

# **ALL SAINTS' DAY OBSERVED**



**Your Future Is Bright  
and Glorious**

**November 3, 2024**

*Please silence your phones.*

**Guest Preacher: Rev. Gary Smith (ret.)**

## AS WE GATHER

We are reminded that this gathering is in truth a far greater assemblage than the number of people in this room at this time. The letter to the Hebrews reminds us that as we journey through our earthly lives we are surrounded by “so great a cloud of witnesses” (12:1) and tells of “the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven” and “the spirits of the righteous made perfect” (12:23). Hymn writer Isaac Watts reminds us that “the saints on earth and those above but one communion make; joined to their Lord in bonds of love, all of His grace partake” (*TLH* 478:1). On this feast of All Saints, with the timeless words of the Te Deum, we pray that by God’s grace we, too, will be “numbered with Your saints in glory everlasting” (*LSB*, p. 225). With joy and thanksgiving, we celebrate the faith that binds us together with the faithful of all times!

### HYMN

#### *For All the Saints*

LSB 677



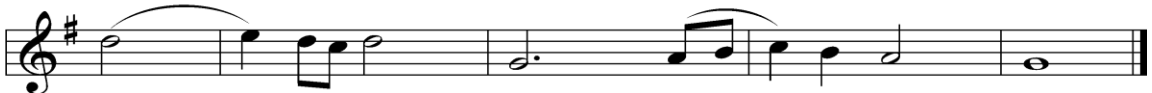
1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest,  
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;  
3 Oh, may Thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,



Who Thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, Thy  
Thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;  
Fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old And



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.  
Thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.  
win with them the vic - tor's crown of gold!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People:** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 34:1, 3, 8-9; 37:28; 97:11-12*

**Pastor:** Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to His holy name!

**People:** **For the LORD loves justice; He will not forsake His saints. They are preserved forever.**

**Pastor:** I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**People:** **Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!**

**Pastor:** Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

**People:** **Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no lack!**

**HYMN**  
*For All the Saints*

LSB 677



4 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!  
5 And when the fight is fierce, the war - fare long,  
6 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west;



We fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; Yet  
Steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, And  
Soon, soon to faith - ful war - riors com - eth rest;



all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.  
hearts are the brave a - gain, and arms are strong.  
Sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public domain

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:** Beloved of God, we rejoice to be numbered with the saints. In confidence, let us come before our gracious Lord to confess our sins and to receive His gracious absolution.

**People:** **Almighty God, we repent of our sins—the inherited sinfulness that is our original condition and our manifold sins in thought and in word and in deed. In Your mercy, forgive us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, that we may serve You as Your redeemed people, now and forever.**

**Pastor:** Because of the sacrifice of His beloved Son for the sins of all people, God has promised His forgiveness. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the

Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May you ever live as the saints with a bright and glorious future that you are in Christ Jesus.

People: Amen.

## HYMN *For All the Saints*

LSB 677

7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glo-rious day: The  
Δ 8 From earth's wide bounds, from o-cean's far-thest coast, Through  
saints gates tri-um-phant rise in bright ar-ray; The  
of pearl streams in the count-less host,  
King of Glo-ry pass-es on His way.  
Sing-ing to Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost:  
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!  
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Text and tune: Public domain

## SAINTS CELEBRATION

Part 1

*Psalm 27:13; 37:28*

Pastor: The words of the Lutheran Confessions give three specific reasons for remembering and honoring the saints. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession states: “Our Confession approves honoring the saints in three ways. The first is thanksgiving. We should thank God because He has shown examples of mercy, because He wishes to save people, and because He has given teachers and other gifts to the Church” (Ap XXI 4). Some of the saints listed in the commemorations section of the hymnal lived long

earthly lives. Others, especially some of the martyrs who died on account of their faith in the first centuries of the Christian Church, did not. Today we bring to our remembrance someone old and someone young from the legions of saints from past centuries.

