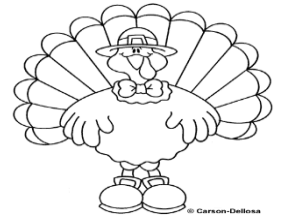




## NOVEMBER 2019 PARISH MESSENGER NORTHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Welcome all, Serve them and grow the community of believers through  
the power of the Holy Spirit.



### FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DAN

#### THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE CROSS VS

#### THE SPIRITUALITY OF GLORY

The Spirituality of the Cross is unique to Lutheran Spirituality; it is one of Luther's greatest insights he gained from his study of the New Testament. It begins with an itinerant Jewish carpenter who ends up getting executed by torture on a cross.

One would think that he would have come as a king accepting the veneration of His people, and conquering His enemies. He did conquer His enemies but He conquered them by dying on the cross.

Christ came in weakness: as a baby He came in humiliation, subject to rejection and hatred  
Isaiah 53:3

*He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief and like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*

He came in suffering  
Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. [5] But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

All of this seems surprising; even shocking.

People today who are drawn to spiritual matters don't always have dramatic encounters with the Almighty God. The never ending routine of responsibilities of everyday life wears down our awareness of something beyond ourselves.

The preoccupations of life that we deal with—like earning a living for our families,

dealing with unexpected problems that intensifies our frustration, aggravation, and stress, often smothers any sense of a connection to the Holy.

And then, there is the fact of actual suffering; when we face failure or disease, or loss of a loved one. When these things happen, an agonizing question is raised in our minds: Where is God Now?

The Prophet Isaiah—in the midst of national and religious apostasy and rejection of God and His Word—a rejection on a massive scale, which in turn led to the spiritual collapse of Israel, led to a devastation that we cannot begin to imagine. In the middle of that devastation the prophet Isaiah said, *“Truly you are a God who hides himself, O God and Savior of Israel.”* Isaiah 45:15

But to say that God is hidden does not mean that God is absent. Actually, when someone is hidden that doesn't mean that person is absent. Someone who is hidden is still present but not seen. The child who is hiding in a closet is certainly there, but not seen. God conceals Himself, often in things we would least expect.

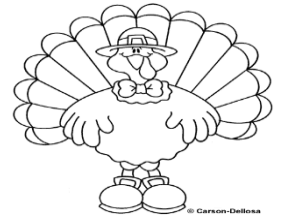
1. A crucified criminal. And Jesus was viewed as a criminal by His enemies.
2. In a Book—The Bible
3. In the Bread & Wine of the Sacrament of the Altar.
4. Trials & sufferings.
5. And in people working and raising families. All of this is the hiddenness of God.

We need to grasp the truth that the hiddenness of God is one of the deepest and most profound themes in Lutheran Spirituality. It is what is called the Spirituality of the Cross, or, the Theology of the Cross.



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1. The Spirituality of the Cross has to do with Christ's work
2. It also has to do with Christ's presence, and how we draw closer to Him.
3. The Spirituality of the Cross also deals with the difficulties and hardships that Christians must live through in an utterly realistic and honest way.

### THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE CROSS VS

### THE SPIRITUALITY OF GLORY

1. When I go to bookstores, I often see a section called "Spirituality". The books in that section deal with techniques that promise to solve all of our problems. They promise to bring us to the pinnacle of success. Some of the topics in these books deal with Yoga, Pop Psychology, and the Power of Positive Thinking.
2. All of these things promise us empowerment. Not only will they bring us personal peace & happiness, they also promise to improve our physical health and even to lose weight.
3. These spiritual practices are also put forward as methods for career advancement, to the point where business books often seem indistinguishable from spirituality books.
4. Some books speak of "Self-Actualization". In these books the Self is spoken of in terms traditionally reserved for God. The Self becomes the Creator [i.e. "You can create your own reality"]. You then become the Law-Giver. You determine what's right for you; not God.
5. All these crazy things are seeking to eliminate the need for a Redeemer. New Age spirituality affirms the idea that the "Self" is God. And that all things, if we could only realize it, share the same Divine unity.

