

November  
2020

Northland Lutheran Church

# Messenger



Happy Fall Ya'll!!



## FROM PASTOR DAN

THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE CROSS  
VS  
THE SPIRITUALITY OF GLORY

The Spirituality of the Cross is unique to Lutheran Spirituality; it is one of Luther's greatest insights he gained from his study of the New Testament. It begins with an itinerant Jewish carpenter who ends up getting executed by torture on a cross.

One would think that he would have come as a king accepting the veneration of His people, and conquering His enemies. He did conquer His enemies but He conquered them by dying on the cross.

Christ came in weakness: as a baby He came in humiliation, subject to rejection and hatred

Isaiah 53:3-- He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief and like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. He came in suffering

Isaiah 53:4-5--Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. [5] But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

All of this seems surprising; even shocking. People today who are drawn to spiritual matters don't always have dramatic encounters with the Almighty God.

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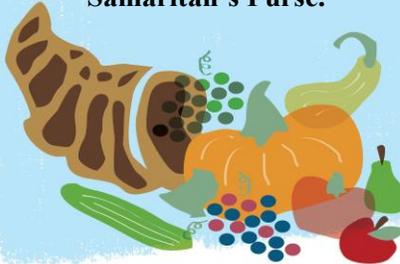
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**Fall  
Back**

Daylight Savings time ends  
November 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Set your clocks back an hour before  
you go to bed.

**Celebrate**  
WITH ALL THE BOUNTY  
THAT THE LORD YOUR GOD  
HAS GIVEN TO YOU.  
DEUTERONOMY 26:11, NRSV

Thank offering will be collected on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. This offering will go to Samaritan's Purse.



# Puzzle!

Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares. Then read down the second column to discover the sentence that begins and ends Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150.

- FEAST
- KHAKI
- MOUTH
- ESSAY
- LLAMA
- ORBIT
- CARRY
- UDDER
- BRUSH
- ITEMS
- APPLE
- LEARN
- CIDER

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Answer:

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Answer: Praise the Lord!



Men's Ministry will meet following Worship on November 1<sup>st</sup> in the basement.



### LOOKING FOR HELP

We are looking for some more volunteers to help run the projector and sound system on Sundays. If you are interested please contact the church office via email at [northlandchurch@hotmail.com](mailto:northlandchurch@hotmail.com).





### NORTHLAND COUNCIL MEETING

Northland Church Council Meeting October 11, 2020

Members Present Debbie Thompson, Richard Kirchhoff, Marilyn Mitchell, Daniele Oligney, Bill Hahn, Pastor Dan, Craig Anderson, Dianne Erickson.

Bill called meeting to order.

Pastor Dan opened with a prayer.

Secretary report was read with one correction, add the word (up) grade of internet service. Approved.

Treasure report was read and approved. 9/30

Checking acct. Balance \$8,378.54 9/30

Memorial Fund Balance \$29,011.28

Cash Flow for September -\$1,490.57(red)

Pastor Dan's report Confirmation going well both Wednesday evening and Saturday mornings. Pastor said he still is not visiting many shuts because of Virus. If anybody would like him to call, please contact him. He can call you on the phone or make an appointment. Carroll and Sharon Thompson, Family of Jessie Glodowski, and Honick Family have asked to become member of Northland. A motion made by Debbie T. to accept these family's 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marilyn M. motion carried.

Funeral policy was revisited and will remain the same. Church serve and grave site services only. No food served downstairs. Motion by Marilyn M. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dianne E. motion carried.

2021 Budget was addressed. Motion was made by Marilyn M. to accept 2021 Proposed Budget 2<sup>nd</sup> by Craig A. Motion carried.

Cindy Amundson was nominated to be on the Nominating Committee (replacing Laura Krogwold) Motion made by Debbie T. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marilyn M. Motion carried.

Discussion on music during church was brought to our attention, members would like some old songs and new songs used more frequent to get know better.

Discussion on Virus and taking members temps as they enter church. No action taken.

Special Offering, November 15, 2020 Thank Offering. Ladies Group will send to Samaritans Purse.

Motion made by Richard K. 2<sup>nd</sup> Marilyn M. to adjourn. Motion carried.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.

These minutes have not been approved. Secretary Dianne



### COUNCIL MEETING

The November council meeting will be on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> following Worship. If you are unable to attend or if you have a concern, please contact Bill Hahn at [wshahn@tds.net](mailto:wshahn@tds.net) or at 920-840-5275.

