

The image features a close-up of a wooden spoon filled with small, round, yellowish-brown mustard seeds. The spoon is resting on a textured blue surface, and several seeds have spilled out around its base. To the left of the spoon, there is a large, vertical pile of the same seeds, creating a dense, textured wall of yellow. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the blue surface and some indistinct shapes. The overall lighting is warm and natural.

LUKE 17:5

Increase  
our faith!

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

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

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

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

**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 186 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 (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

**Our Communion** is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

**The Nursery** is accessed through the front right double doors. The 10:30AM liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Currently, we are working to secure volunteer staff for the Nursery. Carrie Oberholtzer is coordinating a schedule. Please contact her to volunteer.

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

### Entering and Leaving the Church:

*Wearing a mask while in worship is optional, recommended or required based on the CDC guidelines. Green/Optional, Yellow/Recommended, Red/Required. **The instruction will be posted on the entry doors. Please be sure to bring a mask in the event of required/recommended masking. Disposable masks are available at the entrance to the church nave.***

### Offerings:

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

### Communion Procedure:

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 10 adults per side).*
- 2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).*
- 3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 4. Take your place along the chancel step. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5. Extend your hands to receive the communion host.*
- 6. Consume the communion host before you leave the chancel edge.*
- 7. Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.*
- 8. Consume the wine before you leave the chancel edge.*
- 9. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 10. Return to your pew using the side aisle.*

**Our COVID-19 task force** is assisting us as we remain open. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, Norma Shue, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

**Sunday, October 2, 2022**  
**Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM**

*Musical setting 9 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

**TEMPLE TALK**      *“A Month of Reformation” Prayer*

Nancy Bennett

**PRELUDE**      *Now Thank We All Our God*

J. S. Bach

*Stand turning towards the font.*

**ENTRANCE HYMN**      *Now Thank We All Our God (ELW 840)*



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voice - es,  
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa-ther now be giv-en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re-joice-es;  
with ev-er joy-ful hearts and bless-ed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and Spir-it blest, who reign in high-est heav-en,



who, from our moth-ers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per-plexed,  
the one e-ter-nal God, whom earth and heav'n a-dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev-er-more.

## 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.**

## 10:30AM SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM *(insert)*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Our Lord Jesus, you have endured the doubts and foolish questions of every generation. Forgive us for trying to be judge over you, and grant us the confident faith to acknowledge you as Lord.

**Amen**

*Sit*

**10:30AM**      **CANTABILE BELLS**      *“When Jesus the Healer”*      Peter Smith

**FIRST READING**      Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4      *(back cover)*

**PSALM**      Psalm 37:1-10      *Spoken responsively by whole verse*

<sup>1</sup> Do not fret yourself because of | evildoers;\*

do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither | like the grass,\***

**and like the green grass | fade away.**

<sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;\*

dwell in the land and feed | on its riches.

<sup>4</sup> **Take delight | in the LORD,\***

**and he shall give you your | heart's desire.**

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD and put your | trust in him,\*

and he will bring | it to pass.

<sup>6</sup> **He will make your righteousness as clear | as the light\***

**and your just dealing | as the noonday.**

<sup>7</sup> Be still be- | fore the LORD\*

and wait patient- | ly for him.

<sup>8</sup> **Do not fret yourself over the | one who prospers,\***

**the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.**

<sup>9</sup> Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;\*

do not fret yourself; it leads on- | ly to evil.

<sup>10</sup> **For evildoers shall | be cut off,\***

**but those who wait upon the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.**

**SECOND READING**      2 Timothy 1:1-14      *(back cover)*

**Stand**  
**VERSE**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 17:5-10 *(back cover)*  
The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**  
*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*  
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sit**

**SERMON**

Pastor Stan Reep

**10:30 AM ANTHEM** Chancel Choir  
*Song of the Mustard Seed* Hal H. Hopson

**Stand**

**8:00AM 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 for all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for your holy church in every place and for those who serve following the example of Christ. Help us to live by faith and walk by the light of your gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For parts of the world ravaged by natural disaster (*especially Pakistan, Puerto Rico, and Florida*): relieve those affected by floods, wildfires, droughts, earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For every nation and for those entrusted with authority: grant our leaders self-discipline in all things, and inspire them with love for your people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For victims of violence, abuse, and neglect: heal those who have been harmed and protect those who are vulnerable. For all who are sick (*especially Lynn Wicker, Kathryn Rose Wicker, Gary Bilbie, Janice Cromer, Erin Bastian, Harry Harman, Peggy Jacobs, Katie Guyer, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, Courtney Snell*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this and every congregation: rekindle your gifts within your people, and inspire councils, committees, and individuals to plan and work together that all may know your love. During this Month of Reformation help us to pray daily for the ministry and mission of our congregation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving that you have abolished death, and for the saints who have died (*especially*). Bring us all to eternal life with you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

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

*The people share signs of peace. The ministers prepare the altar for Holy Communion.*

## OFFERTORY





WORDS: *Doxology*, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)  
MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510-1561), *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

OLD 100th  
L.M.

