

negative and positive examples. The spiritually delighted person will not have dealings with wicked people—especially when it comes to their teachings. However, she will spend significant time with the Lord’s law, listening to his counsel. Ultimately, the curse is that the wicked will perish while the righteous will stand in the judgment of God.

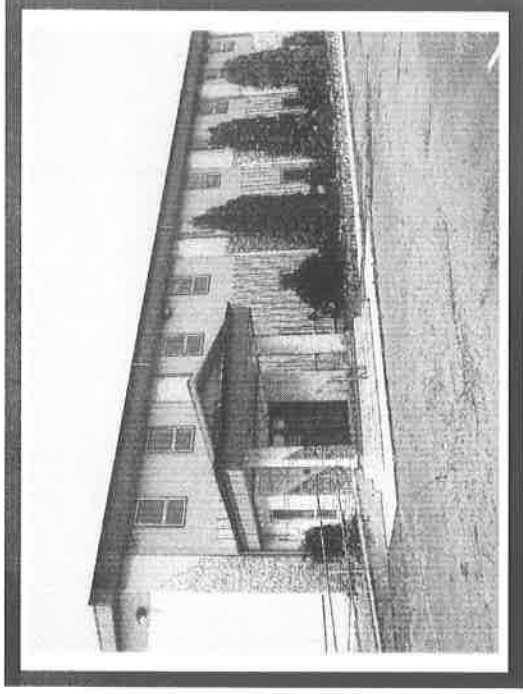
It is not “words of faith,” offerings, good works, or good thoughts that bring God’s blessing. The Psalmist tells us that the cost of God’s blessing, even the ultimate blessing of passing through judgment into eternal fellowship with the Lord, comes from being with God “day and night” (v2).

Second Reading - Philemon 1-21

This lesson talks about what following Jesus cost both Philemon and Paul. It ended up costing Philemon the price of a slave. The cost to Paul was that he would repay what that cost Philemon. If Onesimus owes you anything, “charge it to my account.” (v18) The point of Paul’s letter was that the slave should be set free because he was a child of God, bought with the price of a Savior’s blood. Onesimus cost Jesus much more than Philemon and Paul combined.

Gospel - Luke 14:25-35

Jesus gets right to the point—as he always does. The cost of being his disciples is renouncing (v33) all of things of this life that many expect God owes them. Do we have what it takes to keep following Jesus? What if it costs us a parent or a spouse or a child? Would we pay such a high price? It may be a cross we must bear. Many begin well the life of faith only to discover later that there is a price. They had not counted on it costing so much to believe. When they turn their backs on God, in favor of the “blessings” of this life, the flavor and the preservative power of the salty life they had once begun has now been lost. Their lives are forfeit, not even suitable for the worst of places.



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

Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 612, Mansfield, PA 16933

Service of Word and Sacrament

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8th, 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!

Following Jesus requires great humility. No one who insists on being in a place of honor has a place at the Lord's table. Those who are disciples of Jesus understand that life in him requires putting ourselves last and others first. We need not worry about understanding all the ways of the Lord, instead we put our trust in him and he grants us peace, comfort, and the desire to serve in his name.

Let's enter our worship in Silent Prayer

Opening Thoughts

Life lived in the intentional presence of God is one filled with true joy and spiritual abundance. There is a cost, however, to following Jesus. The cost isn't measured in silver or gold, but in the very giving away of one's life for the sake of the Gospel. Jesus warned his followers to "count the cost" before they embarked on the journey with him. It sounds daunting, but once you're on the path, you see it's true freedom.

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 232

He Leadeth Me

Kyrie Eleison page 22

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS page 23 and 24

SALUTATION page 24

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

One's life is prolonged when that life is possessed with the love of God. The fear, love, and trust of the Lord must be our way of life if we are to have the good life. Those who delight themselves in the Lord and his will, prosper—even in the judgment to come. Yet this delight requires some accounting. Are we willing to give up life on our terms, walking in his ways, bearing our own crosses of willing sacrifice? This is what it means to be a follower or a disciple of Jesus Christ. One must consider the cost of obedience, even if it means being scoffed, imprisoned, or just needing to do the proper but difficult thing.