Christmas Tree trimming and Christmas decorating will be held on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 AM. If you would like to help please show up.



- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dylan Olson
- 5<sup>th</sup> Laura Krogwold
- 6<sup>th</sup> Brooklyn Ann-Marie Heise
- 9<sup>th</sup> Austen Lane, Christopher Mauel
- 13<sup>th</sup> James Cady, Carole Merde
- 17<sup>th</sup> Marlene Olson, Kristin VanEpern, Myah Heschke, Maci Heschke
- 19<sup>th</sup> Katlyn Cleary
- 20<sup>th</sup> Roger Olson
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Richard Lashua
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Patricia Louison
- 24<sup>th</sup> Alf Thompson
- 26<sup>th</sup> Mary Oligney
- 27<sup>th</sup> Dean Lashua
- 28<sup>th</sup> Seth Voie
- 29<sup>th</sup> Kaitlyn Lee, Christine Foely, Kay Sanders



### NOVEMBER 2020 AT A GLANCE

- ALTAR GUILD:** Terri Fisher  
**USHER:** James Wrolstad & Jeanne Opperman  
**AA MEETING:** Every Thursday at 7:00 PM in the church basement.  
**TUESDAY QUILTER'S:** November 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.  
**COUNCIL MEETING:** Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> following Worship  
**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.  
**NORHTLAND LADIES GROUP:** November 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. Hostess will be Fran Moen.  
**CHRISTMAS TREE TRIMING:** Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM, Potluck brunch.  
**PROJECTOR OPERATORS:**  
 November 1<sup>st</sup> -Kevin D.                      November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Carl T.  
 November 8<sup>th</sup> -Craig A.                    November 29<sup>th</sup> -Dale T.  
 November 15<sup>th</sup> - Bruce M.



### LOOK AHEAD DECEMBER 2020 AT A GLANCE

- ALTAR GUILD:** Deb & Tara Thompson  
**USHER:** Dale & Carl Thompson  
**AA MEETING:** Every Thursday at 7:00 PM in the church basement.  
**MEN'S MINISTRY:** Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> following Worship.  
**COUNCIL MEETING:** Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> following Worship.  
**TUESDAY QUILTER'S:** December 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.  
**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.  
**PROJECTOR OPERATORS:**  
 December 6<sup>th</sup> Kevin D.                      December 24<sup>th</sup> Carl T.  
 December 13<sup>th</sup> Craig A.                    December 25<sup>th</sup> Dale T.  
 December 20<sup>th</sup> Bruce M.                    December 27<sup>th</sup> Kevin D.



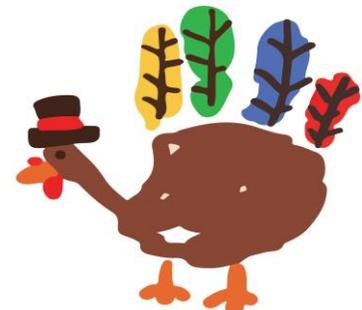
On Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> we welcomed Myah Heschke, Maci Heschke and Jordis Stencil into full membership at Northland through there Holy Communion and Confirmation. Congratulation and good luck to you as you continue to grow your faith!

## DEADLINE

Items for the December 2020 Messenger are due, ready for publication, to the office on November 12<sup>th</sup>.



The church is reserved, all day, for the Town of Harrison on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> for Elections. If you have business at church on this day, please find another day to complete your business. Thank You.



## Bible Quiz

Under what circumstances did strongman Samson become weak?

- A. When a curse was spoken against him
- B. When he slacked off on his weight-lifting exercises
- C. When his hair was cut
- D. When he was bound with ropes that had never been used

Answer: C (See Judges 16:17-19.)

# FROM PASTOR DAN Cont. from Page 1

The never-ending routine of responsibilities of everyday life wears down our awareness of something beyond ourselves. The preoccupations of life that we deal with—like earning a living for our families, dealing with unexpected problems that intensifies our frustration, aggravation, and stress, often smothers any sense of a connection to the Holy.

And then, there is the fact of actual suffering; when we face failure or disease, or loss of a loved one. When these things happen, an agonizing question is raised in our minds: Where is God Now?

The Prophet Isaiah in the midst of national and religious apostasy and rejection of God and His Word, a rejection on a massive scale, which in turn led to the spiritual collapse of Israel, led to a devastation that we cannot begin to imagine. In the middle of that devastation the prophet Isaiah said, “Truly you are a God who hides himself, O God and Savior of Israel.” Isaiah 45:15

But to say that God is hidden does not mean that God is absent. Actually, when someone is hidden that doesn't mean that person is absent. Someone who is hidden is still present but not seen. The child who is hiding in a closet is certainly there—but not seen. God conceals Himself, often in things we would least expect.