St. Polycarp, who was born less than four decades after Jesus ascended into heaven, had a long and impactful ministry. As a young man, he knew and studied under St. John, the disciple of Jesus. For over fifty years, he cared for the church at Smyrna, which is now in the land of Turkey. During the time of his leadership, there was continuing persecution of Christians by the governing authorities. During the time when Marcus Aurelius was Roman Emperor, Polycarp was arrested and taken to the local stadium, where he was ordered to renounce his faith in Christ. In response to that order, Polycarp replied: “Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He has done me no wrong, and can I revile my king that saved me?” St. Polycarp, whose name translates as “much fruit” labored fruitfully for his Lord. He is remembered as a martyr on the church calendar each year on February 23.

St. Katherine of Alexandria lived in Egypt in the last years of the third century and the first years of the fourth. Raised in a wealthy and educated family, she came to know of Jesus through her course of studies as a teenager. Although by this time in history Roman state persecution of Christians was subsiding, there were still times when admitting to being a follower of Jesus Christ could bring a sentence of death. Courageously confessing her firmly held belief, Katherine went before the Roman Emperor Maxentius and requested that the persecutions and executions of Christian people for their faith stop. Refusing to give up her faith, Katherine calmly faced a prison sentence that was ultimately followed by her execution. During her time of captivity she continued her Christian witness, leading to the conversion of soldiers sent to guard her and scholars sent to dissuade her from her beliefs and even the empress, who had come to visit her. In the book of Revelation, St. John gave these words of encouragement from the Lord: “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” (2:10). From her few years of earthly life, Katherine left a lasting spiritual legacy.

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

**People:** For the LORD loves justice; He will not forsake His saints. They are preserved forever.

## SALUTATION

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## FIRST READING

*Revelation 7:9–17*

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the

Lamb!" <sup>11</sup>And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" <sup>14</sup> I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and

night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

<sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

<sup>17</sup> For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

*1 John 3:1-3*

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's

children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**



# HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 5:1–12*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons<sup>a</sup> of God.

<sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## *Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng*

LSB 813



1 Re - joi - ce, O pil - grim throng! Re - joi - ce, give  
2 With voice as full and strong As o - cean's  
3 With all the an - gel choirs, With all the  
6 At last the march shall end; The wea - ried  
△ 7 Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom



thanks, and sing; Your fes - tal ban - ner  
surg - ing praise, Send forth the stur - dy  
saints on earth Pour out the strains of  
ones shall rest; The pil - grims find their  
we a - dore: The Fa - ther, Son, and



wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.  
hymns of old, The psalms of an - cient days.  
joy and bliss, True rap - ture, no - blest mirth.  
home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.  
Ho - ly Ghost, One God for - ev - er - more.

### *Refrain*



Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce, give thanks, and sing!

Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

### SAINTS CELEBRATION

*Part 2*

*Psalm 28:8; 97:11-12*

Pastor: Two other reasons for commemorating the saints noted in the Lutheran Confessions are the strengthening of our faith and the imitation, first of faith, then of other virtues. The calendar of the saints includes both men and women from every era of history and from

many lands. In a hymn from the very end of the nineteenth century, writer Lesbia Scott penned these words: “I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green: they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.” So now we meet two saints:

Often showing up first on an alphabetical list of the saints, Ambrose lived in northern Italy in the fourth century. As a child, he proudly announced on one occasion, “I shall one day be bishop.” His studies and experiences, however, took his life in a different direction and eventually he became a governor in northern Italy, ruling from the city of Milan. When the local bishop of that region died, conflict broke out in Milan between two possible successors. When crowds of supporters of both sides gathered in conflict in the city center, Ambrose, as governor, went to keep order. The result of his peace-keeping efforts was that he was acclaimed as bishop by the crowd. He was the right man at the right time. He served the people and congregations at Milan tirelessly for almost a quarter of a century and used all his talents in the service of the Lord. Each Advent we sing one of his many hymns: “Savior of the Nations, Come.” The day on the church calendar associated with St. Ambrose is December 7—the day in the year 374 that he was named bishop of Milan.

