

Family Worship for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 6, 2020

Leader / Response

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the (+)Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, **who made heaven and earth.** (*Ps 124:8*)

If you kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand before you?

But with you is forgiveness; therefore, you are adored. (*Ps130:3-4*)

As we gather to hear God's Word, let us open our hearts to God and confess our sins, trusting in his infinite mercy for forgiveness and asking for his Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives.

Almighty God, have mercy on me, hear this my confession, forgive all my sins, and renew me by your Holy Spirit for right living. (*Silent confession*)

In Holy Baptism our merciful God has declared us to be his royal children and forgives our sins for Jesus' sake, our risen Savior and Lord. Give praise now to the Lord of heaven and earth and live joyfully as his witnesses in the world. **Amen**

PSALM OF PRAISE – PSALM 32:1-7

¹ Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

² **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**

⁷ You are a hiding place for me;

you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

HYMN [Shall We Gather at the River](#) (*With Lyrics*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, mercifully continue to purify and defend your Church. **Since we cannot stand firmly without your power, give us grace to take up our cross and follow your Son; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING – Ezekiel 33:7-9

SECOND READING – Romans 13:1-10

GOSPEL VERSE (*Spoken/Sung; Stand for Gospel Reading if you can*)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel from St. Matthew, chapter 18. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 18:1-20

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

HYMN [Beautiful Savior](#) (*With Lyrics*)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

OFFERING PRESENTATION *(Spoken; LBW #489, st.1a, 3b)*

Wide open are your hands to pay with more than gold the awful debt of guilt and sin, forever and of old.

To these, your mighty hands, my spirit I resign. In life, I live alone to you; In death, am yours alone.

PRAYERS *(See Prayer Sheet)*

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.

BLESSING *(Romans 15:13)*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN [Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee](#) *(With Lyrics)*

EXTRA

[Early Christian Art](#)

READINGS

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

Second Reading: Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence 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, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

PRAYERS

Lord God, sharpen our discernment for justice and truth, that in this age of falsehood and wickedness we may live as your righteous people. Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Lord God, it is hard to submit to any authority but our own. Yet you establish your rule in the world by giving authority to those who govern. Give us wisdom to know the difference between our sphere of authority, the government's authority, and your authority in our lives, and help us to do good, honor all, and owe no one anything but the debt of love. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord God, make us humble and innocent as children in our faith that we cause no one to stumble and fall into sin and help us to always work for reconciliation when others sin against us. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord God, as our nation continues to suffer through it's current turmoils, raise up in every community people of good will who will work for justice, give aid to the poor, and seek out reconciliation among the races. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord God, we thank you for the faithful saints of Adams Lutheran Church in Batesville, Indiana. Continue to bless them with your grace and uphold Pastor Tamara Keen and the Church Council as they lead the congregation to build relationships for ministry in their surrounding communities. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord God, hear our prayer for the ministry and future of Bible Lutheran Church. You best know how to use our building and our ministry talents to serve one another and this community. As we gather on the 13th and the 19th, help us to prayerfully discern the directions in ministry you would have us go. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord God, hear our prayer for those serving in our nation's military: Trent Zeigler, Christopher Zeigler, Michael Hubbard, and Stephen Strickland. Let their service bring them honor and keep them safe in your strong hands. . Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord God, hear our prayer for those who are dying, those who live with chronic pain, and those who are beset by cancers and diseases of the body. Be their strength and hope for the future in life and in death. We especially pray for.... (silent petitions)

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we have prayed, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers for September 6, 2020

Prayers for Healing, Recovery, Wholeness, Divine Help *(Requests remain on list for 2 months and may be resubmitted)*

