SAINT LUKE CHURCH

SAINT LUKE CHURCH

November 2, 2008

Welcome

A warm welcome to all who gather in the name of Christ this morning. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider Saint Luke.



Adults and children who regularly commune with their home congregation are invited to join with us in communion. We all need what only Christ can give.

For your convenience, we offer *large print copies* of the Sunday bulletin and *individual sound enhancement devices* programmed to the frequency of our sound system. *Free parking* is available in the lot west of the church. The *wheelchair accessible entrance* is located on Greenview Avenue and the *wheelchair accessible lavatory* is off the left side of the church. There are *children's booster seats* in the lobby and a *Toddler Reading Corner* is located downstairs in Founders Hall. If there is anything else we can do to assist your worship experience, please let the ushers know.

Today... All Saints

This morning we enter the portion of the church year in which we contemplate "end-times." The natural cycle of seasons and the final portion of the Church Year direct our reflections toward transformations and transitions, the endings and beginnings in our own lives.

On this, the first Sunday in November we observe the *Feast of All Saints*. We give thanks for the men and women who have gone before us in Christ and look to their lives of faith as models for our own. We remember those near and dear to us, who, by patient example and encouragement, shaped and nurtured our own faith. In the prayers we remember them by name and give thanks that their names are written in the book of heaven.

In the front of the church, the bounty of nature becomes our symbol for the gathering of all the saints and at the feet of the Christ figure in the back of the church are the saints of our own lives to whom we have a special connection. We are all God's harvest, the saints on earth and the saints above, in the mystical union of the body of Christ.



SAINT LUKE CHURCH Sunday, November 2, 2008 All Saints Day

PRAYER CONNECTION AND REFLECTION

Time to reflect and pray individually as you prepare for worship

THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE ILL

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers and grant to your servants

Paul Mielke	Marilyn Oscarson	Jennie Randall	Martha Marohn
Earldean Siivonen	Sue Beck	Elaine Olsen	Frank Illy
Ray Fitzgerald	Wendy Campbell	Ruth Trier	David Porter
Heidi Ottilie	Gunther Buhler	Peter Illy	Herbert Grunde
Rose Collins	John Damm	Don Rosentrater	John Folkening

The help of your power, that illness may be turned into health and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ. Amen

REMEMBER OUR CIVIC DUTIES

Lord God, you call your people to honor those in authority. Help us elect trustworthy leaders, participate in wise decisions for common life, and serve our neighbors in local communities. Bless the new leaders whom we will elect that we may be at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

REMEMBER THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Almighty God, we commit to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad:

Emily Ansorge	Andrew Davis	Marcus Davis	William Grunde
Michael Heeb	Scott Hoehn	Trevor Knauss	Jessica Sandoval
Karl Warnstedt	Jeremiah Wood	Daniel Zimmer	

Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

O God, it is your will to fold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste or our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

ALL SAINTS DAY

8:00 AM

	0.00	, 1111
Sit	GATHERING Prelude	
Ste Stand	Confession and Forgiveness	p.04
Stunu	Entrance Hymn #422	p. 94 For All the Saints
	Greeting	p. 138
	Litany: Lord, have mercy	p. 130 p. 138
	Hymn of Praise: This Is the Fe	
	Prayer of the Day	p. 140
	WORD	
Sit	First Reading	Revelation 7:9-17
511		d of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
	Psalmody	Psalm 134:1-10, 22
	Second Reading	1 John 3:1-3
	U	d of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Stand	Alleluia Verse	p. 142
	HOLY GOSPEL	Saint Matthew 5:1-12
Sit	Sermon	
Stand	Hymn of the Day #418	Rejoice in God's Saints
	Nicene Creed	p. 104
Kneel	Prayer of the Church	_
	MEAL	
Stand	Sharing of the Peace	
Sit	Gathering of the Gifts	Offering for the Congregation
Stand	Offertory: Hymn #182	Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord
	GREAT THANKSGIVING	p. 144
	Our Father in Heaven	p. 145
Sit	Communion	1 12
	Hymn: Lamb of God	p. 146
	Hymn #423	Shall We Gather at the River
	SENDING	
Stand	Table Blessing	
	Canticle: Hymn #204	Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise
Kneel	Prayer and Blessing	
Stand	Dismissal	
	Postlude	
	Ruth Hamilton, Presiding Minister David Abrahamson, Preaching Minis	Randall Sensmeier, Organist ister

GOTTESDIENST AM TAG ALLER HEILIGEN

9:00 AM

Bitte setzen Sie sich in den vorderen Teil der Kirche. Die Gesangbücher sind in den Sitzplätzen vor dem Kreuzgang. Please sit in the front of the church. The German hymnals are in the pews in front of the cross aisle.

