

St. Mark 7:6b

“This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 22, 2021

Prelude

Amazing Grace

by John Newton

Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer

by John Hughes

*The Processional Hymn

The Church's One Foundation

(ELW) No. 654

*The Confession and Forgiveness

(ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting

(ELW) page 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*The Kyrie (*sung response*)

(ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Care for Your Church, O Lord, with perpetual mercy. Since we totter and are sure to fall without Your grace, remove what will harm us and arrange what will make us whole. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 29:11-19

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 14

¹The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." All are corrupt and commit abominable acts; there is none who does any good.

²The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all, to see if there is any who is wise, if there is one who seeks after God.

³Everyone has proved faithless; all alike have turned bad; there is none who does good; no, not one.

⁴Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers who eat up My people like bread and do not call upon the Lord?

⁵See how they tremble with fear, because God is in the company of the righteous.

⁶Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, but the Lord is their refuge.

⁷Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! when the Lord restores the fortunes of His people, Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:22-33

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

* The Gospel

Mark 7:1-13

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Seminarian, Justin Baker

*The Hymn of the Day

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

(ELW) No. 517

*The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

Help Me Lord

arr. Jerry Galipeau

*The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(ELW) No. 188

*The Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Announcements

*The Benediction (*sung response*)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

(ELW) No. 632

*FLC Sending Hymn

Be The Love of Christ

arr. Michael Showalter

Roger Thornhill

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

All Things Bright and Beautiful

arr. Martin Shaw



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

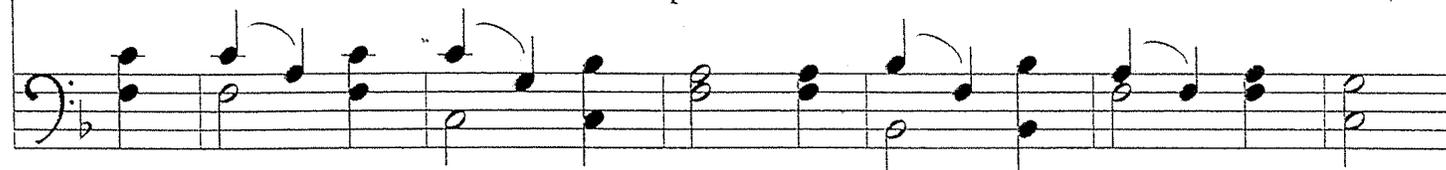


with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

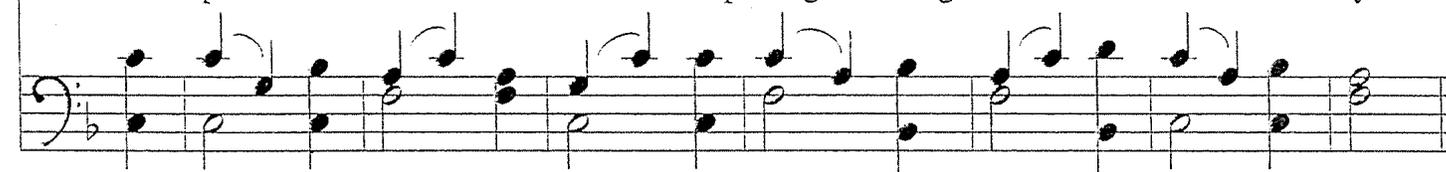




1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers:
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares,
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.



Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

517

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, corresponding to three different vocal parts. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is primarily composed of chords and dyads, with some eighth-note movement in the treble staff. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right".

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your".

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -".

