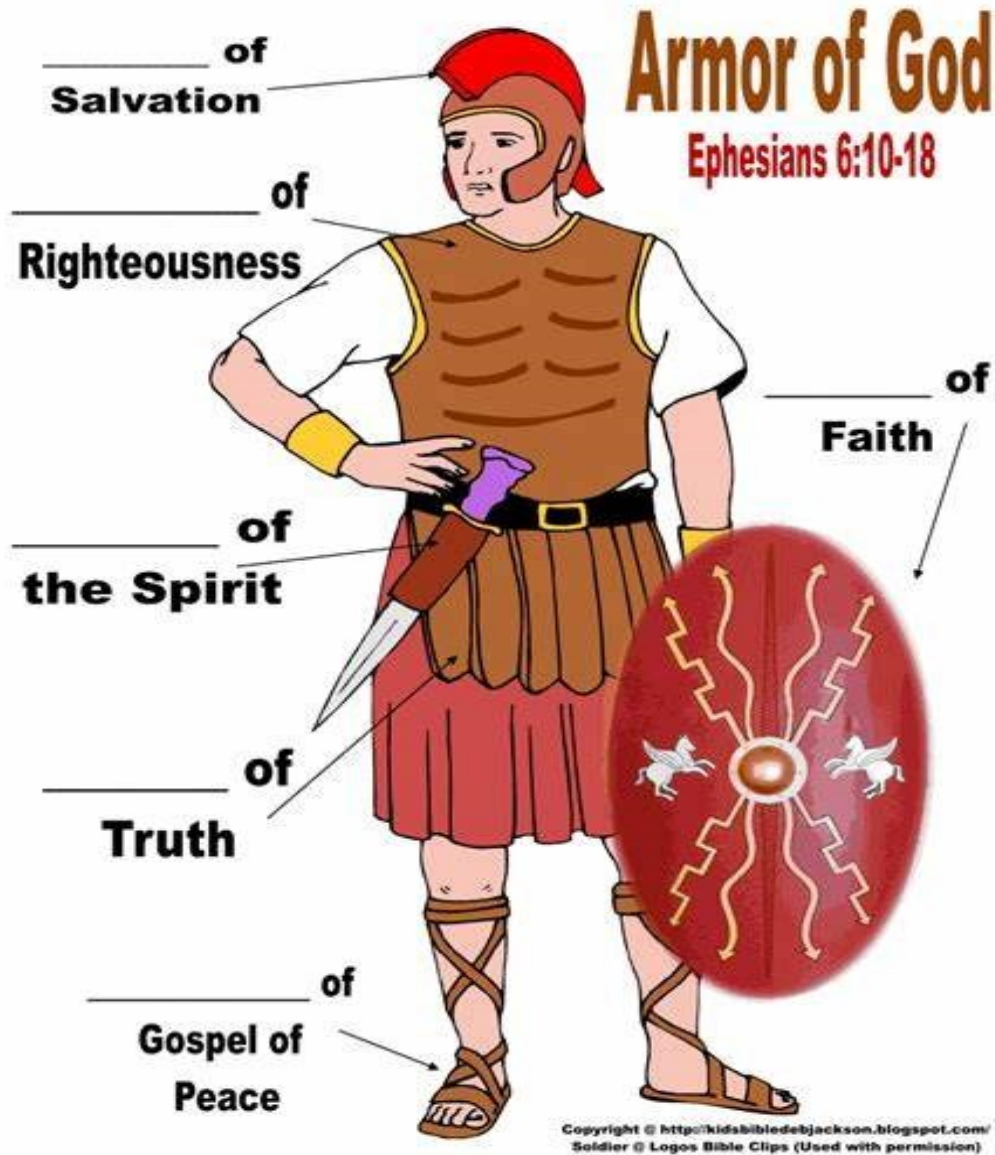


Ephesians 6:11

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 1, 2024

Holy Communion 11:00 am

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Great is Thy Faithfulness* (ELW) No. 733

*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 *This is the Feast* (ELW) page 140

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O Lord, mercifully continue to purify and defend Your Church. Since she cannot stand firmly without Your power, govern her always 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

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

¹³⁰**The unfolding of Your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant, because I long for Your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is Your way with those who love Your name.**

¹³³Keep steady my steps according to Your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep Your precepts.**

¹³⁵Make Your face shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep Your law.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 6:10-20

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

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

* The Gospel

Mark 7:14-23

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

God's Word is Our Heritage

(ELW) No. 509

*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

*The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(SBH) No. 27

*The Great Thanksgiving

(ELW) page 144

*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.

