen.

Daylight Saving Time Ends

If you don't want to show up early, don't forget to "fall back" on Sunday, November 3rd by setting your clock back one hour! Enjoy extra sleep and come to church refreshed!



Midweek Meal Menu

Nov 6 — Vegetable Soup
Nov 13 — Taco Casserole and Salad
Nov 20 — Chicken Spaghetti and Salad
Nov 27 — NO MIDWEEK; Thanksgiving Eve Service @ 6:00 PM

Shepherding Our Strays

Shepherding Our Strays is from re:Vitality of the LCMS Office of National Mission. The workshop equips selected members of our congregation to serve as a CARE team for engaging and reconnecting long- and short-term inactive members. The workshop will be led by Rev. Dan Galchutt from our District Office on November 8th from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. We are beta testers meaning the workshop has not been 'polished up,' but we will receive the materials for the workshop for free. Have Questions? Contact Pastor Roth.

RE:VITALITY
LUTHERAN REVITALIZATION

Thanksgiving Service Thanksgiving service will be Wednesday, November 27th at 6:00 PM.

Advent/Christmas Decorating

On Saturday, Nov 30th we will decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Please come at 5:30 PM to help make our sanctuary look beautiful. Dinner will be provided at Opie's once the decorating is done.

TEAMMATES MENTORING Program Mentors Needed
Humboldt Schools are looking for mentors in a new program. Caring adults are chosen to connect with students during the school day a couple of times a month to support and encourage students. Mentors need to apply and pass a background check. Mentor training will November 26th. Apply at www.teammates.org.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Restoration Fellowship will host dinner on Nov 28th from 11 AM to 1 PM. We are asked to provide mashed potatoes and two volunteers. Food should arrive by 10 AM. There will be a sign-up in the Narthex for those interested.



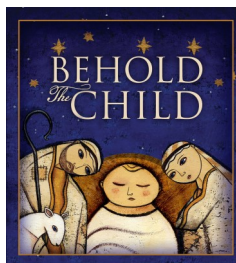
Mitten Tree Donations

Once again we will put up our Mitten Tree. Help us decorate this tree with mittens and other winter items such as scarves, hats, socks, sweatshirts, pajamas, underwear, and non-perishable food. Please consider donating to help those in need. For more information contact Wanda Davidson.



Christmas Dinner

On Sunday, Dec 8rd we will be having our Christmas Dinner after late service. Look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex to volunteer to bring food.



Advent Midweek

We begin *Behold the Child* Dec 4th. If you'd like a themed devotional book there will be a sign-up. The meal will be served at 5:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Service begins at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. Classes and choir follow.



Christmas Store



Christmas Store will be December 7th from 9-10 AM. Preschool and elementary students in Humboldt are invited to shop for their parents/guardians. All gifts will be 25¢. If you would like to donate new or gently-used items, below are a few guidelines and suggestions. We are mostly in need of men's gifts.

1. Keep gifts between \$5 and \$15 each.
2. No clothing except for hats, caps, scarves, and gloves for men and women.
3. Small lap blankets and candy were popular last year.
4. Women's gifts could also include jewelry, candles, Christmas decorations, knick-knacks, purses, wallets, etc.
5. Men's gifts could also include ball caps, insulated gloves, fishing lures, hand tools, games, insulated coffee mugs, flashlights, wallets, etc.
6. Any other ideas that you have are welcome!

We also need gift bags—especially 8" x 10" or 10" x 12" approximately.

We will have a box in the Narthex during November to accept donations. If you would prefer to make a financial contribution, please mark your checks as "Outreach-Christmas Store."

Thank you for your support of this project. If you have any questions, please contact: Carman Huse (620)365-9311 or Alicia Schomaker (620)473-0679.



Reverse Advent Calendar

Advent calendars are enjoyable as they help us count down to the birth of our Lord. This Advent calendar helps us remember that Christ came to give by giving to others. Consider participating this year by collecting the following items and dropping them off in the bin at church. The collection will go to the Humboldt Food Pantry. For questions, contact Carman Huse.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM

Trunk-or-Treat Thank You!

