

Sunday, October 20th 2024

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost



Mailing Address:

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
489 Agnes
Suite 112, Box 117
Bastrop, TX 78602**

Physical Address:

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
(on the SDA campus)
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Bastrop, TX 78602**

**Rev. E. B. Holschuh – Pastor
(737) 332-1896 (Voicemail/Text)
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WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!” (Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this morning to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.

OUR COMMUNION POLICY:

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod believes the biblical teaching that in communion we receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the biblical teaching of communion, and if you agree with our confession of faith, please feel free to commune with us. If you have any questions, please speak with our pastor.

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh
Musician – Gina Sanders
Lay Reader – Rosie Cabrera
Assisting Elder – Tom Rosser

Initial and ongoing funding for Epiphany Lutheran Church has been received through a grant made possible by the Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund.

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

By the Voluntary Poverty of Christ, We Enter the Kingdom of God

To love and trust in earthly wealth is vanity. For nothing of this earth will last forever, nor can any of it grant eternal life (Eccl. 5:10). But the one who trusts in God is “*occupied with joy in his heart*” and is able to sleep in peace, “*whether he eats little or much,*” because he knows that the “*days of his life*” are “*the gift of God*” (Eccl. 5:12, 18–20). The person who trusts in riches cannot sleep, because he “*shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand*” (Eccl. 5:15). Therefore, it is difficult “*for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God*” (Mark 20:23). Indeed, it is impossible for man, yet “*all things are possible with God*” (Mark 20:27). Thus, the Rich Man, Jesus Christ, has made Himself poor and has gone through “*the eye of a needle,*” through death and the grave, “*to enter the kingdom of God*” on our behalf (Mark 20:24–25). He is the “*great high priest who has passed through the heavens*” (Heb. 4:14), so that we may now enter His Sabbath rest by faith in His forgiveness (Heb. 4:3–9).

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

Prelude		Selected Music
Welcome and Greeting		Pastor
Announcements		
Opening Hymn	<i>“The Gifts Christ Freely Gives”</i>	LSB 602
<i>(stand)</i>		

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. *Ps. 130:3-4*

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *[Luke 18:13]*

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **+** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. *[John 20:19-23]*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 34:1-4, 17

P I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**C My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.**

P Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

**C I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.**

P When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears
and delivers them out of all their troubles.

**C *Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, Your divine wisdom sets in order all things in heaven and on earth. Put away from us all things hurtful and give us those things that are beneficial for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sit)

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

¹⁰He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. ¹¹When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? ¹²Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

¹³There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, ¹⁴and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. ¹⁵As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. ¹⁶This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? ¹⁷Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

¹⁸Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. ¹⁹Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. ²⁰For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

¹Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ²For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. ³For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said,

“As I swore in my wrath,
“They shall not enter my rest,””

although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” ⁵And again in this passage he said,

“They shall not enter my rest.”

⁶Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.”

⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

¹¹Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(stand)

Alleluia and Verse



☐ Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

John 20:31



☐ Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel Reading

Mark 10:23-31

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

☐ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²³Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “**How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!**” ²⁴And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “**Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God!**” ²⁵**It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.**” ²⁶And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “**With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.**” ²⁸Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “**Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel,**” ³⁰**who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with**

persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(sit)

Hymn of the Day

“Hope of the World”

LSB 690

Sermon

Vanity, thy name is Sin.

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

(stand)

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

When Jesus himself appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, he greeted them by saying, “Peace be with you” (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 26) – and so we do likewise.

(sit)

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy

C hear our prayer.

Offering

Usher

Please sign the attendance books as they are passed.

If you would like to transition to making your regular tithe or offering online, you may do so at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home>



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

For those unfamiliar with our congregation's practice regarding the Lord's Supper, please refer to "Our Communion Policy" located at the beginning of the bulletin.

(stand)

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

[Colossians 3:1]

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

[Psalm 136]

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



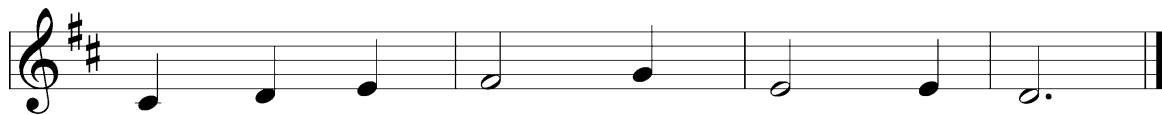
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(sit)

Distribution Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

LSB 744

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant, De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C **Amen.**

(sit)

Closing Hymn

“What Is the World to Me”

LSB 730

P Go in Peace!

