

**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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*I press on toward  
the goal*  
PHILIPPIANS 3:14

*"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."*

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**OCTOBER 4, 2020**

**OCTOBER 4, 2020**  
**18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,  
**have mercy on us.**  
**We confess that we are captive to sin**  
**and cannot free ourselves.**  
**We turn from your loving embrace**  
**and go our own ways.**  
**We pass judgment on one another**  
**before examining ourselves.**  
**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**  
**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**  
**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,**  
**and turn us again to life in you**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.  
Hear the truth that God proclaims:  
Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✠ Jesus Christ.  
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG *The Church's One Foundation* (ELW 654)

### The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900

Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

## 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.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;

blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;

send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -

dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,

set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

*Refrain*

Shine on me, shine on me:  
Shine on me, shine on me:

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

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SHINE, JESUS, SHINE  
9 9 10 10 3 3 and refrain

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

*The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved  
my love-song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup>He 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;  
he expected it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup>And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,  
judge between me  
and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard  
that I have not done in it?  
When I expected it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup>And 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.

<sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.

<sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
he expected justice,  
but saw bloodshed;  
righteousness,  
but heard a cry!

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 80:7-15**

*Read responsively between men and women, beginning with the men.*

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.  
<sup>8</sup>**You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;**  
**you cast out the nations and | planted it.**  
<sup>9</sup>You cleared the | ground for it;  
it took root and | filled the land.  
<sup>10</sup>**The mountains were covered | by its shadow**  
**and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs.**  
<sup>11</sup>You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea  
and its branches | to the river.  
<sup>12</sup>**Why have you broken | down its wall,**  
**so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?**  
<sup>13</sup>The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,  
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.  
<sup>14</sup>**Turn now, O | God of hosts,**  
**look | down from heaven;**  
<sup>15</sup>behold and | tend this vine;  
preserve what your right | hand has planted.

## SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

*Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.*

A reading from Philippians.

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.*

[Jesus said to the people:] <sup>33</sup>“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

<sup>42</sup>Jesus 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 amazing in our eyes’?

<sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Bill**



# HYMN OF THE DAY *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* (ELW 645)

## Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and  
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of  
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from  
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er  
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est  
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter  
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.  
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.  
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

## **CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** *(Please respond.)*

*P: Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

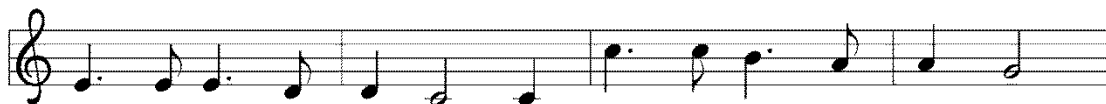
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## PREFACE

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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



*San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te\_a - do - ra.*  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



*Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to\_e-res Se - ñor.*  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Argentine traditional

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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

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

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet table  
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

## **COMMUNION**

*Continuous – Please continue down center aisle at direction of the usher, maintaining your distance and keeping your mask on. Move your mask to eat the bread and drink the wine. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Return to your seat with your mask on.*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

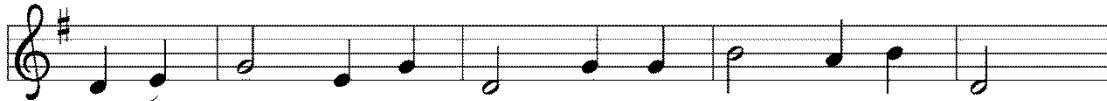
We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,  
the body and blood of Christ.  
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,  
into your beloved vineyard  
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,  
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ  
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

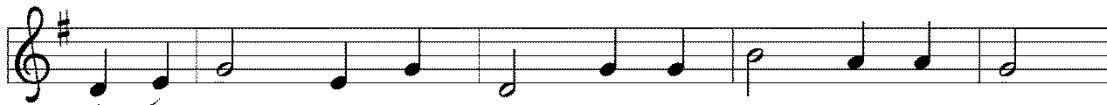
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG *How Firm a Foundation* (ELW 796)

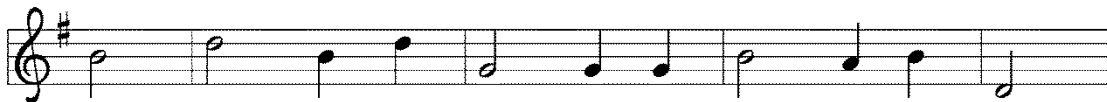
### How Firm a Foundation



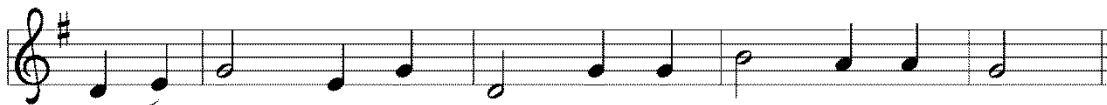
1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.  
Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SILENT PRAYER