In today's world, the term "Spirituality" simply becomes the means to enhance ourselves; to acquire power, pleasure, and become a god in our own right.

This is insanity, but it is nothing new. Read about the pagan fertility cults in the Old Testament. The Israelites were constantly tempted to participate in the pagan rites in the various fertility cults practiced by their pagan neighbors. The pagan religious practices seemed so much more fun than dealing with the Holy God of the Bible. The Holy God who rescued them from slavery and gave them their own country just wasn't enough fun in terms of the worship and behavior He required of His people. People will always be tempted to follow an easier and softer way. But the easier and softer way is a lie. The easier and softer way was offered to Eve by the serpent; the serpent said, "Hey, Eve..did God really say you cannot eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? You don't have to listen to Him!! You can get rid of the middle-man [God] simply by eating this fruit..and your eyes will be opened, and you will be your own god, knowing good and evil. God is holding you back from "Actualizing yourself"; believe me Eve, life is so much better when you don't have to deal with God and what He says."

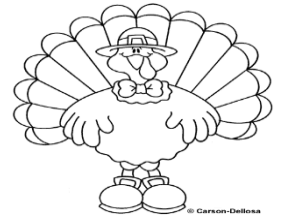
The popular pre-packaged spiritualities of the new age is simply a counterfeit spirituality that promises everything as the serpent promise to Eve, and then gives nothing. And in the process you lose the True God and your true self. As Jesus said, the devil is a murderer and liar and he seeks people to deceive, and when the trap springs on its victim, that person is spiritually murdered. The forbidden fruit looks & tastes good, but it is a lie. A lie that kills and destroys.

The way of Christ is not an easy way. It is hard and frustrating, but it leads to life. The truth is that the best of Christian families



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experience conflicts, intractable problems and embarrassing failures. The most devout Christians may go bankrupt or have a mental breakdown, or get sick and not be healed. The lies of those idiotic books will be of no help at all when the bottom falls out. In fact they will only increase our sense of failure. The idea of the "Victorious Christian Life" proves impossible to attain, so we have to suppress our failures and keep trying harder & present a more positive front to the world. But, in doing that, we have to resort to dishonesty and phoniness.

Luther called this kind of self-centered "Power Spirituality" the Spirituality of Glory. Its attraction is understandable; of course we would like to have victory and happiness...we would like to have complete and understandable answers and evidence. We would love to have tangible spiritual power, all conveyed by an impressive, well run, and effective institution.

Instead, God gives us the Cross. The Theology of the Cross cuts against the grain of all natural religion, and all of what we expect and want in a spiritual system. But the Almighty God did not manifest Himself as an abstract principle. Instead, God came down from Heaven to dwell among us as a baby.

He was not born in a King's Palace, but in a stable—born of a Virgin. Yes, the Angels celebrated His coming, but they did not announce it to the rich & famous—they announced it to wandering shepherds. Throughout His life, the Son of God emptied Himself of glory....

Philip. 2:4-8

*Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. [5] Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:[6] Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God*

*something to be grasped, [7] but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death even death on a cross!*

Now, to be sure, this Jesus was powerful, healing the sick, raising the dead, and ruling nature itself. But, Jesus still remained unpopular; He was scorned & homeless.

Matthew 8:20

*Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."*

Isaiah 53:2-3

*He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. [3] He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

It is strange for the Son of God to come like this. And then this Jesus was arrested, tried, & executed & nailed to the Cross. But look at the words of Isaiah's prophecy:

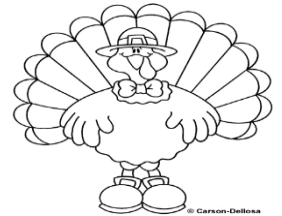
Isaiah 53:4-6

*Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. [5] But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. [6] We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*



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In this chapter of the Old Testament, not the New Testament, as one might expect, Isaiah foresees how Christ's weakness impacts our own weakness. On the cross, He carried not only our transgressions and iniquities, but also our "infirmities and our sorrows".

