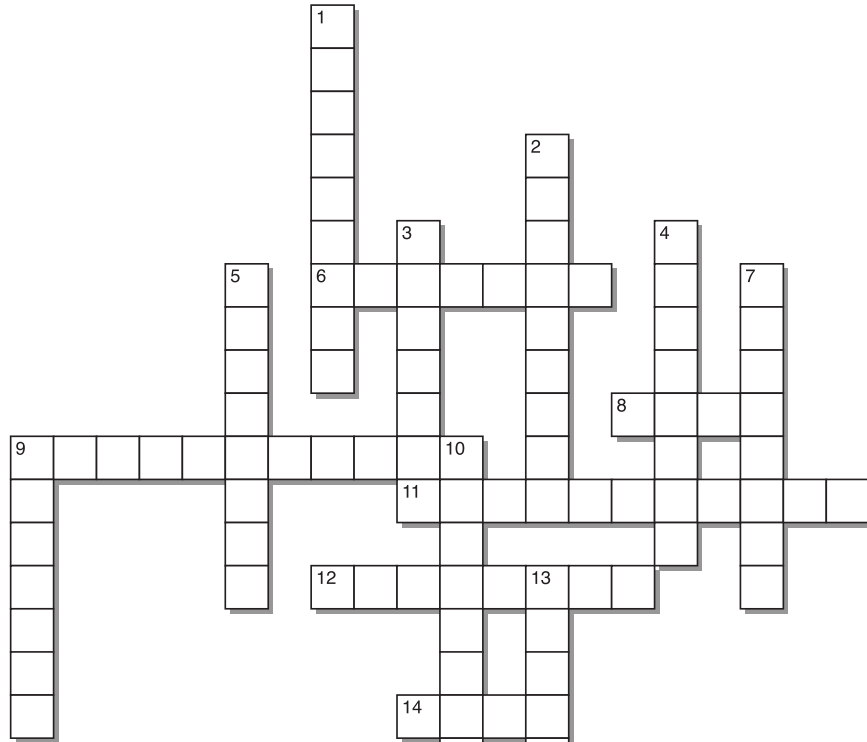


FRIDAY — ACTIVITY

Characteristics of Jesus:

ALL-KNOWING • AWESOME • FAITHFUL • GRACIOUS • JUST  
MAJESTIC • MERCIFUL • PROVIDOR • POWERFULL • PRUDENT  
RIGHTEOUS • SPLENDOR • TRUSTWORTHY • UPRIGHT • WISE



- ACROSS**
- 6) UPRIGHT
  - 8) WISE
  - 9) ALL-KNOWING
  - 11) TRUSTWORTHY
  - 12) MERCIFUL
  - 14) JUST
- DOWN**
- 1) POWERFULL
  - 2) RIGHTEOUS
  - 3) PRUDENT
  - 4) PROVIDOR
  - 5) SPLENDOR
  - 7) MAJESTIC
  - 9) AWESOME
  - 10) GRACIOUS
  - 13) FAITHFUL



[www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish](http://www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish)

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# Lambs at Pasture™

Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity

2018

**INTROIT**

*Psalm 85:1, 7, 9, 11; antiphon: Jer. 29:11a, 12*

I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD,  
**plans for wholeness and not for evil.**  
Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me,  
**and I will hear you.**

LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
**you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
**that glory may dwell in our land.**

Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
**and righteousness looks down from the sky.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD,  
**plans for wholeness and not for evil.**

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me,  
**and I will hear you.**

**DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

An answer key is available for download at [www.stluth.org/lap](http://www.stluth.org/lap)

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Psalm 115:11*

Alleluia. You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield.  
Alleluia.

**HYMN OF THE WEEK:** LSB #730 – What Is the World to Me

**CATECHISM CONNECTION:**

Table of Duties "Of Citizens" (pages 37–38)

**COLLECT OF THE WEEK**

O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## MONDAY — THE PSALM

Read Psalm 111

List some of the characteristics of the Lord.

Verse 3 — full of splendor and majesty, righteousness

Verse 4 — gracious and merciful

Verse 5 — provides food (daily bread)

Verse 6 — powerful

Verse 7 — faithful, just, and trustworthy

Verse 8 — faithful and upright

Verse 9 — awesome

Review *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 24 (page 61)

## TUESDAY — THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Proverbs 8:11–22

List some of the characteristics of “wisdom”.

Verse 12 — prudent, having knowledge and discretion (knowing when to use it)

Verse 14 — counsel and sound judgment

Verse 15–16 — a just (right) guide to rulers

Review *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 22 (pages 59–60)

## WEDNESDAY — THE GOSPEL

Read Matthew 22:15–22

How did Jesus answer the Pharisees' question regarding paying taxes?  
(verses 17–22)

Jesus asks the Pharisees and the Herodians to show [Him] the tax money. And He [says] to them, “Whose image and inscription is this?” They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” (NKJV). The coin had a portrait of Tiberias on the one side, and a picture of him seated on his throne on the other. 2 The inscription declared Tiberias to be the great ruler. Then Jesus said, “Render {unto} Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and {unto} God the things that are God’s.” And hearing this, they were amazed, and leaving Him, they went away. (NASB {KJV}).

The coin bore Caesar’s image, so it was given to Caesar. And what bears God’s image? Is it not Christ Jesus Himself? For as it is written: [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God. (Colossians 1:15). As an image of a president is pressed into a coin, so Christ Himself is the image of God “coined” in human flesh. And as money is offered up to pay taxes, so Jesus was offered up to God to pay for the sins of the world on the Cross, rendered to the Father as a sweet sacrifice.

What things are Caesar’s?

All the power, riches, and authority on earth that God has bestowed upon him.

St. Paul says that God has established those who are in civil authority, whomever they might be. (Romans 13:1). Therefore, we are to honor them (1 Peter 2:13–14), pray for them (1 Timothy 2:1–2), follow the laws of the land—as long as they do not cause us to sin—and yes, pay taxes. No Christian says that God is his King, and so he doesn’t have to obey earthly rulers. God has given them their authority, even if they don’t use it wisely, whether we like them or not, whether they’re Christian or not.

What things are God’s?

Everything belongs to God, as He is the Creator.

The life and death of Christ Jesus are the true renderings to God what belongs to God. Jesus gave to His Father what needed to be paid for the sins of the world — the “spiritual tax” if you will. And so, when it comes to settling accounts with God, you can do one of two things: you can render to Him your own works and your own goodness, which will always fall short, or you can render to Him the works and the sacrifice of Christ Jesus as the full and complete payment for your sins. So then, to render to God the things that are God’s is simply to rely on Jesus and believe in Him. It is to point to Christ crucified and say, “There is my salvation. He alone is the offering that wins for me everlasting life.”

## THURSDAY — THE EPISTLE

Read Philippians 3:17–21

Who is St. Paul warning us against in this lesson?

The enemies of the cross of Christ — false profits and preachers: those who call themselves Christian, but do not teach or live according to the Law nor do they believe that Christ died for their salvation.

Review *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 21 (pages 57–59), question 189 (pages 169–170), and question 213 (pages 184–185)

## CATECHISM CONNECTION

What is the connection of the Table of Duties “Of Citizens” and Trinity XXIII?

The roles of authority of both spiritual and earthly (civil) kingdoms