Sitzen	Das Vorspiel
	Das Lied #397

Alle Menschen müssen sterben

Die Antiphone Stehen

Sitzen

Stehen

Heilig, heilig, heilig ist Gott, der Herr Zebaoth. | Halleluja. Alle Lande sind seiner Ehren voll. | Halleluja.

Die Kollekte	
Die Epistel	Offenbar Johannes 7, 2.3.
DAS EVANGELIUM	St. Matthais 5. 1-12
Das Glaubensbekenntnis	
Das Lied #263	Ach, Gott verlass mich nicht
Die Predigt	
Das Kirchengebet Vater Unser	

Das Offertorium Sitzen Das Lied #443

Gemeindekollekte Jerusalen, du hochgebaute Stadt

Die Antiphone Stehen

> Sei getreu bis an den | Tod. So will ich dir die Krone des Lebens | geben.

Die Kollekte Der Segen

Das Nachspiel

David Abrahamson, Presiding Minister

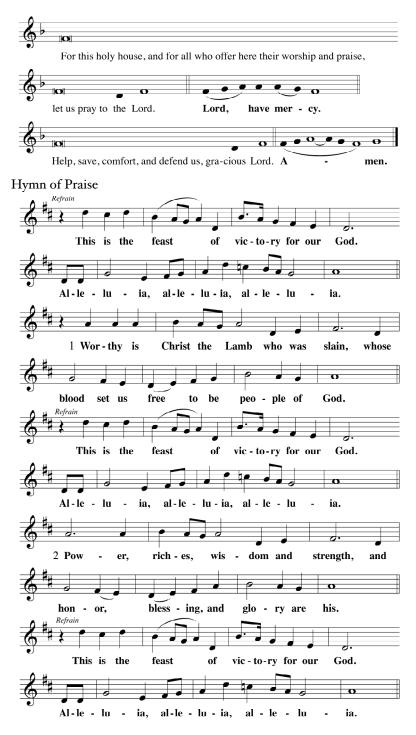
Phyllis Geistlinger, Organist

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

ALL SAINTS DAY 10:30 AM

GATHERING_____

Sit	Prelude: Vor deinen Thron tret ich hiermit J. S. Bad			
	Welcome			
Stand	Processional Hymn #422 For All the Saints Please turn and face the cross as the procession enters.			
	Stanzas 1 & 2 AllStanza 5 All, in partsStanza 3 All, in partsStanza 6 AllStanza 4 ChoirStanza 7 All			
	Greeting The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you. Litany			
	In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy. For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.			
	For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.			





The congregation responds: Amen

WORD

Sit First Reading Revelation 7:9-17 The reading concludes: The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Taste and See

The choir sings the first refrain and the verses. The congregation sings the refrains after the verses.

Second Reading I John 3:I-3 The reading concludes: The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Stand HOLY GOSPEL

Please turn to face the procession as it moves to the center of the church. The congregation sings:

Hymn #424
Stanza 1.Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

★ SAINT MATTHEW 5:1-12 ★

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**.

Hymn #424 *Stanzas 2-4* Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

CANTATA_____

Sit Cantata BWV 60 O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort J.S. Bach

1. Aria Duet **Furcht:** O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort, O schwert, das durch die Seele bohrt,

O Anfang sonder Ende! O Ewigkeit, Zeit ohne Zeit, Ich weiß vor großer Traurigkeit Nicht, wo ich mich inwende; Mein ganz erschrockenes Herze bebt,

Daß mir die Zung am Gaumen klebt.

Hoffnung: Herr, ich warte auf dein Heil.

r. Aria Duet **Fear:** O Eternity, you "thunder-word", O sword, which pierces through the soul, O beginning without end, O Eternity, time without end, I know not—because of great sorrow—where I might turn. My completely terrified heart

trembles, So that my tongue sticks to my palate. **Hope:**

Lord, I wait for your salvation.

