

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

P. O. Box 267, 201 Veterans Dr., Columbus, TX 78934

PH# (979) 732-2423 Fax (979) 733-0489

E-mail: admin@splctx.org www.splctx.com **Pastor:** pastor.akethan@gmail.com

October 16, 2022 Contemporary 11:05 AM

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Senior Pastor	Alan Kethan	<u>Home:</u> (979)-942-9060	<u>Cell:</u> (830)-708-1200
Deacon of Word and Service			Sandye Fletcher
Youth & Family Specialist			Stephanie Polasek
Music Minister			Robert Eaton
Congregational Chair			Donna Maas
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director			Briana Bedford
Secretary			Elena Holub
Custodian			Tomasa Rosales
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator			DyAnn Lauzon

MISSION STATEMENT: Love God, Love Neighbor (*Luke 10:27*)

VISION STATEMENT: We will work to strengthen and grow closer in relationship to God and to one another.

- *As we enter into a sacred time and space, a friendly reminder to please set your cell phone to vibrate.*
- *We want to welcome all of our guests today and thank you for worshiping with us. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding our services, programs, day care, or preschool programs at St. Paul, please visit our Welcome Center in the narthex immediately following our service, and an attendant will be more than happy to assist you. If this is your first time at St. Paul, we hope you will take a gift along with you. We also have a gift bag for children.*

* This symbol indicates that the congregation is invited to stand physically or in spirit.

INTRODUCTION

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIGNING OF ATTENDANCE PADS

(Ushers will be handing out Attendance Pads during the announcements. Please be sure to sign your name and contact information.)

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P We believe that the Bible contains instruction for us as followers of Jesus Christ to do what he asked of us. He taught the first disciples to help others to confess their sins and to proclaim to them the promise of forgiveness afterwards. So let us take a few brief moments in silence to open our hearts and minds to Jesus, to confess the things that weigh heavy on our hearts and the things we need help with so we might be more in line with what Jesus commands.

(Silence for private confession.)

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: ALL THINGS NEW

**I've heard You can take what's broken, and make it whole again,
Well, here's the pieces of my heart, what can You do with them?
'Cause I can't hold them all to-geth-er any-more.
So I let them fall, surrendered, to the floor.**

CHORUS

***You make all things new. You make all things new!
God of mercy and love, do what only You can do,
And make all things new.***

GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

A The holy gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 18, verses 1-8.

¹Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" ⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what

the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

GOSPEL SONG: ALL THINGS NEW

**Only You can take such beauty – from the depths of all my pain.
Only You can take this shattered heart – and make it beat again.
Oh, You hold us all together in Your hands.
I surrender all I have, and all I am.**

CHORUS

***You make all things new. You make all things new!
God of mercy and love, do what only You can do,
And make all things new.***

BRIDGE

**From the ashes, from the dust I will rise up, rise up!
Out of darkness, into the light I will rise up, rise up!
From the ashes, from the dust I will rise up, rise up!
Out of darkness, into the light I will rise up, rise up!**

LAST CHORUS

**You make all things new. You make all things new!
God of mercy and love, do what only You can do.
And make all things, all things, You make all things new!**

CCLI Song #7100681 Words and Music by David Leonard and Michael Weaver © 2019 Curb Songs (Admin. by Curb Music Publishing) | Weave Country (Admin. by Curb Music Publishing) | Hyatt Street Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music) | Integrity's Alleluia! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music) CCLI License #1729377

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*** SERMON SONG: SALT AND LIGHT**

**Oh the beauty of the King, You make righteous those who seek.
You have written and redeemed my story.**

CHORUS:

***Let my eyes see Your kingdom shine all around.
Let my heart overflow with passion for Your name.
Let my life be a song re-veal-ing who You are,
For You are salt and light.***

**Oh the love that set me free, You bring hope to those in need.
You have written and redeemed my story.**

CHORUS to BRIDGE:

**Let my eyes see Your kingdom shine all around.
Let my heart overflow with passion for Your name.
Let my life be a song revealing who You are,
For You are salt and light. You are love's great height.
You are deep and wide, a consuming fire.
For You are salt and light. You are love's great height.
You are deep and wide, a consuming fire.**

LAST CHORUS:

**Let my eyes see Your kingdom shine all around.
Let my heart overflow with passion for Your name.
Let my life be a song revealing who You are,
For You are salt and light. You are salt and light.
For You are salt and light. For You are salt and light.**

CCLI Song #7023285 Words and Music by Lauren Daigle, Paul Mabury, and Leslie Jordan.
©2014 Integrity's Praise! Music | Flychild Publishing So Essential Tunes | Centric Songs CCLI Lic #1729377

*** APOSTLES' CREED**

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(The congregation may be seated during the prayers.)

