

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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October 9 & 10, 2021

Twentieth 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			David Johnson
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director			Briana Bedford
Secretary			Elena Holub
Custodian			O. C. S.
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator			DyAnn Lauzon
Organist			Elena Holub

MISSION STATEMENT: Love God, Love Neighbor

VISION STATEMENT: Showing our love of God and neighbor, we will work to double the number of members that are serving as well as those that are being served from 2018 to 2021.

- *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 worshipping 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

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming.

PRELUDE

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 Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart, first privately then together publicly.

Silence for reflection and private confession of personal sins, then join in with combined voices this printed confession.

P God our comforter:

C like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

P All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C Amen.

* **HYMN ELW - #532 "Gather Us In"**

1. Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
 we are the old who yearn for your face;
 we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
 called to be light to the whole human race.
 Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
 gather us in, the proud and the strong;
 give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
 give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
 here we will take the bread of new birth,
 here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
 call us anew to be salt for the earth.
 Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
 give us to eat the bread that is you;
 nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
 lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
 not in some heaven, light years away –
 here in this place the new light is shining,
 now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
 Gather us in and hold us forever,
 gather us in and make us your own;
 gather us in, all peoples together,
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen Music: Marty Haugen Text and Music ©1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

* **GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

* **KYRIE** *(Responses Sung)*

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

A - men

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

A Our first reading is from Amos, chapter 5, verses 6-7 and 10-15.

Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.

The reading begins:

⁶Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. ⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! ¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. ¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. ¹²For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins — you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. ¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. ¹⁴Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. ¹⁵Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 90:12-17

A The Psalm today is from Psalm 90, verses 12-17. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

¹²So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

¹³**Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? Be gracious to your servants.**

¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵**Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us and as many years as we suffered adversity.**

¹⁶Show your servants your works, and your splendor to their children.

¹⁷**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12-16

A Our second reading is from Hebrews, chapter 4, verses 12-16.

We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.

The reading begins:

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until

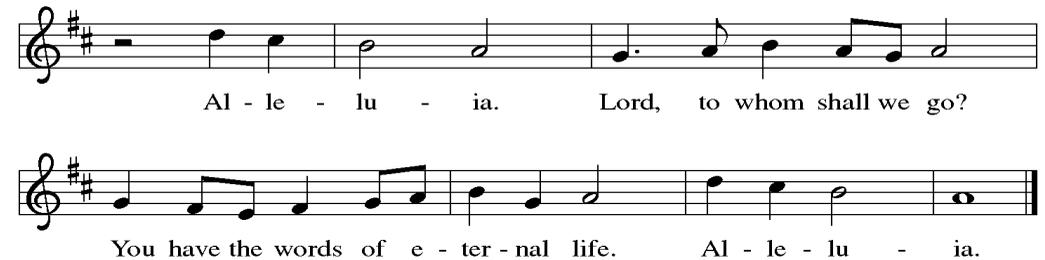
it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. ¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

A Please stand as you are able for the gospel.

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (Sung)



* **GOSPEL:** Mark 10:17-31

Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 10, verses 17-31.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for

those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." ²⁸Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age — houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions — and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

* **HYMN ELW - #685 "Take My Life, That I May Be"**

- 1. Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3. Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.**
- 4. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.**
- 5. Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.**
- 6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

CCLI Song #576629 Words: Frances Ridley Havergal Music: William Henry Havergal
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* **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 OF INTERCESSION

A Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A Healing God, we pray for those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:

Sharon Stevens; Kiara Craven; Walter Guthmann, Jr.; Gallia Honish; Julie Kaase; Bobby Hagen; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you
(Pause). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Strengthening God, we pray for those battling cancer including:

Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Franka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; Kenny Neuendorff; Victor Bedford; Keith Korth; Cathy Siglow; Susie Lilly; Paul Casinger; Fran Gillett; Tiffany Murley; DeQuincy Lister; Angela Mazoch; Rusty Neuendorff; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Joyce Templeton; Gracie Brune; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Jennifer Aleman; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Bill Stolle; Jessica Mauchlen; Larry Guthrie; Donna Tiner; Libby Divin; Tina Barten; Anthony Baumbach; Cindy Masek; Diane Brooks; Bob Loy; Joe Hluchanek; Devon Tiffin; 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; Bob Rutta; Amanda Fuchs; Cyndi Wallace; Karen Broussard; Donna Young; Sharon Heimann; and Brenda Baker that they may know strength and comfort. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Loving God, we pray for all expectant mothers and especially for:

Nancy Flores Gorman; Ruth Lattimore; Adrienne Fritsch Hamilton; Mary Faith Pruski; and Kristin Zajicek that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Compassionate God, we pray for those who reside in care facilities and the homebound including:

Adrian Fritsch; Don Morrison; Verna Coufal; Doug Hill; John Zwiengel; Robert Saunders; Mary Bedford; Coy Dell Schindler; Deanna Lee; Dolores Wessels; Doris Poppe; Bill Rodgers;

Barbara McMath; Linda Munos Rodgers; Judy Brisco; Barbara Prause; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Delores Purcell; Curtis Berger; Marjorie Brune; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Beatrice Zikuhr; Robert Eaton; James Booker; Ronnie Rogers; Sandi Dawson; and Fritz Willms that they receive your caring and compassion. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Courageous God, we pray for all law enforcement officers, including Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Marley Mayo; Johnny Kovar; Abigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; Andrew Lattimore; Luke Kanz; Bruno Flores; Jessica Dimas; 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; Randy Neuendorff; 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 Arturo Mares; Keven Rios; 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; and William Phillips that they are protected and kept safe. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Loving God, 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 congregation 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. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

*** PEACE**

P The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.

C And also with you. *(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.

*** OFFERTORY (Sung)**



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

P God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*** EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

* **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

* **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (Continuous with Individual Cups)

{Distribution will be continuous. Please come down the center aisle starting from the front. Follow directions of the ushers, coming up one side at a time. Please keep 6 feet between those who are not your family members. 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.}

(Sung)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Please be seated.)

* **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

P Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

* **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

* **BLESSING**

P People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

* **HYMN ELW - #705 "God of Grace and God of Glory"**

- God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r:
crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**
- Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**
- Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**
- Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

Text: Harry E. Fosdick Music: John Hughes

* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C Thanks be to God, and we will.

POSTLUDE

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USHERS: SAT: The Brent Gorman Family
SUN: Charleen Andrus; Darlene Ahlschlager; Brad Hajdik
LAY READERS: SAT: Brent Gorman, Sr. **SUN:** Sharon Johnson
ACOLYTE: **SUN:** Paisley Stancik
ALTAR GUILD: Ruth Poncik and Carol Lighthill

WELCOME: “Seek the LORD and live,” declares the prophet Amos (5:6). So we gather now to hear from God and to be nourished with abundant life. Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church!

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by John & Terri Brasher in thanksgiving for God's many blessings and in loving memory of Terri's dad W. D. Strauss, whose birthday is October 21.

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: October 2 & 3, 2021 – 135 **Contributions:** Oct. 2 & 3 – \$8,549.15
Power of One: October 2 & 3, 2021 – \$49.00 **Building Fund:** Oct. 2 & 3 – \$1,012.24

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

Wednesday Night Attendance: – Wed., October 6 – **85 Total**
BLAST/Confirmation: 44 **Adult Class:** 30 **Support Staff:** 11

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.

♦ **GLUTEN-FREE WAFERS:** For those who are allergic to gluten, we will have a few gluten-free wafers available at communion. Please tell Pastor when coming forward, “Gluten-free, please.”

