

AT HIS GATE LAY A POOR MAN NAMED LAZARUS

LUKE 16:20

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulsyork.org

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 189 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Offerings Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org or use the QR Code provided.

Restrooms are located 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. The restrooms are independent units. Please remember to latch the door.

An AED/Defibrillator unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

We ask parents to accompany their children to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.



Lutheran Church in York, PA - St. Paul's Lutheran...

stpaulsyork.org



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
in memory of Anna Glessner*

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
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Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 28, 2025
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Evangelical Lutheran Worship musical setting 3

PRELUDE *Toccata on “Gather Us In”* Donald Verkuilen III

Stand turning to face the font

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

8:30 AM CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Beloved of the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins.

Let us pray. 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

ENTRANCE HYMN

Gather Us In (ELW 532)



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . God of love, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them; keep us from those things that harm us; and guide us in the way of salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

Sit

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

FIRST READING

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

(back cover)

PSALM Psalm 146

Sung Cantor/**Congregation** unaccompanied.



¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, | O my soul!*

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

² **Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth,***
for there is no | help in them.

³ When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,*
and in that day | their thoughts perish.

⁴ **Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,***
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁵ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;*,
who keeps his prom- | ise forever;

⁶ **who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,***
and food to | those who hunger.

⁷ The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind;*,
the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

⁸ **the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares | for the stranger;***
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

⁹ The LORD shall | reign forever;*,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 6:6-19

(back cover)

Stand
VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16:19-31 (back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit
SERMON

Pastor Reep

Stand
APOSTLES' 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.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

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 the church, that she would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for people in any need (*especially*). Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We thank you, Lord, for these new members of our congregation. By your life-giving power bind us to each other in you, strengthen us for service, support us all our days, and bring us at length to that day when all your children will be one. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Sit

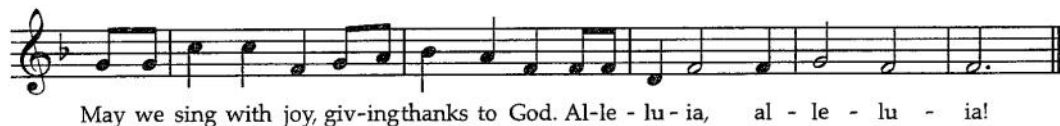
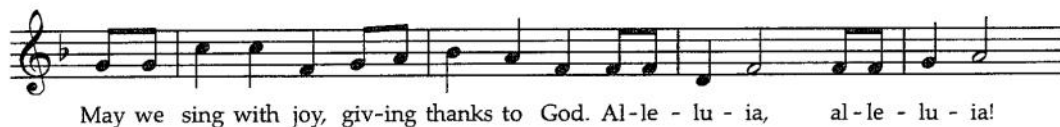
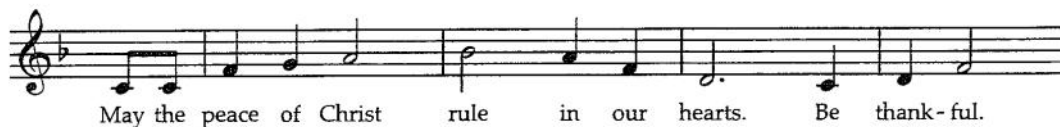
OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Stand

OFFERTORY

Be Thankful

Anne Krentz Organ



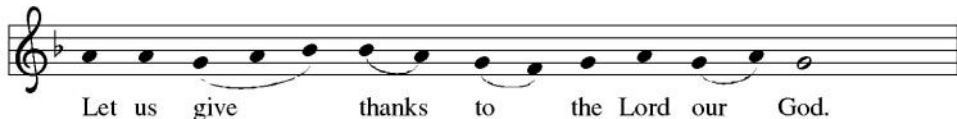
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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