Ginger Vorel and Shorter University Volleyball Team, Covid 19 (8.30.2020)
Leiann Sapp, cancer surgery (L. Waldhour, 8.30.2020)
Paula Peterson, sickness (D.Vorel, 8.23.2020)
Steven Jackson, in ICU (A. Terry, 8.23.2020)
Eddie Helmey, sickness (G. Helmey, 8.23.2020) Recovering; not Covid
Johnnie Barnes, chemotherapy (J. Smith, 8.19.2020)
Mac Morgan, Covid (C. Morgan, 8.18.2020)
Helen Zeigler, dementia/recent falls (A. Terry, 8.16.2020)
All Students heading back to dorms and classrooms (8.16.2020)
Elli, 8yrs. old, high fever (K. Wheeler, 8.9.2020)
Frank Gray, health issues (K. Hall, 8.9.2020)
David Gray, cancer (K. Hall, 8.9.2020)
Brenda Reiser, Lymphoma (M. Reiser, 8.2.2020)
Sarah Smith battling cancer again (F. Smith, 8.2.2020)
Jason Pridgen, still suffering with liver problems, friend of Betty Robinson (7.22.20)
Amy Holcomb undergoing cancer treatments (R. Ratliff, 7.22.20)
Don Hasty suffering from heart troubles (D. Vorel, 7.22.20)
Marie Callahan recovering from a Brain Aneurysm (S. Sommervold, 7.19.2020)
Pat Gollihue on diagnosis of bone cancer (R. Zipperer, 7.19.2020)
Jeff Byrd on diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (L. Byrd, 7.19.2020)
Shirley Hogan hospitalized with Covid 19 (K. Warnell, 7.19.2020)
Ann Reiser, undergoing cancer treatments (M. Reiser, 6.28.2020)
Mary Jane Duff, hospitalized for heart problems (K. Hall, 6.7.2020)

Prayers for Comfort in Bereavement *(Requests remain on list for 6 months and may be resubmitted)*

David & Connie Zeigler and family on death of Son, Marcus. (9.6.2020)
Ben & Karen Williams and family on death of Ben's brother, Dale Williams (8.26.20)
Karen Hall and family on death of her Aunt, Sheila Saxon (8.9.2020)
Cecelia Zeigler and family on death of her mother, Mary Bloomberg (8.4.2020)
Brenda Dasher and family on death of her cousin, JW Porter (7.19.2020)
Bobby Exley and family on death of daughter, Teresa (J. Arnsdorff, 6.7.2020)
Stacey York and family upon death of her mother Annette (A. Terry, 6.6.2020)
Family of Karen Hall's Great Aunt, Katherine who went to be with the Lord. (5.17.2020)
Family of Laura Brown (S. Smith, 4.20)
Family of Rosemary Atkinson (Dot Zipperer's Sister, 4.19)

Military, Fire, Law Enforcement Personnel

Fire: Kenny Whitten, Jimmy Thompson; Law Enforcement: Warren Blanton
Military: Trent Zeigler, Christopher Zeigler(C.Zeigler); Michael Hubbard(A.M.Hubbard); Stephen Strickland(B. Dasher)

Long Term Support

Audrey Zipperer (Lakeview Manor); Helen Zeigler (Eff Care Center); Sarah Smith (Home); Dorothy Zipperer; Betty Greenwood (Home), Charles & Virginia DiSalvo(Home); Keith Cornell (Recovering at home;Helmly); Clyde Johnson (Home;Muthersbaugh); Thomas Owens (Home;Garner); Clay Stewart (Dementia;Sommervold); Rick Boyd, multiple health problems (C. Boyd, 6.21.2020); Ruby & Earl Neurath (C. Bazemore, 7.30.2020)

“What Do You Want to See at BLC?” - Pastor Dave

Covid-19 may have temporarily slowed churches down, but it has not brought an end to the work of God’s Kingdom. In September, there are 2 important congregational dates for your calendar. Sept. 13 is the date of a called congregational meeting to discuss amending the 2020 budget to hire a youth coordinator. Sept. 19 is the Saturday we’ve set aside to discuss our future direction in mission and ministry at Bible Lutheran.

