



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO Box 228 Blakeslee, PA 18610
570-646-0309**

faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org

Website: faithlutheranblakeslee.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Faith-Lutheran-Church-Blakeslee-PA-1721550018126312>

**Rev. Debra North, Pastor
Ms. Molly Finkbiner, Director of Music
Ms. Maritza Oquendo, Parish Secretary**

PRELUDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Please stand as you are able.)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Please kneel/stand as you are able)

(Let us have a moment of Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

Most merciful God.

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left in done. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**



KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Oh God, you know that we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us.

Strengthen us in body and spirit so that, with your help, we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us: through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

(You may be seated)

FIRST LESSON

The first lesson is found in **Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 62:5-12

(Read responsively.)

God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)

⁵For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted. Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.**



SECOND LESSON

The second lesson is found in 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

(Please rise if you are able.)

VERSE *(Spoken)*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

(Please remain standing.)

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:14-20.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.



¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

MESSAGE

The assembly is seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY *spoken* – **Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling -- LBW 381**

**1 Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting,
who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the master calls you;
rich reward he offers free.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I. Send me, send me"?**

- 2** If you cannot speak like angels,
if you cannot preach like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus;
you can say he died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
with the judgment's dread alarms,
you can lead the little children
to the Savior's waiting arms.
- 3** If you cannot be a watchman,
standing high on Zion's wall,
pointing out the path to heaven,
off'ring life and peace to all,
with your prayers and with your bounties
you can do what God demands;
you can be like faithful Aaron,
holding up the prophet's hands.
- 4** Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
while the multitudes are dying
and the master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly;
let his work your pleasure be.
Answer quickly when he calls you,
"Here am I. Send me, send me!"

Text: Daniel March, 1816-1909, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED *(Please rise if you are able).*

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

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

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, you have commanded the light to shine out of darkness, and you have again brought us to your house of prayer to praise your goodness and ask for your gifts. Accept now in your endless mercy the sacrifice of our worship and thanksgiving, and grant us those requests which will be wholesome for us.

Make us to be children of the light and of the day and heirs of your everlasting inheritance. Remember, O Lord, according to the multitude of your mercies, your whole Church, all who join with us in prayer, all our sisters and brothers wherever they may be in your vast kingdom who stand in need of your help and comfort. Pour out upon them the riches of your mercy, so that we, redeemed in soul and body and steadfast in faith, may ever praise your wonderful and holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and always through all ages of ages.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

(please share the peace of Christ with others with a wave from your seat, then be seated.)

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. The gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful Father.

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORDS 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

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.

Amen.



SENDING HYMN *spoken* – *Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult* -- LBW 494

- 1 **Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me."**
- 2 **As of old St. Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.**
- 3 **Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."**
- 4 **In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."**

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1823-1895

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ!
Thanks be to God.



HYMN OF THE DAY *spoken – Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling -- LBW 381*
Text: Daniel March, 1816-1909, alt.

SENDING HYMN *spoken – Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult -- LBW 494*
Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1823-1895

Portions from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and sundaysandseasons.com, © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License No. SB144827. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License No. A-726919. CCLI License #20635975 and Streaming License #20635982

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Piano: The flower donation on the piano is given to the Glory of God by Phil and Ruth Newlander in honor of Emma's 8th birthday.

Birthday Cards Requested for Shirley Fowler: Beth Larson sent the following request: On February 5, 2021 Shirley Fowler will be 95. In ordinary times we would be planning a wonderful celebration. 2021 is not ordinary so instead we would like to plan a surprise 95th Birthday Card Party in a Box. We would like you to send a birthday card to Mom. Please feel free to share this invitation with others who may know her. Please send your card to the following address:

Shirley Fowler C/O Beth Larson, 112 Norwood Way Woodbury NJ 08096

Vaccines for Seniors 75+ : Both Lehigh Valley Hospital in East Stroudsburg and St. Luke's in Burtonsville are now accepting appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine for seniors aged 75 and over. For Lehigh Valley, call 484-884-1767. For St. Luke's, call 1-866-785-8537, option 7.

Music Practice: Practice with children and adults resume weekly on Wednesdays, beginning January 20th at 4 pm in our Sanctuary, mask and social distancing is required. Join in to learn and make beautiful music together.