Lamb of God

(ELW) page 146

The Distribution

Communion Hymn

We Place Upon Your Table Lord

(ELW) No. 467

Prayer/Blessing

Announcements

*The Benediction (*sung response*)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

(ELW) No. 623

*The Dismissal (*response*)

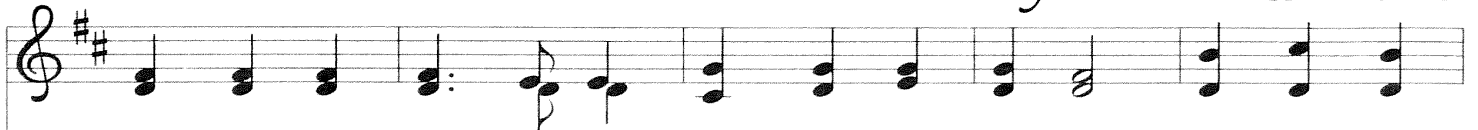
C: Thanks be to God.

*Sending Hymn

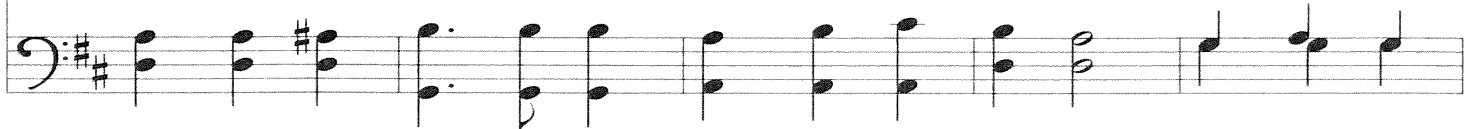
Be the Love of Christ

Postlude

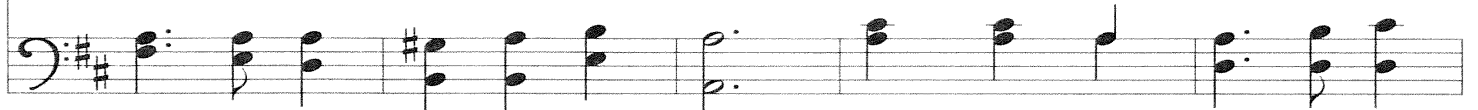
Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



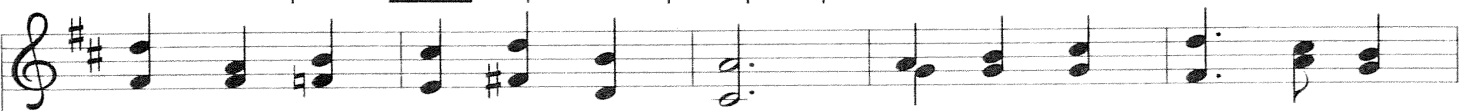
shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



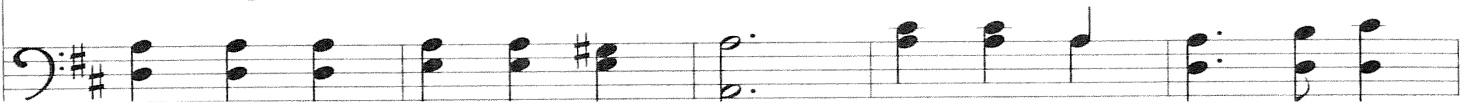
pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.



Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

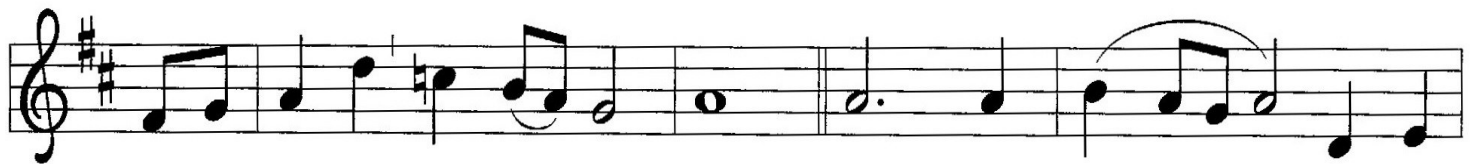


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage



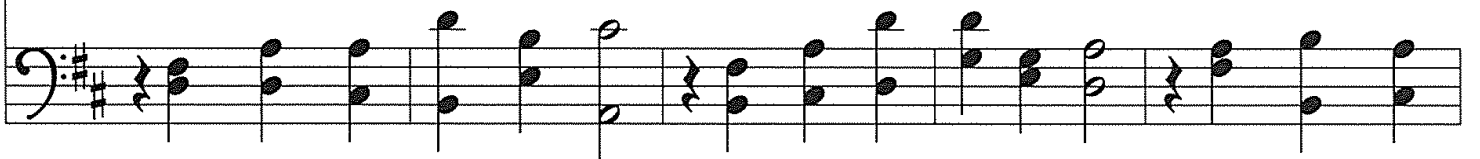
God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;



to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.



Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while



time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.



The Communion

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

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in a B-flat major key signature. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

The fourth system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

The fifth system concludes the piece with a final cadence. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

We Place upon Your Table, Lord

467

The musical score is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in three numbered parts, with the first part having three verses. The music features a steady, hymn-like melody with a simple harmonic accompaniment.

1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, where you by
2 With - in these sim - ple things there lie the height and
3 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them

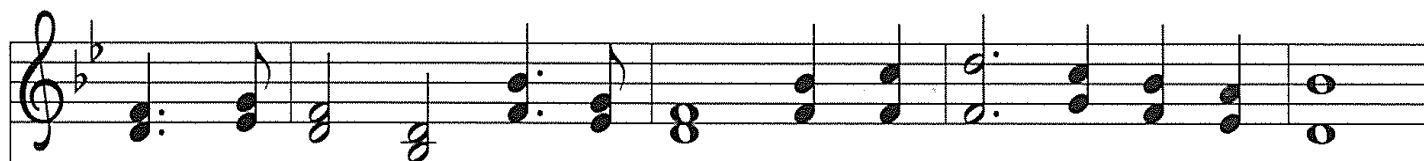
grace have bid us dine, these to - kens of our dai - ly
depth of hu - man life: our pain and tears, our thoughts and
hum - bly from your hand; put these your gifts to high - er

work, the food of life, the bread and wine.
toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.
use: the hu - ly meal that you com - mand.

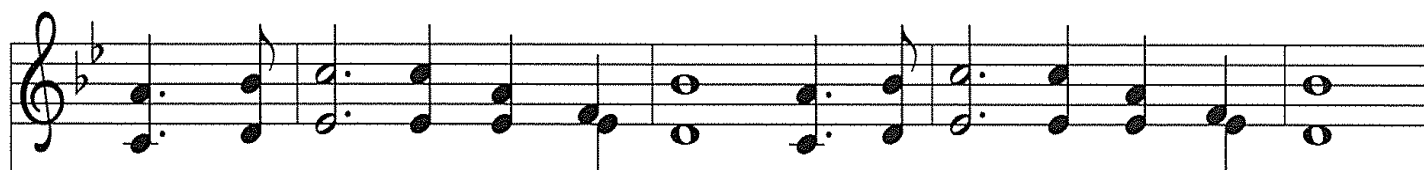
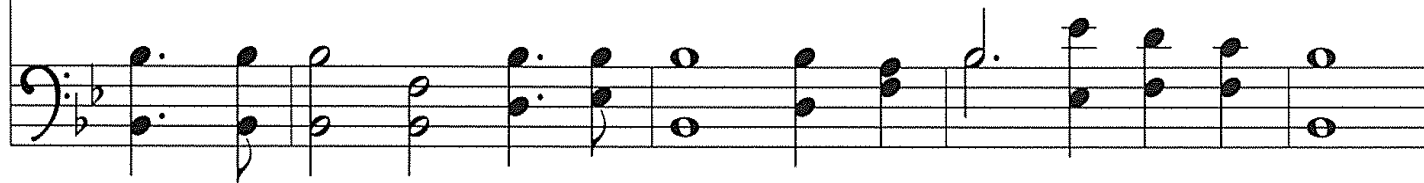
Text: M. F. C. Wilson, 1884-1944, alt.
Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