PRAYERS

A In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A For air and sky, clouds and sun, that they provide rain to parched land and relief to flooded ground.

A brief silence.

A We pray for peace in Ukraine. Help to end this war and the destruction of lives and your creation. Change hearts, bring peace and show the world your existence.

A brief silence.

A We pray for all those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:
Carson Crosby; Thomas Rooks; Sandy Mosley; Barry Shepard; Wesley Braden; Timothy Page; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you.

A brief silence.

A We pray for all those battling cancer that they may know comfort and strength. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*
Rick Davis; Edna Bergfeld; Mack Machacek; Genevieve Batchelor; Hines Harrison; Darryl Stancik; Jerry Ordner; Michael Yancey; Bubba Bencal; Al Gene Canik; Jane Venghaus Taylor; George Wright; Elrose Kollatschny; Sarah Stancik; Sandy Mosley; Charlene Tesch; Cynthia Coufal; Jeffrey McDaniel; Karen Bailiff; Julian Divin; Nancy Biers; Angie Beggs; Pam Potter; Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Frnka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; Keith Korth; Jodi Sebesta; Cathy Siglow; Paul Casinger; Fran Gillett; Tiffany Murley; DeQuincy Lister; Angela Mazoch; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Gracie Brune; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Jennifer Aleman; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Bill Stolle; Jessica Mauchlen; Donna Tiner; Libby Divin; Diane Brooks; Bob Loy; Stanley King; Monty Gillett; Dawn Foster; Edward Halcolm; Amber Smith Kutach; Louis Camacho; Melvin Schobel; Janet Greene; Sabrina Galindo; Debbie Grimes; Horst Traub; Margie Fisk; Preston Carter; Penny Miller; Carl Hahn; Megan Cain; Amanda Fuchs; Cyndi Wallace; Karen Broussard; Donna Young; Sharon Heimann; and Brenda Baker.

A We pray for all expectant mothers, and especially for:
Jessica Johnson; Ashley Dungen; Alyse Langford; and Magen Schindler Altieri that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace.

A brief silence.

A We pray for all those who reside in care facilities and the homebound that they receive your caring and compassion. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*
John W. Brasher; Lydia Rojas; Adrian Fritsch; Don Morrison; Verna Coufal; Doug Hill; John Zwiegel; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Deanna Lee; Barbara McMath; Linda Munos Rodgers; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Delores Purcell; Jane Booker; Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Ronnie Rogers; Joyce Dehmer; and Donna Dehmer.

A We pray for all law enforcement officers, fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers, 9-1-1 dispatchers, and active duty military personnel that they are protected and kept safe. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*
Law enforcement officers: Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Johnny Kovar; Abbigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; Luke Kanz; Bruno Flores; Zane Weido; Josh Jones; as well as Donnie Templeton and Jason Templeton who are also fire fighters. For all fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers and 9-1-1 dispatchers, especially Brent Gorman, Sr.; Brent Gorman, Jr.; Reid Brasher; Dusty Dittmar; John Maertz; Ron

Luedke; Pastor Alan Kethan; Kristi Weyand; Eric Weyand; Bradley Berger; Jon Berger; James Chollett; Edward Thraen, Jr.; Garrett Flores; Kyle Burris; Dylan Walcik; Randy Wendt; Travis Neuendorff; Brenda Henkes; and Jan Willette, as well as those active duty military members including Brian Anderson; Michael Graham; Bryan Kubena; Brad Bergfeld; Cody Jowers; Kyle Appelt; Montana Appelt; Douglas Neuendorff; Scott Cherniss; Kameron Page; Ryan Neisner; Anthony D'Angelo; Dalton Kapel; Kindra Dawson; William Phillips; and Kevin Gonzalez.

A We pray for the church throughout the world. May we all proclaim the good news of your love effectively. We ask, especially, that you would bless the ministry of our sister congregations Cristo Rey and Iglesia Cristiana Camino de Santidad in Peru, all Missionaries, especially St. Paul's supported missionary, Dina Anton de Espinoza, and our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic.

A brief silence.

