



## BLESSED SACRAMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“We are saints and sinners at the same time. We are all saints, and cursed is he who does not call himself a saint. You are far saintlier than your names — Hans and Kunz -- indicate. However, you do owe this not to yourself but to the will of God, who would be your Father. To call yourself a saint is, therefore, no presumption but an act of gratitude and a confession of God's blessings. He who does not consider Baptism and God's Word, which you have in your heart, holy, blasphemes God very greatly. Since, then, God sanctifies you in Baptism and adorns you with His holy Word, you must surely be holy by grace alone.” — Martin Luther

Dear Blessed Sacrament family,

29 Oct 2020

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the Church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. Our All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, here and around the world, on earth and in heaven, who make up the Body of Christ. Today, the vast majority of Christian congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.

The Liturgy abounds with references to the saints and to our continual relationship to them because we are united with them in our Living Head — Jesus Christ the Lord of Life. The preface to Holy Communion on All Saints Day describes the relationship this way: “that moved by their witness and supported by their fellowship, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us and with them receive the unfading crown of glory.” Today and this week invite people to reflect on others—living and dead—who have moved and supported us in our lives of faith and devotion.

Our Confession of Faith encourages us with these words regarding the blessed saints who have departed before us:

<sup>4</sup> Our Confession approves giving honor to the saints. This honor is threefold. The first is thanksgiving: we should thank God for showing examples of his mercy, revealing his will to save men, and giving teachers and other gifts to the church. Since these are his greatest gifts, we should extol them very highly; we should also praise the saints themselves for using these gifts, just as Christ praises faithful businessmen (Matt. 25:21, 23). <sup>5</sup> The second honor is the strengthening of our faith: when we see Peter forgiven after his denial, we are encouraged to believe that grace does indeed abound more than sin (Rom. 5:20). <sup>6</sup> The third honor is the imitation, first of their faith and then of their other virtues, which each should imitate in accordance with his calling. — Tappert, Theodore G.: *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 2000, c1959, S. 229.

**Sunday Mass.** Proper All Saints. Color white. Hymns: Processional: **“The Son of God Goes Forth to War”** sung by our CCA students; Hymn of Praise: **This is the Feast**; Hymn of the Day: “For All the Saints **677**; Recessional: “Thine the Amen” **680**. Psalm **149** will be chanted responsively during the distribution. Post-Communion Canticle: **Thank the Lord**. The texts for the next two weeks are:

Nov. 1	All Saints' Day (Nov. 1)	Rev. 7:(2-8) 9-17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1-3	Matt. 5:1-12
Nov. 8 (Proper 27)	Twenty-third S. a. Pentecost	Amos 5:18-24	Psalm 70	1 Thess. 4:13- 18	Matt. 25:1-13

**Hymns for 8 Nov.** Processional: **953**; Hymn of Praise: **This is the Feast**; Hymn of the Day: **791**; Recessional: **665**. Psalm **70** will be chanted responsively during the distribution. Post-Communion Canticle: **Thank the Lord**.

**First Holy Communion** catechumens gather 0830-0930 Saturday at the MacPherson home.

**Catechesis.** Every Sunday catechesis for all will take place from 0900 - 0945. We will continue with the 7th lesson in "Loving the Liturgy."

**Prayers for the saints in our midst.** Sandi, a friend of the Drake family; Helena, with thanksgiving for recovery; Samantha's upcoming surgery; Ken Adams; the persecuted church in Pakistan; our First Holy Communion catechumens.

Be sure to email or text me the names of those remembered before the Lord in the tolling of the bells.

**Resources.** Issues, Etc. podcast. If you are unfamiliar with Issues, then know that it has been a fantastic resource for LCMS Lutherans, covering everything from Bible studies to commentary on current events. Each Morning, Monday through Friday, they also broadcast the chapel service at Kramer Chapel at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

**Upcoming Events.** (1) A parish *potluck* Oktoberfest celebration will take place at the MacPherson home 7 November @ 3pm. Wear your lederhosen and dirndls or at least sport a handsome stein. (2) Saint Martin's Day Lantern Event on 11 Nov. for about an hour, when the children will be making lanterns for a procession, and a house blessing to follow.

Gratefully yours,  
Pastor John