



# The Mountain Top Echo

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron MN

Reaching Out ... Sharing Christ

October 2024

***Be Not Afraid!***

***Fear...***is different for each and every individual. For some the fear of heights makes the heart beat faster, the palms get sweaty, and the knees shake. For some others it may be the fear of flying, of someone else is in control, feeling the plane shaking as it ascends above the clouds, or even the screeching of the brakes as it is landing. For still others there is fear and anxiety when the doctor quietly speaks the dreaded diagnosis of cancer. Yet, our Lord comes to us in His Word and speaks personally to us: **“Fear Not...”**

***Fear....***can easily grip the life of an individual when reading about the highs and lows of the stock market, watching gas prices jump all over the place, purchasing food to eat, attempting to keep up with the rent or mortgage of the shelter we need. There are so many different things that can and do cause fear to lodge in a person’s life. When the nightly news blares out the killing of another individual by gun fire or when a vehicle plows through a crowd of people with one dead and many injured, one is filled with fear and anxiety. Yet, our Lord comes to us in His Word, **“Fear Not...”**

***Fear...***is something that our Lord was accustomed to from His disciples, His close personal friends. There were those times when the disciples showed, exhibited fear and anxiety in their lives; when Jesus was walking on water, when he fed the 5,000, when he raised Lazarus from the dead, when he changed water into wine, among so many other times. Yet, the Lord Jesus instructed them not to fear, not to have anxiety rule their hearts and lives, but to believe. Jesus told his disciples in the upper room of the many rooms that awaited for them and the peace that comforts them in their struggles of faith, their confusion over what will happen to him, saying words of comfort: **“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)** Take heart, brothers and sisters in the faith, the Lord has overcome the world, our fears, our anxieties, our worries, when He tells us: **“Fear Not...”**

***Fear...***is ultimately taken away from our lives and replaced by the peace and hope that our precious Lord Jesus gives to us in His life, suffering, death, and resurrection. That is what our Lord wants us to hear and understand as we hear rumors of wars, as we are made aware of the evil that plaques mankind, as we hear about the violence that has been unleashed people all over the world, as we experience all different types of suffering we are made aware of the Lord’s presence and peace: **“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you, I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let our hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27).** Take time to read the Lord’s Word, take time to pray for one another, take time to help and encourage one another in these dangerous times, above all take time to forgive one another and to love each other. The Lord’s gracious peace be with you.

In Christ’s everlasting peace,  
Pastor Fiege

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“The Singing Church”

Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.”<sup>1</sup> Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.

But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace

For life and vision, for a purpose clear,

For Christ Your Son, and for each human face

that shows Your message ever new and near.

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren’t actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of

Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God’s family — the church — in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” God’s love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus!

The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord’s House. At the Lord’s Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!

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**Electronic Giving:** Our church invites you to consider our electronic giving program as a way to automate your regular weekly offerings. Electronic giving is convenient for you and provides much needed consistency for our church. If you are interested in participating in this program, speak with financial secretary, Tammy Vosberg. You may also contact Tammy with any questions at 507- 289-2850 or via email at dtvosberg@gmail.com



An LWML meeting is planned for Oct. 12.



**Prayer Chain:** Ardi Gibbs is our Prayer Chain Leader. Please contact Ardi with your prayer requests or if you would like to join the prayer chain team. (507) 254-6564 / [ardig775@gmail.com](mailto:ardig775@gmail.com)



Margaret Karst	October 6
Trace Dean Naatz	October 12
Pastor Scott Fiege	October 18
Bruce Arett	October 20
Lauraine Yennie	October 25
Randy Leonhardt	October 26
Lois Walbruch	October 28

No October Wedding Anniversaries!



**CAN YOU HELP?** Mount Moriah is looking for volunteers to run the keyboard. You would be responsible for about one Sunday per month and an occasional Wednesday night service during Advent and Lent. There is flexibility with the schedule for conflicts and the keyboardists quite often switch dates. If you are interested or simply curious to know what is involved with running the keyboard, talk to Dave, Jeff, or Margaret. There is no obligation if you talk to us.

<u>Worship Assistant Schedule for October 2024</u>	<u>Altar Guild for October/Judy Coleman</u>
<b>10/6/2024 – 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> Worship w/Communion - 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	<b>Elder – N/A Reader – Kristie Hahn</b> <b>Music – Margaret Karst</b>
<b>10/13/2024 – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> Worship – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	<b>Elder – Shane Amundson Reader – Dave Welsh</b> <b>Music – Margaret Karst</b>
<b>10/20/2024 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> Worship w/Communion - 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	<b>Elder – Don Vosberg Reader – Verona Kruse</b> <b>Music – Ruth Benning</b>
<b>10/27/2024 – Reformation obs./ 23<sup>rd</sup> Sun. after Pentecost</b> Worship – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	<b>Elder – Brant Klepel Reader – Aleesa Kobi</b> <b>Music – Jeff Rehwaltd</b>



### **LUTHERAN CITIZENSHIP GUIDE:**

The LCMS has released what they call "**The Lutheran Citizenship Guide.**" This is a document that used to be called the "**Lutheran Voter Guide.**" They mention that they are broadening the focus of their comments and guidance this year. No longer restricting their discussion to specific political issues or specific pieces of legislation, they will instead be offering thoughts regarding the attitudes and approaches that Lutheran Christians might consider as they seek to be faithful in serving their neighbor through the exercise of citizenship.

The Guides are printed and posted on the bulletin board outside the office and another copy on the reading table in Fellowship Hall. Please take the time to browse this important, informational guide.