A For those who have taught us faith and now rest in your heavenly peace, that we remember and give thanks for these saints who shared the gospel through word and deed. \

A brief silence.

A With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

*** PEACE**

P As Jesus shared peace, let us also share His peace with one another. *(Share the "Peace of the Lord" with your neighbors.)*

(We will be collecting offerings before and after worship each week. This includes Power of One dollars.)

OFFERING and POWER OF ONE

"Power of One" is a ministry sponsored by your Stewardship Team. We are asking each and every one of our members to give \$1.00 above what your normal giving would be. We are asking each member to place this \$1.00 bill or change in the offering plate each week. The team is also inviting all children to participate to develop the habit of giving as part of their worship experience. Parents, a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, or dollar bill, any of these will do to help your children develop a habit of giving. These "Power of One" dollars will be used to support local ministries and ministries abroad. The purpose of this ministry is to demonstrate that something as small as one dollar can be used to make a difference in the lives of others.

* **OFFERING PRAYER**

P Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.

C **Amen.**

* **REMEMBERING JESUS' WORDS, PROMISES, AND COMMANDS**

* **LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to sing.

C **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.**

* **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Christ invites you to this table. Come as you are and receive.

C **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (Continuous with Individual Cups)

{Distribution will be continuous. All are welcome for communion. Please come down the center aisle starting from the front. Follow directions of the ushers, coming up one side at a time. Pastor will hand you the bread. If you wish to have a gluten-free wafer, please tell Pastor "Gluten-free, please." Afterward, you will choose either wine or white grape juice from the individual cups in the tray – white grape juice in the center with wine surrounding. Place the empty cups in the baskets located off to the side. Although communion is continuous, you are welcome to kneel at the rail in prayer after receiving communion. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.}

* **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

* **BLESSING**

P God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

C **Amen.**

* **CLOSING SONG: CHAIN BREAKER**

**If you've been walking the same old road for miles and miles,
If you've been hearing the same old voice tell the same old lies.
If you're tryin' to fill the same old holes inside,
There's a better life. . . there's a better life.**

CHORUS:

**If you got pain, He's a pain taker. If you feel lost, He's a way maker.
If you need freedom, saving, He's a prison shakin' Savior.
If you got chains, He's a chain breaker! (2nd time to BRIDGE)**

**We've all searched for the light of day in the dead of night,
We've all found ourselves worn out from the same old fight.
We've all run to things we know just ain't right.
When there's a better life. . . there's a better life. **CHORUS****

BRIDGE:

**If you believe it, if you receive it, if you can feel it, somebody testify!
If you believe it, if you receive it, if you can feel it, somebody testify, testify!
If you believe it, if you receive it, if you can feel it, somebody testify!**

LAST CHORUS:

**If you got pain, He's a pain taker. If you feel lost, He's a way maker.
If you need freedom, saving, He's a prison shakin' Savior.
If you got chains, He's a chain breaker!
Oh! If you need freedom, saving, He's a prison shakin' Savior.
If you got chains, well He's a chain breaker!**

CCLI Song # 7060031 Words and Music by Jonathan Smith, Mia Fieldes, and Zach Williams
© 2015 Anthems of Hope (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) | Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) | Not Just Another Song Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) | So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) | Upside Down Under (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) | Wisteria Drive (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) CCLI License # 1729377

* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, Christ has heard you.

C **Thanks be to God, and we will.**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006327.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission.

USHERS: Sandi & Kaldon Roensch; Ryan Thomas

LAY READER: Heather Thomas

STREAMING: Chase Brasher

SOUND: Robert and Sydney Eaton

ACOLYTE: Hudson Muir

POWER POINT: Peggy Geisler

ALTAR GUILD: Edna Bergfeld and Ashlyn Pugh

WELCOME: Jesus urges us to pray always and not lose heart (Luke 18:1). So we gather today for prayer, and also to give God praise and thanksgiving. Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church!

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by Nelma and Glen Strey and Wanda Freeze in loving memory of Norman Strey for his birthday on October 15 and also in memory of Mahlon Lighthill for the anniversary of his wedding to Carol on October 16.

COLLECTION OF OFFERING: Offering for the worship services is collected before and after worship. Offering bowls are placed in the back entrance and inside the side sanctuary door for you to place your offering in. This includes "Power of One" dollars.

