



## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

3600 25<sup>th</sup> St, Columbus, IN 47203

Phone: (812) 372-1256 Web site: [www.flccolumbus.org](http://www.flccolumbus.org)

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday

Facebook: First Lutheran Church (Columbus, IN)

## CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

August 22, 2021 - 11:15 a.m.

13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### WELCOME TO THE LORD'S HOUSE!

We are so glad to have you with us this morning! There is an extended time of praise and worship at the beginning of the service, and we want you to worship your Lord as you feel comfortable. All forms of worship are acceptable, such as singing, clapping, standing, sitting, kneeling, and dancing. Please worship your God in a way that draws you closer to Him!

## GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING PRAYER:

**Lord Jesus, the road of life is hard. Your way of life is a challenge. Give us confidence that you join us on the hard road, and that your presence makes all the difference as we follow you. Through the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

## WORSHIP & PRAISE

### SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

**WORSHIP & PRAISE****TIME OF OPEN PRAYER****THE LORD'S PRAYER****GOSPEL READING: John 6:56-69**

[Jesus said,] <sup>56</sup>“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

**SERMON: “When Jesus is Not the Answer”****Pastor Larry Isbell****BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

*You may either stand or kneel.*

P: God of resurrection life, we come before you today as those who would die to sin and rise to newness of life.

**C: Lower into the grave all selfishness, greed, and envy, all harmful desires and unworthy ambitions.**

P: Raise from death the good that is in us -- and gift us with the good that is not in us.

**C: Help us to love neighbors, strangers, and those we do not even like.**

P: We have failed you.

**C: We have failed our world.**

P: Give us the skill and the desire to bring healing into this world.

**C: Forgive us the sins we can name and the sins we cannot name.**

*(Silence to ponder our wrongs.)*

P: Lord, make us channels of blessing for the impoverished and injured souls of this world.

**C: In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness:**

P: Paul teaches us in Romans chapter 5: If in Adam and Eve all have died—so now--in Jesus Christ--all are made alive. Let us rejoice in the lifegiving power of God's unconditional love. Our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake.

**C: Amen.**

**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**

**NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION:**

**Romel Christopher & Anitha Romel  
and their children Ronito and Rivaldo**

**BENEDICTION**

**P:** Now may God, who has loved us with a love beyond all telling, send us forth to care for the world around us and to share the good news of that love, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING WORSHIP & PRAISE****SERVING FIRST TODAY**

Pastor: Pastor Larry Isbell

Greeters/Usher: Janet Isbell, John & Mary Ellen Wyman, & Dave Stocks

**WOUNDED HEALER PRAISE BAND**

Erika East, Annette Hull, Jennifer & Mike Langevin, Matt Pillar

***Today's altar flowers are given by Kelly Shelton in honor of her daughter,  
daughter-in-law, and granddaughter's birthdays.***