

“Therefore render to Caesar the things that
are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are
God’s”

St. Matthew 22:21b



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 22, 2023

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Praise to the Lord, The Almighty* (ELW) No. 858

*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.

*The Hymn of Praise *Blessed Assurance* (ELW) NO. 638

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O God, our refuge and strength, since You Yourself are the author of our devotion, graciously consider the devout prayers of Your Church. May those things which we ask in faith effectively follow by Your grace; 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 45:1-7

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

²Sing to the LORD and bless His Name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

³Declare His glory among the nations and His wonders among all peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; He is more to be feared than all gods.

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence of His presence! Oh, the power and the splendor of His sanctuary!

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due His name; bring offerings and come into His courts.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before Him.

[¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when He comes, when He comes to judge the earth.

¹³He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with His truth.]

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Grewe

(children leave for Sunday School)

*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

Matthew 22:15-22

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

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

*The Hymn of the Day

Now Thank We All Our God

(ELW) No. 839

*The Apostle's 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

*The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(SBH) No. 27

*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

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

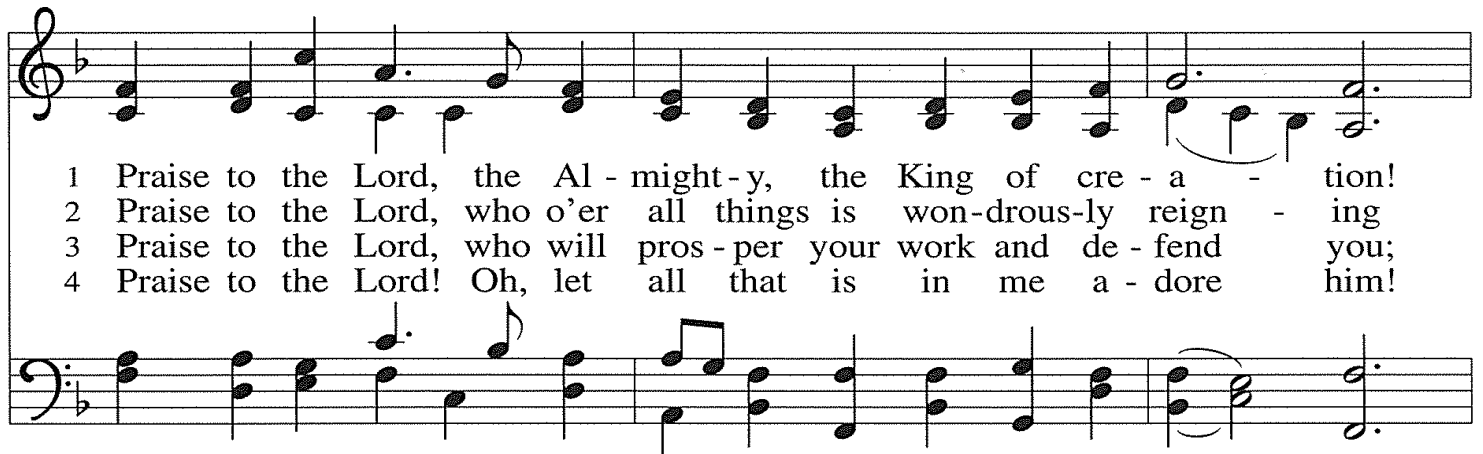
(ELW) No. 547

*The Dismissal (*response*)

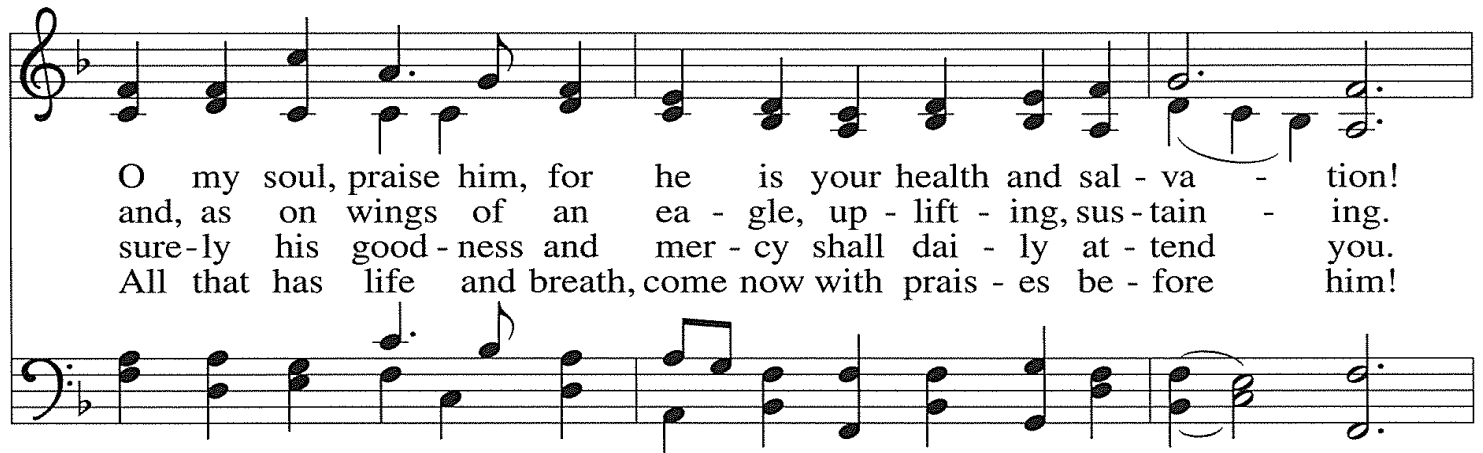
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