First Reading - Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The Deuteronomic principle that obedience to God brings blessing while disobedience brings curse is readily seen in this reading. In some groups, the principle is considered a formula, rather than a principle: God will have to bless me if I do good. Other groups have taken this to the level that doing good deeds is the principle for the ultimate blessing: salvation.

The last 50-plus years have seen varying teachings that all seem to focus on giving to a ministry in order to promote God's good will toward a person's financial prosperity. The so-called prosperity gospel has taken an odd twist in more recent years. The newer code states that one may speak a "word of faith" that somehow puts God under contract to give a person what she desires. A score of years ago, it may have been inconceivable that this line of reasoning could degenerate further. Yet, we hear today that simply thinking good, positive thoughts will bring blessing.

The price of God's blessing of life is "loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him" (v20). Isaiah said, "Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isa 55:1), and then explains his meaning. "Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live" (Isa 55:3). Jesus said something akin to this: "I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in fire, that you may be rich" (Rev 3:18).

Psalm - Psalm 1:1-6

The Psalmist makes it clear that blessing comes from one's delight in the law of the Lord. Such delight is illustrated with both

St Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bloomsburg

Pastor: Rev. Kerry Maurer

St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church, Camp Hill

Pastor: Rev. Steve Shipman

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Millersburg

Pastor: Rev. Mark Hoffman

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Seven Valleys

Pastor: ?

St. Jacob Evangelical Lutheran Church, Glen Rock

Pastor: Rev. Paula L. Murray

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Elizabethtown

Pastor: Rev. Nathan C. Minnich

Plus Ours: Lutheran Church of the Cross

Pastor: Rev. Raymond D. Forsythe

Remember to Pray for our Leaders:

Bishop and Mrs. Dan Selbo - 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

Matezak, Nicholas Wivell 3 year old with leukemia, Lou

Mitcheltree, Frank Williams, Elaine Beller., All the sick, Mabel

Emerson, Joan McDougal, Joey Ketner, Rodney, Timothy, and

Ricky Smith, Clifford Short, Ryan Bogaczyk, Larry Moran, Robert

Gaylord, Jonathan P. Matezak, Dwayne Goodwin, Ruth Anne

Machmer, Jeff Garges, Brandon Garges, Dylan, Ryan, & Madison

Earl, Jesse, Victims of disasters, Gibson, Those in Nursing Homes,

Our Children, Teens, and youth program

Thoughts on the Readings

The Common Thread

L. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.** Let us Pray. **C.** O Lord, always lead and follow us with your grace, that we may be still more intent on doing good. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The FIRST LESSON

is from the 30th chapter of Deuteronomy

First Reading:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Choose Life

The Lord made it clear to Israel that worshipping false gods would only lead them into trouble. The direction in which their hearts were focused would result in the either blessing or curse. Obeying the Lord, loving him with all their hearts, and holding fast to him alone, means true life as well as dwelling in the Promised Land. *****

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (NKJV)

15 "See, I have set before you today **life and good, death and evil**, 16 in that I command you today **to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply**; and the **LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.** 17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them. 18 **I announce to you today that you shall surely perish**; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. 19 **I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing**; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; **20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice.**

and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

Here ends the reading" C Thanks be to God

PSALMODY

Psalm 1

The Lord Knows the Way of the Righteous

The psalmist proclaimed that those who walk in the ways of the Lord are like rees lanted by streams of water. Growth and nourishment are eadily available for hose who love God and follow him; their work will prosper with God's help.

Psalm 1:1-6 (NKJV)

- 1 Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
- 2 **But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.**
- 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.
- 4 **The ungodly *are* not so, But *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away.**
- 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
- 6 **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.**

The SECOND LESSON

is from the 1st Chapter of Philemon

Second Lesson:
Philemon 1-21

PRAYER and BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday at the Garges' at 6:00 PM

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 9/1/2019

A. Attendance 9 B. Offering - \$599.00

A Prayer for Each day of the coming week.

