



**THINKING ABOUT COMMUNION:** Two of my favorite lessons, Eph.2:4-10 and John 3:14-21: *God's gracious F Faith G Gift saves you AND may not perish but have eternal life.* The sign maybe not die! Really? Is there any doubt that God's faith gift saves us? NO! NO DOUBT! So why did Jesus say maybe? This lesson compares Jesus' death on the cross with the snake on the pole in the Old Testament. When people got bit by a snake, if God's gracious F Faith G Gift in them believed God's promise, they could look at the snake on the pole and God would heal them! Suppose they decided they did not need to follow God's way, then they died! God gave them all they needed so He could save them but they decided otherwise! Lutheran doctrine is correct saying that we don't first decide and then God saves us! But many Lutherans and others feel Jesus saves us and there is nothing we need to decide! That is wrong! That's the reason Jesus said: *may not perish!* That "maybe" depends on you! If you decide to follow Jesus your way, ignoring Jesus' way, then you are deciding to walk that wide, easy way to death! "Maybe" is Jesus' warning! That Devil snake wants you to play with him! God's gracious F Faith G Gift trusts Jesus' cross and empty tomb. That does not fail! God's baptism grace does not fail! God's Lord's Supper promise forgives! But we can fail depending on self! **Visitors study 1<sup>st</sup> before Communing!**



**TODAY'S PRAYER:** God, our Father, You hAve given us a valuable gift: Your holy word. Everyday, Give us courage to face our problems. Sometimes we are weak; we go-astray our-own way. Lead us to You again. Forgive us and accept us as Your children. Help us serve You and serve each-other. We pray trusting the name of Jesus, Your Son, our Lord. AMEN.