## **Fun Facts about the Octopus!!!**



- 1. Octopuses can use tools and solve problems.** Octopuses, or octopi, are incredibly intelligent animals with large brains and advanced cognitive capabilities.
- 2. There are around 300 Octopus species in the world.**
- 3. Octopuses have three hearts.**
- 4. They have nine brains;** In addition to the central brain, each of their eight arms possesses a mini-brain. Octopus neurons, are distributed between their central and eight peripheral brains, enabling their arms to perform complex tasks independently.
- 5. Octopuses have blue blood.**
- 6. Octopuses can change color and texture.**
- 7. Octopuses release ink clouds that can confuse predators.**
- 8. Octopuses can regenerate lost limbs within months;** when an octopus loses a tentacle, a complex biological process begins; within only a few months, the process completes and produces an entirely regrown limb.
- 9. Octopuses are mostly solitary.**
- 10. Octopuses can also breathe through their skin;** known as cutaneous respiration.
- 11. The Giant Pacific Octopus is the largest species in the world;** weighing an incredible 150 lbs. and having an arm span of 30 feet.
- 12. The blue-ringed octopus is one of the most venomous creatures in the world -** they carry the extremely potent tetrodotoxin, a neurotoxin that is 1,200 times more potent than cyanide.

### **LWML Corner ---**

LWML meeting – Oct 12 – 9:00 at Mt. Moriah

Dec. 7 – 9:00

**Trunk-n-Treat:** The Trunk-n-Treat event is Mt. Moriah's major outreach event to the Byron Community. Plans are in place to hold the event Thursday, October 31, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

- If you are willing to provide large bag(s) of candy you can put the bags on the table in the library. LWML will be putting the candy in treat bags the week of October 20.
- If you can, decorate your vehicle's trunk and pass out candy. You can let one of the LWML ladies know if you are participating or not. So far, we have three vehicles but if you decide at the last minute to participate that is great too.

**Byron Food Shelf Drive:** Instead of doing a clothes drive this year, we will be collecting non-perishable items for the food shelf. The drive will begin November 1 and end December 1. You can leave your items in the back of the Activity Center. Items they are in need of are things such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, toilet paper, hairbrushes and combs, tampons, etc. Basically, anything that is not food and is a necessity.

**Christmas Cookie Exchange:** The Christmas Cookie Exchange will be held December 8<sup>th</sup>. The freezer at church will be available beginning November 10 to leave your 2 dozen cookies if you choose. Otherwise, the kitchen door of the church will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, or you can drop them off by 9:00 am Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. LWML will be plating them at their meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Angel Tree:** We would like to do an angel tree this year for a family from Byron. We are reaching out to Byron Community Ed to find out more information (if you know who in Byron is in charge of something like this, let one of the LWML ladies know). More information to follow.

# Reformation Word Search

F D D I C L T W E B I Z P A S M W V W B N Y G L  
T C J Z G P U X V M J L Z X S J E T P E N G E T  
K V D G W A A G I K F R W L E V N V N X P R R J  
R F I I B Z R D F N D C V B R Y O S X S Q A M I  
F T E R F B V C Y L X O E J P C L N C T H K A B  
H T T H M B B G T C D S L C G B A C X J Y M N F  
L W O W K U Z H E P B F B H N F H S X K Z C Y Z  
X L F E G Y N O N O L W I V I H T Z E U A A S K  
M O W T B B Z T I L E Q B J T J I J E T O C B E  
X T O P R O G T N G J N H B N V A B H P R T A N  
O T R R B P J F X W L W Z Q I I F O K I C Z C O  
R D M E F W J J M Y O O A B R S L U P O U M E L  
X I S L E M I G P P H N R Q P I N T A I S W K A  
K X E M M N Z T R L J Y H Y C J U W N O B J N T  
W T V H Z D E C T R N L Y V O R Q I D K Y I O S  
L V L T W Z L H F E I Q K R E F T W Y M S U M I  
U S G N H B X Y T K N K K A K R G K Z A W Y J R  
T O C M W E Y U V Q N B L J A Q Q O L H Y V D H  
H E E E K O S J Z A N O E M M N C O D S I L A C  
E M J R F P M I R W N D H R E V S E P A O Y G U  
R I U V H M B J S E I Q S G G O N C D P L A O R  
A B Q N F P V C N R X N W E V Z E V L M U O L K  
K Y T U A N G R A C E A L O N E D B R T E Y N U  
L D F H X T E W K C V D V S F V T C P N J Q G E

Glory of God Alone  
Diet of Worms  
Grace Alone  
Catholic  
Luther  
Solas

Scripture Alone  
Christ Alone  
Ninety-five  
Germany  
Martin  
Monk

Printing Press  
Faith Alone  
Wittenberg  
Thesis  
Bible

# HALLOWEEN WORD SCRAMBLE

1. k p m i n p u \_\_\_\_\_
2. c u r l a d a \_\_\_\_\_
3. c a j k o t r l e n a n \_\_\_\_\_
4. s h t o g \_\_\_\_\_
5. t h e n u a d s h e u o \_\_\_\_\_
6. d r i p s e b e w \_\_\_\_\_
7. c l a b k t c a \_\_\_\_\_
8. s t e e l o n k \_\_\_\_\_
9. f l o w r e w e \_\_\_\_\_
10. s t o r e m n \_\_\_\_\_
11. g r a y d r e v a \_\_\_\_\_
12. k o p o y s \_\_\_\_\_
13. y u m m m \_\_\_\_\_
14. l u l f n o m o \_\_\_\_\_
15. s t o m e u c \_\_\_\_\_

Use these words to unscramble  
the left column!

mummy  
monster  
full moon  
spider web  
graveyard  
spooky  
jackolantern  
ghost  
Dracula  
costume  
haunted house  
pumpkin  
black cat  
skeleton  
werewolf



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