** **NOTICE REGARDING BULLETINS:** Please take your bulletin home after worship. If you do not wish to take your bulletin home, please place it in the recycling container after worship. We will **not** be reusing them for the next service. Thank you! **

► **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! ☺

+ **FALL BIBLE STUDY:** Are these really the end of times? Are we witnessing the biblical times leading up to the Apocalypse? How do we interpret The Revelation of John? What is the difference between Apocalyptic and Prophetic Literature in the Bible? **This year's mid-week Fall Bible Study series led by Pastor Alan in the sanctuary will continue on Wednesday October 13 and 20 from 5:30-6:30 PM**. It is my prayer and encouragement for at least 100 of our members to attend these classes. Not predicting like a prophet, just hopeful. – *Pastor Alan*

Communion Instruction: 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 17, 2021 from 12:15-2:00 PM** in the fellowship hall. 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 by contacting her at 979-732-1858 or stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.



St. Paul will be celebrating Reformation during Reformation Weekend with *regular holy communion worship on Saturday, October 30, 2021 at 7:00 PM* and an **“Oktoberfest” on Sunday, October 31, 2021 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 also be joining us again this year to add that “something extra” to the service. Come join us! It will be wunderbar!!



Kids are invited to wear their costume to church on **Sunday, October 31, 2021** to the 10:00 AM worship service. Following worship (around 11:20 AM), kids will be invited down to the fellowship hall to get read for Trunk or Treating while our trunks get ready. St. Paul members will have their cars lined up in the church parking lot for kids to come by and collect goodies. ****Congregation members with trunks and candy are wanted!**** If you would like to be a part of setting up your trunk and handing out candy to our youth, please sign up in the narthex or contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858. *Decorated trunks and dressed up members are encouraged but not necessary to participate.*



Church Robo-Calls: Our church uses a Robo-Call system occasionally when we have to get a message out to the congregation on very short notice (like canceling worship because of icy weather) or as a reminder about important congregational meetings. The

phone number associated with the service we use is 888-996-3623. When you see that number, it is a call from St. Paul Lutheran Church. Please answer/listen to the message. It would be a good idea to list this number as one of your contacts in your phone or write it down and keep it close to your landline phone so that you know it is a call from one of the church staff or council members of St. Paul. Thank you!

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Mon., Oct. 11 – Office Closed! (Columbus Day)
6:00-7:30 PM – Women of JOY Bible Study (Hackfeld Family Room)

Tue., Oct. 12 –
9:00 AM – Staff Meeting
9:00 AM-12:00 PM – Quilters (fellowship hall)
12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)
5:30 PM – Stewardship Team (library)

Wed., Oct. 13 –
9:00 AM – Chapel
5:30 PM – BLAST & Confirmation Class
5:30 PM – Pastor Alan's Fall Bible Study (sanctuary)
6:00 PM – High School Youth

Thurs., Oct. 14 –
5:00 PM – Worship Team (library)

Oct. 15-17
Fall Family Retreat at Lutherhill, La Grange

Fri., Oct. 15 –
11:00 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)

Sat., Oct. 16 –
7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship

Next Sun., Oct. 17 –
9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship
10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School & Confirmation Class
11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship
12:15-2:00 PM – Communion Instruction for 5th Grade (fellowship hall)
4:00 PM – Memorial Service for Mahlon Lighthill

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Sunday, October 10, 2021 Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, died 1996 (TFF)

A native of Chicago, Kennard was a major figure in supporting and working toward ethnic and racial inclusiveness in the former Lutheran Church in America. Ordained in 1958, he served in positions including Director for Minority Concerns of the Division for Mission in North America.

Friday, October 15, 2021 Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582

A mystical writer and reformer of the monastic order (Carmelites) to which she belonged, Teresa may also be commemorated with John of the Cross on December 14. Latino Christians traditionally remember her on this date.

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SERVICE OVERVIEW: THE CHALLENGE OF FOLLOWING JESUS

A rich man approaches Jesus and asks how to inherit eternal life. Jesus tells him to sell what he owns, give the money to the poor, and follow. Jesus will accept nothing less than our very selves. Like the rich man, we too are left defenseless and grieving by Jesus' radical call to leave

behind and give away what we count on for our own security. He wants us, and therefore also wants the things that keep us from him; he gazes upon us in love, even as he calls us to leave behind the things of this world that give us a sense of security. How hard it is for us camels to pass through the eye of the needle! We too grieve at the impossibility. It is in fact impossible for us, yet more than possible for God to make it so. For we have a "great high priest who has passed through the heavens, the Son of God," who is both able to sympathize with our great weakness but also to provide mercy and help. While eternal life on the other side of the needle is a free gift that only God can give, it is a gift that claims the entirety of our lives and therefore reshapes our stewardship of whatever earthly goods we do have. For first and foremost we are called to follow the Christ who gazes upon us in love. Since we are his, following him we will enter through the eye of the needle, leaving behind what cannot fit through with us. In doing so we are promised that we will gain everything: a hundredfold more in this life in a new community under the Cross, "and in the age to come eternal life."

