THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 16

August 22, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

What is your favorite family tradition? Perhaps it is an annual celebration such as Halloween, Thanksgiving, or Christmas. Perhaps it is a more common tradition—an old family recipe or a favorite game. Traditions are passed down from generation to generation. They are often wonderful and meaningful. But sometimes we pass down traditions that are not good for us or the world. The Israelites had passed down traditions related to divorce and giving that were not what God had intended. Jesus rightly criticizes such traditions. Today we consider the most trustworthy tradition that we continually pass from generation to generation: Jesus.

HYMN "Come People of the Risen King" -Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend ©2007 Thankyou Music. Used by permission. CCLI

1. Come people of the Risen King, Who delight to bring Him praise; Come all, and tune your hearts to sing To the Morning Star of grace. From the shifting shadows of the earth, We will lift our eyes to Him, Where steady arms of mercy reach, To gather children in.

Chorus: Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice! One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!

2. Come those whose joy is morning sun, And those weeping through the night; Come those who tell of battles won, And those struggling in the fight. For His perfect love will never change, And His mercies never cease, But follow us through all our days, With the certain hope of peace. *Chorus*

3. Come young and old from every land, Men and women of the faith; Come those with full or empty hands – Find the riches of His grace.

Over all the world, His people sing – Shore to shore we hear them call

The truth that cries through every age, "Our God is all in all." *Chorus*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ★ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: O Lord, I love the habitation of Your house,

People: and the place where Your glory dwells.

Pastor: Lord, restore the fortunes of Your people.

People: Let all Your people rejoice and be glad!

Pastor: From generation to generation, You are our God.

People: Your Word shall be heard among our children and our children's children.

Pastor: Let us ever share the joys of Jesus.

People: Let us spread His grace and love to all the nations.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Indeed, it is good to be here, worshiping the Lord and receiving our Lord's gifts for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. Yet, we must admit that there have been times when we have taken God for granted. There have been times when we have created our own religious, political, and social traditions and given those human-made traditions more attention than Jesus. Still, our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him and ask for forgiveness for this and all sin. Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have not always looked to You for all good. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for You and because of Jesus forgives You all Your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ♣ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are forgiven in Christ. He is our true inheritance forever. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE "O Sing to the Lord" LSB 808 sts. 1, 2, 5

O sing to the Lord,
O sing God a new song.
O sing God a new song.
O sing God a new song.
O sing to the Lord,
O sing God a new song.
O sing to our God,
O sing to our God.

2 For God is the Lord!
And God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord!
And God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord!
And God has done wonders.
O sing to our God,
O sing to our God.

5 For Jesus is Lord!

Amen! Alleluia!

For Jesus is Lord!

Amen! Alleluia!

For Jesus is Lord!

Amen! Alleluia!

O sing to our God,

O sing to our God.

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, defend Your Church from all false teaching and error that Your faithful people may confess You to be the only true God and rejoice in Your good gifts of life and salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah* 29:11–19 (Isaiah's vision of God turning things upside down) The vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot read." And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden." Ah, you who hide deep from the Lord your counsel, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?" You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"? Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest? In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Ephesians 5:22–33 (Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE Jeremiah 15:16a

Pastor: Alleluia. Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your words became to me a joy and the delight of

my heart.

People: Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark* 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (The Pharisees argue with Jesus about traditions.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands, holding to the tradition of the elders, and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men." And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY "The Church's One Foundation" LSB 644

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With ev'ry grace endued.

- 3 Though with a scornful wonder
 The world sees her oppressed,
 By schisms rent asunder,
 By heresies distressed,
 Yet saints their watch are keeping;
 Their cry goes up, "How long?"
 And soon the night of weeping
 Shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Through toil and tribulation
 And tumult of her war
 She waits the consummation
 Of peace forevermore
 Till with the vision glorious
 Her longing eyes are blest,
 And the great Church victorious
 Shall be the Church at rest.
- Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
 O blessèd heav'nly chorus!
 Lord, save us by Your grace
 That we, like saints before us,
 May see You face to face.

 Text: Public domain

SERMON "Are You Clean?"

Think back to your childhood for just a moment. It is a hot, humid summer day. The sun is shining, and you don't have a care in the world. You just spent the last few hours riding your bike, and you are dirty from exploring and playing with your friends. You come home, and your Mom isn't too pleased that your jeans are dirty, and your recently bought shirt somehow got a stain. There are some dirt splotches on your face, your hair is messy, and your hands are filthy. Who knows what is under your finger nails, and your palms have dust on them. Your Mom has dinner cooked and ready, but before you can go eat, she tells you something. Maybe you have told your kids the same thing when they were younger. What is it? "Wash up for dinner!" And so you go upstairs to the bathroom to clean up. When you are done and get to the table, what does she ask you next? "Are you clean? Show me those hands!" Depending on what kind of kid you were, your hands were either pristine and sparkling, or still, dirty. "Are you clean? Show me those hands!" That is the question asked in our text today. That is what the Pharisees ask Jesus, and it is what Jesus asks the Pharisees. Let's see how they answer this morning.

