

Friendship

Lutheran Church of



September 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” - Romans 12:9-12

As we head into the waning days of summer, we also head into the home stretch of our summer sermon series in the book of Romans. This has been a summer like no other – church services do not look like or have the same feel that we have had in the past. We lost nearly a third of the year in our times of worship as a community. We have had to adjust to new ways of working, educating our children, and the way we shop for goods and services has been altered. Some have had to wait to meet new grand-children. Even our ways of being distracted from the stresses we face have undergone serious challenges. Vacations and travel have been set aside. No college sports since early March. Pro sports continue, but only with altered scheduling and no fans in the stands. Added to all this, we now get to look forward to an election cycle that is promising to be one for the ages. We have peaceful protests where the voices of legitimate concern are being drowned out by voices of hate that are emboldened to acts of violence.

On one hand we, as a society, are learning how to deal with something (pandemic) that we have never had to face. On the other hand, we are also dealing with what is sadly all too familiar – the effects of sin. Remember that we live in a fallen world. Our fallenness (yes, I

made up that word) was built on rebellion – and that same rebellion continues to savage God’s good, perfect, and holy creation. With that rebellion comes frustration for all of creation. That frustration is particularly exasperated for those who have heard the call to repentance and faith. That frustration is understandable, but it often gets wrapped up in itself and can become an all-consuming fire that will wreck its own havoc that destroys the believer’s witness of a better way.

You can (MUST) ***“abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good”***, while at the same time being a conduit of ***genuine love***. That is the call to every Christian - that our response to every situation is the same response that God has shown toward His fallen creation. God’s mercies are never ending (Lamentations 3:22). Therefore, the mercy and grace that we show others should also be never ending. Remember that, ***“God works all things together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28)***. That purpose is your purpose! Do not be caught up in the fear and anxiety of the world around you, but, ***“Let (your) love be genuine ... be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”***

Here at Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy, we continue to worship on-line and now in person (with alternative settings), communion is available by appointment, baptisms are happening, prayers continue, kindness and comfort are still here, and it is all because God **still** loves and calls His people to the comfort we have in Him, through Christ Jesus.

Peace,
Pastor

Mission News

This month I want to take time to thank you all for your continued support of Pascale and Mary who are in the ministry of Reaching the Unreached for Jesus Christ in the Ivory Coast. Pascale and Mary are natives of the country of Togo, and have attended the seminary in Ghana, next door to the Ivory Coast. The seminary is sponsored by Reaching the Unreached ministry.

Our support is vital to them as we are the only church sponsoring them. Our support is important at this time of Corona virus which has limited their resources. Our giving has been truly a blessing for our congregation also. It is a great privilege for us to be involved in God's purposes for Africa. We have helped Pascale build his own home and then his church. He is also discipling leaders for house churches in the surrounding villages. Last winter Pascale went as far as 50 miles to the Bauole people and established a church there. He continues to disciple them.

It is amazing what God can do through those who yield to Him and to His purposes. We are God's chosen people to help spread the gospel to those who have never heard it. Thank you!!

LWML

Two out of every three people do not know Jesus as their Savior. Lutheran Women in Mission is reaching out to a world in need of the Gospel through mission grants. You have the opportunity to help reach others with the saving Word of Jesus.

This year, LWML is celebrating **GivingTuesday** on September 15. You may donate toward the [2019–2021 LWML Mission Goal](#) by using LWML Facebook, lwml.org/givingtuesday. Your donation will be doubled on that day, thanks to the commitment of a generous donor. You can HELP by sharing on GivingTuesday.

(If you are unable to donate online, you may send your contributions to the LWML office at 801 Seminary Place Suite L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. Be sure to note GivingTuesday 2020 with your contribution.)

Elders Corner

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Ministry of Reconciliation - Peace with this World.

Reconciliation means reestablishing relationship. Christ reconciled us to God and to others. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (v. 17)

How can we be reconciled to God? First, we must know Jesus Christ. Jesus came to this world as a gift from God. Jesus took all our sins to the cross so that through Jesus Christ we are reconciled to God. Now with prayer, we can come to God through Jesus with all our concerns because all our sins are paid for and we are now at peace with God. In the same way, with prayer, we can come to others with our concerns and be reconciled with them.

To help us to know Jesus Christ, we should attend church with faithful Bible believers and read and study the Bible, God’s Word. “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.” (2Timothy 3:16-17)

Now, be encouraged to live your faith and be sharing God’s Word with everyone you meet daily. Sharing your faith is done with 1 or 2 sentences spoken during your conversation that your faith is in Jesus. The Holy Spirit will invite them to seek more information about our Lord and Savior . . . and you know where to send them — here to FLCJ.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10).