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Jesus looks with love on a questioner seeking his guidance, and instructs him to sell what he owns and give the money to the poor. Jesus radically alters cultural values, which makes a lot of us very uncomfortable. With the Spirit's help, together we become a new family and follow Christ. Welcome to worship! Hear the word. Receive grace from God.

The wealthy man, the disciples, and many of us today still hold onto the idea that money equals blessing. Jesus gives us all a shock when he gives the two-edged gospel: wealth and possessions keep one bound, and that to inherit eternal life we must sell them all and give the money to poor people. Jesus' invitation to the man to relinquish what he has and give to the poor was offered in love but refused out of fear. He could not see beyond the immediate pain of the loss of his possessions. He did not consider the possibility of liberation from that which, in fact, possessed him.

Organic food, higher education, health and fitness, credit scores, internet speed. How can these modern-day observations and routines create a sense of moral superiority over the working classes and the poor, who are too busy surviving to engage in "enlightened" activities? The irony is that in Jesus' eyes the poor are likely more righteous than the privileged because their lives are marked by want and sacrifice, not social practices meant to demonstrate moral and ethical uplift. Luther even had an expression for feeling such superiority from one's deeds: *works righteousness*.

Jesus uses absurdity and humor to make his point. We all know that it is impossible for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle. There are many things in this world that also seem impossible. How do we eradicate hunger? How can Jesus be present in the bread and wine and people of God? How do we keep from letting guarded self-interest get the best of us when we are asked to share? Jesus reminds us that "for God all things are possible." God is all we need. May we come to desire what God desires! May our imaginations be shaped by God's imagination! What dreams from God might your imagination be holding? Can you make it a reality?

KID STUDY:

A rich young man came running up to Jesus one day. "Good teacher," the man said, "what must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus gave him the list of commandments, to which the man replied, "I have obeyed all of those commandments since I was a child." Then Jesus looked and the young man and loved him. Then Jesus said to him, "You lack only one thing. Sell all you have and give the money to the poor so that you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard those words, he was crushed. He turned sadly and walked away because he had many possessions and was not willing to give them up. Jesus looked at his disciples and said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" The disciples were shocked. They asked, "Then who in the world can be saved?" And Jesus said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." It was not because he was rich that the young man could not enter the Kingdom. It was because his love for money and for his possessions was greater than his love for God. We have to put God first – above all our possessions – if we want to be in God’s kingdom.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

If you have a mind to enter into life, keep the commandments. If you have a mind to know the truth, believe in me. If you have a mind to be perfect, sell all you have. If you have a mind to become my follower, renounce yourself. If you have a mind to be exalted in heaven, make yourself humble on earth. I ask nothing more of you except that you should want to surrender yourself entirely to me. I do not care what you give me besides yourself, because I do not want your gifts, but you. Give yourself to me. I gave my whole body and my blood to feed you, so that I should be entirely yours, and you should be kept mine. - Thomas á Kempis [Thomas á Kempis, The Imitation of Christ, ed. Betty I. Knott (London: Collins, 1963), 203-204, 230.]

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Next Week's Theme (October 16 & 17): Arrogance, Jealously, don't look to be served, serve.

Next Week's Scriptures (October 16 & 17):

First Reading: Isaiah 53:4-12

"The suffering servant."

Psalm: Psalm 91:9-16

"You have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation." (Ps. 91:9)

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:1-10

"Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation."

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

"Warnings to ambitious disciples."