Thank you to all who make Trunk-or-Treat a success! We had 9 trunks participate and 32 volunteers and lots of donations. We gave out 516 packages of chips, 400 small waters to approximately 133 families with 282 kids. We also handed out invitations to our upcoming Advent & Christmas services. The fire pit seemed to be a hit as well!

Helen Boyd and her daughter, Melinda, won the most favorite trunk with 75 votes! Helen and Melinda attend Poplar Grove Church in Humboldt.



Understanding Home Health & Hospice

November is Home Health & Hospice Month. ACRH is sharing information on the qualifications, services, and benefits that these critical home care services provide for both patient and family at the next Lunch & Learn November 20th at noon. Home health includes a variety of services and the program is tailored to meet individual needs of each patient. You will also learn of the critical role volunteers play for hospice patients. Seating is limited. Please RSVP to reserve your seat and free boxed lunch by calling Traci Plumlee at (620) 365-1011 or email traci.plumlee@allencountyregional.com.



Allen County Regional
HOSPITAL

13 Reasons to Fly SEK

This is a free weekend event Saturday, November 16th from 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday the 17th, 11:30 AM to 5 PM dedicated to suicide prevention education for our youth and community. Together we will learn about mental illness, how to fight it, help people through it, and ways to stay positive. It is okay to not be okay.

The guest presenter, Isabelle Cole, founded 13 Reasons to Fly, a suicide prevention campaign. Both days include a free lunch for those who register online, by phone, (620) 365-2285, or by email, iolawesley@gmail.com.



Blood Needed!

The natural disasters happening across the nation have canceled blood drives leading to a national shortage

of blood. Please consider donating in the upcoming Red Cross drive at Allen County Regional Hospital on November 6th and 7th. If you need a ride, contact the church office or join Pastor Roth at his appointment on the 6th at 12:45 PM!

GIVE BLOOD

You can make a difference.



American
Red Cross

Congratulations 2020 Officers and Positions!

The following people were newly elected: Scott Baker, president; Darrell Krone, VP; Ken Lumley, Elder; PJ Schomaker, Trustee; Marie Roth, Board of Ed.

Children and Family Life Committee News

Rev. Charlie Adams, who chairs the committee, will be retiring within the next couple of months. The district asked me to serve as the next chairperson. After some consideration and prayer I agreed. As far as time goes, the only additional commitment will be the time it takes to create meeting agendas and type up reports for the District Board. Please pray that I will be of use both to the district and out congregation in this new role. Thank you!

THE S.E.A. SIDE WOODS

Rev. Matthew, Kali, Laurel, Elenore, and Caroline Wood
Ministry in Southeast Asia—Based in Medan, Indonesia

Ten New Congregations in GKLI!

Posted Oct 11th, 2019

Mid way through September the leadership of the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI) traveled some 300 miles from their office in Sihabonghabong to the Mentawai Islands off the west coast of Sumatra. The journey was not easy. The roads are rough, the ferries do not do much beside keep everyone afloat, and the already hot weather is compounded by the smoke from fires throughout the Island of Sumatera. The journey was worthwhile, however, because on Sunday September 15, 2019 ten new congregations were received into the GKLI.



The Mentawai Islands off the west coast of Sumatra Island.

In Indonesia every congregation must legally be part of a registered church body. This law threatened the existence of these ten congregations as the government did not recognize their church body, The Christian Lutheran Church of Mentawai (GKLM). They could not in good conscience join church bodies around them, because they wanted to remain faithful in their Lutheran identity. So they sought out a Lutheran church body, and found the GKLI.

A quick internet search reveals that the Mentawai Islands are internationally known for excellent surfing. So most the pictures you find of the islands are of tourists and big ocean waves. Unfortunately these pictures do not tell the whole story of the

people of Mentawai. They struggle with severe poverty, isolation, many lack quality education, and the congregations there need help as they seek to be faithful to Jesus.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been fostering a budding relationship with the GKLI for several years now. As the GKLI expands so does our work in Indonesia! Plans are already underway to bring them a seminar on the Small Catechism in early 2020. These new congregations also diversify the GKLI. The people of Mentawai are not of the Batak tribe. So they will help the members of the GKLI to understand themselves not as a Batak church, but as an Indonesian church.

