



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Brenda Wicklund
November 14, 2021,
25th Sunday after Pentecost

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”

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November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ’s coming again. It is fitting, then, that the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised forgiveness. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.

Prelude

Pat Anderson

Welcome to Worship this morning. We will be sharing Holy Communion. Holy Communion will be given two ways, you can either come up front and receive from Pastor or you can pick up the convenient cup/wafer before the service and receive at your seat.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection*

L: Have mercy on us, O God.

C: We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.

L: God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for ✠ Jesus’ sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God.

C: Amen.

Hymn “Built on a Rock”

Red Worship Book 652

- 1** Built on a rock the church shall stand, even when steeples are falling; crumbled have spires in ev’ry land, bells still are chiming and calling—calling the young and old to rest, calling the souls of those distressed, longing for life everlasting.
- 2** Surely, in temples made with hands God the Most High is not dwelling—high in the heav’ns his temple stands, all earthly temples excelling. Yet God who dwells in heav’n above deigns to abide with us in love, making our bodies his temple.
- 3** Christ builds a house of living stones: we are his own habitation; he fills our hearts, his humble thrones, granting us life and salvation. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their midst will show his grace, blessings upon them bestowing.

Greeting

Red Worship Book pg. 147

L: 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.

Kyrie

Red Worship Book pg. 147-148

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

Canticle of Praise

Red Worship Book pg. 149-150

L: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

Alleluia

Prayer of the Day

C: Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The book of Daniel is an example of apocalyptic literature, which is full of strange visions and symbolism. Arising during times of great persecution, apocalyptic literature is concerned with God's revelation about the end time and the coming kingdom of God, when God will vindicate the righteous who have been persecuted.

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

¹“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

Images of worship and sacrifice are used throughout Hebrews to highlight what Christ has uniquely accomplished through his death. Because we have received forgiveness through Christ's death, we live with sincere hearts by trusting in God's promises and encouraging love and good works from each other.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25

¹¹Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right

hand of God,”¹³ and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.”

¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

¹⁶“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,”

¹⁷he also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.]

¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh),²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us approach 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.²³ Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.²⁴ And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Gospel Acclamation

Red Worship Book pg. 151

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

C: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

In the last week of his life, Jesus warned his disciples concerning trials that were to come upon them and upon the world. He exhorts the listener: Do not be alarmed.

Gospel: Mark 13:1-8

¹As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!”² Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately,⁴ “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?”⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray.⁶ Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray.⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come.⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

The Gospel of Our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

Children’s Sermon

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Sermon

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Grace mercy and peace to you from God our Father and Lord and Savior, Jesus our Christ, Amen.

This week I resorted to talking about the Three Little Pigs in my Wednesday evening service. I know, right? Mostly because the pigs were scared, but they survived because one built a strong house of bricks. He had a strong foundation and used his fire and brimstone to withstand the big, bad, wolf.

This week is our last reading in Mark for three years finds Jesus with his disciples, wondering and in awe of the great temple and all its stone and beauty. Jesus tells them that these great buildings here, not one stone left; all of them will be thrown down. The disciples were looking up in awe, and all thrown down. Which is scary, fearful, and hard to hear.

Later when four of the disciples were with Jesus at the Mount of Olives, peaceful, quiet, alone time, they asked when this will happen and what will be the signs? Jesus tells them many will come in my name, saying

they are the one, and there will be wars, nation against nation, floods and famines, earthquakes and pandemics. This is just the beginning. There are many signs, and most of the time they are all around us. Are you getting why I spoke about the three pigs? Where is the Good News?

Maybe they quit looking up and looked at and to Jesus. Maybe we need to do the same. Where is Jesus? Is all doom and gloom? We need not look too far to find chaos, and even more chaos as we hear of news and heartaches, and experience them. It is easy to make our lists of turmoil and hopelessness. Look around at the actions of each of us in Christ. Look for the hope we share as we gather as a confessing church of Jesus Christ.

Yet, we have a secret. Well it is not a secret, yet sometimes we keep it that way. This last week the Women's Bible study talked about being a "slave to righteousness" instead of a slave to sin (Romans 6) and we agreed that this was a better way to go forward. Jesus takes care of this. Faith and Action did their yearly "Operation Christmas Child" rejoicing as they worked and gave to the mission of Christ. So proud of each of their boxes. We blessed them and prayed over them. One of our young women from the church, Kenna Johnson, went to a leadership training with young adults around the United States to bring the Good News closer to her, and then will be for others. Learning the story of Christ, and giving. In confirmation, my classes studied Matthew, and then looked at Mark to see the difference in the Gospels. The kids come, with their worries and concerns, doubts and sorrows, and mostly questions, then to bring them to share in fellowship and then hope at the table of Holy Communion. The young adults stayed for a Bible study for those that are going to the National Youth Gathering next summer. Already growing in their faith before they go. Many people are working on boards and committees that are uplifting and catching up with many items that need attendance at the church. This building, this house of God is spreading hope, the best kind of spreading that can happen. People are sharing their time and monies to spread the Good News. People care about the young and the old, and the in-between. Oh, and the prayer chain has been busy lifting each other up in sickness and surgeries. The stories and meaningful acts of faith are all around us. Might we make a news media post for hope and joy at First Lutheran?

