***Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 4, 2020***



***First Lutheran Church***

***208 West Sandusky Avenue***

***Bellefontaine, Ohio***

***(937) 592-7699***

***Pastor Lawrence J. Novak***

[*www.flcbellefontaine.org*](http://www.flcbellefontaine.org)

*Mission Statement:*

*Sharing God’s grace through prayer, witness, and service.*

**WELCOME** ***to our worship service this morning, especially our visitors.***

*It is a pleasure to have you worship with us. We sincerely pray that the service is inspiring and challenging. If you find occasion to worship with us again, we want you to know that our doors are always open to you. Wherever you go, may God go with you and may the fruits of regular worship bring peace and joy to your heart.*

*As Lutheran Christians, we believe the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the form of bread and wine. All who believe and have been baptized are invited to partake of the sacrament of Holy Communion. All others are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

***Please listen to the worship assistant for prayer concerns****.*

*The altar flowers were given by Josalyn and Sophia Porter in honor of their mother, Brittanny’s birthday, and also Josh and Brittany Porter in honor of Sophia’s 12th birthday.*

**Remember those of our congregation in a care facility:**

**Green Hills of West Liberty:** Tom Secrist- Inn #10

**Logan Acres:** Eleanor Ammon- Room #308

Catherine Chamberlain- Room #318

Rosemary LaBatt- Mill Creek, Room #404.

**The Homestead:** Bill Fent- Room #106

Mary Contner- Room #205

**Campbell House:** Mike Myers- Room #131

Don Johnson – Room #132

**Lincoln Estates**: Bob Taylor- Bldg #320 4100 West 3rd Street,

Dayton

**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

October 4, 2020

10:00 am service

Sharing Announcements of Parish Life

Mission Moment – “*Blessing of the Animals*”

Prelude: *(to prepare ourselves for worship- please turn your focus inward and upward)*

*Prelude “ I know Where I’m Going” by Hughes*

**+ + +** WE ENTER INTO WORSHIP **+ + +**

*Please Stand*

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

**C: Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: Faithful God,

**C: have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin**

**and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace**

**and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another**

**before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,**

**and turn us again to life in you**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need,

and through his death and resurrection,

Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness

to do God’s work in the world.

**C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn *#654 “The Church’s One Foundation”*



Greeting

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.**

Kyrie

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above,

and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: 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.**

P: For this holy house,

and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Amen, amen.**

Canticle of Praise

**C: This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,**

**whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power and riches, wisdom and strength,**

**and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

**Sing with all the people of God,**

**and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing and honor, 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

P: Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Please Be Seated*

*Special Music “Come to the Table Quartet: by Cindy Weikart, Kris Swisher, Brenda Shively, Chris Tillman*

**+ + + THE WORD PROCLAIMED + + +**

**First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7**

1Let me sing for my beloved  
  my love-song concerning his vineyard:  
 My beloved had a vineyard  
  on a very fertile hill.  
 2He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
  and planted it with choice vines;  
 he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
  and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
 he expected it to yield grapes,  
  but it yielded wild grapes.  
  
 3And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
  and people of Judah,  
 judge between me  
  and my vineyard.  
 4What more was there to do for my vineyard  
  that I have not done in it?  
 When I expected it to yield grapes,  
  why did it yield wild grapes?  
  
 5And now I will tell you  
  what I will do to my vineyard.  
 I will remove its hedge,  
  and it shall be devoured;  
 I will break down its wall,  
  and it shall be trampled down.  
 6I will make it a waste;  
  it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
  and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;  
 I will also command the clouds  
  that they rain no rain upon it.  
  
 7For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
  is the house of Israel,  
 and the people of Judah  
  are his pleasant planting;  
 he expected justice,  
  but saw bloodshed;  
 righteousness,  
  but heard a cry!

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 80:7-15**

### Restore us, O God of hosts;   let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  8**You have brought a vine out of Egypt;**   **you cast out the nations and planted it.**  9You cleared the ground for it;   it took root and filled the land.  10**The mountains were covered by its shadow**   **and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.** R  11You stretched out its tendrils to the sea   and its branches to the river.  12**Why have you broken down its wall,**   **so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**  13The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,   and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.  14**Turn now, O God of hosts,**   **look down from heaven;**  15behold and tend this vine;   preserve what your right hand has planted.

**Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14**

[

Paul writes:] 4bIf anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.  
  7Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.  
  12Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please Stand*

Gospel Acclamation

**C: Alleluia**

**Jesus says, I chose you and appointed you\* to go and bear fruit that will last. Alleluia**

Holy Gospel and Response

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st chapter

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the people:] 33“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. 34When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. 37Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 38But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ 39So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” 41They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”  
  42Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:  
 ‘The stone that the builders rejected  
  has become the cornerstone;  
 this was the Lord’s doing,  
  and it is amazing in our eyes’?  
43Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. 44The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”  
  45When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please Be Seated*

Sermon  *Pastor Larry Novak*

Hymn of the Day *#769 “If You But Trust in God to Guide You”*



Installation of Financial Secretary

After prayerful deliberation, we of First Lutheran, have appointed Judy Vassar, to serve in the position of *Financial Secretary*.

*The presiding minister addresses the one being installed.*

Our Lord Jesus, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You come among us as one invited to render a particular service, a gift from God to inspire us to love and good works.

Judy, in the presence of this assembly

will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God?

**Response**: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you carry out this ministry in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church

and in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

**Response**: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures

and faithful in your use of the means of grace and in prayer?

**Response**: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Trusting in God’s care, will you seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills,

and adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?

**Response**: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**C**: **Amen.**

*Please Stand*

People of God, will you receive Judy Vassar into this ministry as one sent to serve in the church of Jesus Christ?

**C: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work’s sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

**C: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Judy, I now declare you installed as financial secretary.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be a faithful servant of Christ.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer**

P: Let us pray.

Gracious God, as you have called workers to varied tasks in the world and in your church, so you have called Judy to this ministry. Grant her joy and a spirit of bold trust, that her work may stir up each of us to a life of fruitful service; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**+ + + OUR RESPONSE + + +**

Apostles’ Creed

A: Let us confess our faith, the faith in which we are baptized, using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

A: With confidence in God’s grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*Please safely share the peace with one another*

*Please Be Seated*

Offering

Offertory Music  *“Andante” by Mendelssohn*

*Please Stand*

Offertory Prayer

A: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.

Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,

nourish us with this rich food and drink,

and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven 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.**

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. 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. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

P: The Lord Jesus taught his disciples to pray.

**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

**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

*As Lutheran Christians, we believe the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the form of bread and wine. All who believe and have been baptized are invited to partake of the sacrament of Holy Communion. All others are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

To receive communion, please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

\*Gluten Free wafers are available for anyone with food allergies.

After giving thanks, return to your pew by the side aisles.

(- If you want to take communion in your pew, please let the ushers know -)

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

*Please be seated*

During Distribution:

*“From an Old Missal” by Blake and Chapel*

*“Chimes” by Paxton*

*Please Stand*

Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

Post Communion Canticle

**C: Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people; a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.**

Post Communion Prayer

A: We give you thanks, gracious God,

that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,

the body and blood of Christ.

Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,

into your beloved vineyard

to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,

guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ

and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

+ + + WE ARE SENT FORTH + + +

Blessing

P: Almighty God,

Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn *#595 “Jesus Loves Me”*



Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “*Trumpet Recessional*” *by Callender*

**Serving in Worship This Week**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Oct. 4 | 10:00 am |
| Ushers | Kevin Miller |
| Acolyte | Josalyn Porter |
| Communion Assistant | Ray Swisher |
| Reader | Kris Swisher |
| Greeter: | Max and Margie Bixler |
| Nursery: | \*open, but not staffed |
| Worship Assistant: | Sherri Hodies |
| Altar Guild: | Sally Stephan |
| Special Music | Vocal Quartet |

**Serving in Worship Next Week**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Oct. 11 | 10:00 am |
| Ushers: | Kevin Miller |
| Acolyte: | Winnie Bodin |
| Reader: | Beth Harman |
| Greeter: | Connie Regula |
| Nursery: | \*open, but not staffed |
| Worship Assistant: | Dick Griffith |
| Altar Guild: | Sally Stephan |

**Upcoming Events Oct 5 - 11**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Oct 5** | 10:00 am  12:00 pm  1:30 pm  7:00 pm | Staff Meeting  AA Rice Hall  Bible Study  Church Counsel – Rice Hall |
| **Oct 6** | 9:00 am  12:00 pm    5:00 pm | Quilters- Rice Hall  Lunch in the Park – Oakland Square Park  Tai Chi – Rice Hall |
| **Oct 7** | 12:00 pm  6:45 pm | NA Rice Hall  Bible Study |
| **Oct 8** | 12:00 pm | NA Rice Hall |
| **Oct 9** |  | Office Closed on Friday |
| **Oct 10** |  |  |
| **Oct 11** | 9:00 am  10:00 am | Sunday School  Worship Service |



The Coaching Cohort, which helps pastors improve ministry skills, has been one of the real success stories of the Synod's vision.  Here are the thoughts of one Cohort member, Pastor Bob Swanson, and how the vision is leading us to Thrive.