Please give thanks to God that these congregations have found a place in a legal church body, the GKLI. Give thanks to God for his work through the GKLI to preserve these congregations and keep them working on the Mentawai Islands. Pray that this new relationship is fruitful and beneficial for everyone involved!



If you'd like to follow their blog, you can do so by going to theseside.asia.

BELIZE MISSION SOCIETY



Dear Christian friends and partners in the Belize Mission, thank you so much for your generous gift toward our work! I'm so happy to have been able to spend a Sunday with you and I am confident the Lord will do wonderful thing through our partnership into the future. God bless and keep you.

Your Missionary to Belize, Pastor Duane Meissner

For more info, visit www.belizemissionsociety.net.

Mission Trips

The Belize Mission Society is looking toward creating their 2020 short-term mission trip schedule. If you're interested in potentially going on a mission trip to Belize, please let pastor know and keep an eye out for further announcements. It would be great to be able to get a team together to go help the Gospel light shine!



LCMS Stewardship Ministry Article

St. Paul wrote to the Church of Christ in Corinth: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7). God loves a cheerful giver. But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, Abel gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God’s sight. Abraham was. By faith, Abraham prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained

angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel’s God and they His people.

What more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything, yes, even His life, enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us – like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ – give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart – for the joy set before us – the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.



District Life Conference

The 2nd annual Kansas District Life Conference is January 22nd at St. John’s in Topeka.

Registration begins at 9:00 AM. Matins at 9:30 AM. Speakers

include the Rev. Timothy Roth of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Humboldt, who will address the political phrase “Right to Life.” At 12:45 PM attendees can participate in the March for Life in downtown Topeka. Following the March for Life, participants will gather at St. John’s for Vespers and will discuss strategies for speaking the fullness of the Word of God concerning our lives and “Life” itself.

Registration information will be posted soon.

Movies Regarding Abortion & Life

In our church library we have two true movies that expose the abortion industry. Unplanned tells of Abby Johnson, who quit her job as the director of a Texas

Planned Parenthood clinic after participating in an abortion procedure for the first time and walked down the street to join the Coalition for Life. Gosnell is the story of the investigation and trial of Dr. Kermit Gosnell - his 30 year killing spree and the political and media establishment that

tried to cover it up. Originally investigated for illegal prescription drug sales, a raid by DEA, FBI & local law enforcement revealed crimes they could not have expected within the clinic.



Human Trafficking & Digital Safety Night

On November 7th, Humboldt schools will host a Human Trafficking and Digital Safety education night from 5:15 PM to 9:00 PM at Humboldt High School. Supper is offered if you RSVP by November 1st.

Jared Froggatte, a detective with the Iola Police Department, will be the guest speaker and talk about Human Trafficking in rural communities and how it affects our students. PreK-5th grade students will be able to attend a healthy choices fitness activity night. There will be four breakout sessions for parents, community members and 6th-12th grade students to attend: The Dangers of Social Media; Sexting: What You Need to Know; Video Games and The Effects on the Brain; and Human Trafficking Follow-Up Q&A Session.

Parents and community members who attend will be put into a drawing for one of two \$150 gift cards. All students who attend will be put into a drawing for one of eight \$10 iTunes gift cards. If you have questions or would like to attend, please contact Misti Czarnowsky by calling her the middle school or emailing her at misti.czarnowsky@usd258.net.



THE
DEVOTED
 Life
 ACTS 2:24

Devoted to Worship: What is Worship?

We gather week after week, to say the same words, to pray the same prayers, to sing the same songs, to listen to the same message, to receive the same supper. But why? Many have grown restless with this repetitive form of worship and have sought after other means to connect with God...whether that be in a congregational setting or not. Some have even lost interest in seeking God all together, though they still consider themselves Christians. Surely there has to be forms of worship that would captivate and recapture people to get them back into worship, right?