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## SERVING TODAY

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Organist – Doug Mummert

Head Usher – Bill Wepking

Acolyte – Clark Shenberger

Lector – Audrey Shenberger

Communion Assistant – Marjorie Dale

Communion Clean-up – Kathy Bowen, Carole Darr

Attendance last Sunday - 42

**Stewardship Thought – October 4, 2020** (18th Sunday after Pentecost)

*“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.” – Matthew 21:43*

Ouch! Jesus’ words, directed at the Pharisees who constantly test him, point to the importance of bearing fruit. God promises an abundant harvest with more than enough to share, but we must do our part to cultivate, nurture, and bring to fullness all the bountiful gifts of God, both in our own lives and in the Body of Christ.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in memory of my wife Marilys given by Alan Johnson.

**Welcome Visitors!** We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

**Prayer requests** for the following persons: *President Donald Trump, the family and friends of Jack White, Jim Sczepanski, Barbara Socks, Pastor Sharon Blezard, Isabel Overcash, Darrell Veilleux, Patricia Yetter, Denise Bowen, Ty McEntire, Jeffrey Wenger, Jack Hess, Sylvia Wenger, Jay Hunter, Patsy Wagner, Anne English, Bill Sellers, Millie Kulkusky, Curt Shreiner, Genny Grant, Karen Sanders, Jackson, Bonnie Hudson.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month’s list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

The council has called for a **congregational meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, October 25, 2020**. The sole purpose is to vote to approve the purchase and installation of new carpet in the Sunday school room, choir room and hallways in the church due to wear and staining. Funds have already been reserved for this project. If you wish to vote but not attend worship, the meeting will begin at approximately 10:15 a.m. We will require a quorum to vote so your attendance is encouraged.

Given the pandemic situation, the Worship and Music Committee has decided to **continue holding the Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. through October**. The Committee will continue to re-evaluate the situation at their next meeting.

**Relay For Life team is selling lottery tickets.** If your number matches the PA Lottery Pick 3 on October 28 you win one roll each of \$20.00, \$10.00, \$5.00, & \$3.00 scratch-off tickets. One number higher and one number lower will win one roll of \$5.00 scratch-off tickets. Cost is \$5.00 per ticket - Please contact Becky or Sam Mull to purchase your tickets. Thank you for your support!

**Solomon's Capital Campaign for Luther Ridge Skilled Care Center:** In support of Solomon's five-year \$5,000 pledge to the capital campaign for the SpiriTrust Lutheran Skilled Care Center at Luther Ridge, please consider making a financial contribution if you are able. The Skilled Care Center provides rehabilitation and nursing care for those in need in our community. Make your check out to Solomon's and mark it "Luther Ridge Skilled Care" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

**Maranatha Paper Products Drive:** Since we are limited in the number of people at worship in the church each Sunday, we will collect paper products each Sunday during the month of October. If Norm's red truck is not in the parking lot, please bring your donation into the church and place it in the gray Social Ministry bins in the Sunday School room or under the coat rack. If you would like to donate but are not coming to church because of the virus, call Edna (717-352-4392) to arrange pickup.

**Power Packs:** With school back in session, the Power Packs program has now resumed. Currently, eight families have been identified at New Franklin Elementary School in need of food assistance. You can donate vegetable or fruit cups like last year. Donations of cash are also welcome if you are unable to shop or attend church due to the pandemic.

**Lutheran Disaster Response:** California is experiencing the worst wildfires in history, which have burned over one million acres and destroyed thousands of structures. In addition, Hurricane Laura has devastated parts of coastal Louisiana. Lutheran Disaster Response is providing immediate needs such as food and other life necessities in these two states. Please consider making a donation to help with these efforts. Make your contribution payable to Solomon's and mark it "US Wildfires" or "Hurricanes" or both. 100% of your donation will be used for these efforts. Thank you for your generosity.



**Altar Flowers:** If you will not be attending worship on a Sunday you have donated the flowers, please contact Sally to arrange pick-up or request they be donated.

**Notice to All:** Sunday School Teachers, Children's Church Teachers/Assistants and VBS Teachers & Helpers you will be receiving papers in the mail to fill out for The Child Protection / Background Checks. We need you to fill these out and send back to us no later than Sunday November 1st. Thank you.