     While involved with the synod's "Coaching Cohort" program from August 2017 to June 2018, I was truly part of the synod vision, Stronger and Better Together: Joining Jesus in the Restoration of the World.  With Mike Weaver and Grant Eckhart as coaches, and fellow pastors Sally Padgett (First, Columbus) and Brian Ferguson (First, Cincinnati), wee would walk thru and talk thru various situations and problems each of us were experiencing in our downtown contexts.

     Each of our churches were servants to so many in the throes of battling a myriad of "the street's" pain, from homelessness to addiction, prostitution, and hopelessness.  Although the "diagnoses" of situations may have appeared similar, how we would address many of these speed bumps and minister to them varied.  That is where weekly video discussions would prove to be extremely helpful and effective.  Ideas, questions, and comments would be offered from a different perspective, which is always helpful.  Yes, stronger and better together!

     The cohort experience helped beyond the outreach ministry to that of our congregations, as we would compare notes to how each context might compare to another's.  From finances, to council power struggles, to folks still pointing fingers at "those people" our churches would feed, clothe, and help with hygiene - the willingness to share openly was exceptional.

     There's much more I could share but I hope you will be part of this growing opportunity to make our ministries stronger and better together.  - ***Pastor Bob Swanson****, First Lutheran, Dayton*

*For all Logan County Churches, October 18, 2020 is Stand Up for Jesus and Pray for our Nation.*





**The Remembrance Book this year will be displayed in the upper narthex for you to write down a loved one’s name or someone dear to your heart, that passed away this year. These names will be included in our prayers during service on All Saint’s Sunday, November 1st.**

**TUESDAYS IN THE PARK & FAITH CIRCLE**

Tuesday October 6th and Tuesday October 20th at Noon We will continue with our Tuesdays In the Park throughout October. We will move into Rice Hall if weather deems that necessary.

Bring your lunch and a lawn chair to Oakland Square Park Everyone Welcome!

**FAITH CIRCLE** will hold their monthly meeting on **Tuesday Oct 20th** in conjunction with Tuesdays in the Park. Bring your lunch & lawn chair. Judy will offer devotions. Jean has volunteered to bring a sweet treat. We will finalize our plans for our upcoming Thankoffering Service to be held on Sunday Nov 8th.

Remember to bring your offerings – general offering along with pennies, nickels and assorted change. Our Mission Project for this month is a special **Love Offering for the Warm Clothes for Kids Agency** which is our Thankoffering project for the months of Oct & Nov.

We are wrapping up the Shoe Drive. Completion date Sunday Oct 4th.



Lyrics to “All God’s Creatures got a place in the Choir”

All God's creatures got a place in the choir  
Some sing low, some sing higher,  
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire,  
And some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now

Listen to the top where the little birds sing  
On the melodies with the high notes ringing,  
The hoot owl cries over everything  
And the blackbird disagrees.  
Singin' in the night time, singing in the day,  
The little duck quacks, then he's on his way.  
The otter hasn't got much to say  
And the porcupine talks to himself.

All God's creatures got a place in the choir  
Some sing low, some sing higher,  
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire,  
And some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now

The dogs and the cats they take up the middle  
While the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles,  
The donkey prays and the pony neighs  
And the old grey badger sighs.  
Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom  
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus  
Moans and groans with a big t'do  
And the old cow just goes moo.  
  
All God's creatures got a place in the choir  
Some sing low, some sing higher,  
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire,  
And some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now

It's a simple song of living sung everywhere  
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly gear,  
The grumpy alligator and the hawk above,  
The sly ol' weasel and the turtle dove.  
  
All God's creatures got a place in the choir  
Some sing low, some sing higher,  
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire,  
And some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now  
All God's critters got a place in the choir  
Some sing low, some sing higher,  
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire,  
And some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now

All God's creatures got a place in the choir