2. Recitativo **Furcht:** O schwere Gang zum letzten Kampf und Streite! **Hoffnung:** Mein Beistand ist schon da,

Mem Beistand ist schon da, Mein Heiland steht mir ja Mit Trost zur Seite. **Furcht:** Die Todesangst, der letzte Schmerz Ereilt und überfällt mein Herz

Und martert diese Glieder. **Hoffnung:** Ich lege diesen Leib vor Gott zum Opfer nieder Ist gleich der Trübsal Feuer heiß, Genug, es reinigt mich zu Gottes Preis.

Furcht:

Doch nun wird sich der Sünden große Schuld vor mein Geschicht stellen.

Hoffnung: Gott wird deswegen doch kein Todesurteil fallen. Er gibt ein Ende den Versuchbungsplagen, Daß man sie kann ertragen.

3. Aria Duet **Furcht:** Mein letztes Lager will mich schrecken, **Hoffnung:** Mich wird des Heilands hand bedecken, **Furcht:** Des Glaubens Schwachheit sinket fast, **Hoffnung:** Mein Jesus trägt mit mir die Last.

Furcht: Das offne Grab sieht greulich aus.

Fear: O difficult path to the final battle and fight! Hope: My help is already there, My savior stands by me indeed, With comfort at my side. Fear: The anxiety of death, the final pain, Overtakes me and spills over my heart. And torments these limbs. Hope: I place this body down before God as a sacrifice. If this affliction is hot as fire, Enough! It cleanses me for praise of God. Fear: Yet, now the great guilt of my sins Take a place before my face. Hope: God will, for that reason,

2. Recitative

Not let any sentence of death occur. God establishes boundaries on plagues of temptation, So that one can endure them.

3. Aria Duet **Fear:** My final bed frightens me, **Hope:** The Savior's hand will protect me. **Fear:** My faith's weakness nearly sinks me. **Hope:** My Jesus will carry the burden with me. **Fear:** The open grave appears frightful. Es wird mir doch ein Friedenshaus.

Hope:

Hoffnung:

Furcht: Der Tod bleibt doch der menschlichen Natur verhaßt Und reißet fast Die Hoffnung ganz zu Boden. **Christus:** Selig sind die Toten; Furcht: Ach! Aber ach wieviel Gefahr Stellt sich der Seele dar, Den Sterbeweg zu gehen! Vielleicht wird ihr der Höllenrachen Den Tod erschrecklich machen.

Wenn er sie zu verschlingen sucht; Veilleich ist sie bereits verflucht Zum ewigen Verderben. Christus: Selig sind die Toten, die in den Herren sterben: Furcht: Wenn ich im Herren sterbe. Ist denn die Seligkeit mein Teil und

Erbe? Der Leib wird ja der Würmer Speisse!

Ja, werden meine Glieder Zu Staub und Erden wieder. Da ich ein Kind des Todes heiße. So schein ich ja im Grabe zu verderben.

Christus:

Selig sind die Toten, die in dem Herren sterben, von nun an. Furcht:

Wohlan!

It will be for me, finally, a dwelling of peace. 4. Recitative Fear: Yet death remains detestable to human nature. And almost pulls hope entirely to the ground. Christ: Blessed are the dead. Fear: Oh, but oh, how much peril Exhibits itself to the spirit, In walking the way of death. Perhaps the jaws of hell Will make death frightful for my spirit When it seeks to swallow me up. Perhaps I am already cursed To eternal damnation. **Christ:** Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Fear: If I die in the Lord, Is then salvation my portion and inheritance? The body is surely food for the worms! Indeed, if my members Return to dust again, Since I am called a child of death, Then it appears I am consigned to the grave. **Christ:** Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Fear: It is well then. 12

So stelle dich, o Hoffnung, wieder ein! Mein Leib mag ohen Furcht im Schlafe ruhn. Der Geist kann einen blick in jene Freude tun. 5. Choral Es ist genug: Herr, wenn es dir gefällt,

Soll ich von nun an selig sein:

So spanne mich doch aus! Mein Jesus kömmt; Nun gute Nacht, o Welt! Ich fahr ins Himmelshaus. Ich fahre sicher hin mit Frieden, Mein großer Jammer bleibt danieden. Es ist genug.

