FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 10, 2023

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

Building on the Rock of Jesus and His Word
1600 S. Main St. Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
stpetersfdl.net ~ 920-922-1160
Worship: Thursday, 6:30 pm ~ Sunday, 8:00 am & 10:30 am
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Pastor Luke Boehringer 920-579-8150 (cell) *or* 922-1160 ext. 304 St. Peter's Lutheran School, Mr. Courtney Meyer, Principal 922-1160 ext. 302 Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Mr. David Schroeder, Principal 921-4930 ext. 304

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE Together let us glory in the cross of Christ.

Thank you for joining us for worship. If you have any questions about our service or practice, please feel free to ask one of the ushers or the pastor.

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow you. Destitute, despised, forsaken, You on earth once suffered, too. Perish ev'ry fond ambition, All I've ever hoped or known; Yet how rich is my condition! God and heav'n are still my own. Go, then, earthly fame and treasure! Come, disaster, scorn, and pain! In your service pain is pleasure; With your favor loss is gain. I have called you Abba, Father! You my all in all shall be. Storms may howl, and clouds may gather; All must work for good to me. Amen.

SERVICE THEME

A Church Willing to Say Hard Things

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Setting Two | 172-182, 171

OPENING HYMN

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me | 839

PRAYER OF THE DAY O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON Ezekiel 33:7-11

The Lord told the prophet Ezekiel if he didn't warn the Israelites about their sin, he was going to hold Ezekiel accountable for their blood.

But I have appointed you, son of man, to be a watchman for the house of Israel. So whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you are to warn them from me. ⁸When I say to a wicked man, "Wicked man, you shall surely die," if you do not speak to warn the wicked man against his way, that wicked man will die because of his guilt, but I will also hold you responsible for his blood. ⁹But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he will die because of his guilt, but you will have saved your life.

 $^{10}\mbox{So}$ you, son of man, say the following to the house of Israel.

This is what you people are saying:

"Certainly our rebellion and our sins weigh us down, and because of them we are rotting away.

How then can we live?"

¹¹Say to them, "As I live, declares the LORD God, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from their way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why should you die, O house of Israel?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

I Turn to You, O Lord | 32

SECOND LESSON

Galatians 2:11-16

Paul is put in the uncomfortable position of having to confront Cephas (also known as Peter). In doing so, Paul wins Peter over to the truth of the gospel.

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly wrong. ¹²For before some people came from James, he ate with the Gentiles. But when those people came, he drew back and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision group. ¹³And the rest of the Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that they were not acting according to the truth of the gospel, I said

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to Cephas in front of all of them, "If you, a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, why do you compel the Gentiles to live like the Jews?"

¹⁵"We are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners.

¹⁶We know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.

So we also believed in Christ Jesus that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page **179**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Your words are my joy and my heart's delight. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL (Sermon Text)

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus teaches us how to lovingly practice Christian discipline as we seek to win our straying brother or sister over.

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his sin just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have regained your brother. ¹⁶But if he will not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And, if he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as an unbeliever or a tax collector. ¹⁸Amen I tell you: Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Amen I tell you again: If two of you on earth agree to ask for anything, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. ²⁰In fact where two or three have gathered together in my name, there I am among them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Am I My Brother's Keeper?"

Pastor Boehringer

APOSTLE'S CREED & PRAYER

pages 181-182

GATHERING OF OUR OFFERING

PRAYERS & BLESSING

page **171**

CLOSING HYMN

Lead Me, Lord | 926

This hymn, which is new to us, will be sung to the congregation once.

Then the hymn will be played again with the congregation invited to sing along.



ORGANIST Erin Achey

GREETERS

8:00 ~ Jane Fell 10:30 ~ Tracy & Eric Freiberg