Amount needed for average weekly budgeted expenses: \$8,405.00

Attendance: Oct. 8 & 9, 2022 – 155 **Contributions:** Oct. 8 & 9 – \$7,498.83
Power of One: Oct. 8 & 9, 2022 – \$40.00 **Building Fund:** Oct. 8 & 9 – \$711.44

Thank you to those who contributed to last week's offerings. Loving God/Loving Neighbor.

Wednesday Night Attendance: – Wed., Oct. 11 – **86 Total**
BLAST/Confirmation: 69 **Support Staff:** 17

ATTENTION: *Names on the prayer list in the bulletin will be printed for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the names will be removed from the bulletin unless the church office has been notified to keep them.*

► **Children's Activity Bags** are available once again for use by our young members and guests! You can find them on the coat hooks in the coat area of the narthex. After worship, **please place the used activity bags and their contents in the receptacle in the narthex.** Thank you! ☺

** **Continuing Education for Stephanie:** Our Youth & Family Specialist Stephanie Polasek will be attending a continuing education conference in February, 2023. **We are looking for anyone who may have extra Frequent Flyer Miles that they are willing to share with Stephanie so she can fly to California for the conference.** Please contact the church office at 979-732-2423 or Stephanie at 979-732-1858 if you are willing to share your miles. **

♥ We will be having a CPR and AED training session on **today from 12:30-2:30 PM in the Lighthouse.** Our church has 2 automated external defibrillators (AEDs), and this class is designed to teach you how to use an AED in an emergency. A light lunch will be served. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex (foyer). Questions? Call Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127.



God's Work, Our Hands Day is Back On! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 6, 2022.** In celebration of Columbus' 200th year anniversary and cooler weather, we have scheduled this very meaningful day of service for November 6. We will meet at the Lighthouse following the 11:05 AM service for a light lunch, take a group picture, and then disburse from there. Ruth Poncik will lead our group in baking and snack bag preparation for the 200+ Boys and Girls Club participants across Colorado County. Miss Stephanie will lead our youth in washing county service vehicles. Brent Gorman, Sr. has graciously volunteered to be our Team Leader for other projects. We are looking for ideas for a couple of service projects in Columbus (painting, maintenance, etc.). Suggestions can be shared with Brent, Stephanie, Kevin Page, Pastor Alan or Elena. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. *If you would like to order a "God's Work Our Hands" T-shirt, they will be \$10 each. T-shirt orders must be in by Friday, October 21, 2022.* Everyone is invited to join in, and all will be welcome and useful. The group picture might be huge, and the day will be meaningful and memorable. Thank you! – *The Outreach Team*

COURAGEOUS WOMEN IN THE BIBLE: All women are invited to a community-wide women's study/brunch called Courageous Women in the Bible. There are two sessions remaining this fall from **9:00-11:30 AM** on Saturdays, **October 22**, and November 12, 2022 hosted by the First United Methodist Church in Columbus. Join us at the FUMC Family Life Center, 419 Washington Street, for Biblical dramatic story telling, fellowship, song, prayer and Scripture. **No registration is needed, but each person is asked to bring a dish to share for the brunch.** Sign-in and self-serve brunch will be 8:15-8:55 AM.



Communion Instruction Class: Youth in the 5th grade are invited to attend the next milestone in their Christian education. Communion instruction is a formal teaching on the Sacraments of the Altar and will begin the process of getting students ready for confirmation ministry. Students will meet on **Sunday, October 23, 2022 from 12:15-2:00 PM in the Lighthouse.** Lunch will be served. Whether you are already taking communion or have waited for this class, all 5th graders are encouraged to attend. Parents are invited to attend with their child as well so they may continue the conversations at home. Please let Stephanie Polasek know if you plan to attend. (979-732-1858 or stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com)



God's Gals: We are going to **Brookwood** on **Saturday, October 29, 2022** for lunch at the Café and shopping at the gift shop. We will *leave at 10:30 AM from the church parking lot* and will be taking the church van. We should be back around 2:30 PM. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex (foyer) the first part of October. **The deadline to sign up is Sunday, October 23, 2022.** Please contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127 if you have any questions.



Senior Explorers to Howl with the Wolves! How about a tour of a Wolf Sanctuary? We are planning a tour – a really cool tour with all the wolves' stories. Small amount of flat walking; benches and ceiling fans all along the tour. **We are going Thursday, November 3, 2022. We will depart from St. Paul at 10:15 AM**, eat lunch in Hempstead at the Thirsty Parrot, proceed to the Saint Francis Wolf Sanctuary for a full tour **and return about 3:30-4:00 PM**. Cost of the tour is \$14.00. Please sign up by Sunday, October 23, 2022 in the narthex (foyer). Call Wendy Page with any questions at 979-732-1756.