Stand Hymn of the Day #418

> Nicene Creed We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

> > We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 13

If I from now on am blessed,

again.

joy.

5. Chorale

It is enough.

It is enough.

My Jesus comes,

Then establish yourself, O hope,

My body rests in sleep without fear;

My spirit can get a glimpse of that

Lord, when it is agreeable,

Now good night, O world!

I go there safely in peace.

I journey into heaven's house.

My great lament remains below.

Translation ©Mark Bangert

Rejoice in God's Saints

Then indeed release me.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

Kneel Prayers of Intercession *After each petition:* Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Stand Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** *The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

MEAL

Sit Gathering of the Gifts

Offering for the Congregation

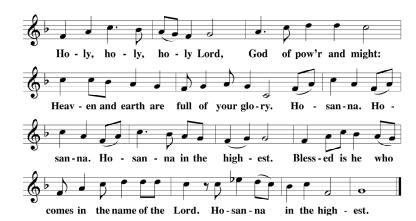
Stand Offertory Hymn #866 We Are Marching in the Light of God

Let us pray. Blessed are you,

O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



It is indeed right our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you... ...with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign...

The presiding minister continues to thank and praise God, remembering especially the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and his promise and command to celebrate this meal.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.** Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember... ...the great and promised feast. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit ... with all your saints in light. **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers ... almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Sit Communion

All baptized Christians who commune in their congregations are welcome at the Lord's table. At the invitation of an usher, please proceed to communion at the front of the church by the center aisle and return via the side aisles.



Anthem: How Lovely Are Your Dwelling Places Johannes Brahams

Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen, Herr Zebaoth! Meine Seele verlanget und sehnet nach den Vorhofen des Herrn; Mein Leib und Seele freuen sich in dem lebendigen Gott. Wohl denen, die in deinem Hause wohnen; die loben dich immerdar.

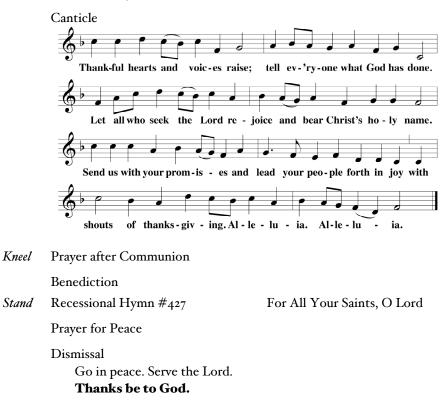
How lovely are your dwelling places, Lord of Hosts. My soul longs and yearns for the forecourts of the Lord; My body and soul rejoice in the living God. Fortunate are those who live in your house; who praise you evermore.

Hymn #423

Shall We Gather at the River

SENDING.

Stand Table Blessing



Postlude: Sine Nomine

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

David Abrahamson, Presiding MinisterDorothy Korn, LectorBarbara Weith, Assisting MinisterCalvin Clements, ServerRuth Hamilton, GospelerJames and Marjorie Hilliard, andRandall Sensmeier, OrganistMichelle Weiner, PresentersMark Bangert, Saint Luke Bach Choir Artistic Director and Scholar in Residence

Saint Luke Bach Choir

Karen Brunssen, *alto* William Watson *tenor* David Fleener, *bass* Chris Schultze, Alicia Frasier, Cathy Peters, Cindy Gendry, soprano Karen Brunssen, Kristi Bangert, Kathy Kleisch, Jill Dahlke, alto William Watson, Robert Kleisch, Chris Truesdell, tenor David Fleener, Terry Duchow, Dan Mjolsness, bass

Orchestra

Richard Vikstrom, Rachelle Perrin, *violin* Ralph Boyd, *viola* Judy Stone, *cello* Douglas Johnson, *contrabass* Jonathan Weber, *trumpet*

BACH CANTATA SERIES 2008-2009

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NEWS and INFORMATION November 2, 2008

Lights for Peace

The **candles** on the East wall of the church will remain burning until our nation is again at peace. This special symbol is a perpetual prayer for God's guidance and peace. If you are interested in sponsoring this wall for a week or weeks, please sign up on the sponsor's board in the lobby.