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

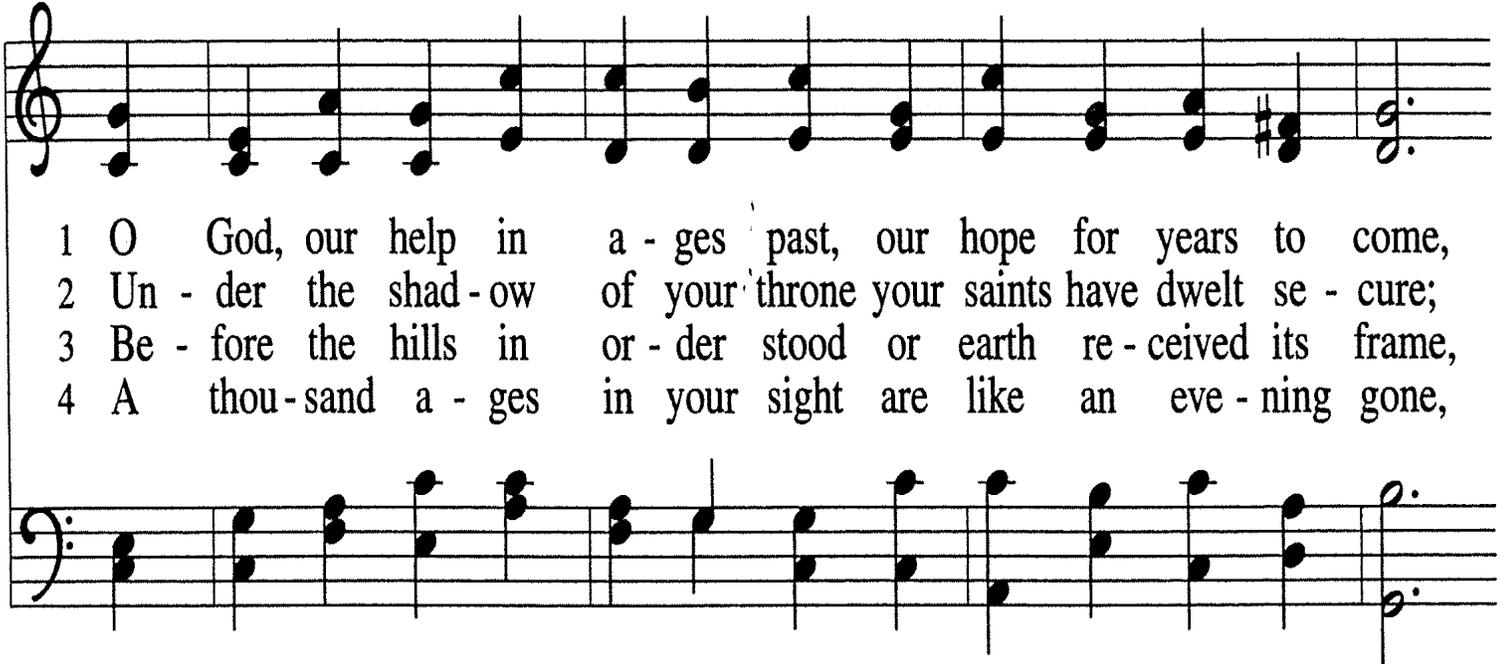
The fourth system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,".

