

THE FAMILY OF GOD ALIVE AND THRIVING

**FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD,
OUT OF OUR RUTS,
WORKING TO RESCUE THE LOST**

Message 2

Pursuing the Mission

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

11:15 am

LATE SERVICE — MODERN WORSHIP

October 18, 2020

WELCOME TO THE FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP OF GOD'S FAMILY.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Charlotte Michigan

WELCOME

Welcome to our corporate worship at First Lutheran Church. We pray that God's word and Spirit would touch your heart and mind and life this morning to give you assurance in Him . . . but also new zeal for wrapping your life around Him . . . and eagerly giving yourself first to Him . . . and totally to Him.

As we come into the Lord's presence today, reflect on our great and wonderful God, who has created us and then brought us into Himself through His grace.

In His grace, He has forgiven our sin through Jesus, who gave His life to take the punishment for our sin. With this relationship, we have the sovereign, gracious God as the center of our existence. May we always hold that treasure dearly.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Sunday

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is the recognized auxiliary of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to coordinate the women of the church. The LWML continues to be a leading force in missions and ministry around the world through their sacrificial gifts of mites, tithes, offerings, and tireless service. The work of these Lutheran Women in Mission reaches people of all walks of life, foreign and domestic, in the interest of the advance of witness, mercy, and life together for all those who are loved into life through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Countless millions have been reached and saved alive for Christ through their ministry, and in these last days, we pray that their grace-filled, faithful labor in sacrifices and offerings may rise in the nostrils of our Lord in a way that is sweet and fragrant.

Encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

OUR FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COMMUNION POLICY

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at First Lutheran in the belief and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold any understanding different from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

"CONNECTION FORM" AND PRAYER REQUESTS

(a blue insert in your bulletin)

We are asking that every individual or family complete a "Connection Form" and put it into the offering basket. Please identify all family members participating. Please also share your prayer requests.

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER IDEAS

"Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire.'"

Hebrews 12:28-29

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

WE ENTER INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

THE INVOCATION AND BLESSING

Pastor: We have come to worship the one True God, the Triune God.
God be with you today.

People: And with your spirit.

Pastor: May the true God – Father, Son, and Spirit – be glorified as we worship.

All: Amen

OUR CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH AND OUR SIN

Pastor: The God whom we worship reveals Himself as the one and only true God. He said: "I am the Lord, that is my name. I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols." (*Isaiah 42:8*) "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." (*Deuteronomy 6:4*) "Blessed are the people whose God is Yahweh (LORD)." (*Psalms 144:15*) Let us together, as people loved by God, draw near with true hearts and confess our sins and our faith to this one and only true God, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**All: O Lord, if You kept a record of sins,
who could stand in Your presence?**

But with You there is forgiveness.

Therefore You are revered. (*Psalms 130:4*)

Almighty God, I am a sinful human being,

who sins against You in my thoughts, words, and deeds.

You are merciful . . . and withhold the punishment we deserve.

**In Your grace You have wonderfully washed away our sin . . .
because of Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross.
You have given us spiritual life.
Keep us on the path to everlasting life in Your presence. Amen.**

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

A SONG OF PRAISE – “Who You Say I Am”

WE GO BEFORE THE TRIUNE GOD WITH OUR PRAYERS

OUR GENERAL PRAYERS OF PRAISE, THANKSGIVING, AND PETITION

At the end of each segment of prayer . . . Pastor will say: “Hear us.”
Worshippers will add a direct address to God, saying: “O GOD OF LOVE.”

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

WE DEVOTE OURSELVES TO HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING – Chronicles 31:20b-21, 32:1-2a, 7-8 (NKJV)

Hezekiah [the king of Judah] . . . did what was good and right and true before the LORD his God. ²¹ And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, in the law and in the commandment, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart. So he prospered. ¹ After these deeds of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and entered Judah; he encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them over to himself. ² And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come, . . . [he encouraged the people]. . . ⁷ “Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him. ⁸ With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

Reader: This is a beautiful example of a king who “was good and right and true”

who relied on God and sought God with all his heart. He was teaching his people to do the same.