Year End Statements: For regular attendees, statements have been placed in your mailbox. Any remaining will be mailed.

Souper Bowl: From now until February 14th our 'Souper Bowl' field is up in the sanctuary, waiting for you to pin up your shoes, pants, shirts, helmets and goal posts! If you're not able to get here, post your donation on-line through Vanco and we'll pin it up for you! **All donations will benefit our local food pantry.**

Bulletin Sponsors: We are now printing our bulletin covers in-house. You may sponsor each week's bulletin for only \$10. This covers the cost of color copies. We currently need sponsors for January 31, February 7, 14, 28. A new sign-up sheet for 2021 is on the back table if you haven't signed up yet.

Flower Sponsors: This year we are looking to provide altar flowers in one of two ways. Sign up to either donate \$20 towards silk flowers to be used in arrangements or indicate that you plan on bringing flowers for the altar, which you may then take home with you after the service. Vases are available at church. A sign-up sheet is on the back table...please indicate which type of donation you are offering. Please note that we are also looking for a volunteer or two to help with purchasing and arranging the silk flower arrangements. If you can help, **please contact the office (570-646-0309 or email faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org) or speak to Pastor Debby.** **Available Dates: January 31 and February 7, 14, 28.**

Stewardship Snippet

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."— Mark 1:17

Are you ready for a new kind of wellness routine in 2021? Jesus calls all of us to follow him and become fishers of people. It's a new kind of exercise with eternal benefits where we become Christ's hands, feet, eyes, and heart in this world. Get ready for a real workout Jesus-style!

Scripture Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Those who walk with God will always reach their destination. —Anon.

Actor Tom Cruise is known for the running he does in his movies. Reportedly, he does not permit anyone to run *with* him in his running scenes. One study added up all the running scenes in his movies and discovered that Cruise is running more than 20 minutes in his movies — nothing but running.

In today's reading, we encounter another runner. His name is Jonah. A well-known division of this book in the Bible emphasizes all the running Jonah does.

- In chapter 1, Jonah is running *from* God.
- In chapter 2, Jonah is running *to* God.
- In chapter 3, Jonah is running *with* God.
- In chapter 4, Jonah is running *ahead* of God.

Here is a brief reminder of the plotline for the amazing story of Jonah.

God wants Jonah to go to Nineveh, the capital of Israel's archenemy, Assyria. God wants Jonah to preach judgment.

Jonah says that God has the wrong guy, and he runs. He boards a ship and tries to hide. A storm comes, and Jonah knows that he is to blame, and he is tossed overboard and a big fish swallows him whole, like a smaller fish swallows a minnow. But, the fish doesn't like Jonah in his stomach and hurls him onto a beach.

Now, Jonah is willing to preach, and he is astonished when Nineveh repents. He is more than astonished; he is *angry*. Why? Because God relents and withholds judgment. Jonah hoped that Israel's enemy would be destroyed. He crawls under a gourd bush for shade from the heat, but the bush dies, and Jonah complains.

Then, God gives Jonah the scolding he deserves. God says: "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush? ... You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Perhaps we're not doing any running of any kind anymore. But today, even if we cannot literally run or walk, let's try to run *to* God and run *with* God in our hearts and minds!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving God, may I keep in step with you today. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Job 1-4