To help prepare our hearts for the planning Saturday, the Evangelism Committee is inviting the youth of Bible to create some art that will be exhibited in the Sanctuary hallway. The basic theme is “Jesus our Savior.”. Letters have been mailed to families with children, inviting them to participate in the exhibition. *If there are adult artists who’d like to also contribute some art, absolutely feel free to do so.*

A prayer booklet is also being prepared for use the week before our planning meeting and will be distributed in time so that every member can seek the Lord’s favor and presence among us on that Saturday. It’s not our human wisdom but God’s divine direction that we need. I urge all members to take part in this week of prayer.

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” - Matthew 18:1

It sure seems like there are a lot of people out there who think they’re really great. Just ask them and they’ll tell you so! Seems like if you’re truly great, you won’t have to tell anyone. They’ll see it when they look at you, when they observe how you live your life, so there’s no need to post on social media to try and convince people. In Jesus’ opinion, it’s not the CEO’s of the world, or the top ten richest people, or even powerful elected officials. It’s the most humble who are great in God’s eyes. Maybe there’s something to learn there.

In typical paradoxical fashion, Jesus pulls a small child onto his lap for an object lesson. “See this child,” he says to his disciples, “this here is what greatness looks like.” The child hadn’t accomplished a thing. He hadn’t even finished his schooling yet. He simply believed in Jesus and was open to his teaching. Greatness is a matter of faith; it’s a simple, yet profound belief in the power and authority of Jesus, and that boy had it!

We all know that faith is a gift we receive from the Holy Spirit. It’s not something we even ask for, it is simply given to us. However, it seems to be our human propensity to try and measure it, much as the disciples were trying to measure greatness. There are times, aren’t there, when we wish we could give it to others. For instance when someone is struggling with a fatal disease and questions the very existence or goodness of God. But faith is not ours to give. We can pray for the Holy Spirit to give faith, but it’s not in our power to bestow it on our loved ones or anyone else. If we had that power we would probably find a way to misuse it, anyway. Only the greatest to ever live has that power and he, when quizzed about who is truly great, points to a child as Exhibit A.

This is quite humbling to us, and it should be. We strive to be great leaders, great church people, great neighbors, etc. But still it all boils down to simple faith, faith like a child. It’s not a contest anyway - it’s an invitation to walk with Jesus as he transforms the world one heart at a time. It’s okay not to be greatest! There’s always going to be someone better. If you want to see who that is, just look at the child sitting in front of you.

BLC NEWS & NOTES

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given by Amy Terry in honor of Todd's 20th birthday.

QUILT DEDICATION

The Quilter Group will dedicate 129 quilts and 20 layettes during worship. A few of the quilts have been placed in the hallway and are available for sale. Please see Connie Bazemore or Ramona Kessler if you'd like to purchase one.

WORSHIP RESTART

Church Council, after consultation with the Worship & Music Committee, has set the date of Sept. 13th as the date we resume our normal worship activities. In the meantime, a congregational survey was mailed out to solicit input on ways to serve the whole congregation during this time of the coronavirus. Don't forget that Holy Communion is being offered by Pastor Dave by request. This can be done immediately after Sunday worship or at any other time during the week. Simply text or call: 912-661-8735.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Anyone wishing to send a "Blessing" card to Shirley Hogan can send it to this address:
Candler Hospital, c/o Shirley Hogan Room #462, 5353 Reynolds Street, Savannah, GA 31405

SPECIAL CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY

A congregational meeting to discuss amending the budget to allow for the hiring of a youth coordinator will be held September 13, 2020 after the service. This will be the only topic that will be discussed at this meeting. Copies of the job requirements for this position may be found on the table in the hallway or in an email that was sent out this week. Please see any Council member if you need further information before the meeting.

Due to the virus and its impact on the church, the dates used for voting at this meeting will be December 15, 2019-March 15, 2020.

The following requirements are necessary for voting:

Voting members shall be eighteen years of age or older and subscribe to the beliefs reflected in the Constitution of Bible Lutheran. In order to vote at any meeting of this congregation, the voting member shall also have (1) attended at least one church service, (2) received Holy Communion at least once, and (3) their household has made a monetary donation to the general fund of at least \$25.00 during the three (3) month period prior to the scheduled meeting. A voting list will be established by the congregation council prior to every meeting of the congregation.