**All: Lord, help us to be like Hezekiah,
relying on You and seeking Your will with all our hearts.
Help us also encourage others to do likewise. Amen**

THE EPISTLE READING – First Thessalonians 5:1-11 WEB

[Paul wrote] Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need that anything be written to you. ² For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night. ³ For when they are saying, “Peace and safety,” then sudden destruction will come on them, like birth pains on a pregnant woman. Then they will in no way escape. ⁴ But you, brothers, aren’t in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of light and children of the day. We don’t belong to the night, nor to darkness, ⁶ so then let’s not sleep, as the rest do, but let’s watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep in the night; and those who are drunk are drunk in the night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let’s be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God didn’t appoint us to wrath, but to the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore exhort one another, and build each other up, even as you also do.

Reader: In another epistle – Romans – Paul wrote: “Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4 NIV)
That applies to this reading from the epistle to the Thessalonians.

All: Lord, thank You for these words of encouragement.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE GOSPEL READING – Luke 19:1-10 NIV

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a ycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. ⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. ⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” ⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have

cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”⁹ Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.”¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Pastor: What did Jesus clearly teach with His actions and His words?

All: Jesus, the Son of Man, came to seek and to save the lost.

We are blessed because Jesus came for us and rescued us.

Thank You, Jesus.

OUR PRAYER IN SONG – “Living Hope”

THE MESSAGE **FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD,
OUT OF OUR RUTS,
WORKING TO RESCUE THE LOST**

a series

Message 2

Pursuing the Mission

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

OUR PRAYER FOR OUR APPLICATION OF THE MESSAGE

THE LWML PLEDGE

**In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love
and His blood-bought gift of redemption,
we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have;
and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields,
we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us.
We consecrate to our Savior . . . our hands to work for Him,
our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises,
our lips to proclaim His redeeming love,
our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will,
and every power of our life to the great task
of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.**

© 1955 LWML authored by Rev. Harry Fricke

OUR PRAYER IN SONG – “Give Us Clean Hands”

AN EXPRESSION OF FAITH IN OUR GOD -- THE TRINITY

**O most holy God, sovereign creator, You truly are God –
God over gods, Lord over lords. You have no equal.
All creation is Your creation. The cosmos moves at Your command.
You are master over the heavens and the earth.**

**O Lord God, I acknowledge that You are MY creator,
provider, savior, sanctifier and enabler.**

I trust that You will give me all I need for life.

I trust that You have provided salvation for me through Jesus.

**I trust that You continue to work in me each day by Your Spirit in me
. . . to enable, guide, instruct, enlighten, and encourage.**

Lord God, You are the center of my existence

and the center of my family and my congregation.

**Help me to live that way. Help me to live trusting You as the center,
loving You as the center, and revering You as the center.**

**Make every action, thought, and word reflect my belief . . .
that You are the center of my life.**

**I am Yours through Jesus. Preserve me in that faith . . .
and forgive my sins for His sake. Amen**

WE EXPERIENCE GOD’S GIFTS OF MERCY AND GRACE IN THE LORD’S SUPPER

A PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE LORD’S SUPPER

Pastor: O Holy God, it is with joy that we gather in Your presence to worship You. You bless us in so many ways, including especially a great variety of spiritual gifts through which You save us, renew us, enlighten us, feed us, guide us, and empower us. We now participate in a sacred meal in which we receive the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus, Who sacrificed His life for us so that we can have life forever in Your presence.

All: **We rejoice in You, Jesus, and worship You. Amen**

THE WORDS OF JESUS CONSECRATING THE ELEMENTS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Please join in singing this song as you commune today.:

“Communion”

THE DISMISSAL BLESSING AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE GIVE OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD AND GO OUT IN HIS LOVE

CELEBRATING OUR ONENESS IN THE FAMILY OF GOD IN THIS PLACE

As people who have been saved from the destruction toward which we were headed by a merciful God and self-sacrificing Savior, we are privileged to participate in the mission and ministry of sharing that good news with others. Our offerings support that gospel endeavor in our church, our community, and in the world.

Please also complete a blue "Connection Form"
and put it into the basket at the back of the sanctuary.

THE CLOSING SONG OF WORSHIP – "Forever"

THE BLESSING

Pastor:

. . . and all God's people say . . .

All: Amen

Silent Prayer
Announcements

.....

Welcome to All

We are thankful You worshiped at First Lutheran Church today.

WHO ARE WE?