The Lights for Peace are sponsored this week by Ben Mjolsness.

Today

Today the Saint Luke Bach Choir and Chamber Orchestra marks the Day of All Saints with **Bach's Cantata** O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort "O Eternity, you thunder-word" at the 10:30 a.m. service. In both text and music, this work describes our confrontation with death as a constant struggle between fear and hope and celebrates the words of Jesus with their promise and comfort.

The regular meeting of the **Voters' Assembly** of Saint Luke Church will meet in Memorial Hall this morning, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service of Holy Communion.

Thank you...

 \ldots to all those whose work on the last week's Reformation events made our observance a memorable one.

... to Gene and Virginia White for a donation to Saint Luke Church in honor of their 50^{th} Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations!!

This Week

This Wednesday, November 5, **Seasonings** (Saint Luke's Adult Intergenerational Fellowship) will enjoy *a Reading Roundabout* with the students from Saint Luke Academy's Grades 1/2. If you enjoy working with children, leave your name in the office and your lunch will be waiting.

One More Month

Tickets for the December 7 Holiday Celebration Saint Luke Academy Scholarship Fundraiser will be available in the lobby immediately following the 10:30 service. Purchase your tickets at \$85 each, or make a special contribution to the Scholarship fund by sponsoring a table. See the brochure in the lobby for sponsorship details.

LAST CHANCE - Early Auction Item

Bears tickets for a December 11 game are still available for bidding in the church office. These tickets are part of the Saint Luke Academy Scholarship Benefit and will be available as a silent auction item until November 2, 2008.

Holiday Celebration

The Saint Luke Academy Scholarship Fund Benefit committee is working to gather items for the December 7th auction. Generous financial support and **gift items** are critical to the success of the event. Everyone is invited to contribute. Restaurant certificates, Air miles, Time/Share vacations, sports memorabilia, and shopping certificates are desirable and attractive. Bring donations to the Saint Luke Church office.

Calling All Readers

The **Readers Roundtable** selection for Monday, November 17, 7:30 p.m., is *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein, available in local libraries and in paperback. Come join other readers for fellowship and lively discussion!

Pre-Schoolers and Parents

A variety of programs are available for PreSchoolers and their parents:

Pre-school Sunday School meets Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:15 a.m. in the PreSchool 4 classroom in Saint Luke Academy. Enter the school lobby and follow the signs to the classroom.

Book Bugs, a parent and tot (3 and under) group meets Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. for literacy activities and fellowship.

Caring and Sharing

November is the month for the annual coat drive in which we collect used, **warm, winter coats** for distribution to the homeless. Coats for men, women and children will be distributed through the LakeView Shelter and The Rotary Club of Chicago-LakeView. Bring your old coats to the collection barrel in the church lobby.

During November we invite Saint Luke members to bring **nonperishable foods** for sharing through our own emergency pantry and the Lincoln-Belmont Pantry. Our offerings become a part of our harvest environment to remind us of our blessings and to encourage us to give even more. You can help build the display by bringing your donations of canned goods and placing them with the decorations in the back of the church.

Thanksgiving Worship

Please remember the special worship service for November 27, 2008

Thanksgiving Day at Saint Luke:

The Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.

Add canned goods to your thanks! Leave your non-perishable donations to Saint Luke's food pantry at the foot of the Christ figure in the back of the church when you come for worship.

THIS WEEK at Saint Luke Church

SUNDAY, November 2, 2008

Holy Communion 8:00 a.m.	Church
Choir Rehearsal 9:00 a.m.	Choir Room
German Service Gottesdienst 9:00 a.m.	Church
Bible Class 9:15 a.m.	Centennial Room
Bakery 9:15 a.m.	Founders Hall
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.	PreSchool3 room
Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.	Church
Voters Meeting 12:00 p.m.	Memorial Hall

MONDAY, November 3, 2008

Morning Care 7:00-8:00 a.m.	7/8 grade room
Devotions 8:00 a.m.	Chapel of the Christ Child
School in Session 8:45 a.m3:15 p.m.	
After Care 3:30-6:00 p.m.	7/8 grade room
Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 p.m.	School

