



# September 2021 NEWSLETTER

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

September

*Psalm 43:3 (NIV)*

**Send forth Your light and Your truth,  
let them guide me;  
let them bring me to Your holy mountain,  
to the place where You dwell.**

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**Jesus has ascended into heaven  
where He reigns over all things  
in the Kingdom of Power and over  
His Church in the Kingdom of Grace.**

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Pastor Eggert's monthly letter – September 2021

### I HAVE WORSHIP ON MY MIND

I want to take you on a little expedition through life, thinking about our worship of God. We most often think of worship as what we do in the sanctuary of the church.

However, worship is not only what we do in the sanctuary or even adding in private or family worship. Worship is the life of the Christian. Worship is what we do 24-7 day after day. You can see why the apostle Paul wrote about praying without ceasing. That's 24-7. In our on-going relationship with God, we are constantly praying or worshipping. I do not mean that we are therefore sitting or kneeling or standing and verbally talking to God or singing to God.

No! Worship consists of how we are living our lives every day (including every minute). I'm going to suggest to you that worshipping the true God is absolutely necessary in the life of anyone who thinks he or she is a person of God – a God follower – a Christian. Hang in here with me.

What is worship? It is the life of a God-follower. It is the life of a Christian. If we examine the lives of the people of God in the Bible, we see various people who by their lives are worshipping. Again, I'm not talking about going to the tabernacle or temple. Let's look at some notable people.

The Bible begins with God's creation of the cosmos and everything in it. Adam and Eve were the first humans. They walked with God in the Garden of Eden. While we do not see much of their dialog with God, we do recognize that they are honoring God, holding Him in esteem. That's a facet of their worship.

— Please continue reading on the back side of this sheet —

We then see Cain and Abel, both sacrificing something to God. As the book of Hebrews tells us, Abel's sacrifice was made in faith. There is another component of worship. The Bible teaches that we cannot please God without faith. Therefore faith is another component of worship.

Going further in the Bible we see Enoch, a man taken into God's presence alive. On earth he walked with God, living a life devoted to God. That is what we do in our worship – live our lives devoted to God.

Noah spent a hundred years building the ark in which God was going to save Noah and his family along with pairs of animals and birds. What was evident in Noah's life with God? His obedience. Can you imagine working 100 years to build an ark 450 feet long by 75 feet wide and 45 feet tall? That is obedience. By the way, none of these people were perfect. They were sinners too, but they were people connected to God.

You probably recognize the name Samuel. I do not think there is one thing in the Bible about Samuel displeasing God. He was certainly a sinner like us. But he was utterly zealous for God. He pleased the Lord immensely in his daily life and daily zeal for God.

King David lived a life of ups and downs, but inspired by God he spoke many psalms in which he exalted God – living outwardly in adoration, speaking his adoration and boasting about God. In many other psalms, he encourages us to exalt God. You are catching on, I'm sure. Yes, exalting God is part of our worship 24-7. We have now identified six facets of our daily worship. These are things we do daily – not just in a brief time set aside for "worship," but a life of worship.

I think we can nicely identify eight facets of worship. We have two more to explore. Who was known for revering God? I'd pick out Paul, who wrote many epistles that are in the Bible. His epistles express his reverence for God and encourage us to revere God. The God who rescued us from our path to eternal destruction certainly deserves our reverence.

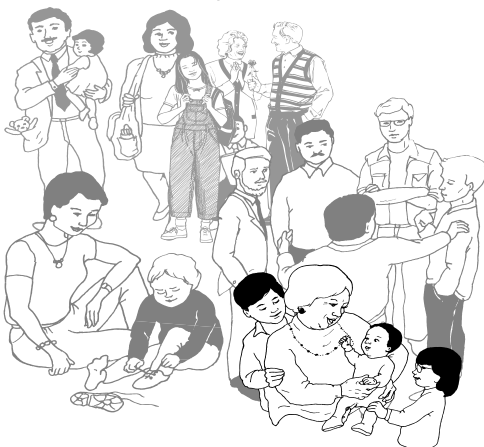
If you have been thinking through facets of worship as you are reading, you can probably identify our eighth facet of 24/7 worship – love. Our model here is the apostle John. John loved Jesus and saw the power of love through Jesus. Yes, love for Jesus, for the Triune God, is another facet of our on-going worship.

I'll make this point: These facets of worship are what followers of God do daily. Oh, we do not do that perfectly; we are sinners – sinners rescued by God through Jesus. But I hope you can see that this is what we strive for – living every minute of every day in worship. We live our worship while we work, we study, we pray, we go about our jobs. But we do it all as we live in worship to God.

