



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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*Our Shared Mission: We are saved by grace
 through faith to share the good news of the
 Gospel with all people and live
 God's love by our words and actions.*

Monthly Newsletter – October 2021



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ALL of October 2021 Worship Services

Date	Time	Two Congregations, One Service
• Sunday, Oct 3	9a	Tune-In (Parking Lot Worship) at Gethsemane
• Sunday, Oct 10	9a	Tune-In (Parking Lot Worship) at Gethsemane
• Sunday, Oct 17	9a	Tune-In (Parking Lot Worship) at Gethsemane
• Sunday, Oct 24	9a	Tune-In (Parking Lot Worship) at Gethsemane
• Sunday, Oct 31	9a	Tune-In (Parking Lot Worship) at Gethsemane



Tune In – Worship via your Car Radios

***9am – all of October – at Gethsemane**

TUNE IN to radio station 89.1 FM



7 Rose Klatt	22 Chuck Wade
12 Coralee Mack	22 Tim Leiphart
16 Melissa Dantinne	24 Ava Klatt
17 Lincoln Dubey	26 Jamie Crawford
20 Gail Schmidt	29 Chris Shaw
20 Dave Peretto	



*Jay Chapple, Trish Dams
Thomas Dutkavich,
Jared Jurmu, Brent Jurmu
Julie Tanguay, Jordan Baril*



5 Bruce & Danielle Bergquist
8 Nick & Nancy Diehm
10 Ken & Sandy Chaney
17 Colton & Melissa Dantinne
21 Harlan & Judy Anderson

We continue to hold in prayer:

The hope and comfort of the Resurrection are with the family of +Alex Fox+

Art Kaliszewski	Avery Hayward	Caitlin Christophersen	Dan Etelamaki
David Kohrt	Dean Kauthen	Deanna Thill	Delores Erickson
Delores Gill	Dennis Paul	Denise Marineau	Dorothy Klein-Wassink
Dorothy Peretto	Emily Christenson	Evelyn Gewerth	Gene Wangerin
James Dutkavich	Jim Gill	Jim Wenger	Joan Hofer
Karen Raether	Kathy Ruleau	Keith Thoun	Kenny Kline
Kevin Havelka	Lewis Nicholson	Logan Parrett	Lois Azelton
Lorrie Stone	Luann Q. Kiefer	Macy Berszenyi	Michelle Beauchard
Mike Lubore	Mike McCarthy	Mike Pfeiffer	Pat Heiden
Penny Nehls	Richard Lesperance	Rob Boe	Robert Berszenyi
Sandy Baumler	Sarah Hess	Sheila Konkel	Stephanie Wallgren
Sue Skowronski	Tammy Parrett	Tom Kuntze	Tom Starzynski
Tom Wenger	Tracy Klatt	Wayne Sundstrom	Wendy Gravelle
Wendy Hanson	Wendy Majkrzak		

*Thank you for holding the friends and families of our Congregants in your daily prayers.
Corrections? Additions? Please contact the Church Office. Thanks!*

Daily Bible Readings - Year B

*Year B focuses on the Gospel of Mark with more selections from the Gospel of John than any other year.
The second, New Testament, readings are from 1 and 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, James, and Hebrews.*

Fri — Oct. 1	Genesis 21:22-34	Romans 8:1-11	Psalms 8
Sat — Oct. 2	Genesis 23:1-20	Luke 16:14-18	Psalms 8

Sun. Oct. 3 — 19th Sunday after Pentecost Gen 2:18-24, Psalm 8, Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16

Prayer of the Day: *Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon — Oct. 4	Deut 22:13-30	1 Corinthians 7:1-9	Psalm 112
Tue — Oct. 5	Deut 24:1-5	1 Corinthians 7:10-16	Psalm 112
Wed — Oct. 6	Jeremiah 3:6-14	Matthew 5:27-36	Psalm 112
Thu — Oct. 7	Deut 5:1-21	Hebrews 3:7-19	Psalm 90:12-17
Fri — Oct. 8	Deut 5:22-33	Hebrews 4:1-11	Psalm 90:12-17
Sat — Oct. 9	Amos 3:13—4:5	Matthew 15:1-9	Psalm 90:12-17

Sun. Oct. 10 — 20th Sunday after Pentecost Amos 5:6-7, 10-15, Psalm 90:12-17, Heb 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31