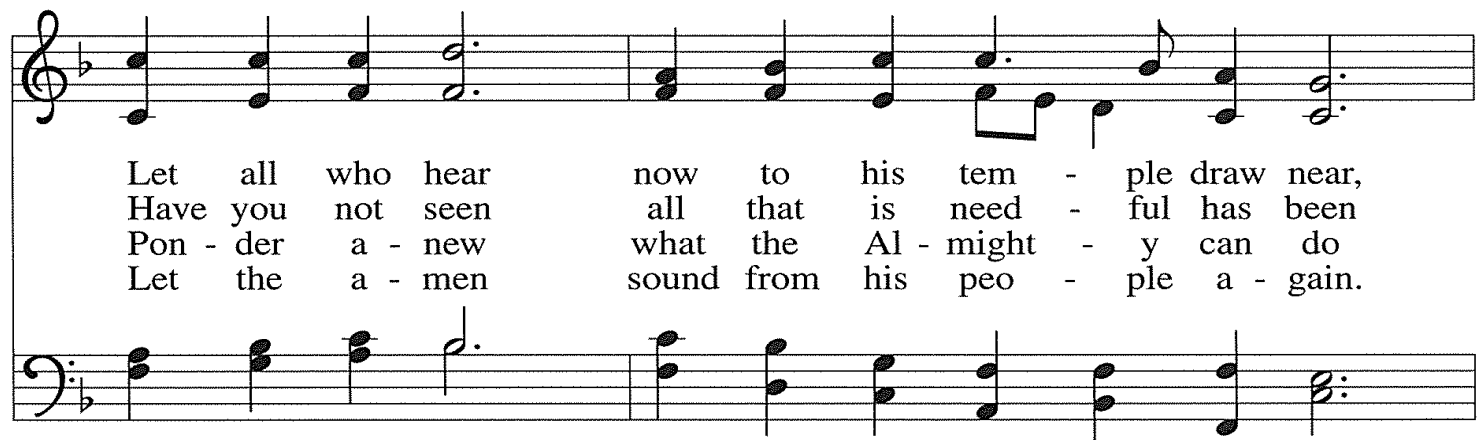
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



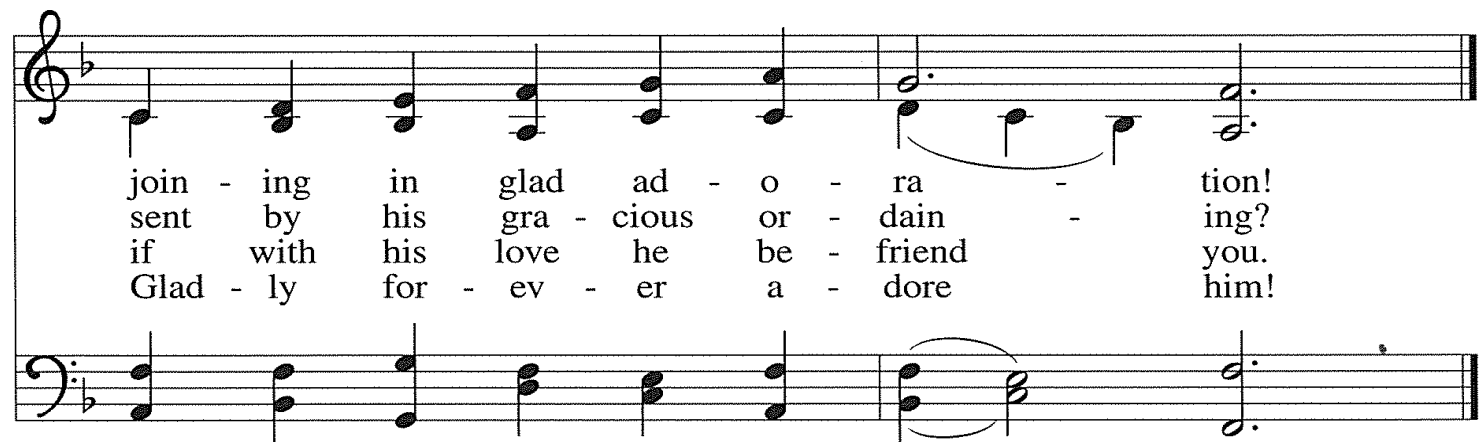
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!



