

Brandon Garges, Dylan, Ryan, & Madison Earl, Jesse, Victims of disasters, Gibson, Those in Nursing Homes, Our Children, Teens, and youth program

The Common Thread

The Lord has commanded that his blessing would come to pass. And this is his blessing: salvation and eternal life. Scripture has to be fulfilled, so those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ will see his face in heaven. Just as the condemned are known by the mark of the beast, the servants of God will be known to him by the mark of the Lamb upon their foreheads. The Lamb of God is coming again soon, and those who believe in him will live to see his glory. In the meanwhile, the Church is to live together in brotherly love so that the world may know and believe the Father sent his Son to redeem the world from sin and death.

First Reading - Acts 1:12-26

The company of believers were devoting themselves to prayer. The NRSV carries more weight here than the ESV, saying that they were “constantly devoting themselves to prayer” (Acts 1:14). It is remarkable what may happen when believers are devoted to God through prayer. Clarity of history occurs. It could have been a time of great despair but instead the Spirit spoke through Peter, whose words hitherto had often been suspect. In light of his clarifying words, they moved to fill the void left by Judas’ death. How they did this required great faith. They cast lots believing God would cause the lot to fall upon the man whom he willed to be the new twelfth apostle. It was a good thing they were devoted in prayer.

Psalms - Psalm 133:1-3

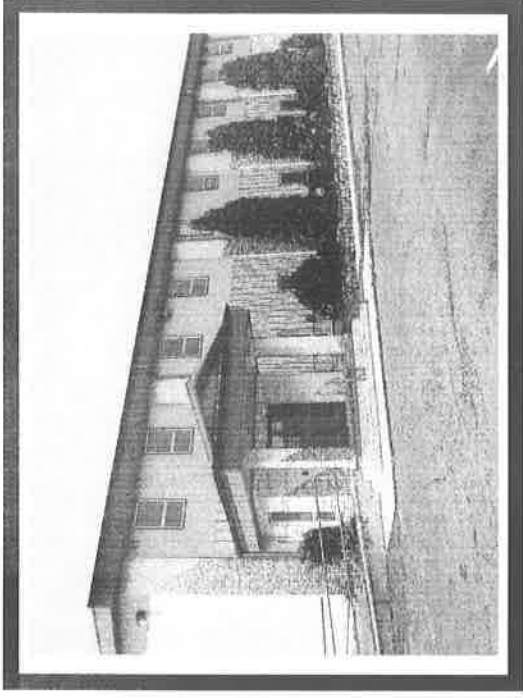
This Psalm would have been a comfort to the believers gathered in prayer in our First Reading today. God’s purpose remains certain even when events might suggest otherwise. What has the Lord ordained? In spite of the happenings of the world around us, God’s blessing is everlasting life. It remains for us to live together in a unity that speaks to our belief in his blessing.

Second Reading - Revelation 22:1-6, 7-11, 12-20

The blessing ordained by God is seen in John’s vision. What better depiction of God’s blessing is there than that the desire of Moses would be shared by all God’s people? There, we will see his glory; we will see him face-to-face. Never again will the way seem darkened for the Lamb will be our everlasting light. May it be so even here and cause us to dwell in unity.

Gospel - John 17:20-26

This is the prayer of Jesus: that we dwell together as one people, united in his purposes. Only such a Church empowered by the Holy Spirit will cause others to see that the Father has sent his Son and that Jesus sends us into the world with the Gospel. This requires such a belief that leads to salvation and the beholding of the glory of Jesus which is itself life eternal.



Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 612, Mansfield, PA 16933

Service of Word and Sacrament
Seventh Sunday of Easter

June 2nd, 2019

Minister:

The Rev. Raymond Dean Forsythe
PO Box 13, Covington, PA 16917

Office Phone: 570/659-0241

Pastor’s Cell Phone 570/439-9402

Web Site: www.lutheranchurchotc.org

We are a member congregation of the:



A SPECIAL WELCOME!

We welcome you our friends in the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ to

Lutheran Church of the Cross

where God's name is honored, God's word is heard, and God's presence made real and the Cross of Christ lifted high. Here may the sorrowing find comfort; the weary find rest; sinners find forgiveness; the troubled experience peace; the stranger needed friends; and to all people: God's abiding love.