But have we stopped to ask ourselves what all worship is really about? Is worship something that we define for ourselves? Does God care how we worship? Is it even necessary? This series of "The Devoted Life" is meant to help you wrestle with these questions and more as we devote ourselves to worship: What is it? Why do we worship? When do we worship? Where do we worship? How do we worship? Who is involved in worship? We'll also discuss false notions of worship and what it isn't. It is my prayer that through this series you'll find yourself more devoted to worshipping our crucified and risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

So what is worship? It might be more complicated than you think, which is why it is important to talk about. Sometimes we hear, "I can worship God any place I'd like!" That's not far from the truth. In fact, it's incomplete truth. Yet, in the Old Testament such a statement would be blasphemy. Worship was among the marks that identified Israel as the true bearers of God's revelation and consisted of rites instituted by God and regulated by the laws of the Old Covenant.

For Israel there was only one place to worship God: the tabernacle then the temple. That is where God was. The term "worship" is also appropriately applied then to the official acts of the priests on behalf of the people in the temple. Scripture also applies the term to the ritual veneration of pagans to their gods. For ancient Israel and others, worship consisted of ritual acts done in a specific place. Thus, the woman at the well in John 4 says to Jesus, "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Location was important, but Jesus comes and changes everything.

Jesus said, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ...the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him." God calls us to worship at all times and in all places. This is not simply that we *can* worship at any time and place we'd like, but in fact God calls us to *never stop* worshipping Him. No matter where we are or what we're doing! It is the life of a Christian.

Think about this: Israel was called to worship God in the temple for that is where God dwelt. But then God came to dwell among His people, not in the temple, but in the person of Jesus! When Jesus was bodily present on earth He was the place of worship! The shepherds came to give God glory at the manger (Lk 2); the leper returned to praise God and give thanks at Jesus' feet (Lk 17); the women worshiped Jesus at His resurrection (Jn 28); all in heaven worship in the Lamb's presence (Rev 5).

After His ascension, Jesus gives His Spirit to all who believe. "True worshipers will worship the Father in *spirit* and in *truth*." The *Spirit* leads us to worship the *Father* through *Jesus*, the Truth. Where our triune God is worship occurs, and Paul reminds us, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Cor 3:16). God dwells within us! Therefore our whole lives are to be lived out as lives of worship! Paul repeats, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own," (1 Cor 6:19).

Take note, in the context of 1 Corinthians, Paul is condemning them for their idolatry, which he says is *false doctrine* and acts of *unrighteousness*! Worship is no longer simply a ritual service rendered outside of me, done in a specific location. Instead, it is enacted in the thoughts, words, and deeds of believers! *Everything* we do, say, or think is worship, either of the true God *or* of false idols. Everything. And just as nothing unholy was to be brought into the temple, nothing unholy is to dwell in your heart, head, mouth, or hands because *you are* God's temple. Thus, the entire activity of the Christian life is one of worship.

Continued on Page 9

Devoted to Worship—Continued from Page 8

Listen to what Scripture says, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect,” (Rom 12:1-2).

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you,” (1 Thess. 5:16-18).

“Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ,” (Eph. 5:18-21).

“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’ And if you call on him as Father...conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot,” (1 Pt 1:14-19).

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation,” (1 Pt 2:9-12).

If worship then constitutes the whole of Christian life, does this mean we are free to no longer gather? Of course not! The book of Hebrews is about how worship has transformed in light of Christ. All the Old Testament ritual was fulfilled in Christ, and yet we are still called to gather together. We have been cleansed *so that* we may enter into the Lord’s presence without sacrifice! We no longer need an animal serving as our substitute under death as Christ Himself served as our one, perfect, final sacrifice. And yet we still have need to come and receive the benefits of that sacrifice from Him: forgiveness, righteousness, and life. All the more so because we daily soil ourselves in sin and need refreshment and restoration in Him.

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new

and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 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. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 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.

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God,” (Heb 10:19-31).

The author of Hebrews makes clear that gathering together is *still* essential for God’s people, necessary even. Those who take the richness of God’s grace as an excuse to no longer draw into His presence and receive His grace will receive quite an unwelcomed surprise when the Day of Judgement comes. The gift of His grace does not free us from service to Him, but in fact demands it all the more. The Spirit transforms and expands that service out into all areas of life so that we adorn ourselves with the good works that He has prepared in advance for us to do, but this activity of the Christian *flows out of* the life and forgiveness that we receive when God gathers His flock together.