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

Mon — Oct. 11	Obadiah 1-9	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 26
Tue — Oct. 12	Obadiah 10-16	Revelation 8:1-5	Psalm 26
Wed — Oct. 13	Obadiah 17-21	Luke 16:19-31	Psalm 26
Thu — Oct. 14	Genesis 14:17-24	Romans 15:7-13	Psalm 91:9-16
Fri — Oct. 15	Isaiah 47:1-9	Revelation 17:1-18	Psalm 91:9-16
Sat — Oct. 16	Isaiah 47:10-15	Luke 22:24-30	Psalm 91:9-16

Sun. Oct. 17 — 21st Sunday after Pentecost Isa 53:4-12, Psalm 91:9-16, Heb 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45

Prayer of the Day: *Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon — Oct. 18	1 Samuel 8:1-18	Hebrews 6:1-12	Psalm 37:23-40
Tue — Oct. 19	1 Samuel 10:17-25	Hebrews 6:13-20	Psalm 37:23-40
Wed — Oct. 20	1 Samuel 12:1-25	John 13:1-17	Psalm 37:23-40
Thu — Oct. 21	Jeremiah 23:9-15	Hebrews 7:1-10	Psalm 126
Fri — Oct. 22	Jeremiah 26:12-24	Hebrews 7:11-22	Psalm 126
Sat — Oct. 23	Jeremiah 29:24-32	Mark 8:22-26	Psalm 126

Sun. Oct. 24 — 22nd Sunday after Pentecost Jer 31:7-9, Psalm 126, Heb 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52

Prayer of the Day: *Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon — Oct. 25	Exodus 4:1-17 1	Peter 2:1-10	Psalm 119:17-24
Tue — Oct. 26	2 Kings 6:8-23	Acts 9:32-35	Psalm 119:17-24
Wed — Oct. 27	Jeremiah 33:1-11	Matthew 20:29-34	Psalm 119:17-24
Thu — Oct. 28	Exodus 22:1-15	Hebrews 9:1-12	Psalm 119:1-8
Fri — Oct. 29	Leviticus 19:32-37	Romans 3:21-31	Psalm 119:1-8
Sat — Oct. 30	Numbers 9:9-14	Luke 10:25-37	Psalm 119:1-8

Sun. Oct. 31 — Reformation Day Jer 31:31-34, Psalm 46, Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



Fall Fest 2021 Quilt Auction

at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Saturday, October 2

138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd., Crystal Falls, MI 49920

906-214-2267, officemanager@fortunelake.org

Can't attend?
Online auction opens
September 22nd
at fortunelake.org

Go to fortunelake.org for more information and a link to our online catalog and silent auction. Continental Breakfast and Hand-crafted and bakery items for sale.

“Virtual Grief Groups”



4th Wednesday of the month, 1:00pm – 2:00pm EST

Registration is required.

Participants will need to pre-register. To register please call 906-786-3915 and ask to be connected to the Escanaba office to provide your name, address, and phone number and you will be notified of an access code prior to the meeting.

Pastoral Musings from Pr. Brenda

Dear Church,

Well... **FA LA LA!** No, I'm not losing my mind, and launching into a festive greeting, MONTHS before any of us are really ready to hear it. Nothing like that.

FA LA LA! is actually my go-to phrase when things are frustrating. As in...

FA LA LA! ...when I trip over one of my kittens and they send me flying into the corner of a piece of furniture.

FA LA LA! ...when I happen to have misplaced my keys. Again.

FA LA LA! ...when Rodgers gets sacked or throws another interception.

FA LA LA! ...when I read the latest County stats on mediocre vaccination rates and high infection rates.

Perhaps **FA LA LA!** was YOUR expression, upon getting the latest news about having to revert back to Parking Lot Worship. I know it was mine, even if it was absolutely the right move to make. Our Councils understood what it took to keep you and our neighbors safe, and made the right call. It can still feel like, well, **FA LA LA!**

Recently, I had the pastoral honor of being present at a particularly, painful **death caused by COVID** at our local hospital. After honest and raw conversations with devastated family members, the patient was removed from life support, and we waited for death to occur. Only a certain number of family members could be present in the ICU, and all of us had to don **head-to-toe** coverage to protect one another.

This meant we had to leave grieving family members to watch helplessly from **outside** the first-floor window of this ICU room. Gathered together on the other side of the glass, they were not able to embrace their sobbing loved ones, not able to reach out and hold this dear, dying patient. FaceTime calls were made, with one family member after another professing their love via an electronic means - not able to lean in to whisper these tender thoughts, but having to say them into a phone held by a stranger. It all felt just so **wrong**.

