



| **Thursday, December 5**

Build Us Up, Lord

*Growing in Christ we plant seeds for the kingdom;
We follow in faith what's begun!*

Hymn #670

When our First Lutheran family sings this hymn, we are asking God for a strong foundation as we work together toward a common goal.

When I work in our flower beds at home, I love to be alone in the quiet. No headphones—ok, maybe an audio book—but I enjoy hearing geese on the river, cardinals calling for someone to help fill their nest, and even the train whistle. It's like meditation. I can split hostas, trim hydrangeas and arrange bouquets with confidence and joy. But vegetable gardening is a different story. I am useless on my own. Facing a rectangle of God's earth, anticipating weeds, bugs and drought is daunting. I need a support group. Tilling, planting, weeding, thinning—this is still a challenge, but I've got my group to support me! Four friends gather at the community gardens at St Francis. One of us knows which seeds will produce well. Another has a tiller and tomato trellises. Another is not squeamish about picking and squishing potato bugs. We all take turns with the watering schedule. I CAN DO THIS! with the inspiration, encouragement and support of my fellow gardeners.

So what do my gardening strengths and weaknesses have to do with BUILD ME UP LORD? Well, there are many ways I can share my gifts at First Lutheran alone. I prepare Holy Communion. Usually I do this Saturday afternoon when the Sanctuary is empty, the church is peaceful, and I can get lost in my task. Like meditation. However participating in Holy Communion is not meant to be experienced alone. As a family we gather for the meal. Some family members serve us the bread and wine. Others make sure our serving vessels are filled. Others clean up afterward. Family members sing or play instruments to enhance the atmosphere. Some of you squeeze my shoulder as you process down the aisle. Some of you catch my eye as you find your place and smile or give me the peace sign.

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You know I need that nudge of family love. I wouldn't receive these signs of love, support and encouragement if I sat in the Sanctuary alone.

What lies ahead? We can do this—together!

We sing: Lord, set in our hearts the power of your word to spread the news of your son. Heavenly Father, thank you for planting me amid our First Lutheran family. Amen.

- Linda Weiss