The Augsburg Confession in the Book of Concord puts it this way: Article IV speaks of our justification, our being reckoned by God as righteous. We receive this on account of Christ through faith. Article V then declares the Office of the Holy Ministry (pastors) was instituted by God so that we may obtain this saving faith. Their job is to teach the Word and administer the Sacraments, through which the Holy Spirit works, as through instruments, to create and sustain faith. In Word and Sacrament we receive Christ and all He offers. Article VI states that work and faith then bring forth the fruit of good works in the individual lives of believers. Finally, Article VII asserts that the one, holy Church is the congregation of saints in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments rightly administered. Corporate worship, then, is the saints gathered to receive Christ in Word and Sacrament.

Celebrating the Saints—Noah

In other words, without gathering together around Christ's Word and Sacrament in corporate worship, there are no church; if there is no church then there are no believers; if there are no believers then there is no salvation. Corporate worship (henceforth referred to as worship) is of great importance for our sake, and the failure to worship is a grave failure. The worship service becomes the focal point for our every thought and action. It is the place where we are "plugged in and charged." Without it we are lost and disconnected from Christ and His body.

And so we have it: worship is the assembling of the people of God to hear, discuss, and respond to God's Word and to receive His Sacrament. This meeting is entirely different from every other meeting a person might attend in life as almost everything is done with prayer. Indeed, the meeting begins by invoking the name of Jesus, in whose name the saints gather. The entire service is conducted in His special presence as a divine conversation with Him until all are sent out again with His blessing. Thus all that happens there is embraced and supported by prayer. God Himself is the host with us as His guest. Worship is a "Divine Service," that is, God coming to serve us.

Consequently, the way we worship matters. If God is the host, then we cannot simply worship in any way we desire. As with all other things in life we are bound to the will of God revealed in the sacred Scriptures. An act of worship that conflicts with God's command is no longer worship but blasphemy. That said, there is no divinely given form of worship, no commanded liturgy to be followed. Even so, we take care that all we do in a worship service is rightly ordered toward God. As worship is the focus of the Christian life, then activity of the Holy Spirit in Word and Sacrament is the focus of our worship service. Further, worship is done in light of that eternal service rendered to God by angels and saints from eternity and therefore the elements should not be foreign to it.

If we fail to understand the importance of worship and what it is to be ordered toward and centered around, then we will fail at our task in worship to our own detriment. If we fail to center our worship on Christ in His Word and Sacrament, then we are failing to receive His very salvation. If we make worship about us, our feelings or our entertainment, or about attracting others and making them feel welcome and comfortable, then we are distracting from worship. We are no longer serving God and being served by Him, but serving ourselves. In this type of service there is no Christ and no salvation.

Next month we will discuss the way we order our worship service, the liturgy we follow. We'll discuss where it comes from and the dangers of turning from the liturgy to other forms of worship. Until then, I pray that the Lord continue to bless you in worship!

There are all kinds of saint days through the year. Most go uncelebrated; many of them are generally unknown. Did you know there is a day for Noah on November 29th? Noah was a godly descendent of Seth, third child of Adam and Eve. His father was Lamech; grandfather Methuselah; great-grandfather Enoch, who "walked with God." Lamech named his son Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands," (Gen. 5:29). When Noah was five hundred years old he became the father to three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Scripture tells us how God with sadness and regret beheld the great wickedness of humanity. Man's heart was thus described: "Every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually," (Gen. 6:5). Yet, "Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord." When God decided to wipe out the world, in mercy He spared believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all.

Noah was instructed to prepare a large ark, and God commanded animals to come to him two by two, with seven pairs of "clean" animals (suitable for sacrifice). After the animals had been gathered into the ark, God shut the door and The great flood began. Rain poured and "the fountains of the great deep burst forth." Dry land disappeared as the waters prevailed. It was a return to the primordial chaos when the Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters.