DIALOGUE

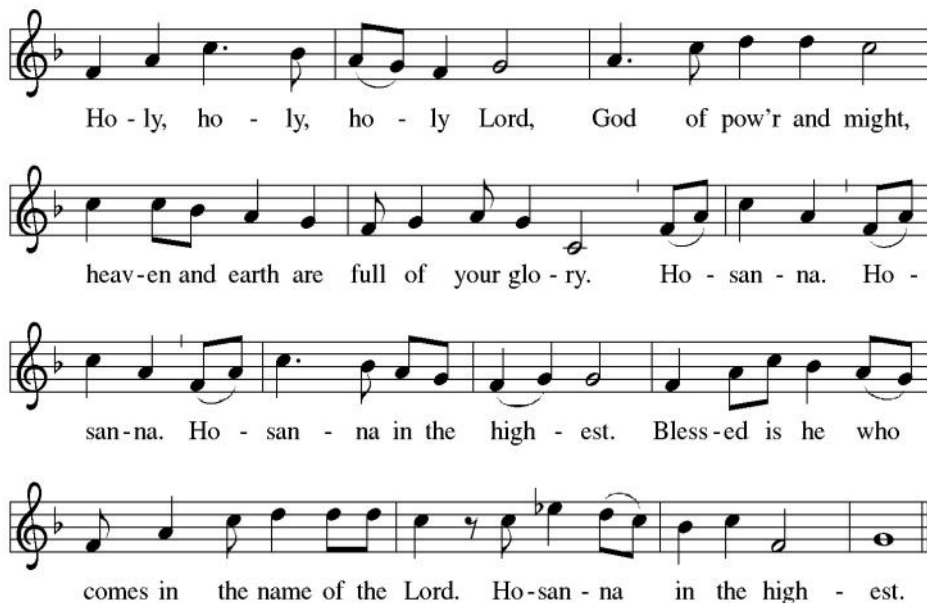
Sung by Pastor and congregation



PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING

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 upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray in confidence in the words our Savior gave us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

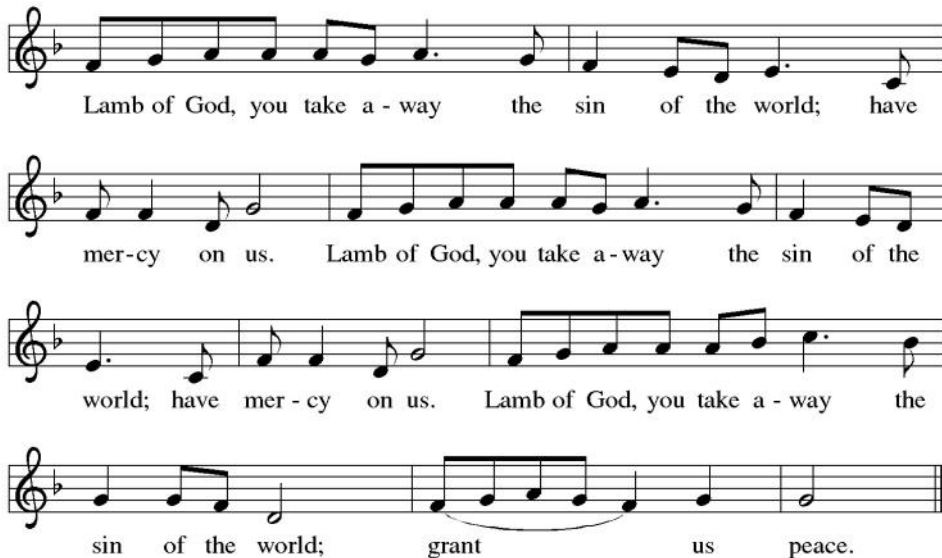
FRACTION RITE

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

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.

Sit

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

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

Procedure for receiving Communion:

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle.*
- 2. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 3. Take your place along the chancel step.*
- 4. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 6. Return to your pew using the side aisle*

COMMUNION HYMN

When Memory Fades (ACS 1081)



1 When mem - 'ry fades and rec - og - ni - tion fal - ters,
2 As frail - ness grows, and youth - ful strengths di - min - ish
3 With - in your Spir - it, good - ness lives un - fad - ing.



when eyes we love grow dim, and minds, con - fused,
in wea - ry arms, which worked their ear - nest fill,
The past and fu - ture min - gle in - to one.



speak to our souls of love that nev - er al - ters;
your ag - ing ser - vants la - bor now to fin - ish
All joys re - main, un - shad - owed light per - vad - ing.



speak to our hearts by pain and fear a - bused.
their earth - ly tasks, as fits your mys - t'ry's will.
No val - ued deed will ev - er be un - done.



O God of life and heal - ing peace, em - pow'r us
We grieve their wan - ing, yet re - joice, be - liev - ing
Your mind en - folds all fi - nite acts and of - f'rings.



with pa - tient cour - age, by your grace in - fused.
your arms, un - wea - ried, shall up - hold us still.
Held in your heart, our death - less life is won!