Let's enter our worship in Silent Prayer

Opening Thoughts

Jesus didn't come to earth as a human being to divide people, one from another. His self-emptying sacrifice on the cross was the antidote to sin and death. As Jesus prepared for the cross of his death, he prayed for the well being and future unity of his followers. In the New Jerusalem, that will exist when he comes again, the picture of togetherness will be signified by a glorious vision of perfection.

Our Service starts on page 21 of the Reclaim: Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, with the brief order of

Confession and Forgiveness.

Opening Words

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Hymn # 22

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Kyrie Eleison page 22

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS page 23 and 24

of God, go about "seeing" people that go unseen around us. What can we do about that?

• As disciples of Christ, a big part of our mission in his name is to create unity among believers. That doesn't mean everyone can have their own way, simply that we work together to discern the Spirit. Consider the stereotypes about Christians that are barriers to faith and keep unbelievers away. How might we change that? How is it rooted in humility?

PRAYER LIST FOR THIS WEEK

PLEASE NOTE: We need to know of those in need of PRAYER! Ask the person if they would like their name on our LIST!

Our Sister Churches:

Hope Lutheran Church Smethport, PA

Pastor: They Need a Pastor

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montoursville, PA

Pastor: Rev. David B. Letscher

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, State College

Pastor: Rev. Christopher Milarch

Remember to Pray for our Leaders:

Bishop and Mrs. John Bradosky - NALC

President & Mrs. Donald Trump

Governor & Mrs. Tom Wolf

Remember to Pray for these Special Needs:

All the Service men and women and those in HARM'S WAY:

Sgt. Andreas Wagner, Pvt. Derek Stevens, Our Police Forces

Physical Needs:

Paul Young, Bob Lyle and his wife, Mrs. Nancy Forsythe,

Pastor Forsythe, Mertella Smith, Gene and Patricia, Tom

Matczak, Nicholas Wivell 3 year old with leukemia, Lou

Mitcheltree, Frank Williams, Cheryl Furman, Elaine Beller., All

the sick, Mabel Emerson, Joan McDougal, Joey Ketter, Rodney,

Timothy, and Ricky Smith, Clifford Short, Ryan Bogaczyk, Larry

Moran, Robert Gaylord, Jonathan P. Rev Tom and Barb Beam,

Matczak, Dwayne Goodwin, Ruth Anne Machmer, Jeff Garges,

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School After Service

PRAYER and BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday at the Garges' at 6:30 PM

Church Council Meeting

Card and Flower Ministry

Contact Nancy Forsythe at 659-0241 if you know of someone who is in the hospital or is sick. We need to start a flower fund so we have funds to purchase flowers for those who are sick.

Our Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request please call the following numbers and give your prayer request. Be brief and to the point **Call 659-0241.**
If you want to be on our Prayer Chain tell Nancy Forsythe.

We are: Christ-Center Mission-Driven /

Traditionally-Grounded Congregationally / Focused

Last Week's Record 5/26/2019

A. Attendance 5 B. Offering - \$479.00

A Prayer for Each day of the coming week.

Redeeming God, shape and unite your church, that we may be one just as you are One. Unite our wills, teach us to delight in your Word, trust in your promises, and love others as we have first been loved; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer on entering the Lutheran Church of the Cross

Our Father, help us to be silent;

Help us to be thoughtful of You and other worshippers; Help us to be reverent; for this is Your House. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

• Who around you needs to be loved? Who has been overlooked? These are hard questions to answer because if we knew, we would have done something about it. Right? Think of ways in which we, as a people

SALUTATION page 24

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

L. The Lord be with you. **C.** And also with you. Let us Pray. **C. O King of Glory and Lord of countless angels, in triumph you ascended to the highest heaven. Abandon us not to be orphans, but keep your Father's promise to send your Spirit of truth. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The FIRST LESSON

is from 1st chapter of Acts

First Reading:

Acts 1:12-26

A Replacement for Judas

The apostles returned to Jerusalem following Jesus' ascension and began the task of carrying out his commission to them by choosing someone to replace Judas so that their number would once again be twelve, a reflection of the twelve tribes of Israel. Peter cautioned that it should be someone who was a witness to the whole of Jesus' ministry. Lots were drawn and Matthias was chosen..