In the beginning of our text, Mark records that some Pharisees and Scribes came down from Jerusalem and gathered around Jesus. When they did, they saw a horrific, a gut-wrenching, a scream inducing sight. Some of Jesus' disciples ate with unclean, unwashed hands. The sight of this sent shivers down every good Pharisee and scribes' spine. "What are they doing?" they must have thought. "Do they not know? Or do they not care?" they must have muttered to themselves. The disciples ate with unwashed hands. What is the problem with that?

The problem was not a hygienic one, but a ritual and purity one. According to the traditions of the elders, scribes, and Pharisees, eating with unwashed hands would make you unclean and defiled. Since the

disciples didn't wash according to their standards, or didn't at all, they were deemed ritually unclean. They believed that in God's sight the disciples were defiled, dirty, and disgusting because of that! Their unwashed hands had spiritual consequences according to them.

The Pharisees and others had created additional fences and safeguards to the Law and God's Word to help prevent them from breaking it. One such example is that they taught that a tailor would be guilty of breaking the Sabbath if he was found with a needle on him. While it might create a temptation to work, that in itself wouldn't break the Sabbath. The Pharisees went too far, although they meant well. Their words spoke over God's Word, and their law became greater, or equal to, His Law. Their traditions became commandments. "Are you clean? Show me your hands!" the Pharisees asked the disciples. According to them, the disciples were defiled and unclean before God and all because they didn't live according to their tradition and ways.

However, Jesus doesn't take an attack on those who are His own, lightly. He responds and defends. As He does, He coins a word with His response. He is the first person in history to use the following word in this sense. Jesus calls them "hypocrites", which literally means "play actor" in Greek. Isn't that a fair description of the Pharisees? Jesus says that they are playing the part of pious and faithful believers, but they are only doing just that, playing the part. They are simply acting. Jesus says that they are only paying lip service with their actions. Their hearts show their true condition. They are far from God and His ways. Their hearts are cold and loveless. Their worship is vain and idolatorous. Their words triumph over God's, and Jesus gives the stinging declaration: "You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

Jesus will now ask the same question Himself: "Are you clean?" Jesus calls the people to Himself to teach and give them the correct understanding. He will turn their conception of impurity and uncleanness upside down. He says, "There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." Jesus says that it is not what is outside that defiles a person, something like unwashed hands, but what is inside that does. What does Jesus say lies within? What is it that comes out of a person? It's not good.

Jesus gives a list of 12 things. The first six describe behaviors. He says, "For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts," thoughts that would hurt, dishonor, or exploit a neighbor. Sexual immorality and theft comes out, actions that damage marriages and hurt people's property. Murder comes out, which includes anger and hatred. Adultery rears its destructive head which is every sexual vice, and coveting does too, which is scheming to get someone's property or possessions in a dishonest way. These are ugly behaviors, aren't they? They make you feel unclean and uneasy just saying them. But Jesus is only half done.

The next six that He describes are attitudes. They are wickedness and deceit. They are sensuality, which means "a disposition of soul that resents all discipline." It is a soul that only pursues pleasure. There is envy. The word envy literally means *the evil eye* (it is the eye that looks on the success and happiness of another in such a way that it would cast bad upon them if it could). Slander and pride come out of the heart, which only puts others down. Foolishness emerges, too. These attitudes aren't any better than the behaviors. Jesus finishes by saying, "All these evil things com from within, and they defile a person." It is not what is *outside* that does it, but what comes from within. Jesus says that these are the things that make people defiled and dirty before God, not unwashed hands. "Are you clean?" Jesus asks the Pharisees. "Don't show me your hands, but show me your heart."

Our Lord's question echoes to our day, doesn't it? Are you clean? We can't help but squeal and squirm when we hear what comes out of the human heart. Why? Those things have come out of us. We know they have! They are behaviors we had done, and are ones that we have emulated. They are attitudes we have committed to, or have gotten stuck in. The words and actions that come from one's sinful heart demonstrate the defiled nature within; it shows ours. We are dirty. We are disgusting. We are defiled and unclean before

God. Jesus' words are strong here, aren't they? But the One Who exposes dirty hearts and lives is also the One Who cleans and cleanses them.

