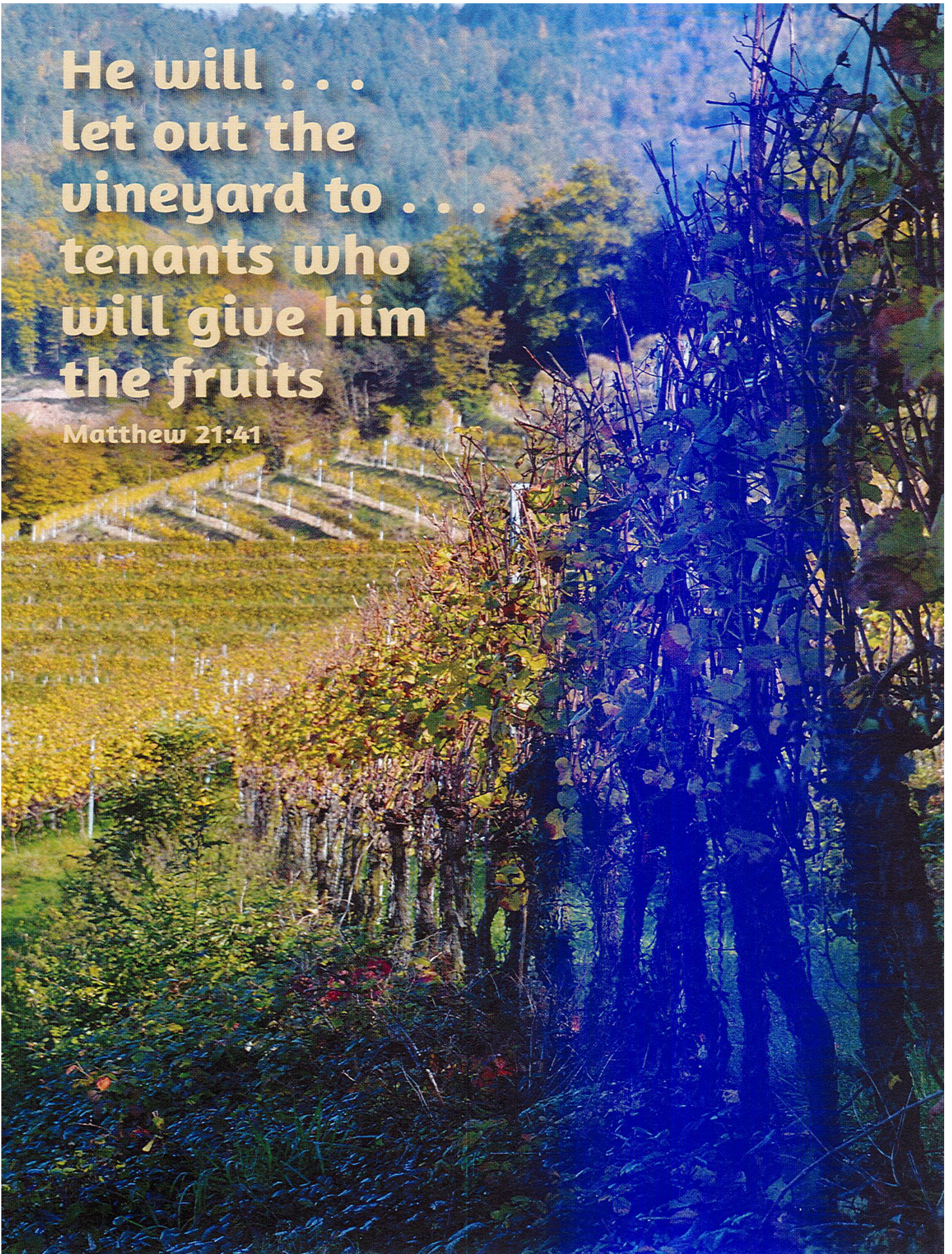


**He will . . .
let out the
vineyard to . . .
tenants who
will give him
the fruits**

Matthew 21:41



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2020

Worship Notes regarding Today's Service:

Thank you for attending. We thank God that we are once again able to gather inside the church. For those who are not comfortable entering the church we are also broadcasting as we have for the past several weeks and you are more than welcome to remain in your car. Today is a communion service and it will be station communion due to the restrictions. If you are listening to the broadcast and want to take communion please park on the west side of the church and notify the persons assisting with parking that you would like to commune, communion will be brought out to you. The service, the organ music, and Pastor John's message will be routed through the church's sound system and broadcast on your car radio on FM channel 101.5. Please follow the service in the bulletin.

The Service begins with the first notes of the prelude. Please show your respect with silent meditation at this time.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS PRAISES AND CONCERNS

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen

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

Amen

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

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 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.