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

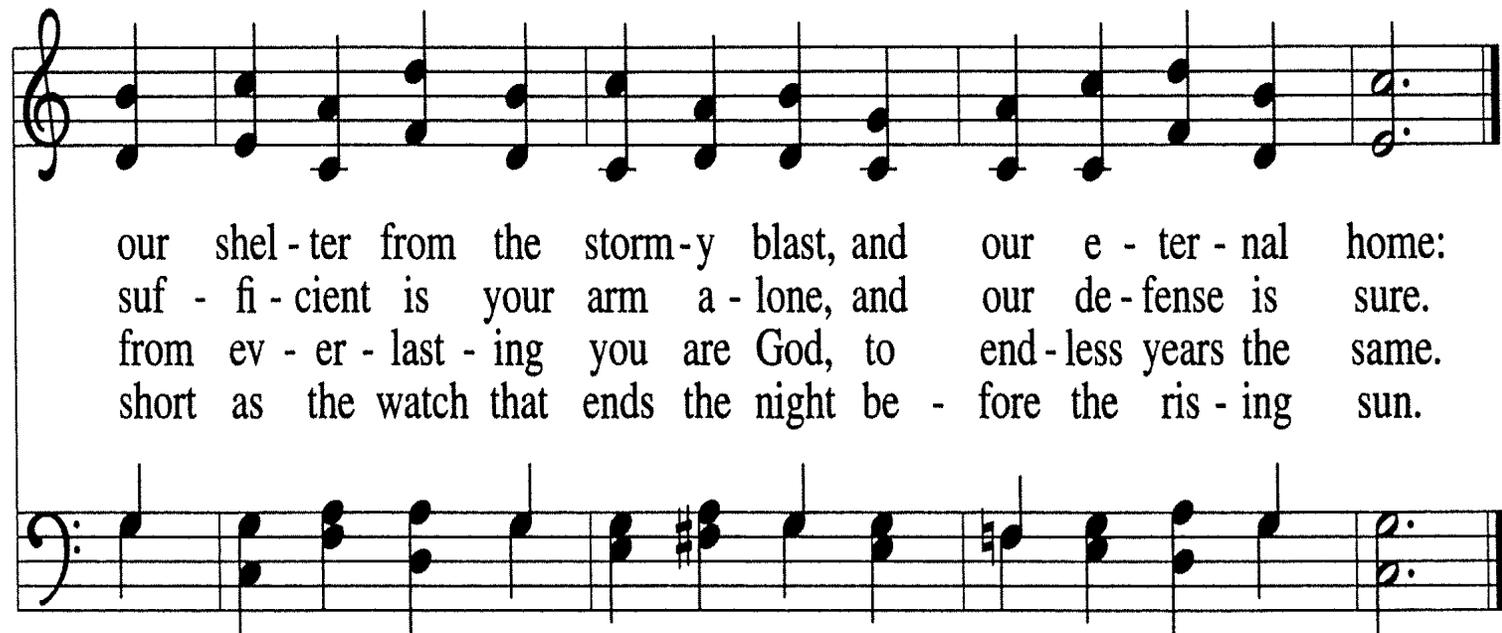
The fifth system concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.".

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

632



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

First Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

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revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Organist and Music Director: Kristina Schuerle

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God and in memory of Leo and Tillie Shawin's wedding anniversary by Cindy Linville. Leo and Tillie were married at First Lutheran Church by Rev. Ernest on August 21, 1949. A donation is made to the roof fund.

The Lay Reader is Nella Matthews.

Acolytes are Nathaniel and Wesley Black.

Counters/Greeters today are J. Black and L. Sten.

Welcome to our Visitors! The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church? Please contact Pastor Grewe.

Nursery: We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs for infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

Bell Choir Practice on Sunday from 1-2 & Thursday from 7-8 PM.

The Flower Chart for 2021 is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2021. Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2021. Please sign up.

Please remember to continue contributing donations to our girls in Ethiopia.
Please consider this as a call to help others in need.

Please pray for those in need of healing:

Betty Johnson, Janet Burke, Maureen Curry, Eveline Reihner, Rocky and Carol, Shari Kienzle, Joanne Reck, Chiquita, Patricia Zablony, Stacy Carroll, Byron Christian, Tillie Shawin, Billie Sue Serbak, Susan Westott, Fred Dupas, baby Isaac Christian, Sandy Hebrank, Lynn Hudak, Allan Zimmerman, the Pollana family, Ashley McCartney, Amy Verderber, Sylvia Sunstrum, Kevin Ryan, Bob Cable, baby Ryan David Mayer, Danielle Pinkerton, Dan, Fritz Group, Amy, Lucy & Dave Mehaffey, Stephanie Kennedy, Jessi, Bill Hisiro, Richard, Ruby Rogers, Becky, Mel & Klaus Behrens, Jim Lacko, Joanne Reck, and Joyce Streater.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

Church Offering Change: In order to keep everyone safe we have changed how we collect the Sunday Offering. We do not have our ushers pass the plates around. Instead, we have one offering plate located by the last pew and one by the choir loft. Please place your offering in one of those plates. Feel free to place your offering in the plates during our Offertory if you did not do so on the way in.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

August 22, 2021 — Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

“...but their heart is far from me...” (Mark 7:6)