Paul describes this beautifully with the image of a bride in our Epistle text. Jesus views us, the Church, as His bride, and so He both washes us and preserves us. Paul says, "Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word [baptism], so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." None of us could ever be faultless, undefiled, without blemish or spot, or perfect. None of us would ever pass the inspection of God. But, by the washing of Baptism with the promises of forgiveness in God's Word, God declares that we are completely clean, as nothing on earth could wash us. A bride hopes to be perfect in the eyes of the groom. But God says that He has washed us so well that He chooses to see us without fault and sin every day of our lives together with Him. We might see and be aware of them, but God doesn't see them. We might remember the stains, and know where they were, but God has got them covered and clean. As John the Apostle writes in His epistle: "the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Are you clean? Perhaps that's not the best question. It should be a statement. You are clean in Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

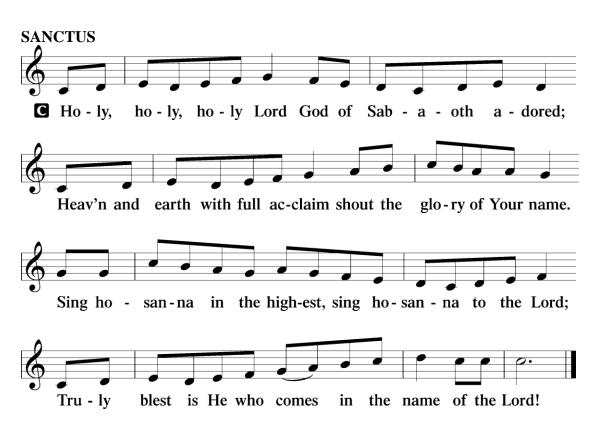
PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22
Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own

testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and

forever.

People: Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

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 ₱ 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 & blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST 1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

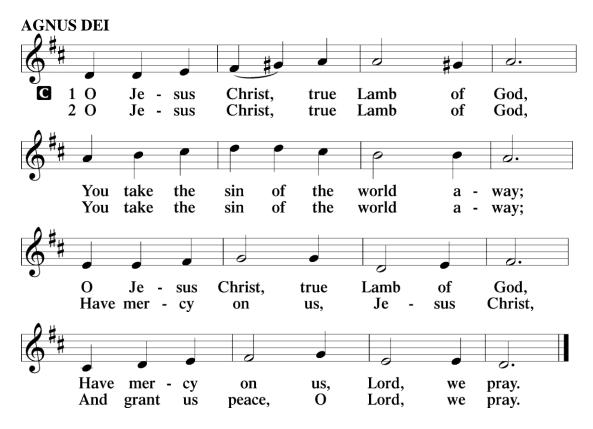
LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9–13

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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.



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You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" –John Newton, Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio ©2006 worshiptogether.com songs. Used by permission. CCLI

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found, Was blind but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear, The hour I first believed.

Chorus: My chains are gone. I've been set free, My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood His mercy reigns, Unending love, amazing grace.

3. The Lord has promised good to me,His word my hope secures.He will my shield and portion be,As long as life endures. *Chorus (twice)*

4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, The sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.

BLESSING

Pastor: May our Lord's body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24–26

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 "Freely, Freely" -Carol Owens

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1. God forgave my sin in Jesus' name I've been born again in Jesus' name And in Jesus' name I come to you To share His love as He told me to

Chorus: He said freely freely You have received Freely freely give Go in My name And because you believe Others will know that I live

2. All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name In earth and heav'n in Jesus' name And in Jesus' name I come to you To share His pow'r as He told me to

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: Mark 7:11 – "But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban" '(that is, given to God)." Each one of our vocations, in the home, in the church, and in society have a claim on our resources. The Pharisees thought that they could use the Kingdom of God as an excuse to shirk their duty to their parents. But they were wrong. Of course, doing it the other way around would also be wrong. God has called us to be supportive of our families, our churches, and our communities each in the proper proportion.

CHOIR RISERS: We are in the process of doing some fall cleaning, and would like to clear out the old choir/youth group risers that are currently being stored in the back of the fellowship hall. First, we want to make sure that they are not going to be used for a future event. If not, then there are 2 options for vacating them from the church. If anyone can use them, please contact the church. Another option is to see if they can be recycled via a local organization. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Chris G. Thank you!

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays we will have a prayer and Bible Study group. Please check with Pastor Kooi for the current start time. Each week, we will gather together to pray and study a text. We will be meeting in-person and virtually. For those that attend virtually, we will have you join us via Zoom (contact Pastor Kooi for the link). Please contact Pastor Kooi for more details.

HEAR "THE LUTHERAN HOUR" on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week's broadcast: "Use What You've Been Given" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz. We can resist temptation by using the "power tools" God provides: His Word and the shield of faith. (Ephesians 6:10-17)

CONCORDIA ACADEMY CRAFT FAIR: The Concordia Academy Craft Fair returns on November 13, and registration is now open for crafters and vendors, with an early registration discount through the end of August. Go to www.concordiaacademy.com/craftfair for details!