Hymn:

"Praise and Thanksgiving"

LBW #409

**Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer For all things
Living, created good: Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the
orchard, Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.**

**Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve you, That with our
neighbor We may be fed. Sowing or tilling, we would work
with you, Harvesting, milling For daily bread.**

**Father, providing Food for your children, By your wise
guiding Teach us to share One with another, so that, re-
joicing With us, all others May know your care.**

**Then will your blessing Reach ev'ry people, Freely con-
fessing Your gracious hand. Where all obey you, No one will
hunger; In your love's sway you Nourish the land.**

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.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor,
Blessing and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Sing with all the people of God,

and join in the hymn of all creation:

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and
the Lamb forever. Amen.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Let us Pray

Generously pardon and give peace to your faithful people, O Lord, that being cleansed from every sin, we may be free and glad to serve; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

Responsive Reading

Psalm 80:7-18

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**⁸You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹You prepared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.

**¹⁰The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.

**¹²Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

**¹⁴Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven; behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.**

¹⁵They burn it with fire like rubbish;
at the rebuke of your countenance let them perish.

**¹⁶Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁷And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

**¹⁸Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

^{4b}If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:33-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter

Glory to you, O Lord

³³{Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people,} “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.” ⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN:

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

LBW #294

**My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’
blood and righteousness; No merit of my
own I claim, But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.**

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

**When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on
his unchanging grace; In ev’ry high and
stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.**

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

**His oath, his covenant, his blood Sustain me
in the raging flood; When all supports are
washed away, He then is all my hope and stay.**

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

**When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I
then in Him be found, Clothed in his righteous-
ness alone, Redeemed to stand before the throne!**

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

Let us confess our faith through the Apostles’ Creed
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.**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The peace of the Lord be with you always

And also with you.

OFFERING

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

P Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us ourselves, 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

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary.....we praise you name and join their unending hymn:

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

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.
Father remember us always and teach us to pray;

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed by 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**

Come for the Lord's table is ready.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

**Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with
Shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Go in peace; serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE DOXOLOGY: Hymn #565 LBW

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

Today 10/4	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship
Mon 10/5	Office Closed
Tues 10/6	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 7:00 p.m. Worship Team Meeting
Wed 10/7	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 7:00 p.m. Parish Ed Meeting
Thurs 10/8	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pastor's Office Hours
Fri 10/9	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours
Next Sun	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 a.m. Property Team Meeting 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship ~ <i>Women of the Church Sunday</i>



Welcome Visitors! We would like to extend a special welcome to all visitors. If you are looking for a church home, we pray you would consider St. John's.

Prayer request cards are available in the pews and can be filled out and handed to an usher during the first hymn for your request to be included in the day's prayer. If you have a private prayer request please fill out the appropriate side and give to the pastor.

Sunday, September 27, 2020

General \$1,903.00, MOM-Lutheran Bible Translators \$700.00, Sunday School \$78.00, Youth \$10.00, Building \$275.00, Reno. \$580.00 **Total: \$3,546.00**

UPDATE - Worship Team Notes - UPDATE

We will be having church in the sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. from now on, unless something changes. Communion will be by stations on the 1st Sunday until further notice. Please note there are certain guidelines that have to be followed. A letter with these specific guidelines has been mailed out, emailed, and is posted on our website & FaceBook page. The service will still be broadcasted on the radio station FM 101.5 for those who wish to stay in their vehicles. The service will also be videoed & posted to the church website on Sundays, after noon sometime. Please continue to check the church website & FaceBook page for updates.



ELECTION 2020

Over 230 years ago, in 1788 and every four years since, an event takes place that has the ability to change the course of our nation. In around two months, on November 3rd, the presidential election will take place. Whether it will result in a second term or the election of a new president, it will definitely bring about a change for our country. No matter which candidate or party one associates with, we each have a responsibility to take part in making our voice heard by voting our conscience.



Mission of the Month of October



The North American Lutheran Seminary Mission Statement

Confessional. Orthodox. Evangelical. Lutheran.

You might not expect to find a Lutheran seminary in the hills of western Pennsylvania, yet here we are. We are the seminary of the North American Lutheran Church, housed at Trinity School for Ministry, and we strive to provide our students with an education that is at once shaped by Christian tradition and bound by the Holy Scriptures—and that won't put you thousands of dollars in debt.

- Founded in 2014, the NALS is the seminary of the North American Lutheran Church.
- The NALS offers an MDiv, an MAR in Church History and Theology, a Diploma in Lutheran Studies, and a Certificate in Lutheran Studies.
- In conjunction with Trinity School for Ministry and the NALC Candidacy Committee, the NALS offers robust scholarships that will keep students from accumulating large amounts of debt.
- Daily worship and weekly Eucharist brings the entire community together under the proclamation of the Gospel.

We will have Rev. Eric Resien, President of the Seminary as our speaker on reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020.

Pastor Eric Riesen is the president of the North American Lutheran Seminary centered at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA. Pastor Eric is married to Terry and they have three grown children.

He was a parish pastor for 34 years, and is author of *The Christian Faith: A Catechism for the Curious*.

