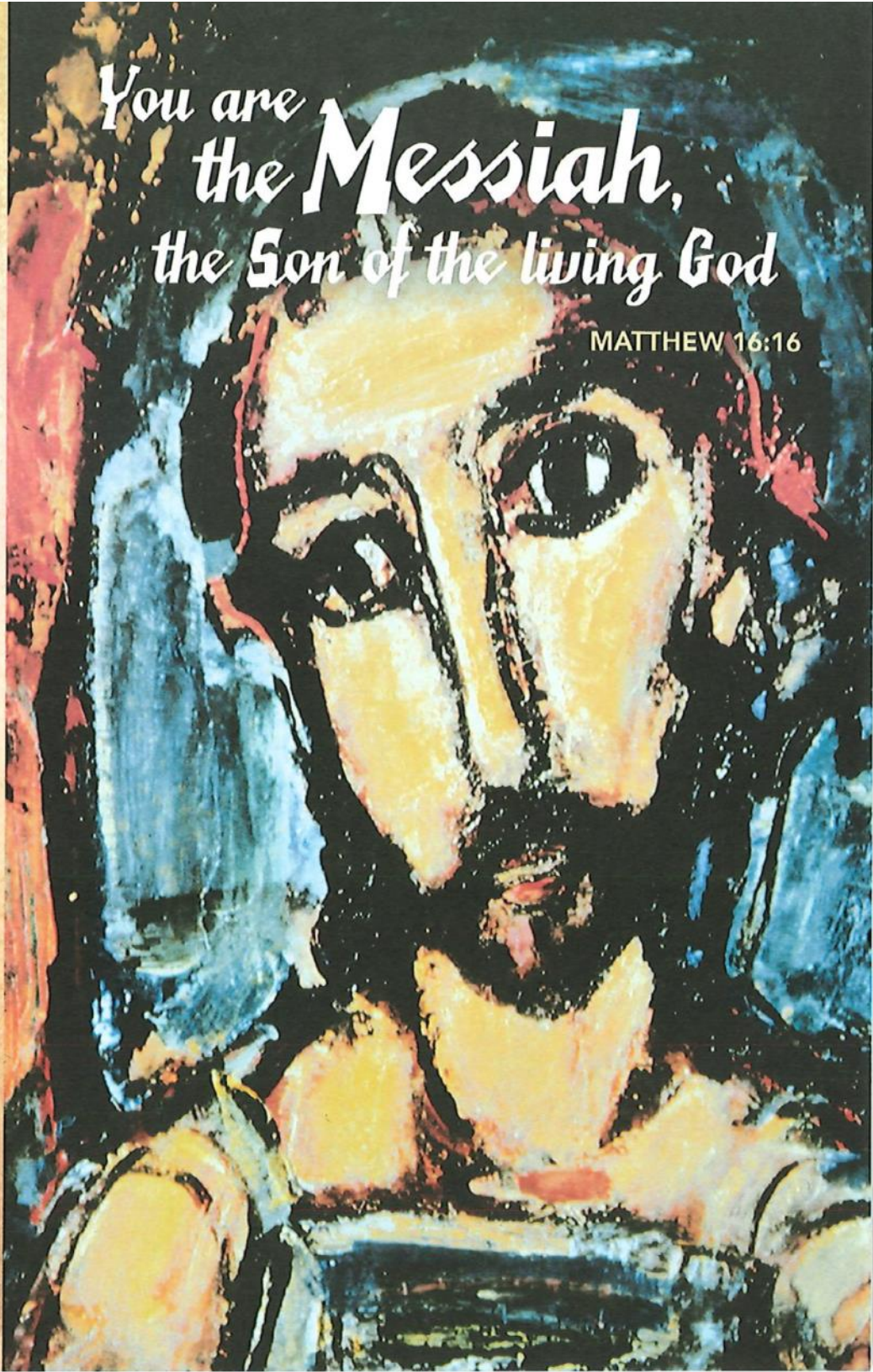


You are  
the **Messiah**,  
the Son of the living God

MATTHEW 16:16



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)

[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

## Announcements

**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 184 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

**Thank you for your faithfulness** in sending your offering through the mail or by using online options from your financial institution or through the “Donate” now from the church website [stpaulsyork.org](http://stpaulsyork.org). Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul’s and our ministry partners.