After a long time the rain stopped and the waters subsided. Noah's ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. He sent forth a raven and then a dove. When the dove returned with a freshly plucked olive leaf, he knew that it would soon be safe to leave. When the family left the boat, he took some of the clean animals and offered them in thanksgiving to God, who brought them safely through the flood. This sacrifice pleased the Lord, and he promised never again to wipe the earth out with a flood. As a sign of His covenant he hung up His bow in the clouds.

Before the flood, God had restricted mankind's diet to vegetation. Afterward, He permitted man to eat every moving thing that lives, with the provision that man could not eat a live animal, but must first kill it.

From Noah's children the earth was repopulated. All mankind descends from this family that was graciously saved through the waters.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgement You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. Grant that we may be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, so that with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

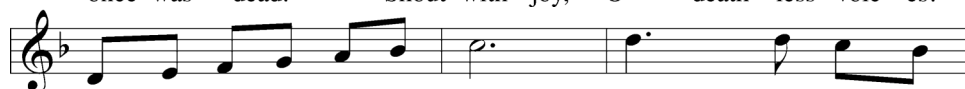
LSB 671 Sing with All the Saints in Glory [\(audio\)](#)



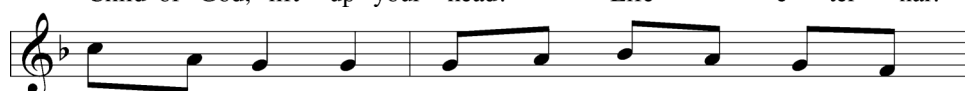
1 Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, Sing the res - ur -
 2 Oh, what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing All that eye has
 3 Life e - ter - nal! Heav'n re - joic - es: Je - sus lives who



rec - tion song! Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry,
 yet per - ceived! Ho - liest hearts for a - ges plead - ing
 once was dead. Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es!



To the for - mer days be - long. All a - round the
 Nev - er that full joy con - ceived. God has prom - ised,
 Child of God, lift up your head! Life e - ter - nal!



clouds are break - ing; Soon the storms of time shall
 Christ pre - pares it; There on high our wel - come
 Oh, what won - ders Crowd on faith; what joy un -



cease; In God's like - ness we a - wak - en,
 waits; Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it,
 known, When, a - mid earth's clos - ing thun - ders,



Know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
 Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.
 Saints shall stand be - fore the throne!

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Exploring the Scriptures

Rev 7:9-17—This heavenly image is of the Church triumphant standing before the Lamb. They worship in song for the salvation He has given to them and all who trust in Him. It is full of images of victory, with the saints waving palm branches in victory over the great tribulation. They are being offered to God the Father by the Son, who purified them by His blood. Belonging to God on the Last Day means that they will have no need of any sort, nor suffer any ill, but will dwell in His peace forever.

Rev 21:1-5—This image glimpses the new creation on the Last Day. This is the consummation of the marriage, the promise satisfied. This is the hope of every Christian: the final resurrection when all who trust in Him will be made whole to live forever with God in Christ. Sin and its stain will be removed for good as God's people dwell secure in His presence.

1 Cor 2:9—This is the promise of new life. We cannot even fathom the blessings of the new creation. We do know it will be more than we could ever hope for.

Jn 14:1-3—Jesus ascended before the throne of God to prepare a place for us in His Father's kingdom. That is where He is now, and He promises that as He has gone to prepare a place for us, He *will* return again for us. A groom does not go prepare a place for his bride never to return for her. Jesus will return, on that day all that we have hoped for be faith will be made visible for all to see. On that day, we will be with our Lord forever.

Exploring the Hymn

Verse 1—“Sing with all the saints in glory...” The heavenly worship began at Jesus' ascension and continues on even now. Though we are not yet before the throne in glory, we still get to participate in that worship event here and now! We join with all of those who have gone before us into a blessed death and with all the heavenly hosts singing praises to God. For even now, as those who hold the promise of resurrection, we are victorious over death. God has said it; He will do it. Death no longer has any sting. Just as Christ has risen from the dead, we too shall rise.

