



'Let those therefore who deny that the Son is by nature from the Father and proper to his essence deny also that he took true human flesh from the ever-virgin Mary' (St. Athanasius of Alexandria).

Family and Friends of Blessed Sacrament,

14 Sept 2020
Holy Cross Day

It was a delight to gather for our first Divine Service on Sunday 6 Sept. Since that time the Lord has showered us with His favor. On the Feast of the Nativity of Saint Mary, Mother of our Lord, we

- (1.) received news from the English District Office that the constitution for Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church was approved and
- (2.) in a call from Bishop Jamison Hardy himself, we received news that our application as to organized as an official congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod was approved.

Our thanks go to Nathan MacPherson and David Sousa for their labors to that end. Together, we are Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church, English District, LCMS. Thanks be to God.

Holy Cross Day. Today the Church remembers and celebrates the Holy Cross upon which our living and reigning Lord conquered sin, death, and the devil *for us*. For more about Holy Cross Day, see my article at <https://www.1517.org/articles/holy-cross-day>.

Housekeeping items. John Pickering kindly serves as Treasurer. Charitable contributions for the support of the ministry are being received with checks being made to Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church. The church's address is **PO Box 655, Hayden, ID 83835**.

Now that Blessed Sacrament has status within the LCMS and English District, work will begin on a website to increase external visibility and aid in our internal communications.

Calendar. Current military obligations mean that **Divine Services resume Sunday 4 Oct. at the MacPherson home: 5359 East Lachance Road, Hayden, ID 83835**.

Catechesis. Every Sunday catechesis for all will take place from 0900 - 0945. We will continue with the 4th lesson in "Loving the Liturgy." The Sunday lessons for 20 and 27 September. are:

Sept. 20 (Proper 20)	Sixteenth S. a. Pentecost	Isa. 55:6-9	Psalm 27:1-9	Phil. 1:12-14, 19-30	Matt. 20:1-16
Sept. 27 (Proper 21)	Seventeenth S. a. Pentecost	Ezek. 18:1-4, 25-32	Psalm 25:1-10	Phil. 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18	Matt. 21:23-27 (28-32)

First Holy Communion. First Holy Communion catechumens will gather from 0800-0900 at the MacPherson home (5359 East Lachance Road, Hayden, ID 83835). Parents are encouraged to attend.

Chanting the Psalm. The Psalm was beautifully chanted on Sunday. Take note of the Psalm appointed for each week, as it will be the one chanted during the Divine Service.

Hymns. Early each week I will disclose the LSB Hymns so that you may practice/review at home. I look to issue the hymns for 4 October early next week.

Lectionary Texts. Weekly, the appointed Bible readings are posted at www.craftofpreaching.com where I comment on the Epistle lesson and post articles. Monday 14 Sept is Holy Cross Day. Take a few minutes to read about its history and purpose: <https://www.1517.org/articles/holy-cross-day>.

Vocal and Purposeful. Blessed Sacrament Lutheran Church has something to offer our beautiful region. The retention of the historic liturgy and the devotion to the sacraments are undeniably weak throughout North Idaho. There are also all kinds of aberrant forms of spirituality and, well, plenty of people with no spirit care.

At Blessed Sacrament, we have purposed, from day one, to a fervent devotion to the Word and Sacraments of God and the liturgy of our confessional tradition, and to train our children and godchildren in the same for their good of their souls and ours. Get the word out. Invite your family and friends. Ask them to be patient ... not to come once but to make a commitment to come to an understanding of what the liturgy is and what God does through it for our benefit. Talk with them about the means of God's grace so that we may know what He is doing and why. Both Bible study and liturgical explanation help. Being vocal about the grace of God in our midst is the greatest gift we have to offer Spokane Valley and North Idaho.

Thank you. Thank you for allowing me to serve our Armed Forces during this brief period of duty. It is a service to our Lord and our country. My family and I are grateful, and the Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Barracks, Washington DC, expresses his appreciation also.

Gratefully yours,
Pastor John