When we live that way daily, we will be eager to come together with fellow worshipers on the Lord's day – the day set aside for holy things. Let me encourage you to individually and as a couple and as a family to grow in these facets of worship. We have an awesome God and He has with great mercy and grace brought us into His kingdom. The Triune God deserves all our worship – 24/7. To Him be all the praise and glory. Amen

*Pastor Jim Eggert*

## The Family of God



"Your "church family" connects you through Christ, our Savior, to fellow people of faith. We are people on a journey, joined together around a strong and loving God, whom everyone trusts, loves, and reveres . . . and around whom family life for multiple generations revolves. As in our biological families, everyone is connected and everyone participates for the good of the "family." At First Lutheran Church many people are participating in worship of our God and Savior and are serving God by serving others. What an awesome, satisfying privilege to be God's saved people, joined in His family.

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## A PRAYER OF PRAISE

(on the attributes of God)



O Lord, sovereign God, creator and ruler over all that is,  
You are totally capable. Nothing is impossible for You.  
You are almighty (all-powerful or omnipotent),  
all-seeing,  
all-knowing (omniscient),  
present everywhere (omnipresent), all-wise.

Furthermore, O Lord, You are holy (perfect, sinless, perfectly righteous),  
just (fair, impartial),  
faithful (keeping Your promises),  
eternal (without beginning and without end).

And finally, sovereign Lord, You are loving – with unconditional love,  
merciful (full of pity, withholding punishment we deserve)  
gracious (forgiving, showing undeserved kindness,  
giving us grace we don't deserve),  
and compassionate.

O Lord, You deserve all honor, glory, and praise. Amen

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## "Prayer Partners"

Do you believe God answers prayer? Do you believe that the ministries of First Lutheran Church need to be guided and accomplished through God's direction and strength? Do you believe that those involved in ministries need to be directed and empowered by God for ministry? Would you be willing to commit yourself to being a "Prayer Partner" for one or more ministries of First Lutheran? A "Prayer Partner" commits to praying regularly for one or more ministries for a year, e.g., our Sunday School classes, our confirmation class, our community outreach with the Gospel, our youth ministry, our adult Bible classes, our training programs, etc. If you have questions or are interested, please contact Pastor Jim at 517-703-6529 or the chairperson of one of our Boards..



**Thank You**  
for inviting others  
to worship with you.

We are the messengers of God and His love.

**PRAY FOR THE SALVATION OF  
THE LOST THROUGH THE WORK  
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
AND GOD'S PEOPLE WHO LOVE  
OTHERS WITH GOD'S LOVE.**

***"Anybody can be a heart specialist. The only requirement is loving somebody."***

Angie Papadakis

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## WHOLE-HEARTED SEEKING

Since we are the children of God, we live our lives in response to His GRACE, whole-heartedly seeking the Lord and worshiping Him. Let's pray: "Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." (Psalm 86:11 NIV) Let's do as King Josiah did and as his people did as 2 Chronicles 34:31-32 (NIV) tells us: "The king stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD -- to follow the LORD and keep his commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book [the five books of Moses]. Then he had everyone in Jerusalem and Benjamin pledge themselves to it; the people of Jerusalem did this in accordance with the covenant of God, the God of their fathers."

**PEOPLE OF FIRST ARE ON THE  
MISSION OF OUR SAVIOR**

**OUR FOUNDATION STATEMENT**

*First Lutheran Church, Charlotte, Michigan*

... a statement of who we are and how we function together ...

**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 His family,  
recognizing His love for us,  
in faith we seek Him whole-heartedly,  
worship and commune faithfully,  
absorb God's word, pray to Him, and obey Him.**

**In relationship to others both inside and outside our family of God,  
as people enlightened by the Holy Spirit to the atoning work of God's Son,  
Jesus Christ, we encourage, serve, and care for others.**

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we evangelize, witness, and share  
with a desire to make all people disciples of Jesus.**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Jesus gave us our mission, saying Matthew 28:10-20: **"Go and make disciples  
of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.  
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."**

**VISION**

*A "vision" states what we believe will be happening in the future as we carry out our mission.*

**People will one by one become followers of Jesus**

**Serve one another in love.  
The entire law is summed up in a single command:**

**"Let us love one another,  
for love comes from God."**

1 John 4:7

**Every person in the family of God  
is a minister on a mission.**

**WHAT IS YOUR MINISTRY IN GOD'S MISSION?**

**MINISTER = a person who serves or a person acting as an agent of another. For us that is God.**