Verse 2—“Oh what glory far exceeding...” Our hearts and minds cannot even fathom what the new creation will hold. The only thing we have ever known is living in this fallen world, and yet the new creation will so far exceed the present one that not even Adam and Eve, who knew the bliss of Eden, could ever have imagined what is in store for us! Paul says that the sorrow that we experience now will not even be able to compare to the depths of what Christ is preparing for us even now. Yet we get to experience a taste as the Spirit enables us to love God and care for one another now. Oh, the anticipation of the Day when it is finally revealed!

Verse 3—“Life eternal! Heaven rejoices...” All of creation is eagerly awaiting that day when the sons of God will be revealed at the final resurrection! What was dead shall be full of life as we follow Jesus out of the grave to the throne of God! Though heaven and earth pass away, we shall be upheld by the Word of the Lord forever. Never forget the glory that is waiting for us all, and let this hymn fill you with joy as we meditate on that Day!



Prayers for Our Church

For the Church

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down

from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

For the mission of the Church

Almighty God, You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

For the mission of the Church and her missionaries

Almighty and gracious God, You want all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Magnify the power of the Gospel in the hearts of Your faithful people that Your Church may spread the good news of salvation. Protect, encourage, and bless all missionaries who proclaim the saving cross that Christ, being lifted up, may draw all people to Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

For those outside the Church

Almighty and everlasting God, You desire not the death of a sinner but that all would repent and live. Hear our prayers for those outside the Church. Take away their iniquity, and turn them from their false gods to You, the living and true God. Gather them into Your holy Church to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Unity of faith

O God, Your infinite love restores to the right way those who err, seeks the scattered, and preserves those whom You have gathered. Of Your tender mercy pour out on Your faithful people the grace of unity that, all schisms being ended, Your flock may be gathered to the true Shepherd of Your Church and may serve You in all faithfulness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Defending the Church from error

Almighty and everlasting God, You would have all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. By Your almighty power and unsearchable wisdom break and hinder all the counsels of those who hate Your Word and who, by corrupt teaching, would destroy it. Enlighten them with the knowledge of Your glory that they may know the riches of Your heavenly grace and, in peace and righteousness, serve You, the only true God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Upcoming Sunday Readings

All Saints' Day (11/1, obs. 11/3)

Rev 7:2-17; Ps. 149; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost (11/3)*

Is 1:10-18; Ps 130; 2 Thess 1; Lk 19:1-10

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost (11/10)

Ex 3:1-15; Ps 148; 2 Thess 2:1-8, 13-17; Lk 20:27-40

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost (11/17)

Mal 4; Ps 98; 2 Thess 3:1-13; Lk 21:5-28

Thanksgiving Eve (11/20)

Deut 8:1-10; Ps 67; 1 Tim 2:1-4; Lk 17:11-19

Last Sunday of the Church Year (11/24)

Mal 3:13-18; Ps 46; Col 1:13-20; Lk 23:27-43

St. Andrew, Apostle (11/30)*

Ez 3:16-21; Ps 139:1-12; Rom 10:8b-18; Jn 1:35-42a

First Sunday in Advent (12/1)

Is 2:1-5; Ps 122; Rom 13:8-14; Mat 24:36-44

Other days of the Church Year in November:

8—Johannes von Staupitz, *Luther's Father Confessor*

9—Martin Chemnitz (birth), *Pastor and Confessor*

11—Marin of Tours, *Pastor*

14—Emperor Justinian, *Christians Ruler and Confessor of Christ*

19—Elizabeth of Hungary

23—Clement of Rome, *Pastor*

29—Noah

Connect with the story of Christ through the lives of the saints by learning more about them!

