

THE LORD'S DAY

September 24, 2023 **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP**

10:00 a.m.

Piano/Chancel Organ PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP &

The Carillon Bells STRIKING THE HOUR "Amazing Grace"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† INTROIT "Blessed Be the Name of the Lord" Page 64

† Please stand as you are able. (Verse 1)

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" † HYMN Page 586

(All Verses)

† Prayer of the Day and The Lord's Prayer

"Gloria Patri" Page 813 † ANTHEM

HYMN "All for Jesus" Page 588

(Verses 1,2,4)

WE PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER AND **RECITE GOD'S COVENANT PROMISES**

PASTORAL PRAYER

Psalter 34^c RESPONSORIAL "Psalm 34"

Sung To The Tune of: "Sweet Hour Of Prayer"

(Verses 6.7)

RESPONSIVE READING: "The Heidelberg Catechism"

WE RETURN OUR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE UNTO THE LORD

RECEIVING THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS † DOXOLOGY AND OFFERTORY PRAYER



WE LIFT OUR VOICES IN PRAISE

HYMN "In Times like These" (All Verses)

Page 577

SPECIAL MUSIC

EXPOSITION OF THE WORD AND CONFESSION OF FAITH

THE SERMON "Mammon Or Messiah, You Can't Have Both." Matthew 6:22-24

† THE APOSTLES' CREED

† CLOSING HYMN "I Surrender All" Page 596

(Verses 1,4)

† BENEDICTION

† ANTHEM "The Family of God" Page 419

DEPART IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

If you are visiting with us today, we're glad you're here. We are ordinary people on an extraordinary journey, learning to love and serve like Jesus. Come with Us!



In this constantly changing world, our goal is to reflect and recapture the historic and classical worship of Almighty God. Central to our service is the proclamation of the Word and a biblical understanding of the Sacraments in the tradition of the Evangelical and Reformed faith.

OUR MISSION

To Present Christ to Everyone. EVERYWHERE, AT EVERY AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY.



THE LESSONS FOR USE ON THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ YEAR A

Exodus 16:2-15 • Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1:21-30 • Gospel Focus: Matthew

WE AFFIRM THE FOLLOWING:

- The Holy Trinity of God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- God has revealed Himself fully and decisively in Holy Scripture. We believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God and our guide for faith and life.
- There is only one way to Salvation through Jesus Christ.
- The sanctity of human life based on our creation in the image of God and our election by God for service in His Kingdom. This leads us to respectfully affirm the sanctity of life at every stage, from conception to ordinary death.
- The Biblical principles of immutable gender and sexuality: The exclusive union of one man and one woman in marriage; and fidelity to its vows. And, chastity outside of marriage for the sake of the Kingdom.
- God made all people from one man and although people can be distinguished by different ethnicities and nationalities, we are all one human race and absolute equals before God in creation, the need for repentance, and the offer of redemption.
- That the mission of the Church is to spread the Good News of the Gospel in every word and deed. Proclaiming to the world the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and seeking to bring every person into a life of faith, discipleship, and submission to Him.

GIVING REPORT

\$2,915

2,241

340

2,581

-77

-258

167

13

50

78

43

60

258

670

2,246

670

\$2,915

2,246





In The Pear 716, an ambitious Saxon monk named Boniface was called to preach the victory of Jesus Christ to the ferocious Germanic pagans in Frisia. After presenting the gospel and slowly gaining converts among the Germanics, Boniface traveled to the great pagan shrine in Geismar in Hesse. There at Donar's Oak, the pagan priests offered sacrifices to their demon-god, Donar, better known to us as Thor, the same ancient storm demon named Jupiter among the Romans, Zeus among the Greeks, and Baal among the Canaanites. It was believed that if anyone profaned Thor's oak by touching it, the deity would strike that man down with a bolt of lightning from his hammer. When Boniface arrived at the tree, he told the pagan priests that he would return at the same time tomorrow, and not only would he touch this tree, but he would cut it down. Word traveled quickly throughout the neighboring villages and towns. A great multitude arrived the next day, brimming with excitement to see their god fry this foolish and blasphemous Christian. Boniface reared back with his ax and took one single swing, barely bruising the bark of the mighty tree when a powerful wind came out of the heavens and blew the tree over. Astonished to see the impotence of their demon-god, everyone present for sook their unrestrained paganism and was baptized into Jesus Christ. Do we dare to hope the same could happen in modern-day America?