Some of the lesser-known saints turn out to be the most influential. One of those remarkable people is St. Hilda. Born in Great Britain shortly after the year 600, she lived her life in an era that is not often remembered. During the seventh-century, battles, feuds, and wars made life in England and Scotland unsettled and challenging. As the leader of a religious house for both women and men at Whitby, England, Hilda made it her vocation to bring Christian educational opportunity to her remote part of the world. She sought to develop the talents of people around her however she could. One of the people she influenced greatly was Caedmon, who was a herdsman and keeper of the abbey grounds at Whitby. With her encouragement, he became a noted minstrel and is viewed by many as the father of English language poetry. St. Hilda brought disparate groups in the British church together and continually sought to

accentuate and develop the gifts of God she discovered in His people.

Pastor: The LORD is the strength of His people; He is the saving refuge of His anointed.

People: **Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to His holy name!**

## COMMEMORATION OF THE SAINTS

Pastor: We remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us with the sign of faith, for they were created by God to offer Him praise and thanksgiving forever. God gave new life to them through Holy Baptism, nourished them in the company of His people at His Holy Table and in His mercy summoned them to His eternal presence so that they may continue to serve Him forever.

Loretta Wilhelm, Ruth Correll, Ronald Sengstock, Sharon Knisley, Kenneth Pipenbrink, Janice Diver, Junce McDougall, and Jack Seagraves.

Pastor: In joyful anticipation of the resurrection to life eternal, we remember before You, O Lord, those relatives, friends, and fellow members of this congregation who have gone before us in faith. We offer thanksgiving for the gift of faith and hold fast to the certainty of Your promises that where You are, there Your servants shall be also. Bless the memories of the saints among us and keep us firm in the certain hope of the great reunion to come in Your gracious eternal kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray,

People: **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Gratefully we pray for the church at large and for the fellowship we enjoy as God's holy people, remembering the saints in other places

around the world who share in our faith and hope and love and joy.  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Thankfully we pray for those who serve in leadership positions in our national Synod, our district, and our local congregation, asking that God may bless their work among us and for us in Jesus' name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Confidently we make our petitions for the sick, the sorrowing, and all who this day are in need of our prayers. Grant that their petitions, Good Shepherd, be answered according to Your gracious will and that they be supported by this fellowship of saints. Help us to cherish the company of all of God's people and seek to bring care in Christ to all with cheerful hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Humbly we ask Your blessing on our nation, its leaders, and all who work for the security of our communities. Grant that we always cherish the freedoms we enjoy and be strengthened by Your power to maintain the public good and promote peace and harmony. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **OFFERING / OFFERTORY**

### **PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. In the communion of all Your saints gathered into the one Body of Your Son, You have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, encouraged by their faith and strengthened by their fellowship, may run with perseverance the race that is set before us and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

### Sanctus

LSB 195



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\times$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\times$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## LORD'S PRAYER

People: **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.**

# Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

## DISTRIBUTION

*Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sin, salvation, and eternal life. All who are baptized and repent of their sins are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Almighty God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come at Your gracious Table. Strengthen us through the blessed gift we have received that we may be the peacemakers, the meek and the pure in heart. Keep us steadfast throughout our



pilgrimage on earth and bring us at last to that heavenly banquet in Your kingdom with saints and angels in light everlasting. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## SAINTS CELEBRATION

*Part 3*

*Revelation 5:9; Psalm 28:9; 37:28; 116:5, 15*

**Pastor:** In the book of Revelation, the description of the company of heaven is one that includes “every tribe and language and people and nation.” That amazing and diverse group of individuals will include many saints we know today by name and reputation as their stories are passed from generation to generation. There will be others who were forgotten on earth but will certainly be fully known in the bright and glorious company of the blessed that is heaven.