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. In your mercy, 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

God of Grace and God of Glory (ELW 705)

10:30 AM

Handbell Choir

Introduction and accompanies stanza 4



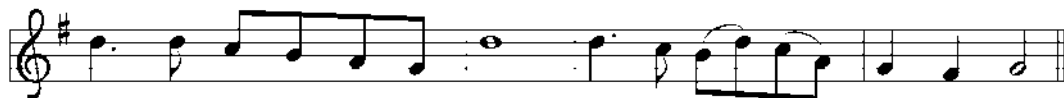
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness.
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age.
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age.



for the fac - ing of this hour. for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days. for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal. lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore. serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sit

POSTLUDE

God of Grace

Paul Manz

Be Thankful—Offertory for Stewardship

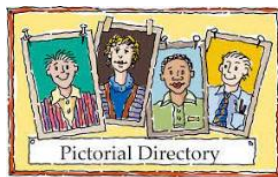
Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival is a national faith-based music academy for high school students, who come together to immerse themselves in musical excellence and build a welcoming and joyful community. This year the artist in residence for the music academy was Anne Krentz Organ, a brilliant composer of church music. She provided new compositions



for use in the congregation, one of which is “Be Thankful.” The peace was inspired by a text from the letter to the Colossians 3:15-17. *“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”* As we give thanks to God for all that we have, and all that we are, and all that is promised to us, we are encouraged to join our voices giving thanks to God. Alleluia!

ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCH DIRECTORY

1. Go to the Universal Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com)
2. Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled “photography appointment scheduling login”
3. Enter your church code [pa1207](#)
4. Enter your church password [photos](#)
5. Click on the Enter button
6. Click on the desired photography date
7. Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired photography appointment time
8. Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk)
9. Click on the Schedule Appointment button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family’s name
10. If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10)
11. Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family’s photography appointment
12. Contact your church’s online scheduling administrator to change or cancel your photography appointment
13. If for some reason you cannot be photographed on November 3rd or 4th please let the church office know so that we can arrange for another option. Thank you.



This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open Mon–Thurs 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 28

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all
 9:15 AM New Members Class
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
 Baptism/New Members/Handbells
 11:30 AM Fellowship time
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Monday, September 29

7:00 PM Mutual Ministry

Tuesday, September 30

9:30 AM NO Pantry (5th Tuesday)
 6:00 PM Property Committee
 6:00 PM Bible Study
 6:00 PM CREATE Preschool thru Grade 6

Wednesday, October 1

10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor
 10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall
 12:30 AM ESL—Community Rm

Thursday, October 2

10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor
 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Friday, October 3

5:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, October 4

10:30 AM Reep-West Wedding

Sunday, October 5

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
 6:00 PM Confirmation Class
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Altar Guild
9/28	8:00 AM	Harrison Palmer	James Palmer	Bob Reed	James & Heather Eaton, Kathleen Lemke	Team 2E: Ron Riese, Kathy Monk, Ken Hinkle, Alex Bastian	Lois Ann Schroeder, Kathleen Lemke
	10:30 AM	Patty Snyder	Jaclyn Kinkella	Jessica Ericson	Tristan & Jessica Ericson	Team 2L: Kem Vaught, Gail Kerchner, Sandy Dickensheets	Deb Becker, Isabella Lehr

Tuesday night Bible Study 6-7 PM begins September 23.

Wednesday Bible Study at 10:30 AM in Christ Hall has resumed.

Confirmation Class begins October 5, 6:00 PM

If you have sponsored altar flowers please remember to give the church secretary the sentiment you want printed in the bulletin by the Tuesday before the flower date.

October 17 Theater Outing: In October, the Women's Group will be attending The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe at TAFE. This event will take place on the weekend of October 17. *If you have interest in attending this event, please contact the church office.*

Consecration Sunday, October 26, dinner reservation cards will be provided by the ushers. Please complete one per household and return to the offering plate. Thank you.

NEW! Tuesday Scripture Study, 6:00—7:00 PM—Pastor Reep will be leading a study of the up-coming Sunday Bible Readings. His hope is that some parents who bring children for Create will participate along with other people for whom this time works better than Wednesday mornings. Last week six of us enjoyed the time of study. The Wednesday morning study continues as usual.

Helpers needed during the photo dates. Our dates for photography are November 3 & 4. We need volunteers to help with the process. Please contact Pastor Reep this week if you can help. Directions for online registration are included in October's newsletter, *Our Church*.



Food Pantry Needs: 2 pound bags of Rice, Pinto Beans in cans, Peanut Butter. Monetary donations can be placed in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.

Music and Create

Age 3 through Grade 6

Tuesday evenings 6pm through 7:15pm

Music and Create began last week. We provide this opportunity for our families with young children to engage in music and art. The program is designed for children ages 3 through grade 6.



During Create time the children will hear bible stories and work on creative art projects about Isaac, Moses, Aaron, Children of Israel, Joshua, Naomi and Ruth. These stories correspond with the Sunday school lessons each week, helping to strengthen their understanding of the story.

During Music time the children will sing and play instruments as we build musical skills, create relationships with one another, and create music together. We will plan to share some of what we learn and create on Sundays throughout the fall season (October 19th, November 16, December 14th, and December 24th).