**Ushers are needed.** New guidelines are in place. Please contact the church secretary if you can serve. (New procedures were emailed to those who historically served and are also in the August *Our Church* newsletter)

We continue to experience a surge in families needing assistance through the Food Pantry. We can use some additional volunteers. We are seeking folks who are not in the “at risk” category for COVID-19. Simply notify Larry or Janet Moore if you can help on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning. **Our most critical need is with help on Tuesday mornings.**

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul’s. Please thank Deacon Ellen Doughty, Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Tim Yakim for their service.

**Thank you** to Victor Fields for the use of his sound system for the outdoor service.



This week’s flowers are given to the Glory of God by Joe Kinkella, and in Memory of Josephine M. Cushner, John J. Cushner, M.D. & Mary R. Maxwell, by JoAnne Cushner Debes and Family.

### STAFF

Pastor  
Youth Director  
Organist, Choir Director  
Bookkeeper  
Secretary  
Sexton  
Preschool Director

Reverend Stanley Reep [prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net)  
Kelly Moore-Spencer [kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net)  
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Ted Weikert [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)  
Deb Becker [director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com](mailto:director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

## Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

### Entering and Leaving the Church:

*Face masks are required both inside and outside. If you do not have a mask you may use one of the pre-packaged masks located at the entrances or at the usher stations. (If a face mask was provided upon arrival, kindly deposit it in the specially marked basket at the exterior doors or at the usher stations as you leave so that it can be properly washed and prepared for use again.)*

*Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.*

*Please take your service bulletin with you or dispose of it properly. Please don't place it back into a basket.*

### Offerings:

*Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave or at the usher stations outdoors prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)*

### While in the Nave or on the lawn:

*You may sit together as a family. Outside worshippers should place their lawn chairs using social distancing. Inside worshippers should sit in designated pews only (green card 10:30 AM. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.*

### Communion Procedure:

***For the outside service:*** *Communion positions are designated with a chalk cross marked on the sidewalks on Springettsbury Ave. and surrounding the lawn. Wearing your face mask., proceed to the closest sidewalk and take your place at a Communion position.*

***For inside services:*** *Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side of the nave communes first followed by the font side.*

*Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.*

*Your entire household may gather at one of the five positions marked by the green cross.*

### ***For all to receive the sacrament:***

- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Please do not reach out to take it from the minister.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew/seat by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*

### ***In our prayers we remember...***

***Dana Sodor, David List, Sandy Shellenberger, Brian McKenna, Gene Shue, Abbie Gayle Guyton, Amanda, Jim Young, Penny Bailey, Eddie Turner, Sr., Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey .***



# Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost

August 23, 2020

8:00 & 10:30 AM

During the time of COVID -19

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**10:30 AM PRELUDE**      *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*      Emma Lou Diemer

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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. **Amen**

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

## KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.      **Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

*All* **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

*Women* **We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

*Men* **Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:**

*Women* **You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

*Men* **You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.**

*Women* **For you alone are the Holy One,**

*Men* **You alone are the Lord,**

*All* **You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merit of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Sit*

**READING** Isaiah 51:1-6 (on back page)

*At the conclusion of the reading*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 138 Spoken responsively by half verse

<sup>1</sup> I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;\*  
**before the gods I will | sing your praise.**

<sup>2</sup> I will bow down toward your holy temple and | praise your name,\*  
**because of your | love and faithfulness;**

<sup>3</sup> for you have glori- | fied your name\*  
**and your word a- | bove all things.**

<sup>4</sup> When I called, you | answered me;\*  
you increased my | strength within me.

<sup>5</sup> All the kings of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,\*  
**when they have heard the words | of your mouth.**

<sup>6</sup> They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,\*  
**that great is the glory | of the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Though the LORD be high, he cares | for the lowly;\*

**he perceives the haughty | from afar.**

<sup>8</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;\*

**you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right | hand shall save me.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD will make good his pur- | pose for me;\*

**O LORD, your love endures forever; do not abandon the works | of your hands.**

*Stand*

**ALLELUIA**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL** **Matthew 16:13-20** *(on back page)*

The Holy Gospel according to **St. Matthew.** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Reep**

*Stand*

**APOSTLE'S CREED**

We confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\* On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

