

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2020

WELCOME

It is a joy to have you here at worship with us today. We especially remember those who are not able to be with us this morning and keep them in our prayers.

For the safety of all, we ask throughout the worship service that you please wear your face mask. If it becomes troublesome to breathe, please excuse yourself and go to the hallway (if possible) prior to removing your mask. We understand that breathing may be challenging for several of us, feel free to leave if you need to.

If you are in need of a mask, please let our ushers know.

The Coronavirus spreads easily through singing, so we are not having congregational singing for a while. As you may have anticipated, projecting our voices also extends the distance of the virus spreading, so it is recommended that you use your library voice as you speak responses in our worship service today.

Following worship today, please let us know if you have suggestions for future services. We are all learning new ways together.

Visitors are invited to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave worship today. Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.

Children are always welcome in church.

Large print bulletins for today's worship are available. Feel free to ask an usher if interested.

When leaving, please take your bulletin with you so others do not need to touch the same paper.

Pastor Nicholson will be available outside following worship to talk with you. You are encouraged to exit the building and talk with persons outdoors as well.

If by chance you contract the virus in the next couple of days, please let the church know so we can try to contact those who sat near you.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

**Holy One, we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Through † Jesus you are forgiven.
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Because of the Coronavirus, we ask that you please listen to the music and meditate on the words. You may hum along if you choose.

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
- 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.
- 3 Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.
- 4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

WORD

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:14-30

The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON *Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING *Returning our thanks to God with our offering is a regular part of our worship service. To reduce the odds of spreading the coronavirus, we have placed the offering plates at the entrances to our worship service. You are encouraged to present your gifts to God as you leave worship today.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: **God of all goodness, generations have turned to you and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that give thanks for your rich blessings and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

DIALOG

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING

Please place this bulletin beside you on the pie. Remove the cup and the napkin from plastic bag. Peel off the seal from the bread portion of your communion. Place the seal on your bulletin.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:
Take and eat; this is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

This is the Body of Christ given for you. *(You may consume the bread.)*

Please remove the outer wrapping from the juice portion of your communion. Place the seal on your bulletin.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

This is the Blood of Christ shed for you. *(You may consume the grape juice.)*

Please place your used cup and seals in the ziplock bag to avoid spillage. Please discard this bag in the recepticals as you leave worship.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep us in his grace! **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS "Rock-a-My Soul"
"Father Abraham"

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CONGREGATION MEETING

POSTLUDE *From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #33504. Hymns reprinted by permission under One License #A-727079 and CCLI #11318988*



Remember in your prayers...

Ruth Blair (11/26)	Christian Bruce (11/30)	Sandy Curfman
Aloma Dawkins	Ernie Fricke	Rick Gates (11/30)
Bob Hammer (12/11)	Dorothy Hammer (12/11)	Nancy Jacobs
Elva Kroeger	John Newcomer	Dalton Paul (11/26)
Julie Paul (12/3)	Elaine Singer (11/30)	Dia Schumacher (11/23)
Evelyn Scott	James Warne	Grace Williams (11/30)
Jim Woods (11/26)	Private Parker Brown	Sergeant Amanda Hammer

Prayers: Adeline Hooper

Soundboard: Justin Holovik

November 8 Attendance: In person 51
On line: 91 views x 2 = 182 (ELCA formula)

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPETS

“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”
– 1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Do or do not. There is no try,” said *Star Wars* character Yoda. Notice there is no “try” in Paul’s instructions either. We can act on our thankfulness to God by encouraging others and building one another up in Christ’s name. Who needs your encouragement this week? How will you act on that need?

COLLECTION OF QUARTERS by The Neighborhood Task Team has resumed for future Laundry Events. If you have donations you may drop them off at the church office during office hours or you may drop your donations at either entry/exit from the sanctuary. There is a basket at back of the sanctuary and a Laundry Soap container at the elevator entrance. Thanks so much for your support of this ministry to our neighbors.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion Congregation Meeting (Following Worship)
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Ladies Breakfast (Texas Lunch)
	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship /Christ the King Sunday- Thank Offering

LADIES BREAKFAST This month's breakfast will be held at Texas Lunch (the tracks) at 8:30 a.m. All ladies are welcome!

BACK PACK PROGRAM November suggested items are: Canned fruit or fruit cups in light syrup; dried fruit such as raisins, plums and cranberries; and applesauce. Thank you for your continued support of this much-needed program.



THE GIVE AND TAKE BOX If you are able, please pick up a few items to share. Remember this box supplies personal care items. Needed items include shampoo, deodorant, tissues, toothpaste and brushes, hand soap, body soap, laundry detergent, dish detergent, band aids, toilet paper. Thank you.



SPIRITRUST LUTHERAN CHAMBERSBURG AUXILIARY You may make a contribution to the programs the auxiliary supports at Luther Ridge for 2020. Please send your donation to Marjorie Dale, Auxiliary President, 235 Woodvale Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201 or Mary Jane Lindsey, Auxiliary Treasurer, 273 Cherry Lane Dr., Chambersburg, PA 17202. Any questions please call Marjorie at 717-860-7544.



ADVENT

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29. “Open the door” to the season with your own **Advent Calendar**. We will be placing them in Memorial Hall on November 15.

The Advent Wreath will be lit at worship each Sunday leading up to Christmas. If you do not have a wreath – feel free to take 4 candles – dinner candles, votive candles, electric candles, whatever you have and place them in a circle, lighting one each week. In our congregation we traditionally use blue candles as that is the color of hope.

Advent Bible Study via Zoom will take place on Monday, November 30, December 7, 14, and 21 at 1:00 p.m. Please pick up a book in Memorial Hall. The information to participate via zoom is attached to the book. If you are not interested in the zoom format, you may pick up a book for independent study.

Gift Collection for Prison Ministry We have received word that the jail ministry will NOT be collecting gifts for the children this year. Although the volunteer opportunities are on hold at the jail, the work of the Chaplain continues daily. Checks may be sent to: Franklin County Jail Ministry; c/o Ramona Torres; P.O. Box 102 Scotland, PA, 17254

First Lutheran’s Christmas Project this year is to support the children in our community who are learning remotely. The YMCA has a program to assist those without wifi in their learning endeavors. They are also serving breakfast and lunch to the children. The expense to support one child is approximately \$100 per week. Look for contribution envelopes in the December newsletter and Memorial Hall beginning November 29.



CHRISTMAS

Emmanuel, God with Us

Because of Covid 19, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship will be online only this year. We wanted to let you know as your family makes plans for worship.



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Pastor
Pastoral Assistant
Director of Church Music
Director of Technology & Faith Formation
Parish Administrator
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Custodian

The Rev. Jane Nicholson
The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer
Freda J. Dorand, Deacon
Theo Camara
Cheryl Christman
Sally Herritt
Carol McCoy
Jim Forbes

Church Office Hours – Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We welcome visitors this morning.

Please pick up a **visitor's packet**. They are located at the top of the steps at the rear of the church or on the table at the elevator entrance.

Our Mission

The mission of First Lutheran Church is to be the light of Jesus, burning brightly and vigorously in our community.

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.
also on facebook at FirstEvangelicalLutheranChurch
and on our webpage at www.FELCC.org

ALL are invited to hear and receive God's blessing in Jesus, and to worship with us.