C **Serve the Lord!**

Postlude

Selected Music

SERMON NOTES

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20 ***Vanity, thy name is Sin.***

1. The very _____ through which we're saved should keep our spiritual and moral compass pointed toward the _____. And away from the _____.
 2. The _____ of Ecclesiastes is that the course of _____ to be pursued is one that is _____-centered.
 3. He who loves _____ will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves _____ with his income; this also is _____. (Ecclesiastes 5:10 ESV)
 4. Being valued for what you _____ and not for what you _____ makes life in a _____ world only worse.
 5. A person consumed with vanity is self-absorbed and preoccupied with his or her own _____, _____, and _____.
 6. _____ played a role in the first _____ in the Garden of Eden, and it continues to be the root of most _____ today.
-

PRAYERS AT EPIPHANY

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please share any prayer request on the Prayer Requests sheet as you enter on Sunday. You may also email a prayer request, as well as a request to become a part of Epiphany's prayer chain, to secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

Please continue to pray for...

- Rev. Roberto and Kathryn Weber and their 3 children – missionaries in the Dominican Republic

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

The first step to becoming a member of our congregation is to speak with our pastor.

We believe, teach, and confess that we are all broken sinners in need of God's salvation, which He freely gives through His Word and Sacrament. Church is not a club for the sinless– it's a hospital for sinners!

You may become a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church by transferring your membership from a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) or you may receive instruction from the pastor and become a communicant member of Epiphany and the LCMS through Adult Instruction Class or through a profession of faith.



Epiphany Lutheran Church has a podcast! Our ***Peace Be With You*** podcast is still very much a work in progress that we hope will help us reach those in our community and beyond with the Gospel message of hope and salvation in Christ. In the coming days it should be available on popular podcast apps, but you can always find it at peacebewithyou.podbean.com (or just scan the QR code).



THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, October 20th

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion
- After the service – Pastor Appreciation get-together at the Monroes

Sunday, October 27th

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Today is the Day! We will gather after church today after the service at the Monroe's house. They will provide pulled pork sandwiches. Please bring a side or dessert to share. This is an opportunity to fellowship together and let Pastor Holschuh know how much we appreciate him!

Advent video study on Zoom coming next month: *Because Of Bethlehem* (Thursday 6pm 11/21-12/19, no session 11/28).

Make Every Day Count devotional gathering at Argent Court Assisted Living in Bastrop will meet this month at 3pm on Thursday, 10/24, then move to every Tuesday of the month (except the 2nd) at 3pm.

Lutheran Hour: Next Sunday, October 27th – “God-Struggles” – Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. It's been said, everyone you meet is fighting an unseen battle. God calls us to enter the struggle of those around us because, in Jesus, God has entered our struggle. (Genesis 38:28)

Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday on station KBUK-FM 104.9 at 7:00 a.m. or on station KANJ-FM 91.5 at 12:30 p.m. or go to lhm.org for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live. You can also listen to The Lutheran Hour on the local Austin station KLBJ (590 AM or 99.7 FM) at 7:00am on Sunday.

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfu.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: [@KFUOradio](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio) on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), [Twitter](https://twitter.com), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com).

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on AM850 & KFUE.org: Join us as we continue our study of Numbers on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT) and discuss the final chapters of Revelation on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Tune in to Concord Matters this Saturday (10/26 at 10:00 a.m. CT) for a conversation on why both the bread and wine are essential elements in the Sacrament. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org or on the KFUE Radio app!

Answers to Sermon Notes:
1. The very *faith* through which we're saved should keep our spiritual and moral compass pointed toward the *Cross*. And away from the *devil*.
2. The *message* of Ecclesiastes is that the course of *life* to be pursued is one that is *God*-centered.
3. He who loves *money* will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves *wealth* with his income; this also is *vanity*. (Ecclesiastes 5:10 ESV)
4. Being valued for what you *have* and not for what you *are* makes life in a *vanity* world only worse.
5. A person consumed with vanity is self-absorbed and preoccupied with his or her own *opinions, issues, and desires*.
6. *Vanity* played a role in the first *sin* in the Garden of Eden, and it continues to be the root of most *sin* today.

RightNow Media: We're excited to share that Epiphany Lutheran Church now has unlimited access to **RightNow Media**—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. This extensive library has **more than 20,000 videos** that can be used as part of a group study or for personal devotions, and many series include **free discussion guides and handouts**. In addition to series on books of the Bible, RightNow Media has videos for everyone in the family on a variety of topics like marriage, parenting, personal finances, mental health, and more. There's even a **library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos**. RightNow Media has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. For FREE access to RightNow Media, visit **app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb** or scan the QR code.