1. A crucified criminal. And Jesus was viewed as a criminal by His enemies.
2. In a Book—The Bible
3. In the Bread & Wine of the Sacrament of the Altar.
4. Trials & sufferings.
5. And in people working and raising families. All of this is the hiddenness of God.

We need to grasp the truth that the hiddenness of God is one of the deepest and most profound themes in Lutheran Spirituality. It is what is called the Spirituality of the Cross, or, the Theology of the Cross

1. The Spirituality of the Cross has to do with Christ's work
2. It also has to do with Christ's presence, and how we draw closer to Him.
3. The Spirituality of the Cross also deals with the difficulties and hardships that Christians must live through in an utterly realistic and honest way.

## THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE CROSS VS THE SPIRITUALITY OF GLORY

1. All of these things promise us empowerment. Not only will they bring us personal peace & happiness, they also promise to improve our physical health and even to lose weight.
2. These spiritual practices are also put forward as methods for career advancement, to the point where business books often seem indistinguishable from spirituality books.
3. Some books speak of “Self-Actualization”. In these books the Self is spoken of in terms traditionally reserved for God. The Self becomes the Creator [i.e. “You can create your own reality”]. You then become the Law-Giver. You determine what's right for you; not God.
4. All these crazy things are seeking to eliminate the need for a Redeemer. New Age spirituality affirms the idea that the “Self” is God. And that all things, if we could only realize it, share the same Divine unity.
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*Continued on Page 6*



# FROM PASTOR DAN Cont. from Page 5

In today's world, the term "Spirituality" simply becomes the means to enhance ourselves; to acquire power, pleasure, and become a god in our own right.

This is insanity, but it is nothing new. Read about the pagan fertility cults in the Old Testament. The Israelites were constantly tempted to participate in the pagan rites in the various fertility cults practiced by their pagan neighbors. The pagan religious practices seemed so much more fun than dealing with the Holy God of the Bible. The Holy God who rescued them from slavery and gave them their own country just wasn't enough fun in terms of the worship and behavior He required of His people. People will always be tempted to follow an easier and softer way. But the easier and softer way is a lie. The easier and softer way was offered to Eve by the serpent; the serpent said, "Hey, Eve...did God really say you cannot eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? You don't have to listen to Him!! You can get rid of the middle-man [God] simply by eating this fruit...and your eyes will be opened, and you will be your own god, knowing good and evil. God is holding you back from "Actualizing yourself"; believe me Eve, life is so much better when you don't have to deal with God and what He says."

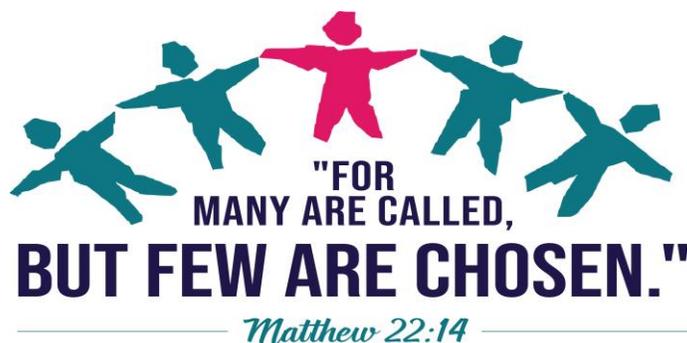
The popular pre-packaged spiritualities of the new age is simply a counterfeit spirituality that promises everything [as the serpent promise to Eve], and then gives nothing. And in the process, you lose the True God and your true self. As Jesus said, the devil is a murderer and liar and he seeks people to deceive, and when the trap springs on its victim, that person is spiritually murdered. The forbidden fruit looks & tastes good, but it is a lie. A lie that kills and destroys.

The way of Christ is not an easy way. It is hard and frustrating, but it leads to life. The truth is that the best of Christian family's experience conflicts, intractable problems and embarrassing failures. The most devout Christians may go bankrupt or have a mental breakdown, or get sick and not be healed. The lies of those idiotic books will be of no help at all when the bottom falls out. In fact, they will only increase our sense of failure. The idea of the "Victorious Christian Life" proves impossible to attain, so we have to suppress our failures and keep trying harder & present a more positive front to the world. But, in doing that, we have to resort to dishonesty and phoniness.