**Needed** – Pint (16oz) Jars and ½ Pint (8oz) Jars. If anyone has these size jars and would like to donate for the Apple Butter sales we would appreciate it. We are also accepting cash donations to go towards buying jars that are in short supply, so prices are high. Please call Zoe Mummert at 717-267-1777 if you have jars to donate and send money donations to the Church, marked Apple Butter so Sally know where the money goes. Thank you!

**From the Fund Raising Committee:**

**Apple Butter** – we will be selling homemade Apple Butter in ½ pint jars at \$3.00 and pint jars at \$5.50. Orders due Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Pick up date will be Saturday, November 14 between 10 AM and 12 PM and Sunday, November 15 after Church.

**Candy Making – Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**Sign up to help.** We will set up on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. We will begin each morning at 6:30 AM – we need people to stir chocolate during melting process; 8:00 AM – dip chocolate into paper cups.

**Call:** Sally Gayman at the church (717-267-2266) or her cell (717-360-2223) or call Zoe Mummert (717-267-1777) with dates and times you can help. Please leave a message at any of the phone numbers listed above. You can also email Zoe at [zoem@kenshadle.com](mailto:zoem@kenshadle.com). We will have stations spaced throughout the gym in small groups. You will have to wear a mask, gloves and hat/hairnet. (Gloves and hairnets will be provided. Bring your own mask and hat.) Candy will be sold for \$10.00/1 lb. bag and \$6.00/ ½ lb. bag. Orders are due by Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Pick up date will be Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> between 10 AM and 12:00 PM and on Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup> after Church.

**Please note:** If Pennsylvania shuts down again because of Covid-19, we will have to cancel this event and all orders. We will send out a notice to everyone. Thank you for your help and support.

**Bulletin Announcement Forms** are located in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

**Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes** are available in the library for anyone to read.

OCTOBER 4, 2020  
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST



*We want to know Christ Jesus.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 21:33-46</b>	<b>Parable of the vineyard tenants</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 5:1-7</b>	<b>A song about a vineyard</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Philippians 3:4b-14</b>	<b>To know Christ</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Exodus 20:1-20</b>	<b>The Ten Commandments</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Psalm 19</b>	<b>The wonders of God</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Peter 2:1-10</b>	<b>A chosen people</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 80:7-15</b>	<b>Prayer for Israel's deliverance</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 22:1-14</b>	<b>Parable of the wedding feasts</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death. Philippians 3:10 (NRSV)

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty God, help us to trust that in your death there is eternal life and in suffering there is the power of love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Nurturing God, we thank you for this food; help us to use food wisely so that others may have enough to eat. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. (Philippians 3:10)

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Describe or think about what you feel are the characteristics of a good friend.
- Are you a good friend? How would others describe you?
- How does your faith in Jesus free you to care for—even feel the pain of—others?

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Come and Fill Our Hearts*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Philippians 3:4b-14.

We don't get it. According to research on American religious views, we want to be saved by God because we are "good people." We prefer to rely on our own merits rather than trust the power of Christ's death and resurrection that conquers our sin. Perhaps this is part of the sinful self-centeredness that Christ comes to cleanse us of. Paul writes to the church at Philippi and points out that if anyone has a claim to self-righteousness based on the law that measures our goodness, Paul would be pretty unbeatable; he would be "blameless" (v. 6). But he counts all of his religious success as "loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (v. 8). The truly amazing part of his testimony is that knowing Christ does not free him from suffering; he is not concerned about why "bad things happen to good people." Paul announces his freedom to suffer with Christ. This "theology of the cross" sees life in death, sees joy in suffering and sees hope in despair. Paul presses "on to make it my own" (v. 12). He is announcing a view of life, and this way of life sees Christ as the source of all our hopes of salvation. How is freedom from judging our own goodness important to our salvation?

***Pray:* Dear God, help us to know Jesus; may we focus our attention on the needs of others and to care for them through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Grapevines and vineyards are written about more than any other plant in the Bible. They were important in Biblical times and part of the culture. They were often used as symbols of producing fruit. In this context, fruit means one's actions that come from the heart. Place grapes in a bowl and as you eat them, think about what it means for you to produce good fruits (take positive actions). What positive actions can you take to care for others?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Philippians 3, Paul talks about pressing towards the goal to reach the prize of knowing Christ Jesus. Think about a time you tried to reach a goal. What happened? Whether we reach the goal or not, God is always with us.

***Pray:* Lord, help us to keep our eye on the goal, the prize of the "heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Amen.**