O Lord, our rock, prepare the church for mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O Lord, direct the leaders of countries, legislators and magistrates, mayors and councils, to walk in your ways. Help leaders regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O Lord, according to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you call us into this community, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, in which we, though many, are one in Christ. May we recognize the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead. Bring us with them to our heavenly home. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.                      **And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,  
that by this Holy Communion we may know  
the unity we share with all your people  
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and  
glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray;  
**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**

**FRACTION** *The bread is broken. A brief silence is kept.*



## AGNUS DEI

*Pastor* Lamb of God  
*Men* Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
*Women* Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
*All* Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace. Amen

*Sit* The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

*Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.*

*Stand*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, almighty God that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**HYMN** *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less, Stanzas 1 & 4 (LBW 293) back pages*

## BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**  
Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## 10:30 AM POSTLUDE

*Built on a Rock*

Paul Manz

*Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave. Feel free to gather outside for conversation.*

*Please take your service bulletin with you or dispose of it properly. Please don't place it back in the basket*

*If you were provided with a mask on arrival, kindly place it in the marked container at the exterior door. It will be laundered and returned for a future time.*

## *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

### *Stanza 1 & 4*

## My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



- 1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
- 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
- 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
- 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
in ev - `ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.  
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

### *Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury. 1816–1868

## Today is the last scheduled Cottage Meetings

A special word of thanks and appreciation is extended to our hosts who graciously agreed to open their homes for our gatherings this summer.



August 23 @ 7:00 p.m., Dan & Kathryn Garber, 3533 Cimmeron Rd., York – 508-873-8173

**Thank You for Your Consistent Giving**—During this time of pandemic we cannot thank you enough for your generous, consistent gifts to the church. Without them we would need to radically rethink our daily operation. Knowing that this is the month in which we transition from our construction loan to a traditional mortgage, the future lender has been keeping abreast of our financial commitment to the ministry undertaken by St. Paul’s. To that end we are grateful that we do not need to seek out a new lender, or worse yet, scramble to show our financial capability. Because you have consistently given throughout these months of physical distancing we are able to continue to carry out the plans outlined and set forth at the annual meeting held last November. Thank you for financial giving to the work and witness carried out through St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. We also extend our appreciation to the ongoing work of our Finance Committee.

**Small group musical ensembles are forming.** Please contact Victor Fields if you are willing to participate; vocally, handbells, instruments, percussion. Thank you.

**Confirmation Ministry** for students grade 7 and up will begin September 8. To enroll for the fall session please contact the church office 717-843-8155. Please see the September Newsletter for details.

### Food Pantry—August

**Items needed:** Canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned meats, mashed potato mix, rice, pasta side dish and peanut butter. We are in need of volunteers for the summer. Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.



Boy Scout Troop 19 is taking orders for the sale of popcorn and/or nuts in the upcoming months of August and September. We will not be selling in-person this year. Our order will be placed in mid-October and will be available on November 14. If interested in helping out our troop and their program, please call Nancy Banta @ 717 848 6627 for more information. Thanks so much.

During the last quarter of the year with; lock downs, sheltering in place, and quarantine, we watched a lot of TV. The total hours spent streaming video content by Americans was in the billions of hours. I don't recall the exact number. It was staggering. When I heard the number rattled off on a radio broadcast I thought it to be outrageous. Yes, I am guilty of adding to the confounding figure.

Among the many shows viewed in the Reep household and yes full disclosure here, during quarantine my children introduced me to binge-watching. One of the shows we regularly watched was *Tiny House Nation*. Now during quarantine, with Emily and our two children, I personally couldn't imagine residing in a home with fewer than the 18 hundred square feet we currently occupy! But *Tiny House Nation* where people choose to live in spaces with the square footage about the size of my home office, helped me grasp some things about life, the world, and how people are making sense of it.

Each episode of *Tiny House Nation* follows an individual, or a couple, or even a family who for various reasons opt for tiny house living. Single folks wanting to gain financial independence, get out of debt, and live life mortgage free. Couples compelled to reduce their carbon footprint and the amount of natural resources they consume. Married couples approaching retirement years desiring to down size shedding things that are now controlling them and trading it in for a life style free of the burden of stuff they once thought necessary. Into their worlds appear the hosts of the show John Weisbarth and Zack Giffin. They come to give aide, provide a way forward when things seem bleak; they often console the distraught individuals, couples, families, as they wrestle with a desire for a new way of living life often thought to be; odd, unusual, outrageous!