I've weathered this COVID storm as bravely as possible, dear church, taking prudent precautions, proceeding with facts and information (not fear or hype), and I have to say: **that night changed me**. I've been at the bedside of over 100 deaths, made phone calls from Emergency Rooms to inform folks their lives have changed for the worse, been present alongside roads and highways where fatalities have occurred...but **this. was. different**.

The forced separation of the COVID-19 virus has stripped us of **intimacy** - the closeness we yearn for in our extreme times of need. We naturally rebel at being told what to do, even if it is often for our own good, never mind the good it might do our neighbors. Just this week, our County has moved from the "Very High Risk" level to the "Severe Risk" level. Our frustration levels are high, we are OVER the bad news of this pandemic, sad that it's disrupted our lives again and again. **And yet.... FA LA LA:**

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. **Romans 12:12**

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,
for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be
perfect and complete, **L**acking in nothing. **James 1:2-4**



Steadfastly patient during these trials,
right alongside you, Church....

Pr. Brenda

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – COUNCIL MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

PRESENT: Harlan Anderson (*President*), Bob Berglin, Cheri Leiphart (*Vice-President*), Keith Olson, Al Raether, Kami Salo (*Secretary*), John Starzynski, Pr. Brenda Greenwald

Meeting called to order: 6:04pm

Devotions: Kami Salo

Pledge of Allegiance: *Led by Al Raether*

Agenda Approval: Motion to Accept: JOHN

Seconded: AL

CARRIED

Secretary's Report: Motion to Accept: KEITH

Seconded: BOB

CARRIED

Pastor's Report: Pr. Brenda

Those to Remember

+Laveta Burklund+ Funeral + Graveside Service (6/23)

+Bert Hayward+ Celebration of Life (7/17)

+Shirley Wangerin+ (8/17)

Those to Celebrate

+Beau Christopher Beardsley Baptism (7/11)

Celebrated 2 years of Ordained Ministry 7/14)

Double Baptism: +Ava and +Athena Bakke (7/24)

First Communion Instruction - 2 Classes

Lyle/Lincoln Revall (8/7), Shaw Salo (8/13)

Gallbladder Removal Surgery (8/25)

Upcoming Hailey Hass & Martins Onyefulummo (9/18), Nicole Beardsley & Dillon Wilczynski (9/24)

Visits Home Communion Visits - *New Volunteers Welcome!*

FLLC Donor Meal (8/3) and Synod Event (8/18-20)

MCRS Grievance Team Meetings (2), Carney Fire Follow-up

Pr Kit (Carney Evang. Free Church) - Catechism Discussions

New Member of the NGL Synod Youth Team

Trainings *Preach Like a Girl* Pastor's Group (6/24)

Global Leadership Summit (Green Bay Campus / Nationwide Event)

Survivors of Sexual Abuse (ELCA Webinar)

OTHER Roubal's Worship Service (9/19), Jury Duty (9/22)

Treasurer / Financial Secretary's Reports: Sandy Chaney, Treas. - Danielle Bergquist, Financial Sec.

a. Written Reports

b. Motion to Accept: AL

Seconded: KAMI

CARRIED

Ministry Team Reports: Motion to Accept: JOHN Seconded: KEITH CARRIED

- **Bethesda Cemetery: Keith:** Solar lights working.
- **Faith Formation: Kami:** Penny/Patty asked by Pr. about teaching this Fall.
- **Memorial Fund: John:** Memorial given in honor of +Jeffrey Grundstrom+
- **Worship/Music: Keith:** Great choices, good format.

OLD Business: Cheri made a motion to table air-conditioning discussion until February 2022. **SECONDED:** AL

NEW Business:

- a. Harlan was given an AED system and wants to donate it to the Church. Council decided it will need to be medically checked-over by Mary Palmer, lead AED expert of the Mid-County Rescue Squad. Kami will contact her.
- b. Discussion regarding September and October worship services due to rising/current Covid cases. Worship will be in vehicles/over Radio for the last two weeks in September and all of October. Will revisit in-person worship service for November. Pastor can make the decision.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Accept: JOHN

Seconded: KEITH

Time: 6:45pm

Church Council closed the meeting with ***The Lord's Prayer***.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Kami Salo