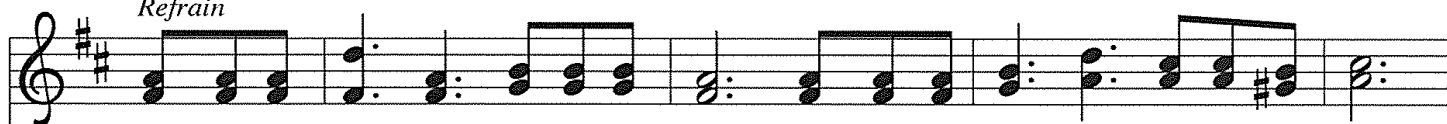
- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



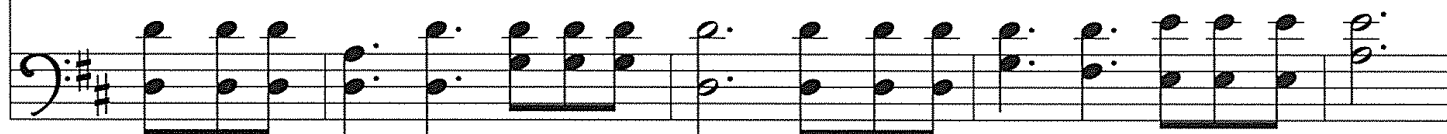
Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.



Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



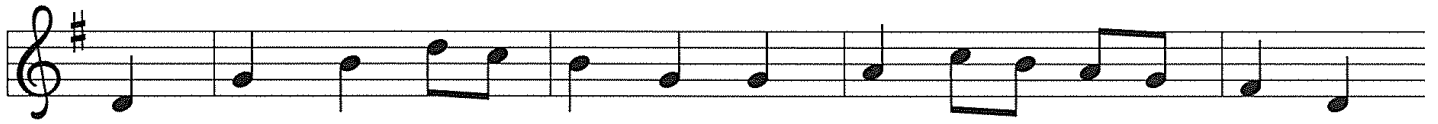
who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



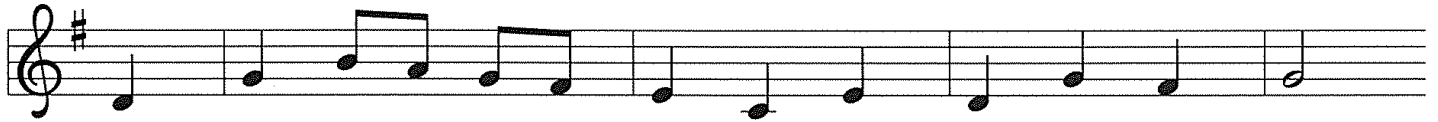
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

SBH 27

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



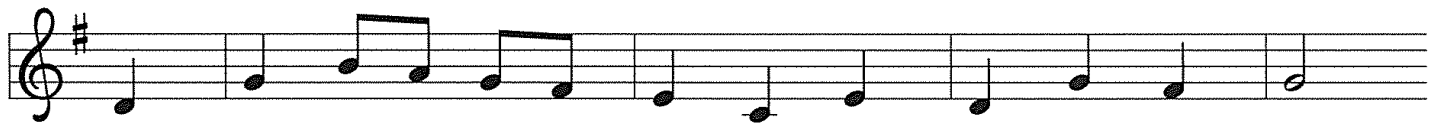
1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



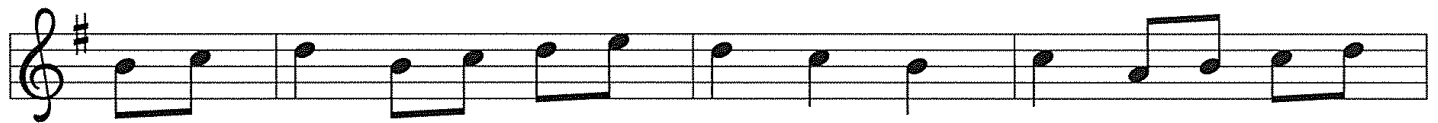
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

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

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for life's blessings and in honor of Pastor Grewe during Pastor Appreciation Month. A donation was made to the roof fund by Kim Luketich.

The Lay Reader is Heather Quedenfeld.

Acolytes are

Counters/Greeters today are C. Group and V. Group.

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 of 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.