Acts 1:12-26 (KJV)

12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

16 Men *and* brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aeldama, that is to say, The field of blood.

20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.

21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all *men*, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, 25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Here ends the reading” C Thanks be to God

THE PEACE

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C. And also with you.

HYMN # 87 O Jesus, Blessed Lord to Thee

PREFACE page 33

SANCTUS page 35

THE LORD’S PRAYER page 36

WORDS OF INSTITUTION page 36

AGNUS DEI page 37

DISTRIBUTION

All those who are baptized are welcome to join us to receive the precious gifts of forgiveness and community as the Lord comes to us in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Children not yet communing may come forward and receive a blessing from the Pastor Forsythe.

NUNC DIMITTIS page 38

THANKSGIVING page 38

BENEDICAMUS page 38

BENEDICTION Page 38

CLOSING HYMN #14

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

NOTICES OF EVENTS For June 2nd, 2019

We are meeting at 717 Lambs Creek Road, in Mansfield.

The Bulletins are sponsored by the . Sponsors are needed.

You may sponsor one or more weeks at a time. The Cost is \$5.00 Per Week Please give to the Pastor Forsythe. Checks made out to Lutheran Church of the Cross.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Every Sunday at 10:00 AM

A Fill us with your Spirit, so that we desire to walk as children of light who try to discern what is pleasing to you. Give us your wisdom, so that we take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them so that the truth is made known. Help us to make the best use of our time, realizing the days are evil and time is of the essence to proclaim Christ as Lord to the world.
Lord, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A God of power and might, you alone are the true ruler of the world. All authority comes from you. Bless the leaders of the nations, that they may know the truth and lead their people according to it. We pray for our own nation – *the members of congress, the supreme court justices, all governors, state legislators, mayors and councils.* Guide and direct them to know and do your will. Lord, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A For the persecuted Church: that remembering the eternal house of God not made with hands, they may persuade others with their reverent fear of the Lord. Lord, in your mercy. **C hear our prayer.**

A Hear the cry of the righteous ,and save all whose spirits are crushed. Grant them healing and wholeness in Jesus name. **We especially pray for those we name before you, aloud or in our hearts...(pause) Lord, in your mercy, C hear our prayer.**

A For all those who have died in the promise and power of the of resurrection, that held in your eternal keeping they may come with us to that new day when you work within us all far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, and to you be all glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.
Lord, in your mercy, **C Hear our prayer.**

P. Merciful Father, guided by your Holy Spirit, we are confident that you know our needs and that you hear our prayers and so we place all for whom we pray into your loving care for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen**

HOLY COMMUNION Page 31

PSALMODY

Psalm 133

The Unity of Believers

The psalmist sang a very short hymn about the blessings of dwelling together with others who believe in the Lord. He compared it to the feeling of fine oil that trickles down the face and absorbs into the clothing. In this unity is life forevermore.

Psalm 133:1-3 (KJV)

1 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!

2 *It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;*

3 As the dew of Hermon, *and as the dew* that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, *even life* for evermore.

The SECOND LESSON

is from 22nd Chapter of Revelation

Second Reading:

Revelation 22:1-20

Return of the Lamb

John's vision continued with the image of the return of Christ, who says, "I am coming soon." John was granted a view of the river of life which flowed from the throne of God. Nearby was the tree of life that had abundant and varied fruit for nourishment, and whose leaves provided healing. In this vision of the holy city of God there was no darkness or night, only perpetual light.