► St. Paul will be celebrating Reformation during Reformation Weekend with *regular holy communion worship on Saturday, October 29, 2022 at 7:00 PM* and an **“Oktoberfest” on Sunday, October 30, 2022 at 10:00 AM**. Be sure to wear red for Reformation at each service! On **Sunday** for the “Oktoberfest”, participate in singing hymns to the tunes of Polkas. Guest musicians will be joining us again this year to add that “something extra” to the service. Following the service on Sunday, join the youth in the parking lot for Trunk-or-Treat, either as a youth collecting the treats or as the one with the trunk of treats. *(*Be sure to read the Youth October Newsletter page for more information. *)* There will be a German-style lunch including sausage and sauerkraut in The Lighthouse for all to enjoy after worship and all of the trunk-or-treating! The main course will be provided, and everyone is asked to bring either a side dish or dessert to accompany the main course. **Please sign the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend the meal.** Come join us! It will be wunderbar!!

◆ **Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study:** The Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study group that meets with Randy Fletcher **will take a brief fall break for the remainder of October.** They will resume their class on Wednesday, November 2, 2022. See you then!

* **Blood Drive Coordinator Update!** The Outreach Team is pleased and excited to announce that Melinda Zajicek has graciously volunteered to be our Blood Drive Coordinator. Please watch the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters for more information if you are interested in helping with upcoming Blood Drives. Thank you, Melinda! ☺



Habitat for Humanity: The Outreach Team is in search of a Team Leader to represent St. Paul Lutheran Church for Habitat for Humanity. The churches in our community coordinate and build a couple of houses a year for our neighbors in need. **We need someone to represent St. Paul and be the liaison between Habitat for Humanity and our congregation.** You do not have to build the house yourself, but help coordinate our efforts. Please let Kevin Page know (979-732-0845) if you are interested or have any questions. Thank you, and thank you, God, for our most generous church family!



WANTED – POWER POINT OPERATORS: *We need people to run the Power Point at the 11:05 AM service.* You only have to operate the computer that day. The program is set up for you. Plus, easy step-by-step directions with visuals are provided. If you are interested, contact Peggy Geisler (text or call) at 979-732-0350.

♥ **Grief Support Group:** Are you experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of friend who has moved? The Grief Support Group is a place to share and discuss these issues with other individuals. The group meets the **third Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 PM in the church library.** For questions or more information, contact Peggy Geisler at 979-732-0350.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

- Today (Oct. 16) –** 12:30-2:30 PM – CPR & AED Training (Lighthouse)
6:00-8:00 PM – The Marriage Course (Lighthouse)
- Mon., Oct. 17 –** 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting
6:00 PM – Church Council
6:00 PM – Women of JOY Bible Study (Hackfeld Family Room)
- Tues., Oct. 18 –** 10:00 AM – Pastor has Holy Communion at Columbus Oaks
12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)
5:30 PM – Prayer Team (library)
6:30-8:00 PM – The Gathering
- Wed., Oct. 19 –** **Newsletter Deadline!!**
9:00 AM – CLA Chapel
9:00 AM – Morning Circle (library)
5:00 PM – Meal
5:30 PM – BLAST and Confirmation
6:00 PM – High School Youth
- Thurs., Oct. 20 –** 5:30 PM – Grief Support Group (library)
- Fri., Oct. 21 –** 10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)
- Sat., Oct. 22 –** 8:15-11:30 AM – Courageous Women in the Bible (FUMC)
7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship
- Next Sun., Oct. 23 –** 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship
10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School and Confirmation
11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship
12:15-2:00 PM – First Communion Instruction (Lighthouse)
6:00-8:00 PM – The Marriage Course (Lighthouse)

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Monday, October 17, 2022 Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, died around 115
Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, the city where the name "Christians" originated. Ignatius is known to us from his letters, which encouraged Christians to live in love, yet stand firm in true doctrine.

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 Luke, Evangelist

Identified as the author of both Luke and Acts, Luke was careful to place the events of Jesus' life in their social and religious contexts. His gospel gives us some of the most beloved parables, as well as the songs of Zechariah, Mary, the angels, and Simeon.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006327.