That brings me to our meeting with the men's group on Thursday. Where I looked at these texts found nothing yet to preach on, they found these gems of hope. I was sharing some things that had been going on with our kids. One question was what are the kid's struggles? I would add what are yours. We looked once again at the book of Hebrews through the lens of hope and to who promises to carry us.

¹² But when Christ[a] had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," ¹³ and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. ¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, ¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,"¹⁷ he also adds, "I will remember[b] their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

God promises. He will take care of us. Our sins are forgiven, once and done, and we look to the Savior, Jesus Christ who says, "I have got you, follow my example, big things and big buildings will not get you anywhere, no issue will get in the way for any of us if we keep our faith in the one who promises." Maybe look down to the sign, right near me, right in the messiness, especially here at the church.

I would like to thank each one of you for keeping the faith, for walking in Christ, for looking for the signs that pull us together and give everyone hope. For showing everyone and experiencing the all-powerful God, who is in charge and whom to look, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

²³ Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10: 23-25 Amen.

Hymn "My Lord, What a Morning"

Red Worship Book 438

Refrain: My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning; oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

- 1** You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
- 2** You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
- 3** You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

Offering Prayer –You may leave your offering as you exit the church, table with offering plates are there.

L: Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

L: Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

A brief silence.

L; God our creator, you show us the path of life. Bless faithful people everywhere with humility as they extend compassion to those who have experienced harm in religious spaces. Cultivate healthy congregations that tell of and enact your reconciling love. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our constant, you love our universe from beginning to end. As the seasons change, protect animals that migrate and hibernate. Bring them safely to a sheltered place and a more abundant season. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our ruler, you write your law on human minds and hearts. Give wisdom to all elected leaders and officials to govern with insight and compassion. Make them mindful of the well-being of all people so that your world will flourish. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our stronghold, you are present amid disaster. We pray for those affected by natural disasters. Come to the aid of all survivors of earthquakes, famines, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, and the first responders who support them. Calm their fear, supply their need, and be the solid ground beneath their feet. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our guide, you are greater than we can imagine. Surround congregations with your expansive inclusion. Be present in the midst of disagreements, differences, and questions. Unite people of diverse viewpoints in the love of Christ. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our beginning and our end, your beloved people shine like the brightness of the sky. We thank you for the lives of all who rest in your eternal mercy, from famous saints to the people we have loved. Assure us of your resurrection promise. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Red Worship Book pg. 152

L; The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Red Worship Book pg. 153

L: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest

Words of Institution

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

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Red Worship Book pg. 154

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

Red Worship Book pg. 154

L: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

Red Worship Book 461

- 1 All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
- 2 All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest. Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy we keep the feast. We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
- 3 All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread. Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace we have been fed. Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Communion Hymn

"Blessed Assurance"

Red Worship Book 638

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long: this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*
- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

Prayer after Communion

L: Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet

C: Amen.

Blessing

L: God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, ✚ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

C: Amen.

Hymn

“Give to Our God Immortal Praise!”

Red Worship Book 848

- 1 Give to our God immortal praise! Mercy and truth are all his ways. Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.
- 2 God sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and darkness and the grave. Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.
- 3 Give to the Lord of lords renown; the King of kings with glory crown.
His mercies ever shall endure
when lords and kings are known no more!

Blessing

L: God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, ✚ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal

L: Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

the worship is ended ... let the service begin...



****The Noisy offering this month is for ELCA World Hunger there will be a bowl as you exit the church.****

Next Week's Readings and Psalm

First Reading

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4b-8

Psalm

Psalm 93

Gospel

John 18:33-37



Prayer Concerns and Sympathy ~ Jean Bergum, Paul Shober, Dorothy Svendsen, Jon Youngblom, Marie Sigler (niece of Virgil Seegebarth), David (brother of Colleen Volden), Gracie Edin, Debra Hocum (Kathryn Souer's daughter-in-laws mother), Yvonne Guptill, Bonnie Carlson (friend of Donna Martin), Ken Carlson (brother-in-law of Don Peterson), Joy Burch, Drew (Mindy's brother), Vicki Marks, Colton Thompson, Reverend Norm Belland, Don Storlie (father of Jeremy Storlie), Kim Reisig (sister-in-law of Amy Tvedt), Tyler (son of Jan Peura), Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeney) and John Bassett.

