



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH, 2023

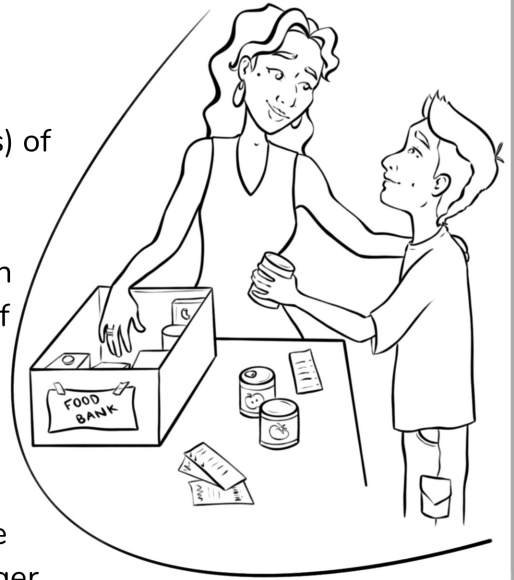
BIBLE LESSON: ROMANS 11:33 - 12:8

A Living Sacrifice

These verses from Romans are a great tool to help children understand the biblical views (and therefore Lutheran teachings) of sacrifice and acts of service.

The ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made by laying His life down for us so that He could take on, and therefore pay for, the sins of all people makes it difficult to understand how we might offer a sacrifice – especially one that starts in us.

We are sinful, human, and messed up, so how can we be a sacrifice? Weren't sacrifices supposed to be from the best of the crop, and aren't sacrifices an Old Testament thing that is no longer necessary since Jesus laid down His life and became the ultimate Sacrifice for us?



All of this is true, but Paul tells the Romans and us that we can present ourselves, as a living sacrifice (verse 1) through our prayers and service in thanks to God for giving His Son to save us. Nothing we do, even being thankful, can earn us any points with God, but Paul shares that in the joy of our baptism it is natural for us to be compelled to serve one another with our gifts. We might be messy, but we are also transformed through baptism and in mercy and love God has given us wonderful and unique gifts.

Every gift that we have whether that is teaching, giving generously, leading, or helping others who are in need, is a gift from God, so even when we offer those gifts from within us, they are gifts given by grace and meant to be shared. (Verse 6).



Prayer

Let us pray: Thank you dear heavenly Father for sending your Son Jesus to save us. Thank you also, for bringing us into the family of God and for the people you have sent to care for us. Help us to be generous with our gifts and to serve others joyfully. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.