The Flower Chart for 2023 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 2023. 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 2023. 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:

Janet Burke, Shari Kienzle, Susan Westcott, baby Isaac Christian, Pollana family, Sylvia Sunstrum, Fritz Group, Eric Group, Danielle Sherman, Amy Verderber, Tillie and Larry, Lou Mayne, Judy, Debbie, Sayward, Jim H., Barbara Mounts, Chiquita Pearson, Tim and Sharon, Judy Coble, Gary Conti, Linnese, Karen and John, Neil Bassi, Phyllis Daniels, Simon Thorp, Josh, Kimberly Grewe, Anneliese Christian, Becky Wood, Apollos Yocca, Alex Houck, Bridgette, Rhonda Hendrickson, Ron Erdmann, Belinda, Wilda Durbin, Stacy Carroll, Emerson Dietrich, Ernest Oliver, Leann Vitteck, Young family, and Isabella & family.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank everyone for Oktoberfest.

Thank the Sunday School Teachers.

Newsletter Articles due Monday.

Next Sunday is Reformation Sunday with Holy Communion.

Movie & a meal next Sunday as well.

Please hand in names for the All Saints Sunday Service to Kathleen/Pastor Rob.

Adult Catechism class is on Tuesday at 11 and 7 pm. We are discussing the book we read over the summer. All are welcome. We look forward to you joining us in our discussion.

Adult Sunday School is held before our Church Service starting at 9:45 am in the church library. Come join us.

Confirmation Class is Monday from 6-8 pm.

Bell Choir rehearsal is Monday at 7 pm. We would love for you to join us. Please see Kris Briggs if you are interested, kkbrgs1@gmail.com. All are welcome.

Our **Dartball team** is looking for more members. Practices are Tuesdays at 7 pm. No experience is needed. Come join us for fun and fellowship. We hope to see you soon. Please contact the church office for information.

Chess Club meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. All are welcome from beginners to experienced. We hope that you will join us for fellowship and fun. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

Sarris Candy order forms are now available. You can pick up an order form in the church office. You can also place your order on-line using our Group ID # 10-3189. If you choose to place your order on-line, your order will be shipped directly to you. Orders are due by Sunday, November 19, 2023. If you turn in your order form, candy will be delivered on Sunday, December 10, 2023. Here is your chance to satisfy your sweet tooth and help with our Roof and Window Repair! Make checks payable to First Lutheran Church and turn in all of your fundraiser money separately. If you have any questions, please see Vicki Group. Thank you for your continued support.

Calling all Toffee Lovers! We have your chance to satisfy your sweet tooth with our Toffee House Fundraiser. Proceeds go to Roof and Window repair. Orders are due by November 5, 2023 and will be delivered on Sunday, November 19th. Make checks payable to First Lutheran Church. Please do not combine this payment with other fundraiser payments. Forms can be picked up in the church office. If you have any questions, please see Vicki Group.

Our Annual Wreath Sale is in full swing. Orders are due by November 5, 2023 and decorations will be available for pick up on November 25, 2023. Checks payable to First Lutheran Church. Please do not combine the fundraiser payments. If you have any questions, please see Vicki Group.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost—October 22, 2023

“Then [Jesus] said to them, ‘Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’” - Matthew 22:21 -

The Pharisees and Herodians approach Jesus with a question to try to trap him: “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” (vv.16-17). They begin with flattery as though they’re trying to butter up Jesus. They’d hoped that Jesus would be impressed, but he sees right through their false praise.

This question puts Jesus in a conundrum. If Jesus says that taxes should indeed be paid, then they could accuse him of denying God’s sovereignty over Israel. This would cause friction with the Jewish people. On the other hand, if Jesus says that should not be paid, then he’s going to have problems with Rome. So what to do?

Jesus’ response is wise and shows that he is in control. He saw through the Pharisees’ and Herodian’s hypocrisy, and he scolded them for it. Jesus doesn’t shy away from the fact that the government makes requests of us that are both reasonable and legitimate. Martin Luther viewed civil government as God’s instrument to maintain peace and order in the world. We are responsible to God, but we must also obey government in civil matters.

The coin had Caesar’s image on it. It belonged to Caesar. So, what about God? What do we give to God? What bears God’s image? Friends, we do. We have the image of God imprinted upon us. We belong to God, not to Caesar or any other government official. In fact, we don’t even belong to ourselves!

We are created in the image of our God, and we belong to him. So then, what do we render to God? What do we give to the Almighty, our Creator? We are called to give of ourselves, our time, and our possessions. These are signs of God’s gracious love and what he has first given to us. We are called to give to God because we bear God’s image. Are we shining God’s image into the lives of others and in our interactions with others?

May God guide us and direct us to be all that he created us to be: sons and daughters in his image.