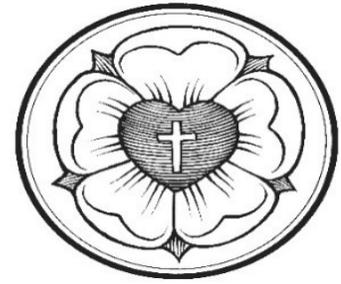
Once again, Jesus’ critics are seeking to trip him up in order to discredit him. The Pharisees try to get Jesus into a debate about purity laws. They accuse the followers of Jesus of not properly washing their hands. Their concern is not hygiene or germs but rather with a ritual obedience to the law. These religious leaders are nitpickers about following every jot and tittle of the law. Jesus’ critics are making a very serious charge about his followers being lazy in their hand washing. Instead of dismissing them, Jesus intensifies the demands of the law by saying we should not get hung up on outward obedience but ought to be concerned with the inward heart.

Jesus quotes Isaiah, who criticizes those who honor God by saying all the right things and then fail to honor God with their hearts. Jesus warns them not to get obsessed on the “external” and then immediately ignore the “internal.”

Maybe you go to church because you want to go somewhere God can get to you and work on your heart. You may be in a situation you can’t change and realize you have a better chance of changing yourself than of changing others. You may be unable to change your world, but with God anything is possible, so maybe your heart can change. The problem may not be the situation the world is in but rather the situation our heart is in.

We can listen to Jesus. You may go to church hoping for a few uplifting ideas, or to hear about Christian beliefs and practices. But Jesus turns it all back on us, forcing us to look inside, to examine ourselves, to self-reflect and take an inventory of our heart. You listen to Jesus, who warns us about taking care of the externals of the faith and overlooking the internals. We are here looking toward Jesus, and like a mirror, he turns our gaze back on ourselves.

Jesus does not condemn our outward acts of piety and religious practice like going to church, listening to sermons, serving and helping our neighbor. And yet he says to us today, “That’s not good enough. Look inside yourself. Allow me to work in your life to bring you closer to me and my will for your life. Let me combine the internal with the external, and make your heart right.” Amen



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Au-

Dear First Lutheran Church Congregation,

I felt it necessary to send out a mid-month Newsletter this month to inform you of some things that are happening with our church.

First, our Guardian Angel George Salvucci has been keeping up with maintenance and inspections of our boiler, and there is bad news. Our steam boiler had a leak and McKean came in and tore it down to inspect the leak and damage. We have very bad corrosion in our heating units. There are 12 of them. Each section weighs approximately 350 pounds, and costs approximately \$900 each. There are also large sections of piping that must be replaced due to corrosion. They are putting together a repair bid. Not only is each section expensive, but the labor will also be expensive. This is not the same boiler that we had fixed about 7 years ago.

From what George has told me, this is going to be a very expensive repair. George is talking to them about other options, but at this time, he doesn't think it is possible. We must have this repaired to have heat in certain areas of the church. Once we have a bid, Church Council will meet and discuss what the best course of action will be.

We also have water still leaking down the wall of the balcony. Nicolella needs to do additional work with metal sheeting and extend it over the coping stones to stop the water getting into the walls. This will also be costly, but critical. If this isn't fixed, all the work done on the balcony wall will fall apart and we will be back where we started. That work was covered by insurance. If we fail to fix the leaks, further damage will not be covered by insurance.

We also need something done under the outside air conditioner units in the parapet in the front of the church to stop the eroding of the arch in of the front entrance. These are 2 of the things we need to get fixed first.

We still have \$20,863.00 left on our loan for the Sunday School Wing roof. We have made considerable progress in paying off this loan. I had hoped that we would not have any big repairs until we had this paid, but it is not looking that way. Somehow you, our wonderful congregation, have always pulled together in our time of need. I'm sure we can do it again.

George is working very hard trying to maintain our beautiful church, outside and in, and keep Council informed. This is not a one-man job. I am asking you to prayerfully consider if you are being called to help at the church. Please let George and Council know that you will assist George in making sure that our church maintenance is up to date.

There are other things that we need to fix, but the above are the most critical at this time. However, those that I have not mentioned are still very important. Please remember to send in your monthly donations. We need them more than ever now to pay our regular monthly expenses, our current roof loan, upcoming boiler repair and water still coming in the balcony wall.

Blessings,

Jennifer Black, FLC Council President