We are people of God, graciously saved by God through the sacrificial death of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit. In relationship with God, as the people of God joined together, we in faith worship and commune faithfully, absorb God's word, and pray.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

It is a blessing to have willing workers in the Lord's kingdom. We are thankful that so many people serve in the church and in our community. Let's encourage one another.

CREDITS

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan.

First Lutheran Church

550 E. Shepherd St., Charlotte, MI 48813 . . Phone: (517) 543-4360
Email: flchurchoffice@gmail.com. . Web: www.firstlutherancharlotte.org

OUR MINISTRY STAFF

Jim Eggert -- Intentional Interim Pastor
(517) 703-6529 . . pastorjimeggert@gmail.com

Mark Gawura -- Specific Ministry Pastor for Care Ministries (517) 667-6853

Daniel Longden -- Specific Ministry Vicar, Director of Youth & Family Ministry
(517) 543-4360 ext. 221 daniellongden@gmail.com

Worship Music Team Leader – Andrew Backus

A DAILY PRAYER (personal)

O Lord God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, give me an undivided heart . . .
that is centered on You and is totally attached to You.

Help me trust You and Your word fully.

Help me love You above all people and things.

Help me revere You as the true God – my creator, provider, and protector,
my savior-rescuer and model, and my sanctifier and enabler.

Help me make You my Number 1 Priority.

Protect me from evil and the evil one because I am Yours, O Lord. Amen

OUR DAILY PRAYER (multiple people)

O Lord God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, give US undivided hearts . . .
that are centered on You and are totally attached to You.

Help every one of us trust You and Your word fully.

Help us love You above all people and things.

Help us all revere You as the true God –

our creator, provider, and protector,

our savior-rescuer and model, and our sanctifier and enabler.

Help us make You our Number 1 Priority.

Protect us from evil and the evil one because we are Yours, O Lord. Amen

OCTOBER MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

**Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us
in our time of need**

A PRAYER FOR US, GOD'S PEOPLE, AND FOR OUR NATION

The Scriptures declare, O Lord, that You reign . . . and that You will reign forever. May we, the people You created, give You glory and live in joyful obedience to Your will. Yes, Lord, our God, may we all give You glory and live in joyful obedience to Your will. Help us trust Your goodness , Your greatness, Your omnipotence, and Your love.

Gracious God, bring peace to this country. Let Your glory shine through Your presence, but help us, Your people, also make it shine by living our lives for You and letting Your light shine. O Lord, as we approach this election, we pray for legal voting. Make the schemes of people who vote illegally or perpetrate illegal voting be brought to nothing. Help all of us acknowledge that You are the supreme ruler, the sovereign ruler. Our trust is in You. Help us honor those who lead us, and help us, as citizens of this great country always promote the goals identified in the opening paragraph of our constitution – striving always to be "a more perfect union, (to) establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." (*Constitution of the USA*)

Continue to bless and preserve this nation as you have blessed us so abundantly through the centuries. Forgive our shortcomings as a nation. Remind us always to live trusting You as our money proclaims: "In God We Trust." Enable us to seek the truth, to see the truth, and love the truth. Bless our land with peace and unity. Defend us from every danger, and guard and protect us from all evil.

O Lord, enable our leaders at every level of government and in every branch of government to live according to the values we Americans cherish – to be godly, honest, moral, and upright. Help them to do what is right.

As we approach this election and get ready to vote, give us insight to see beyond the spoken or written statements of the candidates to know what they really value and stand for. Help us choose the most godly who have godly and wise ideals for our state and our country. We know, O Lord, that You value life, love, godliness. Help us choose wisely. O Lord, sovereign God, help us. To You be all glory. Amen

GROWING IN LOVE

We people of God pursue growth in love in all the ways God provides:

- praying for the Holy Spirit's work in us
- following the model of loving people in the Bible
- studying the instruction from Bible
- observing people who are models of God-like love
- being mentored in love. .