Monday: Job 5-7

Tuesday: Job 8-10

Wednesday: Job 11-13

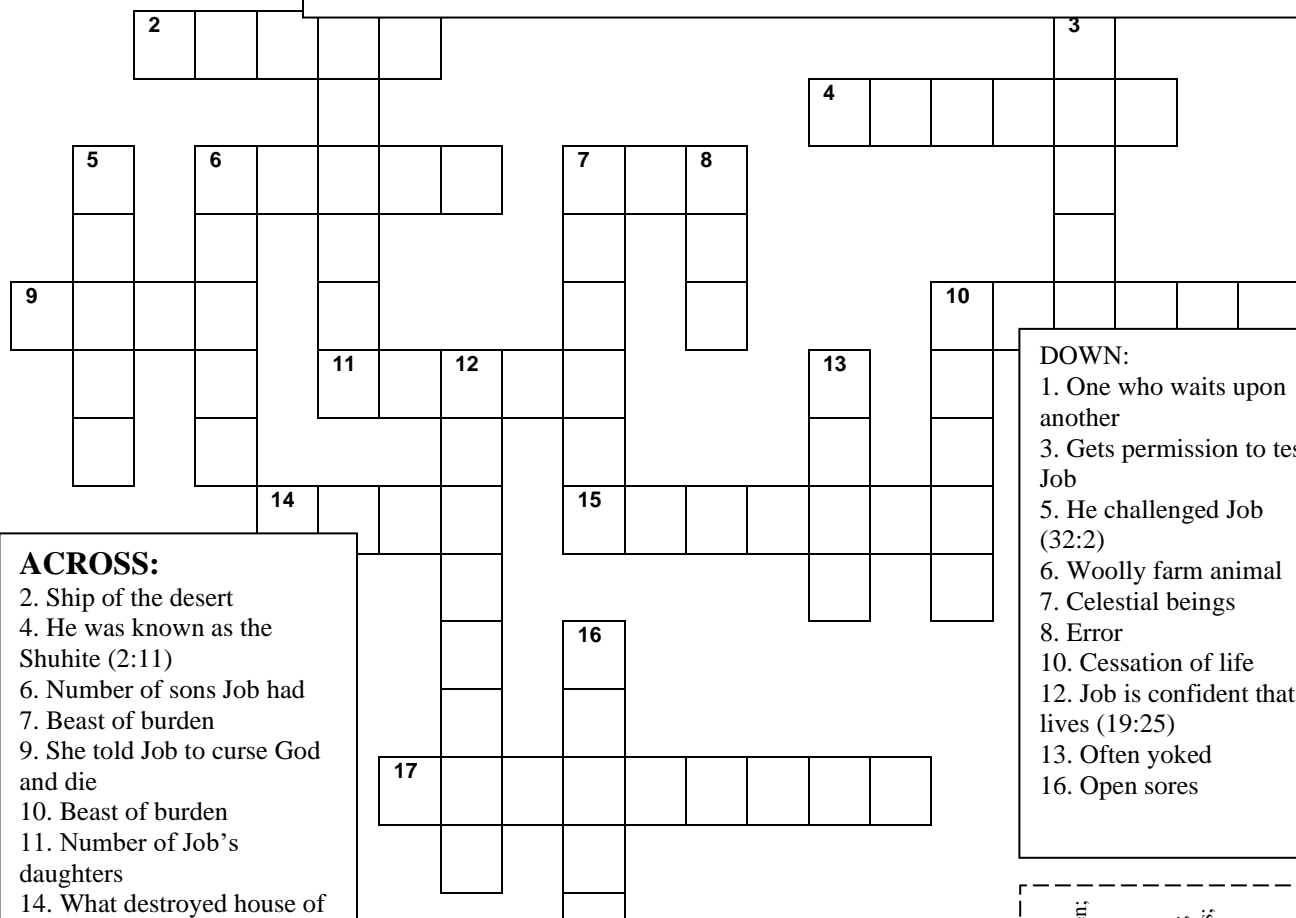
Thursday: Job 14-17

Friday: Job 18-20

Saturday: Psalms 7-9

THE PATIENCE OF JOB

In our readings this week, we begin the story of Job. He was a man who had everything, and then lost everything. Although tempted to abandon his faith in God, he didn't. All the clues in this crossword puzzle come from the book of Job. Some references are provided.



ACROSS:

2. Ship of the desert
4. He was known as the Shuhite (2:11)
6. Number of sons Job had
7. Beast of burden
9. She told Job to curse God and die
10. Beast of burden
11. Number of Job's daughters
14. What destroyed house of Job's son
15. Snake
17. Large sea creature (41:1)

DOWN:

1. One who waits upon another
3. Gets permission to test Job
5. He challenged Job (32:2)
6. Woolly farm animal
7. Celestial beings
8. Error
10. Cessation of life
12. Job is confident that he lives (19:25)
13. Often yoked
16. Open sores

JOB IS TESTED



ANSWERS — Across:

2. camel; 4. Bildad; 6. seven;
 7. ass; 9. wife; 10. donkey;
 11. three; 14. wind;
 15. serpent; 17. Leviathan.
- Down:** 1. servant; 3. Satan;
5. Elihu; 6. sheep; 7. angels;
 8. sin; 10. death;
 12. Redeemer; 13. oxen;
 16. boils.