TUESDAY, November 4, 2008

Election Polling Place 6:00 a.m7:00 p.m.	Memorial Hall
Morning Care 7:00-8:00 a.m.	7/8 grade room
Devotions 8:00 a.m.	Chapel of the Christ Child
School in Session 8:45 a.m3:15 p.m.	
Book Bugs 10:30 a.m.	Founders Hall
After Care 3:30-6:00 p.m.	7/8 grade room
Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 p.m.	School

WEDNESDAY, November 5, 2008

Morning Care 7:00-8:00 a.m.	7/8 grade room
School in Session 8:45 a.m3:15 p.m.	
Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.	Church
Administrative Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m.	Church Office
Seasonings Luncheon 12:00 p.m.	Founders Hall
After Care 3:30-6:00 p.m.	7/8 grade room
Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 p.m.	School
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THURSDAY, November 6, 2008

Morning Care 7:00-8:00 a.m.	7/8 grade room
Devotions 8:00 a.m.	Chapel of the Christ Child
School in Session 8:45 a.m3:15 p.m.	
Open Door, Open House 9:00 a.m.	School
Honor Flight Board Meeting 12:30 p.m.	Founders Hall

FRIDAY, November 7, 2008

Morning Care 7:00-8:00 a.m.	7/8 grade room
Devotions 8:00 a.m.	Chapel of the Christ Child
School in Session 8:45 a.m2:00 p.m.	
After Care 3:30-6:00 p.m.	7/8 grade room
Wedding Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	Church
Chicago Arts Choral Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.	Church

SATURDAY, November 8, 2008

Wedding 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, November 9, 2008

Church
Choir Room
Church
Centennial Room
Founders Hall
PreSchool3 room
Church
Church

Notes

When you peruse the text of this cantata it may strike you as "corny," depressing, if not unnecessarily morbid and obsessive. We live in a world with many distractions and it is not our habit to brood over death, even acknowledge our feelings about our own death or that of loved ones. On the other hand, we are given sometimes to imagine what it might have felt like to decide to jump from the eightieth floor of the Twin Towers seven years ago. Terror might be the word and there are few who don't dread it. Or to imagine the anxiety of a seven-year old boy facing the barrel of a gun brings a visceral response even to the most hardened among us. Bach was no stranger to the grim reaper. Of his twenty children, he lost six to death within the first month of their lives; several others never made it to the age of eight. His family was not unusual in this respect. Death was ever present.

Death is still around, in all its ugly manifestations; only certain statistics have changed. The text of this cantata provides an honest guide for Christians to face death together with Jesus whose resurrection believers trust, and who was the center of the lives of those remembered on this day.

This cantata was written for the end of the church year, the twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity, November 7, 1723. An unknown librettist assembled the text from two hymn stanzas that frame the work, biblical quotations, and free poetry. Intended as a musical sermon related to the appointed Gospel, the story of Jesus raising the daughter of Jairus, this cantata followed immediately upon the Gospel reading. In some sources the cantata is subtitled "Dialogue between Fear and Hope," explaining its somewhat unusual form. The librettist chose to personify fear (alto soloist) and hope (tenor soloist) as allegorical characters that communicate with another, not unlike the mixture of fear and hope believers have over death. There is an amount of argumentative drama deriving from such an approach, resolved in the end not by one or the other dominating but by the breaking in of words from the book of Revelation, sung by the bass as Jesus.

The cantata is scored for three soloists, choir, strings, oboes, and horn.

1. Aria duet

The title for this cantata is taken from the first line of a 1642 hymn by Johann Rist. No longer current among Christians today, the hymn is sung by "Fear," accompanied by the horn, itself always a herald of the last day. The last four notes of the hymn's first phrase are very similar to the first four notes of the other hymn from the cantata, and therefore become Bach's way to musically hold the work together. Those four ascending notes he shaped into a pulsating, tremolo pattern for the upper strings, heard from the very beginning, and many times thereafter. Above that the two oboes sound melodies that seem to yearn for relief from inevitable fear. In the midst of those musical sighs Fear sings her hymn, at first all by herself, and then in dialogue with Hope. Hope has text from Gen. 49:18 and with expansive lines and confident melody provides another view of what's unfolding. He has had enough experience to know that hope, as virtue needs to be patient, so often Hope stresses the word *warten* (wait). Repetition of these ideas indicates that composer and performers alike are serious about the matters of death raised here, and not vendors of cute gimmicks meant to distract from realities at hand.