DISTRESS
135

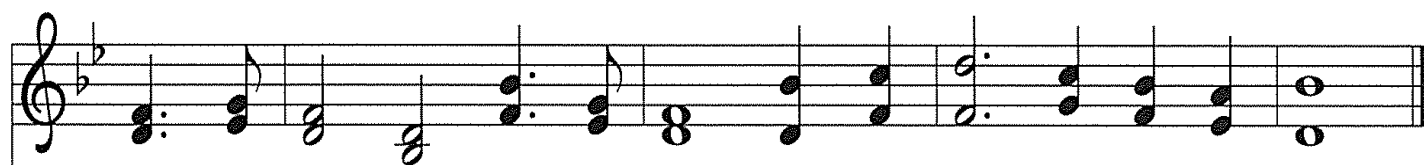
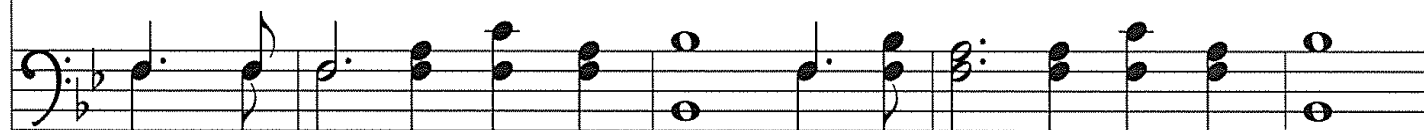
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.



First Lutheran Church

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: secretary@flcwash.church

Online services posted weekly on website: www.flcwash.church

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God.

The Lay Reader is Denny Lacko.

Acolytes are

Counters/Greeters today are S. Rea & D. Schmidt.

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.

The Flower Chart for 2024 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 2024. 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 2024. 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:

Shari Kienzle, Susan Westcott, baby Isaac Christian, the Pollana family, Sylvia Sunstrum, Fritz Group, Eric Group, Danielle Sherman, Lou Mayne, Judy, Debbie, Sayward, Jim H., Barbara Mounts, Chiquita Pearson, Tim and Sharon, Judy Coble, Linnese, Karen and John, Neil Bassi, Phyllis Daniels, Simon Thorp, Josh, Becky Wood, Apollos Yocca, Alex Houck, Bridgette, Rhonda Hendrickson, Ron Erdmann, Belinda, Wilda Durbin, Stacy Carroll, Leann Vitteck, Isabella & family, James, Lori Mauer, Mark Black, Kenny & Josh Carl, John Moore, Sean Shearer, Ed Dupas, Sandy Salerno, Gavazzi family, Janelle Henderson, Rex Gibson, Holly Davis, Pat Dupas, Gwen Roberts, Judy Dombrowsky, Firefighter Zach Correll, Bonnie Bird, Judi, Lenny, Sandy, Lawrence Downing, Carol Cancelmi, Firefighter Adam Wright, Noah Walker, Amy Verderber, Dan & Lisa Heynes, Amanda Laib, Sandra Hebrank, Sonie Rea, George Salvucci, Jennifer Sasek, Larry Zimmerman, Jean Shearer-Lucas, Joann Schulz, and Elizabeth

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.

Bell Choir rehearsal is Monday at 6:30 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 Dennis Schmidt 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.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 1, 2024

“Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit ...”

-Ephesians 6:16-18a

Testimony and Transformation

Julius Caesar first declared that January 1 be celebrated as New Year's Day in the year 46 B.C. However, in my house—even though Julius and I share a birthday—“new year” always begins in September. It's illogical, what with leaves turning and sunlight shortening, but culture-wide we spend a lot of autumn energy pressing the reset button: back to school, election day, and the annual full-court press into the holidays.

For Christians, all these new beginnings can be the season for good intentions, especially for public witness to our faith. “This year,” we say, “we want our light to shine so that others see Jesus in us.” The courageous among us may even think boldly, “We want our words to sound so that others hear God's word through us.” Would that it were so.

Sadly, too many times we position ourselves and open our mouths, and all the world sees and hears is what's inside us: self-righteousness, arrogance, and condescension. Our attempts to speak and act for God — at school, in the voting booth, and even in our holiday celebrations — are sounding brass and tinkling cymbals, absolutely at odds with God's word.

Will we ever get it right? No, not this side of our resurrection. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't keep beginning again. Praying at all times in the Spirit and meditating on the written and incarnate Word of God shape us from the inside out, as God's word enlightens our way and informs our understanding. Jesus tells us that it is not so much the darkness outside that we should fear, for against that we have the shield of faith. Instead, we should be wary of the darkness within, lest we further defile ourselves and dishonor our Lord in public witness.

The psalmist said, “Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them” (Psalm 119:129) — not perfectly, but in the strength of God's might. We stand firm not in our righteousness but in the Lord's alone. God is glorified when his word becomes our word and people see his character in us.