Some of the saints that have become well known through the ages left letters or books or diaries to chronicle their earthly lives. Perhaps the most outstanding of those writers is St. Augustine, who lived in northern Africa and southern Europe in the fourth and fifth centuries. Between the years 397 and 400, Augustine wrote a thirteen-volume composition telling of his life up until that time. Titled “Confessions,” it came to be regarded as the first autobiography in Western literature. It served as a model for Christian writers for hundreds of years. In his “Confessions,” Augustine tells of his childhood, youth, and early adulthood. Looking back as he wrote his personal history, he saw many ways in which his life in past times had been misspent, misdirected, and sinful. What he had come to realize was that his life did not find its true fulfillment until he had become totally and completely a follower of Christ and a servant to his Lord and Savior. One quote from Augustine that is best known is his prayerful exclamation to God: “For Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they rest in Thee.” St. Augustine is remembered on the church’s list of Commemorations on August 28.

Although on All Saints’ Day we remember many of God’s people by name, there are also many people worthy of our remembrance and

thanksgiving who are not able to be recalled individually. Hymn texts in our hymnal that have attributions like “Sarum Breviary” and “African American spiritual” and “Church Poetry, Philadelphia, 1823” were penned by unknown saints. Music without a composer named, listed simply as “Geistliche Lieder” or “Davids Psalmen” or “Himmlische Harmony, Mainz, 1628” were the results of dedicated labor by unheralded saints. Much of the mission work of the church has been done by people whose names now are not remembered. For these unknown saints, the words “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints” speaks to us today, reminding us of the heavenly reunion of all of the saints in the courts of the Lord in eternity when what is forgotten on earth will be remembered once again.

**Pastor:** Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

**People:** **For the LORD loves justice; He will not forsake His saints. They are preserved forever.**

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

Eternal Father, You have shown to us, in the words of Jesus Christ, Your Son, the way of those who are truly blessed. Grant us grace to live out our days as Your people who walk in ways of meekness and faith, following the path of our Lord and imitating the faith and virtues of the saints in our lifetimes. Send Your Holy Spirit to direct and counsel us in all things and bring us at last to Your eternal kingdom. In the name of Christ, we pray.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** 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.

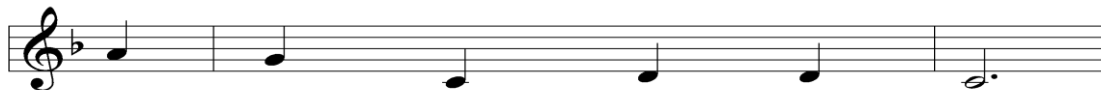
**People:** **Amen.**

# HYMN

## *For All Thy Saints, O Lord*



1 For all Thy saints, O Lord,  
2 For all Thy saints, O Lord,  
3 They all in life and death,  
4 For this Thy name we bless



Who strove in Thee to live,  
Who strove in Thee to die,  
With Thee, their Lord, in view,  
And hum - bly pray that we



Who fol - lowed Thee, o - beyed, a - dored,  
Who count - ed Thee their great re - ward,  
Learned from Thy Ho - ly Spir - it's breath  
May fol - low them in ho - li - ness



Our grate - ful hymn re - ceive.  
Ac - cept our thank - ful cry.  
To suf - fer and to do.  
And live and die in Thee.

Text: Public domain  
Tune: Public domain

*For with you is the fountain of life;*



*in your light we see light. Psalm 36:9*

**Fountain of Life Lutheran Church**, Missouri Synod

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**Prayer Requests:** Mary Ann Lowell 623-670-6870

### **Service Times**

#### **Sunday**

Chancel Choir starting September 8:30 am  
Sunday Worship 10:00 am  
Bible Study 11:15 am

#### **Tuesday**

Mid-week Bible Study 10:00 am  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Men's Breakfast/Royal Cafe 8:30 am

#### **Wednesday**

Quilters 9:00 am

#### **Thursday**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> *Permission to Grieve Group* 10:00 am  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday *Ladies Lunch Bunch* 11:30 am

### **Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday (9am-2pm)

\*\*Closed Friday\*\*

**Fountain of Life Lutheran Church**