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVANTS:

Crucifer –Timmy Burnsed
Altar Care – Martell Hall & Ann McDaniel
Head Usher –
Lector – Rod Stephenson
Musician – Karen Warnell

PLAN AHEAD:

9/6 Evangelism Comm. Meeting @ 11:00 AM
9/10 Property Committee Mtg. @ 6:30 PM
9/13 Sunday School Kick-off/Promotion
9/13 Called Congregational Meeting
9/13 Confirmation Class after worship service
9/13 Finance Comm. Meeting after worship
9/14 Church Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM
9/15 AFPAG (Foster Parents) Mtg. @ 6:00 PM
9/19 "What Do You Want to See from BLC" Mtg.
9 AM – 12 Noon
9/27 Confirmation Class after worship
9/28 GRITS Loaves & Fishes @ 6 PM
10/1-10/3 Fellowship Hall rented

LOCAL FLORISTS:

New Life, 826-4261
Joanne's, 754-9116

The Greatest

Find the 35 bold words from Matthew 18:1-6, 10 (ESV)

M A A S F E N R G R J F E V S
W I E N L A E V R M F A W P T
H N L T G C C D E N E T S A F
O M T L E E S E A E S H V D Q
A I O I S E L H T D S E A T S
L D V D L T E S E E E R G I Q
E E R B G A O D S S S T N Y E
S M M O V N N T P U S I M N
A U O E W N I E E I A D L E T
H J N C G N R K V S C I L M E
B E L I E V E U V E J M A A R
D L I H C B M D T E R O C N X
D I S C I P L E S B E T T E R
S S E L N U A U T R U L Y L K
H T P E D Q S N E C K L U V C

At that time the **disciples** came to **Jesus**, saying, “**Who** is the **greatest** in the **kingdom** of **heaven**?” And **calling** to him a **child**, he put him in the **midst** of them and said, “**Truly**, I say to you, **unless** you **turn** and **become** like children, you will **never** **enter** the kingdom of heaven. **Whoever** **humbles** himself like this child is the **greatest** in the kingdom of heaven. **Whoever** **receives** one such child in my **name** receives me, but **whoever** **causes** one of these **little ones** who **believe** in me to **sin**, it would **be better** for him to have a **great millstone** fastened around his **neck** and to be **drowned** in the **depth** of the **sea**. See that you do **not despise** one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven **their angels** always **see** the **face** of my **Father** who is in heaven.”

You Are a Hiding Place

Find the 44 bold words from Psalm 32:1-7 (ESV).

T H A L E S U R R O U N D E J
I R W V V T R O U B L E L A Z
E V A G R O F F E R L L A R Y
C I T N E L I S P I R I T H A
E Y E I S A C A V P G C A I W
D V R D E G D E L W O N K C A
E A S I R A R A D U D E H I S
I E A H P A C E N E L V N T T
R H T G N E R T S Q Y I H A E
D P A C J E S S W S Q G S E D
S R E U V U E I E U I R U R Q
D A H O M L G N I N A O R G S
J Y C M B K O T S S E F N O C
N E E W K B Y R S T U O H S X
H R E A C H Z C D Y L C V R A

Blessed is the one whose **transgression** is **forgiven**, whose **sin** is **covered**. **Blessed** is the man against whom the **LORD** counts no **iniquity**, and in whose **spirit** there is no **deceit**. For when I kept **silent**, my **bones** wasted away through my **groaning** all **day long**. For **day** and **night** your **hand** was **heavy** upon me; my **strength** was **dried** up as **by** the **heat** of **summer**. *Selah* I **acknowledged** my **sin** to you, and I did not cover my **iniquity**; I said, “I will **confess** my **transgressions** to the **LORD**,” and you **forgave** the **iniquity** of my **sin**. *Selah* Therefore let everyone who is **godly** **offer** **prayer** to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the **rush** of **great waters**, they shall not reach him. You are a **hiding place** for me; you **preserve** me from **trouble**; you **surround** me with **shouts** of **deliverance**. *Selah*