



LWML CNH CHRISTIAN LIFE LINE OCTOBER 2023

Cathey King - VP, Christian Life

Welcome to fall! I hope you are enjoying the cooler weather. As the leaves change color and the air becomes crisp, let us remember the beauty of God's creation and His faithfulness to us. May we also take this time to reflect on our own lives and deepen our relationship with Him.

HEAVEN BOUND?

If I asked you if you were going to heaven, what would be your response? Would you shout an enthusiastic "yes!", whisper a confused "I don't know", or look at the ground and sadly shake your head?

Up until recently I foolishly assumed that all my readers were safe in their knowledge that they would spend eternity with God. I was told by two different people that the reality may be different.

We are all sinners, saved by grace. The Bible teaches us that "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). Do you feel that your sins are too great and God can't forgive them? The verse continues, "but if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

God loves you and wants you to be with Him eternally. He only requires that you confess and repent of your sins. We do this every Sunday during worship. The confession is part of every Lutheran worship service. "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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen." Nothing is too big for God to forgive, NOTHING. After we confess, the pastor pronounces absolution by

God's authority. We are forgiven, we are made right with God, and He has put our sins "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12).

Remember that Jesus came to save sinners, no strings attached. Luke 5:32 tells us that Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." So please, if you have doubts, talk to your pastor or a trusted friend for help in understanding without any doubt that you are redeemed by Jesus Christ. God bless you.

I love you all and pray that your faith is strong and you are courageous as you face the days ahead. Please let me know if there is some way that I and/or my committee can pray for you. God bless you. Love, Cathey