

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost—September 19, 2021

“...and were afraid to ask him.” (Mark 9:32)

The disciples of Jesus did not dare to ask him any questions. Do you have any questions about Jesus? With so many questions, where on earth would one begin?

It takes courage to ask questions. No one wants to look dumb in front of others. Have you ever risked a question in a bible study, at work or school, only to be laughed at with that silly, stupid question, where everyone obviously already knew the answer? Jesus takes a child in his arms and says, “To be first means to be last. To receive a child receives me and him who sent me.” Wait....what? Who is this Jesus? What does all this mean for you and me?

When Jesus begins to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must be betrayed, and suffer, and die, well it’s quite a jolt. It’s a jolt to be told that this Messiah, must be betrayed, suffer, die, and then rise again. It’s crazy unthinkable. The disciples did not ask him anything because they were afraid. I hope you aren’t afraid to ask Jesus the deepest questions, “Who are you? Who are you for the world? Who are you for me?”

If you are full of questions, then this Gospel is for you! The disciples in Mark are not there as examples for us to copy, rather they are there to encourage us. It’s encouraging to know those closest to Jesus had questions. They had difficulty figuring out who Jesus was. Though Jesus asked them, “Who do you say that I am?” they must have asked him many times, “Who are you?”

This is encouraging for those of you who are thinking this is all very confusing. If Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who is the God that he is? What has being a disciple of Jesus gotten me into? I can’t believe I’ve been following Jesus most of my life and there are still things I don’t understand.

Well, don’t be afraid to ask your deepest questions. Jesus will not reject you for your questions any more than Jesus rejected his first disciples for their fear to ask questions. Go ahead. Bring your doubts and questions to him. Open your heart and ask him. There is nothing to fear from the one who loves you and has called you to be his disciple. Don’t be afraid to ask. Amen.

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THIS WEEK AT CROSS

- Mon 9/20 Newsletter Deadline
9th grade confirmation at 6:30 pm
Handbells 6:30 - 8:00 pm
- Tues 9/21 6th and 7th grade confirmation at 5:30 pm
8th grade confirmation at 6:30 pm
- Wed 9/22 Chapel 8:05 am
Picture Day in School
Quilters 1 pm
- Sun 9/26 Worship service with Holy Communion 9:30 am

THOSE IN NEED OF EXTRA SPECIAL PRAYER

Pam Sturm, Olga Renn, Don Arndt, Susan Beller, Al Collison, Connie Eden, Eunice Richmond, Bill Hurdelbrink, Delores Johnson, Dustin Tice, Inez Buchholz, Noah Adams, Kyle Walker, Whitney Peyerck, Kayle Thepsourinthone, Kay Schuette, Roberta Danks, Posie Tuckey, Corey Messing, Marvin Trost, Allen Koehler, Mary Champion, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Kim Edler, Deann Lewis, Hope Kittel, Marilyn Blunt, and Robert Krzeszewski

THOSE IN THE COMFORT OF THEIR HOMES

Dolores Elftman, Elaine Licht, and Martin Knost

THOSE IN THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

Nathan Schulz (U.S. Marines), Ryan Schulz (U.S. Marines), Nicholas Swanson (U. S. Air Force), and Michael Cox (U. S. Navy)

CROSS BUILDING FUND - Contributions to the Building Fund are needed and appreciated as we are needing funds for our October payment. Our entire Church debt is down to \$163,397 on all of our properties. So please consider a Building Fund contribution in September. Thank you in advance.

Contributions for Sunday, 9/12 were:	\$4,104.00
Budgeted need:	\$6,056.00
Below Budget	\$1,952.00

STUFF THE TRUCK



“Our truck” is ready and waiting for your (any member/visitor’s) contributions of gift cards in any amount purchased from Walmart, Target, Lowe’s, or Home Depot. Cards from these national chains are the only ones that will be collected. By choosing nationwide retailers, the NALC Disaster Response Task Force can buy goods near to the area where national disasters occur. Your monetary contributions are also accepted. Envelopes are available for you to use for your cash/check donations. Please follow the directions on the envelope label.

Please see the display on the table near the pastor’s office and help support the NALC Disaster Response Task Force and the work that is done to help people who have been affected by natural disasters. Please send or drop off your contribution to the church by September 30, 2021.

Thank you for your support and please remember to pray for people who have been affected by national disasters and for those who come to their aid.

This collection effort has been organized by the Quilters of Cross Lutheran Church of Pigeon, Michigan. The “Quilters” donate many quilts and other items to be distributed by the NALC Disaster Task Force.



Birthdays

- 19 Inez Buchholz
- 20 Elizabeth Higgins
- 21 Beth Elston
Andrew Trost
- 23 Lori Smith
- 24 Richard Mead

Anniversaries

- 20 Alex & Patty Cucinello, 35 yrs.
- 25 Chris & Marcie Papkey, 22 yrs.

www.crosslutheranpigeon.org

Did you miss attending last week’s worship service or would like to listen to the message again for a midweek pick-me-up? Maybe invite a friend to watch the worship service online?

Each week’s worship service is posted on the Cross Lutheran Church Website under tab, “Worship Services.”

Sharing God’s Word with our neighbors!