OCTOBER 3, 2021

NINETEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

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Jesus heals and blesses the defenseless.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 10:2-16	Jesus blesses the children
Monday	Genesis 2:18-24	God creates a human partner
Tuesday	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	God has spoken through Jesus
Wednesday	Psalms 147:1-11	Praise the Lord
Thursday	Joel 2:18-27	God's response and promise
Friday	Acts 3:1-10	Peter heals a cripple
Saturday	Psalms 8	God honors humanity
Sunday	Mark 10:17-31	A rich man goes away sad

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Truly I [Jesus] tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. Mark 10:15-16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of tender care, help us to care for creation, for human beings, and family relationships so that we may serve one another in peace. In Jesus' name, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for this food we give thanks and praise that you are aware of our needs and care for us with your majesty. Amen. (Psalm 8)

A Blessing to Give:

May the glory of God bless you to live, to love, and to serve in Jesus' name.



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OCTOBER 3, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Come and Fill Our Hearts

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WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What words would you use to describe a good relationship with someone?
- What hurts relationships with others?
- God desires us to have life-giving relationships. In what ways can you fulfill God's desire for relationships with others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 10:2-16.

When we read that the Pharisees ask Jesus about divorce, our bodies can easily tighten. Divorce has touched all of our lives. We know that at times divorce, as painful as it is, is better than remaining in a hurtful relationship. Jesus goes to the heart of the matter: God desires life-giving relationships, not divorce. Why is this so important? Because in Jesus' day women and children paid the greatest price in a divorce. Family life is foundational to our social fabric. For much of our history—and especially during Judaism of the New Testament—the protection provided by the shelter and wealth of a husband and father was essential to survival. Without it, women and children were left poor and ostracized by society. Today, men, too, can be the ones left with grief and distress. Jesus is speaking here to defend defenseless lives. He is teaching his disciples as they journey to Jerusalem to care for the helpless, the poor, and the socially dispossessed. This story in Mark about divorce, women, and children ends by caring for the two groups hurt most in a divorce in his day: women and children. He does not chastise them. He offers them his healing care, lays his hands on the children, and blesses them. How have you helped people who have been affected by divorce?

Pray: God of life and healing, help us to care for one another and to protect one another with our words and our actions through the healing touch of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

Genesis 2:18-24 has real humor woven into the story of the creation of the woman. The all-knowing God has difficulty finding a helper and partner for the human being just created. Finally, God creates the woman as the perfect match. In describing the greatest mysteries of life, the Bible can be playful. As you enjoy relationships with others, be sure to find time for play and humor with those around you this week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Go outside at night this week when the night sky isn't hidden by clouds. When you go inside, talk about the beauty of the sky and the different constellations that you saw. End your time by reading Psalm 8. If you are with others, close with this blessing:

May the majesty of God bless you to live and serve others in Jesus' name.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

OCTOBER 10, 2021
TWENTIETH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

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Jesus is a merciful high priest.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 10:17-31	A rich man goes away sad
Monday	Amos 5:6-15	Seek good and not evil
Tuesday	Hebrews 4:12-16	Jesus is the great high priest
Wednesday	2 John 7-11	Those who deny Christ
Thursday	Micah 7:18-20	God's compassion and steadfast love
Friday	1 John 1:5-10	God is light
Saturday	Psalms 90:12-17	Teach us wisdom
Sunday	Mark 10:35-45	The Son of Man came to save

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Hebrews 4:16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of justice and forgiveness, help us to see when we hurt others so that we may care for our neighbor with justice through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Compassionate God, we receive this food with thanksgiving. Help us respond to this gift by treating others with your kindness and mercy. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of justice and mercy give you a heart of wisdom to love and to serve with gladness.



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OCTOBER 10, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Take My Life,
That I May Be*

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WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What do you do after you feel you have been unkind or hurt someone's feelings?
- Is it harder to forgive others or yourself? Explain.
- Jesus knows our weaknesses and failings yet shows us kindness and mercy. How can knowing this influence how you live?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Hebrews 4:12-16.

God's word is like a sharp, two-edged sword that brings both judgment and forgiveness. The question is, which is God's final word for us? The answer Hebrews gives is through understanding Jesus in the sacrificial role of high priest, one who is like us in every way except that he is without sin. The high priest makes sacrifices on behalf of the people to receive God's forgiveness for their sins. What Jesus is able to do as our great high priest and the Son of God is to both experience and feel our weaknesses as a human being and as God. We have a God who fully understands us, sympathizes with us, and accepts us as we are. We can approach God with boldness and know that we receive mercy and grace. Jesus as the great high priest and the Son of God takes the sharp edge of the sword of God's judgment and adds to it God's love that forgives the sinner. Thanks be to God for Jesus, the great high priest, the Son of God, who comes to save, not to condemn. How does Jesus as our great high priest help you understand judgement and forgiveness?