I like the exercises that the hosts John and Zack ask the participants to complete. In some cases it is paring down massive wardrobes, editing drawers full of kitchen utensils, reigning in craft and hobby supplies. I like the way that Zack rethinks the use of space and has compelling conversations with the folks seeking a new way of life and living in a tiny house. He challenges them to think differently, act differently, and experience life differently now that they have set out on this new journey of tiny house living.

And at the end of every show there is a recap of the journey upon which they are embarking. Video clips of the process: planning, building, sorting, crying, laughing, and highlighting their hopes, dreams through tiny house living. It is at that point where the camera zooms in focusing on John the host as he reaches into his trouser pocket and extracts a ring with a set of keys and he says "there is only one thing left" holding the keys in front of the home owners "welcome to *Tiny House Nation!*"

Jesus presents Peter with the keys to the kingdom. "Welcome to the kingdom of heaven." Peter embarked on the Journey following Jesus. Through their time spent together they have had many compelling conversations with Jesus providing the way for new life and living in a different kind community. He has challenged Peter, the disciples, and countless men, women and children to think differently, act differently, and experience life differently now that they have set out on a journey with him. Now, in the district of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asks a poignant question to the disciples. "Who do you say that I am?" It is Simon Peter, the Rock, who responds "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And from that point on, Jesus knows that he knows.

Being given the keys to the kingdom of heaven Peter is put in the awkward place that homeowners in the TV show *Tiny House Nation* are placed when handed the keys. Welcome to the kingdom of heaven. While he has participated fully in the journey so far, while he has opened himself to new possibilities for life, while he has witnessed amazing things, had conversations challenging him to think differently, act differently, and experience life differently now that the keys of the kingdom are placed in his hands, and being told that the keys will bind and loose, close and open, he is told not to tell anyone that Jesus is the Messiah.

In Holy Baptism we are welcomed into the kingdom of heaven. We are officially welcomed into a new way of life and living. We are like those single folks wanting to gain independence, getting out of the bondage of sin that weighs us down, so that we can live life freely. We are like those couples compelled to reduce our earthly footprint and human consumption by relying on ecology and stewardship practices that are life sustaining and life giving. We are like those married couples approaching retirement years desiring to be better stewards by shedding things that are controlling and burdensome for a life where the yoke is easy and the burden light. Baptismal life will often be seen as; odd, unusual, outrageous.

In the Small Catechism of Martin Luther we are reminded that this welcome into kingdom life is not a once and done deal, but rather is a daily renewal that every morning we rise to a new day, a new opportunity, recapping what is past, and how we are freed for a new day through the cross of Christ Jesus. Those participants in *Tiny House Nation* after being given the “official” welcome by John Weisbarth and Zack Giffin, when the keys are handed over to them, they are just beginning the journey of a new way to go about life. They are yet to discover if being free of debt will allow them greater opportunity to experience life. They are yet to discover if being ecological and reducing consumption affects their mental and physical well-being. They are yet to discover if giving up the stuff that controls and dictates by establishing better stewardship practices will lighten the burdens, their spirits, their countenance. They are yet to discover...just as we are yet to discover the fullness of baptismal life, kingdom life. Sure there are; **plans** in our personal lives that went “COVID”

or as we now say around our house “well that sure went 2020,”

**relationships** that didn’t get built the way we had hoped,

**possessions** that consume us even as we try sorting and purging,

**tears** that well up in our eyes over past hurts,

**laughter** at things and situations that remind us of how human we really are,

and there are **hopes and dreams** that are possible because of the thoughtfulness, concern, care devotion, commitment and sacrificial love made known through Christ Jesus who willingly gives himself on the cross for all. The risen Jesus comes to us, he comes giving aide, providing a way forward when things seem bleak, consoling the distraught moments in our lives as individuals, as couples, as families, he is with us as we wrestle with a desire for a new way of living life. Jesus comes among us granting life and salvation. Welcome to the kingdom of heaven. You have at your side, the host, Christ Jesus, making a way for you so that the journey is full and rich and free and new days of kingdom life are awaiting you. Amen.



**FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6**

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,  
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah who bore you;  
for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion;  
he will comfort all her waste places,  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation;  
for a teaching will go out from me,  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,  
my salvation has gone out  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.

<sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats;  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.

**Psalm 138****SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

<sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be

transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28.

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