OTHER READINGS: Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

The reading begins:

²²The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

PSALM: Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? ²My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. ³The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep. ⁴Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep; ⁵the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand; ⁶the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life. ⁸The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

OTHER READINGS: 2 Timothy 3:14--4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

The reading begins:

Chapter 3:

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for

teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Chapter 4:

¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

SERVICE OVERVIEW: KYRIE ELEISON! (LORD, HAVE MERCY!) PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Two characters step out of scripture today to teach us about persistence in prayer. Jacob wrestles with the angel until daybreak, and limps away with a blessing and a new identity. In your own experience, you may have equated persistent prayer as a kind of wrestling with God. The other character, unnamed, is a widow acquainted with grief. Marginalized and vulnerable, she dares to stand her ground in her quest for justice. Her repeated appeals for justice and mercy are finally vindicated. Many have pleaded with God for justice and mercy. Today God's grace and mercy is known in the blessing of baptismal remembrance and our identity as beloved children of God.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Today, a widow pesters an unjust judge so much that he finally grants her the justice she seeks. We know people like this widow who must plead and beg for justice. Welcome to worship! Join the assembly to pray to God for justice in the world. Keep the faith!

Modern humanity expects, even praises, immediate intervention, but Christians are open to the possibilities God holds. Jesus' parable about faithful persistence is not about giving in, but about making things right. Jesus links prayer with justice. What are some examples of justice in the context of our faith community? Which stories of justice moved quickly to their resolution? Which were the result of slow but persistent commitment? Despite a cultural expectation in North America valuing persistence as a standalone virtue, the act of prayer is what balances and tempers human persistence with divine timing. As Christians we are called to act, again and again, and to NOT permit the wait to derail the cause.

Faithful living is often a matter of perspective. Things look different depending on where you stand. What were the circumstances behind the widow's persistence to the judge? Was she indeed deserving of justice? We don't know. But the *persistence of the widow*, rather than the unjust judge, is the primary point. Throughout the Scriptures, a widow represents those who are needy and powerless. The presence of Christ in the community suggests that God is not delaying.

The weekly assembly enacts today's readings. Perhaps at worship we have wrestled with God, yet every time, we are sent forth into the world with God's blessing. We are instructed in the Scripture and receive the proclaimed message. We join with the widow both in our confession and in our corporate prayers to plead for justice in the world.

Do you pray every day? Think about something to pray for each day this coming week. Move from self-focused concerns to any wider issues of justice of which you are aware. Even in forgotten, desolated, and unloved people and situations, holiness might be rediscovered and God's promised healing realized.

KID STUDY:

A woman asked a judge to grant her justice. At first, the judge refused to do anything, but the woman kept asking him. Finally, the judge gave the woman the judgment she asked for because she bothered him night and day begging, groveling, and pleading until he was worn out. The great news for us is that we don't have to beg, grovel, plead, or browbeat God into hearing and answering our prayers. God is our Heavenly Father, not an unjust judge. God is love and God loves you. God knows what you need before you even ask. Jesus tells us not to worry about stuff, but to first seek the kingdom of God. If we do that, our needs will be provided.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

How long must the widow still knock at the door? Along with this wretched Palestinian widow who has lost all her rights and protection, we may see many, many other petitioners coming: the hungry, the tortured, the homeless, the saints of the ages, and all those whose only prayer is their own existence in need. And how long must terrified Jacob wrestle with the angel, begging for blessing? The images are powerful because they mean to gather us in: our own sense of the unconsolated suffering around us cries out with the widow. But the texts are also full of promise. God does answer, more surely than does this self-assured judge. God does give the blessing. Our assembly on Sunday always gathers to remember that final merciful judgment, to hear it spoken in all its strength again, and to encourage each other to live on the grounds of that judgment even when it doesn't appear to be effective in the world. Listen to the letter to Timothy. Continue, abide, dwell in what you have heard in this assembly and in the Scriptures. Hear the mercy of God in this world. - Gordon Lathrop [Gordon Lathrop, in Homilies for the Christian People, 531-532.]

+++++

Next Week's Theme (Oct. 22 & 23): Parable of Pharisee and Tax collector = need for humility

Next Week's Scriptures (Oct. 22 & 23):

First Reading: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

"Jerusalem will be defeated."

Psalm: Psalm 84:1-7

"Happy are the people whose strength is in you." (Ps. 84:5)

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

"The good fight of faith."

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

"A Pharisee and tax collector pray together."