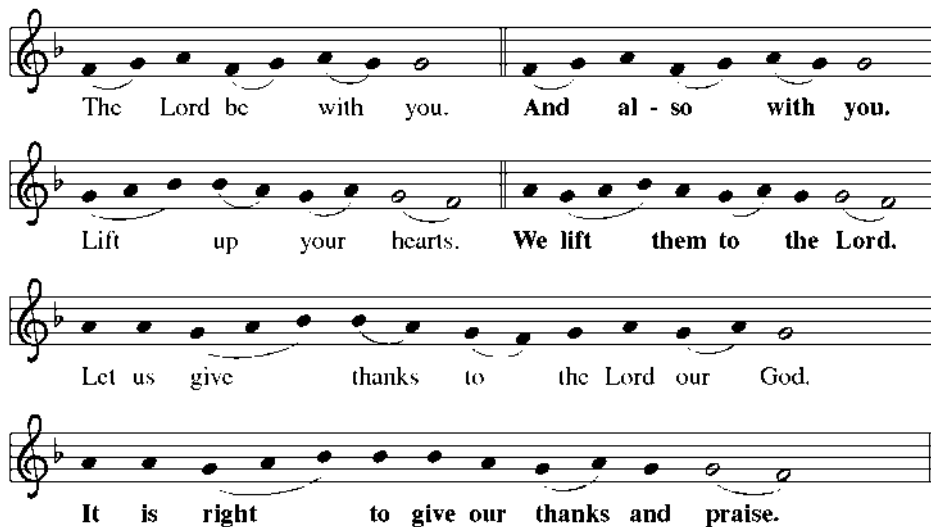
## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Stand*

## DIALOGUE



## 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him should not perish,  
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.

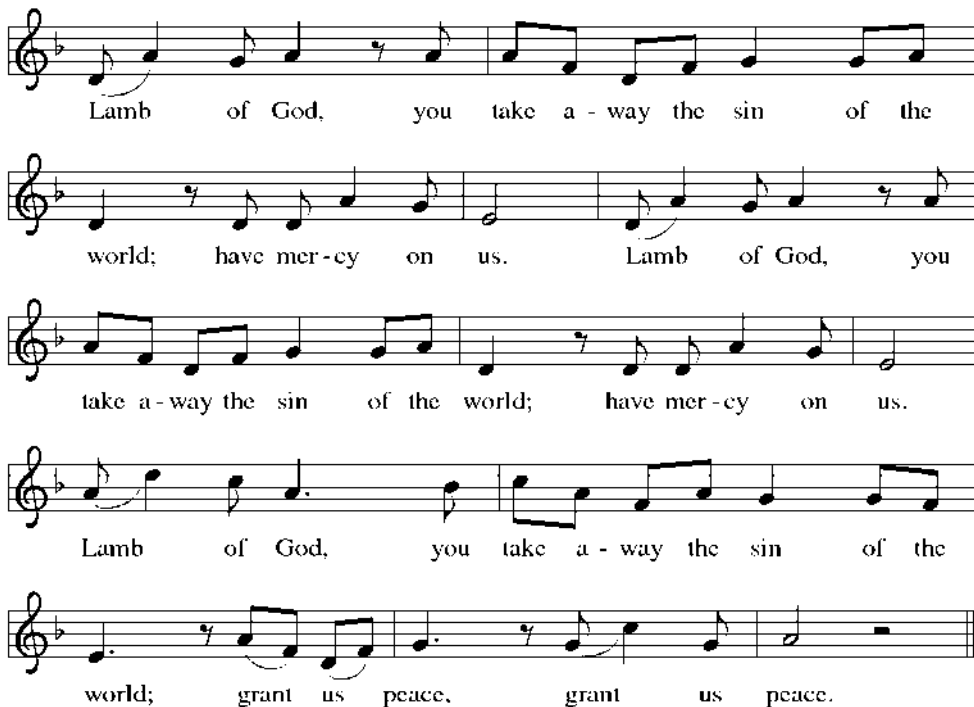
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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** *A brief silence is kept.*

### AGNUS DEI



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.