The rest of the story is that Christ rose from the dead, He ascended back into the Glory that was His, and, in the words of the Nicene Creed, "He will come again with Glory." And His followers will live in Glory; really and truly live in Glory with Him, and be with Him forever.

But in the meantime, while we live on this earth, there is the Cross.

In Luke 9:23 Jesus said, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

Jesus also said in Luke 14:27, "Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

Jesus does not mean that we have to suffer as Jesus did, or that we have to suffer in some sort of meritorious act or payment for our own sins. Jesus did all of that for us. But it does mean that the spiritual life has to do with suffering. It has to do with defeat. It has to do with weakness; not simply with the experience of "Glory", as we would like to have.

However, this also implies a peculiar way that Jesus relates to us: Coming to faith, as we have seen, involves being broken by the Law and coming to grips with our moral failures.

Legalistic religions, in which we save ourselves by our own effort, are very specifically spiritualities of glory. And they assume success and glorify the powers of successful people.

But when we realize just how lost we are, then we cling to the Cross, trusting Christ to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. This is saving Faith, the is the Spirituality of the Cross.

Luther said, "The most severe trial comes upon a person when he believes he has been

forsaken and rejected by God. Such a trial comes only to the "greatest of saints".

So what would be seen as spiritual failure in other traditions, [i.e. doubting our salvation and feeling God's absence] for Luther is a sign of the greatest sanctity.

Over and over in his writings, Luther tells those who are doubting their salvation, or question whether God loves them, or those who think they have committed a sin that God cannot forgive, to read God's promises in the Bible and hold God to His Word. And to remember the fact that they have been Baptized, and to receive the Body & Blood of Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar, and to cling to the Cross of Christ.

To trust God's Word of Promise, despite our feelings, is faith. As Paul writes in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:7 "We walk by faith, not by sight."

In the darkness, when we cannot see, we can only listen for God's voice, where we can draw closer to the Hidden God. Paul said our lives are hidden with Christ in the Gospel. Our sins are hidden in the Cross. Our righteousness is hidden in Christ's Righteousness. That is the basis of our spiritual security. The Christian's life is safely hidden away. Though we believe in the Law's message that a Christian refusing to repent of sin and rejecting the faith can fall away, the Christian's life is safely hidden away in the Gospel, and the Gospel banishes all fear. Jesus said in John's Gospel, "The wind blows where it wishes", "And you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

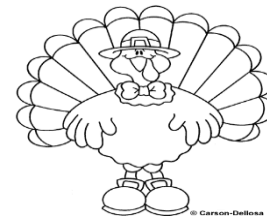
God's Spirit is at work in our lives, mysteriously changing the heart, acting through Word & Sacrament, He ministers to us in trials & tribulations, creating someone who will stand before God in Heaven as Holy.

In Christ, Pastor Dan.



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## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>

The chairpersons for the Norwegian Lutefisk Supper will be a meeting following Worship on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is a follow up meeting for this year's supper.  
CHAIRPERSONS: Please bring along a list of people who worked for you or that you contacted to work for your department. This information will be used to update the postcards for next year.

### COUNCIL MEETING

The November council meeting is Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> following Worship. If you are unable to attend or have any concerns for this meeting please contact Bill Hahn 920-840-5275

### TUESDAY QUILTERS

Like to sew? Like to Socialize? Then the Tuesday Quilters might be right for you. This is a group of ladies from the area that enjoy the art of quilting. They meet in the Church basement from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on November 19<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions please contact Dianne Erickson at 715-677-4683.

### FOOD PANTRY

Items for the lola Food Pantry will be collected at church October 27 thru November 17<sup>th</sup>. The annual thank offering will be November 17<sup>th</sup>

### THANK YOU

Another Norwegian Lutefisk Supper has been put in the books. A huge thank you to everyone involved for making our 102<sup>nd</sup> Norwegian Lutefisk Supper a great success, without all of your help this event would not be possible!

Thank you all and God Bless.