Union Lutheran Church appreciates our continued support for their clothing ministry. Bring any clean clothes with you to church and place them by the stained-glass window in the Good Shepherd Room.



Drew and Julianna decided to have their son baptized.

Leah decided to have the handbell choir ring on the closing hymn.

The Christian Education committee decided to present Bibles to children in kindergarten, fourth grade and young people beginning their catechetical instruction.

10 individuals decided to officially affiliate with this faith community by becoming members today.

Some among us decided to sign up for photography so that we are included in a new church photo directory.

Others decided to attend the Consecration Sunday Celebration Dinner catered by the men of St. Paul's and completed the pink colored reservation card.

5 people decided to brave the torrential downpour on Tuesday evening and participated in scripture study.

Decisions are part of life. And we make many of them without even giving much thought to the long-term effect. Baptism, sharing talents, presenting Bibles, uniting with a community of faith, having your picture made, attending a dinner, studying scripture, all have long term effects. These are just some of the decisions made in relationship to our congregational life.

Decisions made in life are the very ones confronting a wealthy man. At this juncture in his life, it is not necessarily decisions made about involvement in a faith community or career choices or professional opportunities or investment strategies presenting themselves. The wealthy man is confronted with the decision made in life to take no notice of Lazarus who lay at the gate at the entrance of his estate. Daily the wealthy man lived and moved and had his being without ever paying any attention to the poor man Lazarus who simply wanted crumbs, a small bit of food, enough only to sustain him for the day.

The story that confronts us is one about missed opportunities. Only a gate stood in the way of an act of mercy. Only a gate kept a division between the abundance of the wealthy man and the poverty of Lazarus. Only a gate kept the two men apart for the duration of their lives. The gate of course was fixed, it was immovable only because of the wealthy man's decision. Gates by their very design are to keep out or to open; they exist to allow for passage. In the story Jesus tells, this gate was fixed to block the view of the poor man. The wealthy man either liked it that way or gave no thought to it at all.

It is only when the wealthy man dies and enters into his eternal habitation, hades, that he recognizes Lazarus, the poor man who daily was at his gate. Somehow, they received different invitations, his to hades and Lazarus' to the bosom of Abraham. Now the wealthy man contemplates his life's decisions. Now the wealthy man contemplates the relationship with his brothers and the consequences of their decisions. Now what if someone could alert them; help, lend aid, provide a few crumbs to the people in need who are near them?

It is only after it is too late, the great chasm is now fixed like the gate at the wealthy man's estate, it is only now that the wealthy man wishes that things were different, that the

gate would not have separated, that the gate would not have blinded, that the gate would not have stood in the way of living life differently. It is only after it is too late that the wealthy man wishes that the gate would have been open, that it would have allowed him to see beyond, that it would have facilitated acts of kindness, mercy, compassion, love. “I wish I would have....” laments the wealthy man. His existence is now filled with torment and regret.

Missed opportunities, I think that everyone has had at least one missed opportunity, one what if, one situation that you can think about and reflect upon “what if.”

Missed opportunity to;

1. Make a friend
2. Offer comfort
3. Release some wealth
4. Share talent
5. Nourish the destitute
6. Say a kind word
7. Offer prayer
8. Spring for coffee
9. Stand up for someone being put down
10. Invite into the faith community
11. Be an advocate
12. Forgive

There are opportunities that confront us daily. So many of them we miss. There are decisions about what and who we see, acknowledge, how we use our resources, time, ability, and money.

The parable calls us to reposition the gate. To move the gate from a position of closed to one where we see, moving us to enter situations relating to those in need, those like Lazarus who simply want crumbs enough to sustain them for the day.

It is the Lord’s work to take notice. The Lord Jesus does indeed take notice of us. Jesus comes among us.

1. inviting us to be a friend,
2. comforting us in our sorrow,
3. giving himself for us, not with silver and gold but with his precious blood,
4. feeding us with his body and blood,
5. teaching us through the word,
6. praying for us,
7. standing with us,
8. inviting us to follow,
9. advocating for us,
10. forgiving us daily

His gate, like his hands are open wide. His gate, like his eyes are positioned to see us. His gate doesn’t keep out, but offers a gracious invitation welcoming all people in. And we are the ones whom he sees, welcomes, forgives, feeds, and sends. With Christ opportunities abound. In Christ we decide to act in love toward neighbor. Amen.

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount
Samaria.

⁴Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,
and lounge on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the stall;
⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
and like David improvise on instruments
of music;

⁶who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

⁷Therefore they shall now be the first to go
into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Psalms 146

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

[Jesus said:] “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Next Sunday's Readings: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10.

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