**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

Let us pray. 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**

### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen**

### HYMN

#### *The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe (ACS 1068)*



1 The earth a - dorned in ver - dant robe sends prais - es  
2 From out the wood, the birds now sing and each its  
3 O God, a - mid these joys of life, cre - a - tion's



up - ward surg - ing, while soft winds breathe on fra - grant  
song now rais - es, to join with all the u - ni -  
glo - ry beam - ing, grant us the grace to keep your



flow'rs from win - ter now e - merg - ing. The sun - shine  
verse in voic - ing thank - ful prais - es. With hope and  
word and live in love re - deem - ing. All flesh is



bright gives warmth and light to bud - ding blos - soms ten -  
joy their songs em - ploy a rap - turous ex - ul - ta -  
grass, the flow - ers fade, and time is fleet - ing ev -



der, pro - claim - ing sum - mer splen - dor.  
tion in praise of God's cre - a - tion.  
er; God's word re - mains for - ev - er.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Alleluyas*

Simon Preston

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*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God in honor of  
Weston's Baptism and our grandchildren by Deb & Larry Becker  
and John & Ellen Wagner; and  
In loving memory of our fathers by Mike and Becky Bingham*



### **This Week at St. Paul's**

Church office open 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mon—Thurs

#### **Sunday, October 2**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—  
Sacrament of Holy Baptism  
Cantabile Bells

6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

#### **Monday, October 3**

Preschool Fire Trucks

#### **Tuesday, October 4**

Preschool Fire Trucks

9:30 AM Pantry

6:00 PM CREATE—Art, Crafts and Music for  
Children age 3 through grade 6

#### **Wednesday, October 5**

10—10:30 AM Pastor & Preschool - Nave

10:30 AM Scripture Study—Christ Hall

#### **Thursday, October 6**

10—10:30 AM Pastor & Preschool - Nave

6:30 PM Handbells—Christ Hall

7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Music Rm

#### **Saturday, October 8**

5:30 PM Harvest Dinner & Auction

#### **Sunday, October 9**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—

3:00 PM York AGO Presentation

6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

### *Serving the Lord with Gladness*

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up
10/2	8:00 AM	Kirsten Barnes	Ann Ulrich	Tanner Culp		Mike & Linda Hanson	Jeff Riese, John Monk	Kathy Monk, Lois Ann Schroeder
10/2	10:30 AM	Tonya Cave		Allison Lehr	Janet Fitch	Jim & Nancy Bennett Mike & Becky Bingham	Dave Kopp, Dan Mays, Sandy Dickensheets, *Steve Heistand	Deb Becker, Isabella Lehr

## News and Updates

**Harvest Dinner** reservation/ticket deadline is tomorrow, Monday October 3. Tickets are available for purchase in the Good Shepherd Room following both liturgies. Please do make a reservation as you may pay for your ticket later in the week.

**Silent Auction** Items are on display this morning in the Good Shepherd Room. You may make a bid today even if you are not planning to attend the dinner on Saturday.

**Today Pastor William Snyder** Begins teaching a five week session entitled “On Being a Christian.” The group will gather in Christ Hall.

The five weeks will explore the following themes:

1. Seeking God
2. Seeking the Other in Community (Being Curious)
3. Faith in God (Affirming the Creeds)
4. Loving God in Liturgy: Gathered to Worship
5. Loving Neighbor in Liturgy: Sent to Serve

**Our stewardship emphasis** begins today, *A Month of Reformation*, with a Temple Talk given by council vice president Nancy Bennett. Please take a prayer card home with you and put it in a prominent place so that you join with your sisters and brothers at St. Paul’s praying daily for our shared ministry.

**Hospitality greeters** are needed for next Sunday afternoon’s Piano and Choral workshop and performance. Please contact the church office if you can serve as greeter for this event.

**Cantabile Bells** opens their season today at the 10:30 AM liturgy. The children grades 2-6 rehearse on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM under the direction of our new Children’s Choir Director, Julianna Jones.

**Pumpkin Carving** for Junior & Senior high youth will be held Sunday October 16 following the 10:30 AM liturgy. Please communicate with Miss Kelly if you will join in the fun so that she has enough pumpkins for everyone to carve! (Text or email her by Sunday October 9.)



### Food Pantry—Fall

**Items needed:** Beans, corn, juice, jelly, macaroni, Rice (1 or 2 lb bags), dehydrated potatoes, powdered milk, canned tuna, tomato sauce and soup. We also need paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags.

Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, or Janet and Larry Moore.. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.