2. Recitative

Fear and Hope now have more intense exchanges. Bach explores his toolbox to enliven the declaimed text. At the words *überfällt mein Herz* (spills over my heart), the musical line falls downward as if pouring pitches over the heart. But since this dialogue is about death, he reaches for another favorite tool, the interval of the tritone, at his time considered (because of its harshness) to be the "devil in music." In this recitative he employs it six times and in the other recitative at least four times. This dialogue is interrupted two times with little arias (ariosos). The first has Fear expanding on the word *martert* (tortures) with contorted chromatic leaps. Hope has his moment on the word *ertragen* (endure), a drawn-out melody that demonstrates the uplifting persistence sometimes required of the faithful as they face debilitating illness.

3. Aria Duet

Centerpiece of the cantata, this aria with its three sections takes up the dialogue in a more lyrical fashion. The soloists have diverse melodic material that upon closer look bears some musical connections. They in turn are accompanied by a dueting couple of instruments, each with its own distinct material, though again distantly related. The oboe d'mour seems to go with Fear while the violin favors Hope. While Fear begins each of the three sections, Hope joins in and has the last word, a sign of where matters will end. Another such sign occurs as Hope develops an energetic outburst on the word *Friedenshaus* (house of peace).

4. Recitative

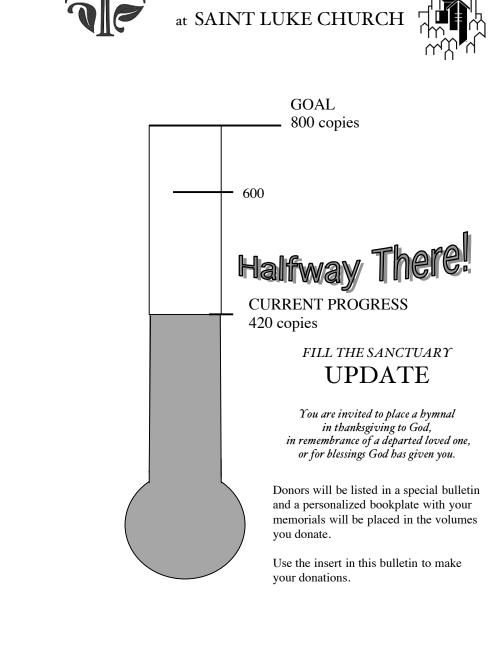
Hope has had a convincing last word in the previous aria, but Fear does not

leave. The dialogue can't go on forever—the drama must end. Will Hope disappear? Fear has it going to the floor (*Hoffnung ganz zu Boden*), appropriately brought down musically. Fear believes it may already be cursed (*verflucht*)—assigned a tritone that leads to the very foreign key of g# minor. But in the midst of these fears, seemingly more intense than before, the familiar words from Revelation (14:13) appear offering promise instead of hope. Three times the bass sings the promise, each a little more substantial than its predecessor, each using the same memorable tunes. With that, Fear welcomes back Hope, gaining resourceful strength for the days to come.

5. Chorale

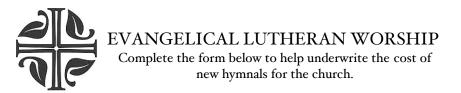
The cantata concludes with this fifth stanza of a 1662 hymn of Joachim Burmeister. For textual reasons alone the well-known hymn provided the cantata the kind of congregational summary it required. Bach, however, found in it the musical link that bound the work together. Four upward moving notes from the first hymn are in this tune given an unusual twist: the last of the four notes is sharped, giving the first-time listener an unsettling feeling that the tune together with its entire harmonization is adrift. What's even more astounding is that because of that sharped fourth note (original to the tune), the first four notes with their outer pitches create the tritone, signaling through text a transformation of Fear into Hope. That Bach could pack such harmonic beauty and skill into this short arrangement so impressed the composer Alban Berg that he incorporated it into the last movement of his violin concerto, where it serves as a tender homage to the recentlydeceased wife of Gustav Mahler.

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