

First Lutheran – St. John Episcopal

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2015

Who Would Jesus Bless Today?

Many Bibles include a heading before the latter part of today's gospel reading (Mark 10:13-16) that says something like "Blessing the Children" or "Jesus Welcomes the Children." In reading such a heading, we might begin to imagine a sentimental scene in which Jesus is surrounded by cute, adorable children. When we think about children being blessed in our churches today, we might imagine children gathering around the altar or at the front of the worship space for a children's time, in which the pastor or worship leader would say a prayer with them and give them a blessing. The parents and others may also be gathered just behind the children, smiling in adoration of these young ones.



However, we cannot view the scene from Mark's gospel with only our modern understanding of the role and place of children in society. The life of many children in North America is one of relative privilege, with carefree days in which they often experience the care and love of grown-ups. Jesus, by bringing the children to him, identifies himself with those who were among the most vulnerable and helpless in society. In ancient times, children often were treated like property. They had few protections from those who would treat them badly. But Jesus came into the world for ones such as these children. Who, in our communities, is in the place of the children of ancient times? As Christ's church, do we provide a place of welcome and care for the most vulnerable and weak in our society?



.... 'tis the season....for renovation and maintenance. Huge thanks to Deb & Odie Sturgill, Sally Hamill, and Ray Johnson for work on our building and grounds in recent weeks. There may be other elvish folk whom I'm forgetting to name; if so, thank YOU too!

The Worship Schedule through November

What are we doing and who is serving? (in case you're wondering)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Church Year</u>	<u>Setting</u>	<u>Musician</u>	<u>Presider</u>	<u>Preacher</u>	<u>Worship Team Leader</u>
10/4	Pentecost 19B (green)	Episcopal	Annette O.	Gretchen G.	Gretchen G.	Andy Carlson
10/11	Pentecost 20B (green)	Now the Feast	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Patricia N.	Deb Sturgill
10/18	Pentecost 21B (green)	Folk	Randy F.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	Kitty Turner
10/25	Reformation Sunday (red)	Now the Feast	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	Patricia Neve
11/1	All Saints (white)	Episcopal	Annette O.	Gretchen G.	Gretchen G.	Andy Carlson
11/8	Pentecost 24B (green)	Episcopal	Annette O.	Gretchen G.	Patricia N.	Deb Sturgill
11/15	Pentecost 25B (green)	folk	Randy F.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	Kitty Turner
11/22	Christ the King (white)	Now the Feast	Annette O.	Janeen S.	Janeen S.	Patricia Neve
11/29	Advent 1C (blue)	<i>Special setting to be used all four weeks in Advent – more info to come!</i>				

10 AM Monday Bible Study

Books of Faith Series: Gospel of Mark

Schedule of Upcoming Sessions

Oct 5	NO SESSION
Oct 12	Session Four <i>Mark 9:2-13</i> <i>What Does the Glory of God Look Like?</i>
Oct 19	Session Five <i>Mark 9:33-37;10:13-16</i> <i>Who Is the Greatest?</i>
Oct 26	Session Six <i>Mark 13:1-37</i> <i>When Is the Ending the Beginning?</i>
Nov 2	NO SESSION
Nov 9	Session Seven <i>Mark 15:22-39</i> <i>Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?</i>
Nov 16	Session Eight <i>Mark 16:1-8</i> <i>Can the End Be Just a Beginning?.....</i> ...followed by end of study lunch together at a local restaurant – to be determined by participants!

This Bible study can be joined on a week by week basis; please come when your schedule permits.

On the calendar....

Birthdays

October 6..... WILLIAM AUSTIN
October 6..... ROBERT BECK
October 18..... RANDY FLEMETS
October 27..... HEIDI BALE

Are we missing your birthday? Please let us know and we will update our directory.

AA Meetings Mondays and Fridays at 12 Noon

Faith Guild Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 1:30 PM

Maranatha Estudio de la Biblia Tuesdays 7 PM

**Backpack Program Meeting Wednesday 9 AM
at the elementary school**

Legacy Food Bank Open Wednesdays 2-5:30 PM

Care Center and Alder House Worship

First Lutheran Church will be leading worship at the Care Center in Raymond next Sunday, October 11 at 2 PM and then the following Sunday, October 18 at Alder House in South Bend at 2 PM. Please speak with Janeen Smith if you are available to participate and/or plan these outreach events.



Francis of Assisi (1181-1226): died October 4

John Bernardone was nicknamed Francesco ('Frenchie') because his mother was from Provence. His father was a wealthy cloth-merchant. Francis was ill after a year's imprisonment during a local war. As he recovered he began to care for the poor and the lepers. He began to give away his father's goods.

The painted crucifix in the derelict church of San Damiano seemed to say to him, 'Build My Church, which, as you see, is in ruins.' He began to rebuild the chapel, stone by stone. But the word he had received there also spoke prophetically about a renewal and rebuilding of the larger Church of his day – a rebuilding through a simple loyalty and obedience to Christ and a rejection of all the Church's clutter, corruption and compromise.

Francis brought conversion by example. Taking off the clothes that his natural father had paid for, he stood naked and asked for the Church's covering and protection. With some embarrassment it was given. Francis and his order of Brothers Minor in absolute poverty continued to embarrass and energize the Church. Like Jesus, it was said of Francis that the poor 'heard him gladly'.

Because so many of his followers were clever, well-educated men, many of his sayings and numerous accounts of the incidents of his life have survived. The most famous prayer that is ascribed to him was not in fact his own, but aptly sums up his spirituality: 'Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.'

Information has been taken from Celtic Daily Prayer (Northumbria Community Trust Ltd.). A version of the prayer attributed to Francis is found in our ELW on page 87.