## **Sunday, October 9, 3:00 pm    Piano & Choral Workshop/Performance**

Noted church music composer Thomas Keesecker will be presenting a choral workshop/piano performance in the sanctuary featuring many of his sacred piano compositions and choral anthems. This presentation is being sponsored by the York Chapter, American Guild of Organists. The Chancel Choir will be singing Keesecker's anthem I Lift My eyes up to the Hills based on Psalm 121 on Sunday, October 16 which is the appointed Psalm for that day. Keesecker just released a new Advent collection of piano music.

**Thomas Keesecker** retired in 2019 after serving as a church musician for over 40 years in Lutheran and Roman Catholic parishes in Virginia, Montana, and Maryland. His church music is published by several publishers. His studies at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and the Catholic University School of Music in Washington, D.C. prepared him for a career in which he has mixed classical technique and jazz improvisation. In his retirement he travels the country sharing his piano collections in informal recitals which incorporate hymn singing, readings, and poetry.

## **Organ Recital Sunday, October 16, 4:00 pm**

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover  
to present organist Carol Williams in concert.**

Free tickets are required for admission and can be ordered by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: October Concert, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 30 W. Chestnut St, Hanover, PA 17331. Please note the number of tickets desired. Free-will offering. Doors open at 3:30 pm. Information can be found on the church website—[www.stmattlutheran.org](http://www.stmattlutheran.org). The St. Mathew Austin organ with 14,470 pipes is one of the ten largest pipe organs in the world.

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	<a href="mailto:prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	<a href="mailto:kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	<a href="mailto:vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	<a href="mailto:lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>
Children's Choir Director	Julianna Jones	<a href="mailto:jjones.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">jjones.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	<a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Sexton	Ted Weikert	<a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	<a href="mailto:director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com">director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com</a>

Proper 22 C, 2022     Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-42 Timothy 1:1-14     St. Luke 17:5-10

This morning we begin a month of Reformation. It is the theme for our stewardship campaign and a theme for our lives of faith. It is a sort of rallying cry for those of us who embrace a Lutheran tradition as we live out Christianity. As a way to highlight this season of our life together the color on the altar will remain red for the entire month of October. Classic themes from the reformation period of church history will make their way into sermons. And a call to deeper commitment to lives of faith will extend to each of us. For many years' observances of Reformation Day (October 31) or Reformation Sunday (the last Sunday in the month of October) served as a cry to "rally the faithful." It brought worshipers together embracing the message of God's love made known in Christ Jesus highlighting; grace, faith, salvation, forgiveness, hope. This morning the appointed readings each include something about faith.

The apostles asked the Lord, "Increase our faith!" What the apostles' need according to Jesus is **mustard seed sized** faith. Now what is the practical use of a perfectly good mulberry tree being uprooted and planted in the sea? How on earth would that work? What good would that do? Why if you were faithful, had faith, a little bit of faith, or a whole heaping truck load of faith, why would you use it to uproot a perfectly good mulberry tree and plant it in the sea? Jesus and hyperbole are like bread and well...jam. And this morning I would have to pick mulberry jam as his jam of choice!

Earlier in the gospel of Luke the disciples were in a different kind of jam. While out on the Galilean Sea a storm nearly capsized their boat. Jesus was asleep in that very boat. They woke him up. "Master, Master we are perishing!" they exclaimed. Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves (that is Bible language for he made it stop). In Mark's account he says "Peace. Be still." In Luke it is simply a rebuke and the wind and the raging waves ceased and there was calm. Afterward he straight-out asked his band of followers "where is your faith?" In Matthew Jesus says "ye of little faith." And in Mark he says "have you still no faith?" And if they had faith, could produce faith, or had more than a little faith, how would the terrifying crashing waves, gusty gales, and fearful lack of a future have been addressed?

So far it seems that there are more questions than answers to things surrounding faith. When we are scared and can't seem to see a way forward, fear is a natural instinct but it seems to me from Jesus that fearful moments are precisely moments for faith. When it seems that we are about to draw our last breath we are called upon to do so in faith. When we can't imagine something different, faith seems to be the very thing that removes barriers. Whatever faith is, it is magnificent. An insight from the reformation; "faith comes as a result of hearing God's Word." And for us it is a gift given to us from God through Christ Jesus. It is spoken and poured, and anointed and signed on us in baptism (We witnessed this at the beginning of the liturgy with the sacrament of Holy Baptism celebrated for Weston). It like art is not a thing, but a way. Faith becomes a way of seeing, hearing, teaching, living. And like the disciples, there is a desire to have more; I too would like an extra portion. But that doesn't seem to be the way Jesus wants it or the way that faith lives.