A PRAYER FOR OUR GROWTH IN LOVE

O LORD, our God, You have a beautiful eternal plan for us –
that we, Your rescued people, will be with You in Your glory forever.
That is an awesome gift – a treasure – that we cannot even envision.
But You have plans for us while we live here on this earth as well.
You want to overcome our sinful nature . . . and restore us in Your image.
You want us to love as You do – selflessly, sacrificially, unconditionally.
You want us to think and reason as You do. You want us to know Your will . . .
and understand the disaster of sin. You want to fill us with Your Spirit . . .
so that we are zealously pursuing Your will . . . in every facet of our lives.
Spirit of God, continue changing us . . . revive us, shape us, mobilize us.
Help us see the tasks and the vision You have for us . . . individually and together.
Help us stand out as Your people in a world of sinfulness. You have a mission for us . . .
to rescue the lost. Fill us with the joy of Your presence . . . and fill us with love for others.
Give us individual and collective zeal for volunteering to carry out Your will –
saying with Isaiah: “Here I am. Send me.” To You be all the glory now and forever. Amen

A PRAYER FOR SALVATION AND FOR PASSION AND BOLDNESS

O LORD, God of mercy and grace.
As we think of Kate crying over neighbor kids who did not believe in You
and they did not believe that Jesus rose for the dead . . .
help us, first of all, to be totally convinced of those truths.
You are alive and active as the only true God.
Jesus, You died with a purpose – saving us, and rose victoriously.
You are reign right now in heavenly glory..
Furthermore, help us be totally convinced that we have salvation . . .
and we have eternal life because of Your great love.
Help us recognize and treasure the immensity of Your love.
Now, O Lord, make us bold in sharing the faith we have in You.
You are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Help us desire to witness and evangelize.
Put words into our heads and into our mouths.
Make love for others a visible part of our lives.
Help us to joyfully participate in the evangelistic training
and endeavors of our congregation.
Give us insight and wisdom to develop others.
And, Lord, grow our crowd of welcomers here
as we come to worship and other activities.
Give us cheerful spirits and voices. Open our mouths to speak words of affirmation.
In every way, make us more and more what You want us to be
as Your agents of love and good news in this world.
To You be all the glory. Amen

A PRAYER FOR MY PERSONAL ZEAL AND MOVEMENT FOR THE LOST

O Lord, change me, guide me, empower me. Fill me with zeal. Give me capabilities.

I desire to be what YOU want me to be. Fill me with Your Spirit.

Keep transforming me to be everything You want me to be. Help me live – not for self and note for the world, but for You. Open my eyes – my senses to “see” the lost. Make me zealous in loving the lost and praying for their salvation. Open my eyes to the harvest – people who are dying spiritually because they do not have the living water – the Holy Spirit – and the bread of life – Jesus. I need the Holy Spirit working in me. Enable me to see myself doing things or saying things that I did not plan. You did it.

O Lord, give me satisfaction in sharing Your love and good news. Take away my fear and my inhibitions. Make me bold. Give me the joy of seeing and hearing people get to know You as the God who loves us and saves us – the God who rescued us from eternal damnation. Give me the joy of seeing someone who has never trusted You trust in Jesus as their savior.

O Lord, open my eyes and senses to recognize opportunities. Then enable me to make use of every opportunity You give me to love and share. Fill me with Your Spirit. I pray the same for other Christians. Let us see the fruits of Your work in our lives and the lives of those we touch – those with whom we share You – our God and Savior. Give us the joy of serving. To You be all the glory.

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL REVIVAL

O Lord, because of Your mercy and grace we are called by Your name. Thus we are Your people -- people of God; we are Christians. You have – in tremendous love – reached out to us people, who by our sinful natures are so alienated from you and so rebellious. Even now as Your people, called by Your name, we continue in our sin against You.

Break down our pride. In pride we see ourselves as deserving – worthy of honor. We serve ourselves . . . and our “self.” Break down our pride. Humble us. Help us see and confess our sinfulness and sin. Help us realize the multitude of ways in which we sin against You – the Holy God. And our sin IS against YOU.

Awesome God, we are praying now, but give us the earnest desire to come before Your throne with praise and thanks many times each day. Let such praise and thanks flow from our hearts and minds because You are worthy of all praise and thanksgiving.

Hear us, O merciful and gracious God, for Your name’s sake. Move us to peace and joy in our salvation. Renew our spirits day after day through Your word and Spirit. Give us desire for Your will and zeal to pursue it. We want to be restored in Your image.

You alone are God, and we are Your people. Make our lives bear visible and verbal evidence of Your work in us. Turn us, change us, renew us, revive us. Lead us to holiness unknown to us . . . so that our lives express our praise and thanksgiving to You.

We come before You humbly . . . and yet boldly . . . because we are Your people. Amen