Pray: **God of mercy and grace, free our lives to live courageously for our neighbor and with loving hearts toward you through Jesus, the great high priest. Amen.**

SERVICE

In Mark 10, the rich man left Jesus grieving because he was attached to his wealth. Money and having possessions can cause us to be selfish and only care for ourselves. Another way to use wealth can be to serve others and show our love for God and all humanity. How can you serve others with your wealth this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Hebrews 4:12 says that the word of God is "living and active". There are many Bible translations. The NRSV (New Revised Standard Version), NIV (New International Version), KJV (King James Version), and CEV (Contemporary English Version) are just a few of many others. During devotions this week, look up the *Daily Bible Readings* using different translations and note what is similar and what is different. Think or talk about how the scripture you read is alive and active in your life.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

OCTOBER 17, 2021
 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY
 AFTER PENTECOST

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Servanthood is the heart of discipleship.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 10:35-45	The Son of Man came to save
Monday	Isaiah 53:4-12	Suffering servant song
Tuesday	Hebrews 5:1-10	Jesus the great high priest
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 4:1-13	The ministry of the apostles
Thursday	Joshua 22:1-6	Joshua speaks to the tribes
Friday	1 John 3:16-24	Love one another
Saturday	Psalms 91:9-16	God's protection
Sunday	Mark 10:46-52	Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"[W]hoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all."

Mark 10:43b-44 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of compassion, help us to see what you see and to treasure what you treasure through Christ Jesus, the one who came to serve and set us free. Amen. (Mark 10:45)

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food you serve us each day; may we serve others in a godly way. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord rescue you from trouble and give you a servant's heart through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Psalm 91:15)



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OCTOBER 17, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lead Me, Guide Me

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WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Who do you look up to? What is it about that person that you want to imitate?
- If you asked Jesus what you needed to do to follow him, what do you think he would say?
- Jesus knows our weaknesses and failings yet shows us kindness and mercy. How can knowing this influence how you live?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 10:35-45.

We may be tempted to think that prayer puts God in our back pocket to use as we wish. Not so! As Jesus pointed out, James and John did not even know what they were really asking of Jesus. To ask the Son of Man for something, is to ask the source of the universe who has a different standard of what is important and what is valued. James and John wanted glory. Jesus wants love and service; openness to suffering is the glory Jesus sees. James and John wanted power. Jesus redefines power into servanthood and bondage to the needs of others as a slave. As Jesus gets closer to Jerusalem, there exists a growing urgency about understanding what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus puts it in crystal clear terms, but words that do not necessarily please our "old world" way of seeing goodness, truth, and beauty, or power and glory. You want to know what it means to follow Jesus? Pay close attention to Jesus' words: "whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all" (vv. 43b-44). How does being a servant—even a slave—upend your understanding of a successful life?

Pray: God of power and glory, cleanse us of our desire for personal glory and give us hearts for love and service through Christ Jesus, the Holy One of God. Amen.

SERVICE

According to Jesus, doing acts of service is not so much a list of projects as it is a way of life. How is your life a life of service? How is caring for the needs of others a life you wish to pursue with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength? Take time this week to use your gifts to serve others with a glad heart.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Mark 10, Jesus talks about kings who like to order people around and have full power over their lives. Jesus tells us not to be like them, but to be servants of others, a much, more humble way of life. This week pray: **Dear God, give me a humble heart that I may gladly be a servant of others through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

OCTOBER 24, 2021
 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY
 AFTER PENTECOST

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Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 10:46-52	Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus
Monday	Jeremiah 31:7-9	Israel will return to its land
Tuesday	Hebrews 7:23-28	Our Lord is a priest
Wednesday	Psalms 25:1-10	A prayer for guidance
Thursday	2 Chronicles 30:1-9	Hezekiah prepares for Passover
Friday	Proverbs 28:10-13	The law of God makes sense
Saturday	Psalms 126	Song of joy
Sunday	Mark 12:28-34	Love God and neighbor

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Jesus said to [Bartimaeus], "Go; your faith has made you well."
 Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.*
 Mark 10:52 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen. (Mark 10:48)

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for restoring us in body and soul as you bless us with the gift of this food today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you a heart to dream and a voice filled with shouts of joy. (Psalms 126:1-2)



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OCTOBER 24, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

To Be Your Presence

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WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you dream might happen in your life?
- Is it easy or hard for you to admit when you need help? Explain.
- At times, faith can feel like pleading to God for help. Give an example from your life.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 10:46-52.