God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord’s Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil (those who live contrary to God’s will) and to reward those who do good (those whose lives are lived in conformity with God’s will). Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God’s temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God’s own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to do good works in accordance with God’s will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are support them by their prayers and their gifts.

Each of these callings from God place a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence; on our prayers; and our time, talents, and treasures. So, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.

One Month Bible Reading Plan

Most people professing faith in Jesus have never completely read their Bible. Many people start reading the Bible but then become overwhelmed by the number of chapters (1,189) and verses (31,102) there are. What we don't realize is that we can read the Bible in a year by reading fewer than four chapters a day. Every month we will post the "reading schedule" in the Newsletter. This structured approach of reading Scripture brings a fresh approach to each day's reading, while providing a clearer understanding of the Bible's larger message.

Tips on Reading the Bible Daily

1. Start reading the Bible today — there is no better time than now!
2. Set aside a specific time each day. Set your schedule and then stick to it. Feel free to use any time that works consistently for you. If you miss a day, just make it up (don't give up); habits both good and bad are formed easily.
3. Read the Bible for the sake of learning, not simply to accomplish your next reading. Say a short prayer to God before you begin, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding, then be refreshed by the words you read!

September

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | | 1 Jeremiah 34-36 | 2 Jeremiah 37:1-41:10 | 3 Jeremiah 41:11-45:5 | 4 Jeremiah 46-48 | 5 Jeremiah 49:1-51:10 |
| 6 Jeremiah 51:11-52:34 | 7 Lamentations 1:1-3:51 | 8 Lamentations 3:52-5:22; Ezekiel 1-2 | 9 Ezekiel 3-8 | 10 Ezekiel 9-12 | 11 Ezekiel 13:1-16:43 | 12 Ezekiel 16:44-20:17 |
| 13 Ezekiel 20:18-22:12 | 14 Ezekiel 22:13-24:27 | 15 Ezekiel 25:1-28:10 | 16 Ezekiel 28:11-31:18 | 17 Ezekiel 32:1-34:24 | 18 Ezekiel 34:25-38:9 | 19 Ezekiel 38:10-40:49 |
| 20 Ezekiel 41-43 | 21 Ezekiel 44-47 | 22 Ezekiel 48; Daniel 1:1-2:30 | 23 Daniel 2:31-4:27 | 24 Daniel 4:28-7:12 | 25 Daniel 7:13-11:13 | 26 Daniel 11:14-12:13; Hosea 1-3 |
| 27 Hosea 4-9 | 28 Hosea 10-14; Joel 1:1-2:17 | 29 Joel 2:18-3:21; Amos 1-4 | 30 Amos 5-9; Obadiah 1:1-9 | | | |

In Our Prayers

The Power of Prayer



- ♥ Prayers of comfort and healing for Tracie Paulsrud's parents.
- ♥ Prayers and warm wishes to Larry Armstrong and his family as he just was diagnosed with colon cancer. Please guide the surgeons as they operate on September 10.
- ♥ Prayers for a speedy recovery for Jon Fisher, Jr.
- ♥ Church
- ♥ LCMS Synod, Districts, Members and Pastors
- ♥ Church members
- ♥ Those who have yet to believe
- ♥ All who travel
- ♥ Country, state, and local governments
- ♥ All who serve (first responders, military, police, fire, EMTs)

Celebrations



September Birthdays

- 1 Roger Francisco
- 2 Cheyenne Taylor
- 10 Aliannah Taylor
- 11 Christopher Morris
- 15 LaMae Ryan

September Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 12 | Ryan & Caitlin Drake |
| 22 | Peter & Lora Carlson |
| 24 | Daniel & Catherine Luhrsen |



September Baptism Birthdays

Alicia Brach, Kenneth Brach, Lora Carlson,
Ron Courtright, Christopher Miller



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | 1 | 2 LWML meeting 6 pm | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 9am Worship | 7 Labor Day Office Closed | 8 Council 6pm | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 9am Worship | 14 | 15 | 16 LWML Cham- paign Zone Fall Rally | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 9am Worship | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 9am Worship | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

Until further notice, Communion will be by appointment only, Monday-Wednesday, 9am-2pm – call the office.

Only individuals, one couple, or one household will be communed during each appointment.

A kindergarten teacher was telling her students about different kinds of animals.

“Whales are the largest,” she said, “but they cannot swallow people, because their throats are too small.”



“But in the Bible, it says that Jonah was swallowed by a whale,” said a little girl.

“You can’t always believe what you read,” the teacher replied.

“Well, when I go to heaven,” said the little girl, “I’ll ask Jonah.”

“And what if Jonah didn’t go to heaven?”

“Then you can ask him.”

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**Friendship Lutheran
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Visit us on the internet!
www.friendshiplutheran.com

OUR MISSION:

To *Joyfully* connect people to Christ and His family.