Revelation 22:1-21 (KJV)

1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

6 And he said unto me, These sayings *are* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed *is* he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

8 And I John saw these things, and heard *them*. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

9 Then saith he unto me, See *thou do* it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

14 Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the

to tell others, so that they might know him as well. Lord, in your mercy, **C Hear our prayer.**

A. Father, may all of us of the Lutheran Church of the Cross be Your influence of the love You want us to share with others of the gift of salvation for all people. Help us to be the Scriptural Church that draws others. Bless also our sister congregations: **Hope Lutheran Church** - in need of a Pastor, and the **Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church**, Pastor: Rev. David B. Letscher, **Emmanuel Lutheran Church in State College**, Pastor: **Rev. Christopher Milarch**, the NALC Church Body, and all NALC Churches and Scriptural teaching churches, and for missionaries throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy: **C Hear our prayer.**

A. Father, as we pray for our leaders of our nation, strengthen the wills of all who take counsel for the nations. Teach them to use wisely and well the authority and power entrusted to them, so that all people may prosper and live peaceably with one another. **Especially President Donald Trump and Vice-President Mike Pence and Governor Tom Wolf**, that they seek your will when making decisions for the welfare of their people. Lord, in your mercy: **C Hear our prayer.**

A. We give thanks to You, O Lord, for Bishop John Bradosky, Pastor Forsythe, ministers and lay leaders who preach the Word of God, that they may testify to all people of repentance toward God and faith in our risen Lord Jesus Christ: and that meditating on Your precepts and fixing their eyes on Your ways, they may declare all the just decrees of Your mouth. Lord, in your mercy: **C Hear our prayer.**

A Let the cross of Christ be our source of hope and power in this congregation. May we never be ashamed of the foolishness of Christ crucified, but may we boldly proclaim the cross as your wisdom and righteousness, that many will experience its life-giving power. Lord, in your mercy, C Hear our prayer.

The Gospel Lesson

Point 4: Unity in the FAMILY AND Unity in COMMUNITY AND Unity in SCHOOL that leads to Unity in the CHURCH.

Point 4 + 1: Unity in the FAMILY AND Unity in the COMMUNITY AND Unity in the SCHOOL AND Unity in the CHURCH that leads to Unity in OUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!

The importance of pleading the BLOOD of Christ!!

SERMON HYMN No. 154

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

THE OFFERING OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. **C.** God of faithfulness, we bring before you the precious gifts of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for those in need and prepare for your Son's advent into our hearts. Amen.

Right before the Prayers of the Church

HYMN # 21

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L. In trust let us pray to God our Father, Jesus the Good Shepherd, and the Holy Spirit for the needs of the our neighbors near and far.

a brief silence

L. Almighty God our heavenly Father, we thank you this day for the hope of life we have through your Son Jesus, the Living Word. Help us to know like the Apostle Peter that there is nowhere else to go, because Jesus alone has the words of eternal life. Empower us

gates into the city.

15 For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star.

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Here ends the reading” C Thanks be to God

The Hallelujah Page 25

**The GOSPEL LESSON
is from chapter 8 of St. John**

Glory be to You, O Lord

Gospel Reading:

John 17:20-26

Jesus Prays for Followers to Be One

Jesus prayed to the Father as he prepared himself to leave the disciples. He asked that they would be one as he and the Father

were one. Since the disciples would remain in the world, Jesus wanted all good things as they continued the mission.

John 17:20-26 (KJV)

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

“The Gospel of the Lord”

C. Praise be to You, O Lord

The SERMON Pastor Forsythe

“Each of the 4 + 1 points are UNITY!”

The APOSTLES’ CREED page 28

Sermon Notes:

“Each of the 4 + 1 points are UNITY!”

Will God provide our needs?

*Believers Must Die to Sin, and Live to God
This shows us the necessity of holiness.*

THE TRUE WAY REQUIRES ACTION

“Great Faith leads to results”

Repentance is key to THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

To know what Spiritual Formation is all about in our lives. It happens when we say yes to God!
Our we seeing signs of the end time?

The First Lesson

Point 1: Unity in the FAMILY!

The Psalm Reading

Point 2: Unity in the FAMILY that leads to Unity in the COMMUNITY!

We need to praise our Lord!

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD!

Our God is an AWESOME GOD No. 23.

God takes care of His PEOPLE

We are to be a Praising PEOPLE OF GOD

We are to be a Rejoicing PEOPLE OF GOD

We are to be a JOYFUL PEOPLE OF GOD

We are to be a PRAYING PEOPLE OF GOD

We are to be a MINISTERING PEOPLE FOR GOD

The Second Lesson

Point 3: Unity in the FAMILY AND Unity in COMMUNITY that leads to Unity in the SCHOOL!