Regardless of the particular historical circumstances, whether in ancient Rome, revolutionary Europe, early industrial America, or our technological, globalist society, unfettered liberty has always been a utopian ideal. However, it has always been dystopian in practice because it is in direct rebellion against the way God has created humanity. Any and all boundaries that God has made immutable are the object of the idolator's fury. This is true of all the idols of the ancients and even more so of the more sophisticated ones of today. But this is the fundamental deceit of this repugnant age: we believe that we are so much better than ancient men and women, but the truth is we are less different than we think. The idolatries of the ancient world and the modern age are the same in that they both seek to invoke the power of their demon gods to transgress the immutable boundaries God has set. Compare, for instance, a dark-age pagan to the indoctrinated denizen of any U.S. city. Imagine an ancient Germanic woman offering her firstborn to Odin for a good harvest and the prospect of a healthy family. Compare this to a twentyfirst-century American woman offering her firstborn to Mammon (via Planned Parenthood) so she can keep sending emails and filling spreadsheets for her corporate overlords, only to go home to the lonely comforts of two cats, Netflix episodes, and margaritas. The only difference between the two is that the latter gives up her soul for far less in return. Modern-day pagans and "mammonites" (men as well as women) will do heinous, unspeakable things because they cannot bear the fact that God has made the world the way that He has made it; He has set us within impassable boundaries in His Word and the deceitful "gods of this age" are still promising a way over them. That is the nature of the world whose shrines Boniface chopped down, and that is the nature of the current repellant age. Are we willing to start felling some pagan shrines, or will we continue to capitulate ourselves into deeper and deeper slavery to demonic forces?

Andrew Isker, "The Boniface Option: A Strategy for Christian Counteroffensive in a Post-Christian Nation"



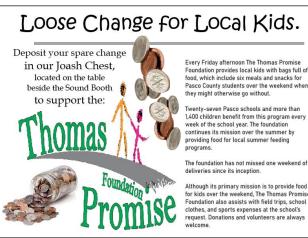
The Chancel Flowers Are Placed by:

Don & Ginny Jennings for All of God's Blessings.



MARK YOUR **Y** CALENDAR





THE ELDERS TEACHING & WORSHIP

Rev. H. Joseph Kler Senior Pastor / I.F.O.C. Chaplain

Rev. John O. Strauss Worship Leader / Minister of Music

THE DEACONS Jim Leitzke, Gary Hatrick

OUR MUSICIANS
Ann Dantuma

Pianist/Organist

Donna Zenisek-Huber

Flutist

SOUND BOOTH

Ric Romyn, Joe Negron,

Jonathan Kler

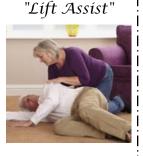
To contact Board President John Vosteen, please call: 813-731-2803

To contact the Pastor, please call: 813-323-0802

¹²COMMUNITY NEWS

If you or someone you love has a Non-Emergency Fall and just need help getting back up, you can now dial (727) 834-3211 and ask for a "Lift Assist" instead of calling 911. When the paramedics arrive, you ask them to lift the person up and place them wherever you want (recliner, wheelchair, bed, etc.)

You may be asked if you want or need transport to the local hospital, but you can decline further medical care if you wish.



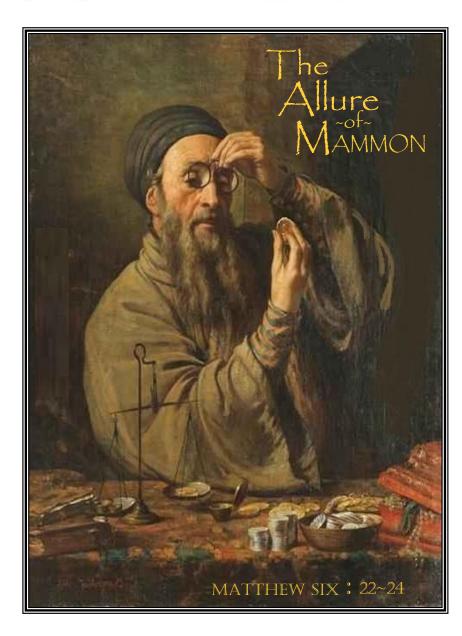
NON~EMERGENCY

(727) 834-3211

OUR VOLUNTEER STAFFED
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Phone: 813-780-6027 • Website: www.fcczhills.org
• Email: fcczh@aol.com



Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing, but Encourage one another as the Day of the Lord draws near. -Hebrews 10:25



7900 Fort King Road – Zephyrhills, FL 33541 813-780-6027 / fcczh@aol.com www.fcczhills.org