For our members in care facilities ~ Ruta Kalnins and Dorothy Svendsen.

For firefighters, EMT's, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.

For world peace. For our companion synods.

For our missionaries: Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke



We express our Christian sympathy to the family of Luanita Ledowski (mother of Deby Volk). May they know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and give them peace.

Announcements/Calendar

Sun. 8:30 Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship/HC

Tues. 9:30 am Women's Bible Study.

Wed. 5 pm Intergenerational Thanksgiving Dinner Church-Confirmation, FiA and all welcome. **Worship begins at 5 pm.**

Thurs. 8 am Men's Text Study; Mindy Networking meeting.

Sat. 8 pm AA mtg.

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am First Word/HC; Church Council after Worship.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 17- 5 pm Intergenerational Thanksgiving Dinner Church.

Sunday, November 21-Church Council after Worship.

Monday, November 22-December Newsletter Deadline.

Monday, November 22-6:30 pm All Boards.

Wednesday, November 24-Happy Thanksgiving-No Confirmation, FiA, 6:30 pm Worship or Youth Group.

Thursday, November 25th-Thanksgiving meals delivered.

Friday, November 26th-Office closed

Sunday, November 28th-First Sunday in Advent



Now the holidays are approaching rapidly and the annual **FOOD & FUND DRIVE** to give all families a Thanksgiving meal is underway. Please join us in the effort to distribute

Thanksgiving meals to our neighbors in need this season.

To that end, each church is invited to concentrate on collecting one food item.

We invite your church to lead your own Food & Fund Drive by

Collecting cranberries and monetary donations

to help purchase additional items for holiday meal.

Please have them collected and here at the church by November 14th.

Box is in the Narthex for your donation. Thank You!



We will be going to Glensheen Mansion on Tuesday, November 23rd. Please let Mindy (320-469-3774) know if you are interested in going. We will leave the church at 9 am. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$16 for seniors 62+.



Thanksgiving Dinner Church 5 pm November 17th

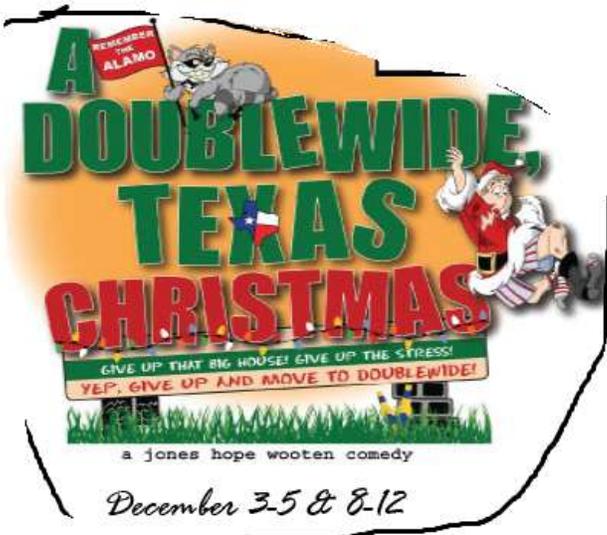
Join us at 5 pm for “Thanksgiving Dinner Church”, November 17th! We will gather together for an Intergenerational meal and fellowship that will include Worship and Holy Communion. Participate in this worship and dinner as we give thanks to God for all our blessings and give thanks and prayers.



Worship begins at 5 pm.

Can we deliver you a Thanksgiving Dinner?

The Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center in Sandstone MN is making meals for Thanksgiving (turkey, mashed potatoes, two sides, and a pumpkin dessert). If you would like one or more delivered, please contact the office by Nov. 21st at 320-384-6393. We will arrange to have one delivered to you on Thanksgiving Day.



**Woman on a Mission are
Sponsoring a trip on Thursday,
December 9th (covering cost of tickets.
Just bring \$\$ (money) to stop and eat.)
There will be 15 spots.**

Sign-up sheet is on the big table in Narthex.

Questions??? Call Robin at 320-279-0961

*Comedy by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and
Jamie Wooten.*

In this outrageously funny comedy. It's Christmas-time in the newest-and-tiniest-town in Texas. And it's beginning to look a lot like trouble in Doublewide. Not only are the trailer park residents dealing with the stress of the holiday season, but they've just discovered that Doublewide is being double-crossed by the County. With their official incorporation papers in jeopardy, this band of eccentric Texans throw themselves into taking on the "Big Guys." Determined to bolster their legitimacy, they first set their sights on the County-wide "Battle of The Manger" competition.