### CATECHISM CLASSES

Wednesday November, 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>  
from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. (No class on the 27<sup>th</sup>)

### NOVEMBER 2019 AT A GLANCE

ALTAR GUILD: Debbie Thompson

USHER: James Wrolstad

AA MEETING: Every Thursday at 7:00 PM in the church basement.

TUESDAY QUILTER'S: November 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

COUNCIL MEETING: Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> following Worship

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

NORHTLAND LADIES GROUP: November 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. Hostess will be Gerry Larson.

CHRISTMAS TREE TRIMING: Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM, Potluck brunch.

PROJECTOR OPERATORS:

November 3<sup>rd</sup> Kevin D.

November 10<sup>th</sup> Bruce M.

November 17<sup>th</sup> Craig A.

November 24<sup>th</sup> Carl T.

AFTER WORSHIP SERVERS:

November 3<sup>rd</sup> Timdal family

November 10<sup>th</sup> Shaw/Pagel Family

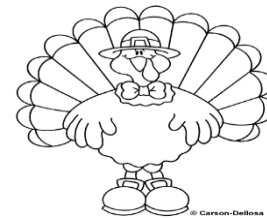
November 17<sup>th</sup> Lashua Family

November 24<sup>th</sup> No Sunday School



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## BAPTISM

Congratulation to Ealyn Jean Lashua. She was baptized at church on October 13<sup>th</sup>. We welcome this little angel into our congregation. Welcome. Lots of love from your Northland Church Family!!!

## MOVED? NUMBER CHANGE?

If you change your primary phone number or you have moved, please contact the church office at 715-445-2956 and give us your new contact information. Thank you, Laura

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dylan Olson
- 5<sup>th</sup> Laura Krogwold
- 9<sup>th</sup> Austen Lane
- 13<sup>th</sup> James Cady, Carole Merde
- 17<sup>th</sup> Marlene Olson, Kristin VanEpern, Myah Heschke, Maci Heschke
- 20<sup>th</sup> Roger Olson
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Richard Lashua
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Patricia Louison
- 24<sup>th</sup> Alf Thompson
- 26<sup>th</sup> Mary Oligney
- 27<sup>th</sup> Dean Lashua
- 28<sup>th</sup> Donald Timdal, Seth Voie
- 29<sup>th</sup> Kay Sanders

If you have not seen your birthday listed in the newsletter please call the church office and leave a message

## CEMETARY FLOWERS

The deadline for removing artificial flowers from the cemetery will be extended to Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Fall cemetery work will begin soon and any flowers will be disposed of by the Cemetery Association staff. For questions contact Greg Krogwold at 715-570-2710.

## THANK YOU VETERANS

On Veteran's Day, we honor all men and women who served and sacrificed in America's armed services. On November 11, 1918, America and her allies signed a truce with German leaders, ending World War 1. In 1919, President Wilson decided the United States should remember with gratitude the end of that war and honor military members by marking Armistice Day, or "Truce" day. In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day, honoring veterans of every era.

Veteran's Day highlights our country's quest for peace, justice and freedom throughout the world. Followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, pray for unity among all nations and for the day when *"Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore"* (Isaiah 2:4)

## NORTHLAND COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 12 2019

Members Present Bill Hahn, Greg Krogwold, Sandy Witkowski, Crag Anderson, Kevin Dahle, Marilyn Mitchell, Roger Olson Daniele Oligney, Pastor Dan, Dianne Erickson  
Bill opened meeting with a Prayer.  
Secretaries report was accepted.

Treasure reported Checking bal. \$1,975.07, Memorial Acct. bal. \$24,661.27 Transferred \$2,000.00 to checking to pay bills. Report accepted.

This month Proposed Budget for 2020 was the only business on agenda. Motion made to accept Proposed 2020 Budget by Greg K. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marilyn M. Carried. Budget will be addressed at 2020 Annual Meeting.

Motion made to Adjourn by Roger O. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marilyn M.

Closed with Lord's Prayer

These minutes have not been approved.  
Secretary Dianne Erickson.