Oktoberfest Meal Tickets

Tickets for our annual Oktoberfest meal are now available! Meal includes brats, noodles, green beans, potato salad, kraut, bread and coffee cake. Drive through only meals will be available on Saturday, October 26 from 10:30 am to noon with pickup at the Holy Cross Picnic Grounds. Tickets are \$15 each and available for pre-sale only! Talk to a FLHS student, staff, board, or delegate today. **See Margie if you'd like to purchase a ticket!**

Oktoberfest

Family friendly event on Saturday, October 26th at the Holy Cross Picnic grounds.

Events for the day include:

- **German meal** - brats, kraut, green beans, noodles, bread and coffee cake will be served Drive Through ONLY from 10:30 to noon. Tickets are \$15/plate - pre-sale only.
- **42-Domino Tournament** will begin at 2:00 pm - Registration begins at 1:30 pm
- **Cornhole Tournament** will begin at 2:30 pm - Registration begins at 1:30 pm
- **Battle of the Brew and Battle of the Vine Contest** judging will begin at 3:00 pm. Submissions need to be in by 2:30 pm. Sampling of the brews/wines begin at 4:00 pm.
- **Children's games and activities** will begin at 4:00 pm.
- **Costume contest** judging will begin at 5:00 pm.
- **Live Auction** will begin at 5:30 pm.
- **Concession stand** will also be available for purchase all afternoon and evening with items like chopped bbq on a bun, loaded pulled pork nachos, hot dogs, warm pretzels with beer cheese, as well as other snacks and desserts.

Please visit our website for more information! (www.flhstx.org)

FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL



Oktoberfest

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024

WARDA PICNIC GROUNDS

DRIVE THRU MEAL 10:30-NOON (PRE-SALE ONLY)

MEAL INCLUDES: BRATS, KRAUT, POTATOES, GREEN BEANS, NOODLES, BREAD AND COFFEE CAKE

\$15/PLATE

**42 & CORNHOLE TOURNAMENTS REGISTRATION STARTS AT
1:30 PM \$5/PER PERSON ENTRY FEE**

2:00-DOMINO TOURNAMENT BEGINS

2:30-CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT BEGINS

**3:00-BATTLE OF THE BREWS/BATTLE OF THE VINE
JUDGING BEGINS**

4:00-KIDS GAMES & HAYRIDE

BATTLE OF THE BREWS/BATTLE OF THE VINE SAMPLING

5:00-COSTUME CONTEST

5:30-LIVE AUCTION BEGINS

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

3-minute



Seminary

Can you lose your salvation?

This question was posted to the FAQs area on the LCMS website: *Can you lose your salvation, and, if you can, what do you need to do to regain it again?* The answer might come as a surprise to some (but really shouldn't...):

The LCMS believes and teaches that it is possible for a true believer to fall from faith, as Scripture itself soberly and repeatedly warns us (1 Corinthians 10:12; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 3:17; Hebrews 2:1-3, 3:12-19, 6:4-8, etc.). Such warnings are intended for Christians who appear to be lacking a right understanding of the seriousness of their sin and of God's judgment against sin, and who, therefore, are in danger of developing a false and proud "security" based not on God's grace, but on their own works, self-righteousness, or freedom to "do as they please."

By the same token, the LCMS affirms and treasures all of the wonderful passages in Scripture in which God promises He will never forsake those who trust in Christ Jesus alone for salvation (John 10:27-29; Romans 8; Hebrews 13:5-6, etc.). To those who are truly repentant and recognize their need for God's grace and forgiveness, such passages are powerful reminders of the true security that is ours through sincere and humble faith in Christ alone for our salvation.

A person may be restored to faith in the same way he or she came to faith in the first place—by repenting of his or her sin and unbelief and trusting completely in the life, death and resurrection of Christ alone for forgiveness and salvation. Whenever a person does repent and believe, this always takes place by the grace of God alone and by the power of the Holy Spirit working through God's Word in a person's heart.

Some Christian denominations teach a doctrine known as "once saved, always saved"—that is, they claim that it is not possible for a Christian to fall away. There's a story about a Calvinist preacher from Scotland who was once asked by a dying man who had lost the faith how he could regain the certainty of salvation.

"Was there ever a time when you did believe the gospel?" he asked the man. "Why yes," he replied. "When I was a little boy." "Then you have nothing to worry about," the minister replied. "For once you believe, you can never be lost."

But that's not true. The Lutheran doctrine of justification (how we are saved) is an assurance policy (rather than an insurance policy) that's really no more Lutheran than God Himself. In any ministry aspect, in any language, justification is God's gift of our assurance that because of—and only because of—Jesus Christ can we be worthy of salvation. That gift is received through faith...and where there is faith, there is salvation (see Ephesians 2:8).