In Mark 8:22-26 Jesus heals another blind man. However, in that instance, it took a couple of tries and the man is sent away back to his home. With Bartimaeus, Jesus heals the blindness instantly, and, this time, the man joins Jesus immediately. Something is happening. Jesus is now closer to Jerusalem and the real testing of his identity as Savior. Bartimaeus utters words that the church will expand and recite throughout its history. Those words are called the Jesus Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Jesus acknowledges Bartimaeus' faith. It involves the life experience of need, of hope, of a dream, just like people have expressed through Psalm 126. As Jesus approaches Jerusalem and his trial, suffering, and death, he clarifies what it means to be a disciple. It looks like someone much like Bartimaeus, someone in great need with great hopes and dreams, someone seeing hope realized in Jesus, the Son of David, Lord of lords, King of kings. What do you need from Jesus?

Pray: God of mercy and hope, give us faith to trust in you and joy to follow you all the days of our lives through Christ Jesus, our Savior and God. Amen.

SERVICE

Statistics from the World Health Organization state that there are at least 2.2 billion people globally who are blind or have a vision impairment. At least one million of them could have been prevented. Used eyeglasses can be donated to a variety of organizations to be recycled and distributed to those in need or uninsured. Do you or someone you know have eyeglasses they no longer use that could be donated to a local organization?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Bartimaeus' plea to Jesus is very close to one of the many historic versions of the Jesus Prayer used for spiritual formation: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Pray this prayer daily before reading Psalm 126, a song of joy. Confessing our need for God is freeing, healing, and meant to be filled with joy, yes, leading us even to laughter.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

OCTOBER 31, 2021
REFORMATION SUNDAY



The grace of God through faith sets us free.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 8:31-36	The truth will set you free
Monday	Revelation 21:1-6a	A new heaven and earth
Tuesday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant
Wednesday	Romans 3:19-28	Righteousness through faith
Thursday	Isaiah 61:1-7	The good news of victory
Friday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Saturday	Psalms 46	God is our protection
Sunday	John 11:32-44	Jesus raises Lazarus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."
John 8:36 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, may faith in you give us peace and joy, and move us to love and serve others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us of the gift of faith that we may be strengthened to love you and our neighbor each and every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who frees you from the power of sin bless you with everlasting joy.



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OCTOBER 31, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Rise, Shine, You People



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Sin is about broken relationships with others and with God. What does sin mean to you?
- God in Christ only saves and frees sinners. Is this a surprising message for you? Explain.
- How does confessing one's sinfulness bring joy?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 3:19-28.

Luther was not the only reformer shaped by Paul's letter to the Romans. Romans became a signature book of the New Testament to reform the church's practice away from a message that suggested that our eternal life with Christ was dependent upon our actions. Through Christ's work—not ours—we are redeemed. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, was "strangely moved" by hearing Luther's commentary on Romans. Wesley saw in this letter that being justified by Christ through faith meant that followers of Jesus were more than people set free from sin. Salvation was the restoration of the human ability to bear God's image in the world. Luther called this being a "little Christ" to one's neighbor. We have all fallen short; redemption is a gift of God received through faith. By the grace of God through faith, we are God's people participating in the work of Christ in the world. We are now the ones reconciling all that is God's back to God. We are made right with God through faith in Christ that we may be the hands, feet, and voice of God's healing work in the world. Where have you witnessed God's healing work in the world?
Pray: **Awesome God, help us to believe and give thanks every day that our relationship to you is a gift of your undeserved kindness through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

SERVICE



We have been born anew to a living faith that sends us out into the world on behalf of God's love through Christ. How can you be part of Christ's ongoing work of healing lives today? What might you do this week to extend Christ's love to someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Before the Reformation, the Bible was written in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. It was not accessible to the common person. An important part of the Reformation was to translate the word of God in the Bible to a language people understood. Luther translated the Bible into German. Other reformers translated the Bible into other languages. In appreciation for the fact that the Bible can now be read around the world in many different languages, including your own, take time this week to read and highlight some of your favorite Bible passages.



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2021 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

***This Monthly Newsletter covers information and happenings
for the Congregation of Gethsemane Lutheran Church.***



Evangelical Lutheran
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God's work. Our hands.

October

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