PRAYING FOR CONGREGATIONS AND PASTORS OF THE KANSAS DISTRICT: CIRCUIT 7

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Barnes; Vacant
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Bremen; Rev. Aaron Fenker
 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bremen; Rev. Aaron Fenker
 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clay Center; Rev. Paul Tessaro
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Greenleaf; Rev. Matthew Durance
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Hanover; Rev. Rodney Fritz
 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Linn; Rev. Richard Rikli
 Zion Lutheran Church, Linn; Rev. David Gruoner
 Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Marysville; Rev. Philip Miller
 St. John Lutheran Church, Palmer; Vacant
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Linn; Vacant
 Candidate and Emeritus: Rev. Gene Holtorf



November 2019

Elder: Scott Baker
 Usher: Henry Eggers
 Communion Preparation:
 08:15 & 10:30 Tom & Sandy Hildinger

CALENDAR MONTH	NOVEMBER
CALENDAR YEAR	2019
1ST DAY OF WEEK	SUNDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:15a Communion 9:30a Sunday school 10:30a Communion	28	29 6:00p Dialogue & Doctrine	30 5:30p Midweek dinner 6:00p Chapel 6:30p Midweek 6:30p Choir practice	31 7:30a Men's Bible study 9:00a Mission of Love 5:45p Trunk 'R'Treat	1	2
3 ALL SAINTS DAY Daylight Savings Ends 8:15a Communion 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Communion 1:45a Arrowood	4	5 6:00p Dialogue & Doctrine	6 5:30p Midweek dinner 6:00p Chapel 6:30p Midweek 6:30p Choir practice	7 7:30a Men's Bible study 9:00a Mission of Love 7:30p Elder's Meeting	8	9 8:30p-11:30p Shepharding our Strays
10 8:15a Communion 9:30a Sunday school 10:30a Service	11 VETERANS DAY	12 6:00p Dialogue & Doctrine	13 5:30p Midweek dinner 6:00p Chapel 6:30p Midweek 6:30p Choir practice	14 7:30a Men's Bible study 9:00a Mission of Love	15	16
17 8:15a Service 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Communion	18	19 6:00p Dialogue & Doctrine	20 5:30p Midweek dinner 6:00p Chapel 6:30p Midweek 6:30p Choir practice	21 7:30a Men's Bible study 9:00a Mission of Love	22 DEADLINE FOR CALENDAR & NEWSLETTER	23
24 8:15a Communion 9:30a Sunday school 10:30a Service	25	26 6:00p Dialogue & Doctrine	27 6:30p Thanksgiving Eve Service	28 THANKSGIVING Office Closed Community Thanksgiving Dinner	29 Office Closed	30

November

BIRTHDAYS

04 Sofia Schomaker
 05 Jan Coykendall*
 05 Darrell Krone
 11 Rev. Timothy Roth
 15 Ron Herder
 17 Leon Storck
 18 Clarie Moran
 19 Karen Bruenger
 27 Hanna Krone

**Special Birthday
 80 years & older*



ANNIVERSARIES

14 Alan & DeAnn Hauser – 31 yrs.
 20 Wayne & Peg Smith – 8 yrs.

**Special Anniversary
 50 years & over*



DECEMBER

Service to the Lord

ELDER

Curt Mueller

USHER

Keith Beeman

GREETERS

01 Bob & Renee Debler;
 Henry & Sandy Eggers
 08 Doris Fugit; Neil Hartwig
 15 Audrey Galloway;
 Alan & DeAnn Hauser
 22 Tom & Sandy Hildinger;
 Carman Huse
 29 Jolene Keidel;
 Darrell Krone



DECEMBER

ACOLYTES

01 Ben Leo
 08 Chloe Daniels
 15 Aisley Galloway
 22 Stephen Leo
 29 James Brown



DECEMBER COMMUNION PREPARATION

8:15 am & 10:30
 am Ryan & Israel
 Munro



NOVEMBER



Service to the Lord

NOVEMBER

ELDER

Scott Baker

USHER

Henry Eggers

GREETERS

03 Melvin Baker; Keith &
 Gloria Beeman
 10 Lonnie & Brenda Cash;
 Bill & Linda Cavins
 17 Don & Dodie Copley;
 Dale & Judy Daniels
 24 Scott & Heather Daniels;
 Ernie & Wanda Davidson

COMMUNION PREPARATION

8:15 am & 10:30 am
 Tom & Sandy Hildinger

ACOLYTES

03 Aisley Galloway
 10 Stephen Leo
 17 James Brown
 24 Mary Brown

“Grace isn’t a little
 prayer you chant
 before receiving a
 meal. It’s a way to
 live.

Jacqueline Winspear