Merciful God, from generation to generation your healing and life-giving power has been made manifest. Empower us to let the glory of your mercy and forgiveness shine through the light of our lives ; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

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

Pastor: Need a Pastor

WESTERN MISSION DISTRICT CHURCHES

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Montoursville

Pastor: Rev. David B. Letscher

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, State College

Pastor: Need a Pastor

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

BENEDICAMUS page 38

BENEDICTION Page 38

CLOSING HYMN # 140

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

NOTICES OF EVENTS

For September 8th, 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School After Service

Paul's Appeal to a Slave Owner

Paul wrote an impassioned letter to Philemon, who was the owner of a slave named Onesimus. Paul met Onesimus in prison, becoming his spiritual father there. Paul asserted in the correspondence that he could demand Philemon do what was right ad free Onesimus, but instead Paul asked him to free the slave out of love.

Philemon 1:1-21 (NKJV)

I Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy *our* brother, To Philemon our beloved *friend* and fellow laborer, 2 to the beloved Apphia, Archippus **our fellow soldier**, and to **the church in your house:** 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I thank my God, making mention of you **always in my prayers,**5 **hearing of your love and faith** which you have **toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints,** 6 that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. 7 **For we have great joy and consolation in your love,** because **the hearts of the saints have been refreshed** by you, brother. 8 Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to **command you what is fitting,** 9 yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you--being such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ--

10 I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten *while* in my chains, 11 who once **was unprofitable** to you, but **now is profitable** to you and to me. 12 I am sending him back. You therefore receive him, that is, my own heart, 13 whom I wished to keep with me, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains for the gospel. 14 But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary. 15 For perhaps he departed for a while for this *purpose*, that you might receive him forever, 16 **no longer as a slave but more than a slave--a**

beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. 17 If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me. 18 **But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account.** 19 I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. I will repay--not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self besides. 20 Yes, brother, **let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord.** 21 Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Here ends the reading” **C Thanks be to God**

The Hallelujah Page 25

The GOSPEL LESSON

is from the 14th Chapter of St. Luke

Glory be to You, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson:

Luke 14:25-35

Count the Cost of Discipleship

Jesus explained to his disciples that there is a very high cost of following him. One must be willing to bear his own cross, renounce all his worldly possessions, even walk away from family, if need be, in order to go with Jesus. He used the examples of calculating a budget before beginning the foundation of a building project, and of a king figuring up the price of war before confronting an enemy.

Luke 14:25-35 (NKJV)

25 Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 **And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.** 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower,

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.**

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,

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 Evangelical Lutheran Church** Pastor: need a pastor, **St Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church**, Pastor Kerry Maurer **St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church**, Postor Steve Shipman, **St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**, Pastor: Rev. Mark Hoffman, **St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**, Pastor: ? **St. Jacob Evangelical Lutheran Church**, Pastor: Rev. Paula L. Murray, **Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church**, Pastor: Rev. Nathan C. Minnich, 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 Dan Selbo, 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

does not sit down first and **count the cost**, whether he has *enough* to finish it-- 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. 33 **So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.** 34 "Salt is good: but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned?" 35 It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. **He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"**

"The Gospel of the Lord"

C. Praise be to You, O Lord

The SERMON Pastor Forsythe

"In the Service of the Lord"

The APOSTLES' CREED page 28

Sermon Notes:

"In the Service of the Lord"

- If people in your congregation haven't read, "The Cost of Discipleship" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, encourage them to dig into this powerful book to gain a greater understanding of life in the faith.
- Jesus speaks about salt in the Gospel lesson for today. With children, you might have a salt shaker as a prop and discuss whether or not salt can lose its saltiness Scientifically, Sodium Chloride cannot lose its saltiness. By its very nature it is salty! It is also by nature a preservative and purifier. So what is Jesus trying to say to us whom he calls "salt and light?" (Matthew 5:13)

FIRST

To be careful of worshipping false gods who don't see or hear us.

SECOND

It is important that we walk in the ways of the Lord Jesus Christ as our example.

THIRD

The question is how we treat others!
Take a look at the Second Lesson

FOURTH

Jesus explained to his disciples that there is a very high cost of following him..

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 importance of pleading the BLOOD of Christ!!

SERMON HYMN No. 236

Am I a Soldier of the Cross?

HOLY COMMUNION Page 31

THE PEACE

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

C. And also with you.

COMMUNION HYMN NO. 85

Break Thou the Bread of Life

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

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 to tell others, so that they might know him as well. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.