Luther called this kind of self-centered "Power Spirituality" the Spirituality of Glory. Its attraction is understandable; of course, we would like to have victory and happiness...we would like to have complete and understandable answers and evidence. We would love to have tangible spiritual power, all conveyed by an impressive, well run, and effective institution.

Instead, God gives us the Cross. The Theology of the Cross cuts against the grain of all-natural religion, all of what we expect and want in a spiritual system. But the Almighty God did not manifest Himself as an abstract principle. Instead, God came down from Heaven to dwell among us—as a baby.

He was not born in a King's Palace, but in a stable—born of a Virgin. Yes, the Angels celebrated His coming, but they did not announce it to the rich & famous—they announced it to wandering shepherds. Throughout His life, the Son of God emptied Himself of glory....



# FROM PASTOR DAN Cont. from Page 6

Philip. 2:4-8

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. [5] Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus [6] Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, [7] but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death even death on a cross!

Now, to be sure, this Jesus was powerful, healing the sick, raising the dead, and ruling nature itself. But, Jesus still remained unpopular; He was scorned & homeless.

Matthew 8:20

Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

Isaiah 53:2-3

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. [3] He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

It is strange for the Son of God to come like this. And then this Jesus was arrested, tried, & executed & nailed to the Cross. But look at the words of Isaiah's prophecy:

Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely, he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. [5] But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. [6] We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

In this chapter of the Old Testament, not the New Testament, as one might expect, Isaiah foresees how Christ's weakness impacts our own weakness. On the cross, He carried not only our transgressions and iniquities, but also our "infirmities and our sorrows".

The rest of the story is that Christ rose from the dead, He ascended back into the Glory that was His, and, in the words of the Nicene Creed, "He will come again with Glory."

And His followers will life in Glory; really and truly live in Glory with Him, and be with Him forever.

But in the meantime, while we live on this earth, there is the Cross.

In Luke 9:23 Jesus said, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

Jesus also said in Luke 14:27, "Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

Jesus does not mean that we have to suffer as Jesus did, or that we have to suffer in some sort of meritorious act or payment for our own sins. Jesus did all of that for us. But it does mean that the spiritual life has to do with suffering. It has to do with defeat. It has to do with weakness; not simply with the experience of "Glory", as we would like to have.

However, this also implies a peculiar way that Jesus relates to us: Coming to faith, as we have seen, involves being broken by the Law and coming to grips with our moral failures.

Legalistic religions, in which we save ourselves by our own effort, are very specifically spiritualities of glory. And they assume success and glorify the powers of successful people.

But when we realize just how lost we are, then we cling to the Cross, trusting Christ to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. This is saving Faith, the is the Spirituality of the Cross.

*Continue on Page 8*



# FROM PASTOR DAN

Cont. from Page 7

Luther said, “The most severe trial comes upon a person when he believes he has been forsaken and rejected by God. Such a trial comes only to the “greatest of saints”. So what would be seen as spiritual failure in other traditions, [i.e. doubting our salvation and feeling God’s absence] for Luther is a sign of the greatest sanctity.

Over and over in his writings, Luther tells those who are doubting their salvation, or question whether God loves them, or those who think they have committed a sin that God cannot forgive, to read God’s promises in the Bible and hold God to His Word. And to remember the fact that they have been Baptized, and to receive the Body & Blood of Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar, and to cling to the Cross of Christ.

To trust God’s Word of Promise, despite our feelings, is faith. As Paul writes in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:7 “We walk by faith, not by sight.”

In the darkness, when we cannot see, we can only listen for God’s voice, where we can draw closer to the Hidden God. Paul said our lives are hidden with Christ in the Gospel. Our sins are hidden in the Cross. Our righteousness is hidden in Christ’s Righteousness. That is the basis of our spiritual security. The Christian’s life is safely hidden away. Though we believe in the Law’s message that a Christian refusing to repent of sin and rejecting the faith can fall away, the Christian’s life is safely hidden away in the Gospel, and the Gospel banishes all fear. Jesus said in John’s Gospel, “The wind blows where it wishes”, “And you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

God’s Spirit is at work in our lives, mysteriously changing the heart, acting through Word & Sacrament, He ministers to us in trials & tribulations, creating someone who will stand before God in Heaven as Holy.

# Puzzle!

Use the food key to complete Acts 14:17, NIV.

KEY

THANK YOU, LORD



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**ACTS 14:17, NIV**

Answer: “He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.” Acts 14:17, NIV