“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” states the letter to the Hebrews. What is it that Jesus is communicating? What is it that he wants the apostles and us to understand, to grasp, to make sense out of? Faith is not an inanimate object. Faith is living, breathing, moving, on the go.

By faith Abel offered a more acceptable sacrifice

By faith Enoch pleased God

By faith Noah built an ark

By faith Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a new place

By faith Sarah who was barren conceived and bore Isaac

By faith Isaac invoked blessings for his children

By faith Jacob confronted his deceptive ways

By faith Joseph forgave his brothers

By faith Baby Moses was spared in the massacre

By faith the adult Moses led the people out of Egypt toward the Promised Land

By faith Joshua brought down the walls of Jericho

By faith Esther became queen and saved her people

By faith Ruth remained loyal and discovered the joy of belonging

By faith Mary responded to Gabriel’s message

By faith Joseph took Mary to be his wife

By faith Paul gave up everything to proclaim Christ

By faith... Faith, according to the biblical witness involves; Sacrifice, Pleasing God, Preparing for the future, Obedience, Conceiving, Blessing, Confronting, Forgiving, Quick thinking, Leadership, Preparing, Saving, Loyalty, Responding, Relationship, Giving.

The prophet Habakkuk says that the righteous live by their faith. Paul, writing to Timothy, recognizes the faith of his grandmother Lois, and mother Eunice, alive in him. We are to hold to the standard of sound teaching that is, according to St. Paul, the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Our stewardship emphasis is about “rallying the faithful” just as people of faith rallied when Jesus entered into Jerusalem waving branches of Palm, and rallied at the foot of the cross on Good Friday, and rallied on Easter morning after hearing the good news that “Christ is risen!” “Rallying the faithful” at St. Paul’s corresponds directly to our diligence in prayer, regular worship, generous giving, and magnanimous mercy in forgiving. When the apostle’s ask Jesus to increase their faith he tells them they need mustard seed sized faith. But in the end he tells a story that concludes with one doing one’s duty.

Those saints of old From Abel and Enoch to Mary and Joseph, to Paul and Timothy, they are recognized for their faithfulness. Each one of them might well have added “we only did what was our duty.” They were faithful to the call of God. We through faith rally around God’s love in Christ made known in Words and Water and Bread and Wine. The righteous live by faith and that is worth rallying around. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4**

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not listen?  
Or cry to you "Violence!"  
and you will not save?  
<sup>3</sup>Why do you make me see wrongdoing  
and look at trouble?  
Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.  
<sup>4</sup>So the law becomes slack  
and justice never prevails.  
The wicked surround the righteous—  
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

<sup>2:1</sup>I will stand at my watchpost,  
and station myself on the rampart;  
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,  
and what he will answer concerning my  
complaint.

<sup>2</sup>Then the LORD answered me and said:  
Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so that a runner may read it.  
<sup>3</sup>For there is still a vision for the appointed time;  
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.  
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;  
it will surely come, it will not delay.  
<sup>4</sup>Look at the proud!  
Their spirit is not right in them,  
but the righteous live by their faith.

**Psalms 37:1-9**

**SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1:1-14**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ  
Jesus,

<sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my beloved child:  
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father  
and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup>I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a  
clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I re-  
member you constantly in my prayers night and day.

<sup>4</sup>Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may  
be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>I am reminded of your sincere  
faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother  
Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure,  
lives in you. <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to rekin-  
dle the gift of God that is within you through the  
laying on of my hands; <sup>7</sup>for God did not give us a  
spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and  
of love and of self-discipline.

<sup>8</sup>Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about  
our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me  
in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of  
God, <sup>9</sup>who saved us and called us with a holy calling,  
not according to our works but according to his own  
purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in  
Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup>but it has now  
been revealed through the appearing of our Savior  
Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life  
and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup>For  
this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle  
and a teacher, <sup>12</sup>and for this reason I suffer as I do.  
But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom  
I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to  
guard until that day what I have entrusted to him.  
<sup>13</sup>Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you  
have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in  
Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup>Guard the good treasure entrusted to  
you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

**GOSPEL: Luke 17:5-10**

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

<sup>6</sup>The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a  
mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree,  
'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would  
obey you.

<sup>7</sup>"Who among you would say to your slave who  
has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in  
the field, 'Come here at once and take your place  
at the table'? <sup>8</sup>Would you not rather say to him,  
'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and  
serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat  
and drink'? <sup>9</sup>Do you thank the slave for doing what  
was commanded? <sup>10</sup>So you also, when you have done  
all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worth-  
less slaves; we have done only what we ought to have  
done!'"