Youth Group News



St. John's Youth Group will be going to the haunted corn maze in Moulton on Saturday, October 24th. Before heading out to the maze, we will meet in the Parish Hall to work on a service project that will be included in care packages for U.S. soldiers. Youth are asked to collect and bring new decks of playing cards on October 24th that we will wrap with "The Deck of Cards Bible Story". These mini presents will go into care packages to be mailed overseas. Sharing this story and card decks will allow our soldiers to practice their Christian faith while deployed to foreign countries where Bibles are not allowed. More details about the trip to follow. Looking forward to a fun evening!

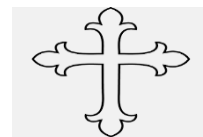
-Doug & Wendy Bishop, St. John Youth Group Sponsors



Quilters Service Project needs any unwanted sheets. Please put them on the table on the stage in the Parish Hall. Thank you.

**NALC Warehouse and
Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes**

We will be collecting for these charities all year. Each month we will feature items to be donated. We will be collecting toys for the month of September. Thank you.



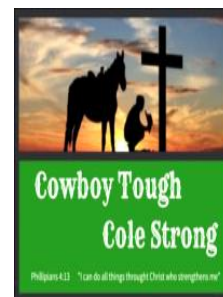
ALTAR GUILD OPPORTUNITY/PLEA

One of our faithful Altar Guild teams is no longer able to serve. Therefore, the Altar Guild is urgently asking for each of you to prayerfully and seriously consider being a part of a team to serve on the Altar Guild. Please contact Carol Ann Sagebiel or any Altar Guild member for more information, etc. Thank You.



**Special Prayers for Cole
~NEW UPDATE~**

Cole is at home doing well surrounded by the love and support of all his family. He continues to have therapy on a daily basis at his home and will soon also be doing therapy in Victoria. God continues to be with Cole each and every day strengthening his faith, patience, and courage as he travels down this long and difficult journey. We thank each and every one again for all your prayers, concerns, and support for Cole and his family. We ask for you to continue praying for Cole's healing and for strength and patience for him and his family. Thank you and God Bless.



+Please pray at 12:00 PM daily for Cole+
At his request, these are the prayers he has on his list:
Healing- physical, emotional & spiritual
To help family stay strong
Patience
Stay positive
The drive to keep trying (perseverance)

Church Renovation Update

Remaining items for the construction progress are to complete the canopy and final grade the site. After completion, a final walk through will be held to address any items that need to be touched-up. The estimated costs for construction, change orders, materials testing, architect, and incidentals is \$599,553. We are required to pay as construction progresses so the bills are coming in on a regular basis. This project received almost unanimous support so we ask that you prayerfully consider giving generously to this project.

GOAL: \$599,553 RECEIVED AS OF September 27, 2020: \$553,790.80



PRAYER REQUESTS: If you have a prayer request please contact Evelyn Diebel (361-275-5979) Or Linda Ruschhaupt (361-275-4990) or the Pastor. We ask that you would update the prayer request regularly. If we do not have an update, in an effort to keep our list current and up to date, we will presume the situation has improved and remove the request after 30 days. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you wish to receive the Prayer Chain requests, please contact Evelyn Diebel at (361)275-5979.

Our Military and their families:

Jeff Zengerle - U.S. Army NG, Egypt
Russell Copeland - U.S. Army Reserves
Jonathon Albrecht - U.S. Army, Kentucky
Chase Schroeder - U.S. Navy
Austin Schroeder - U.S. Navy
Lee Magruder - U.S. Army, 2-4 CaB, Charlie Company, Black Hawk Medevac Pilot, Fort Carson, Colorado
Katrina Moritz - U.S. Air Force
Michael Petrash II - 1st LT, United States Army
Andrew Washington, L CPL - USMC, Pensacola, FL
Jacob Redmond - USMC, San Diego, CA
Koltyn Mayhall - USMC, San Diego, CA



Please Pray for: Adam Womble
Nate Boehl
Hunter Jacob
Glynn Yurick
Kenny Jacob
Cole Ohrt
Carly Waters
Joy Hoy
Marie Liner
Bill Roeske
Janice Turner
Sarah Cooper
Jimmy Caskey
Britany Jank Tomas

Nursing Home: Elmcroft-Victoria ~ Bette Jo Haun
Stevens Healthcare of Yoakum ~ Marjorie Ideus
Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Alfred Rangnow



Keep up with St. John online
St. John Meyersville
<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnmeyersville>
Or visit our website at: stjohnmeyersville.org

Pentecost 18
October 4, 2020

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 22 (Year A)

When it comes to righteousness, Paul says, “I win the medal!” When it comes to following the law to the letter, again he says, “I get the prize!” But now his life is in Christ who showed the apostle the worthlessness of his labors. Paul confesses his zeal for the law and says that whatever he gained by that, he now counts as loss. The only gain we can rejoice in is the love and mercy of Jesus, our Savior.

