

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last Sunday, St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council met after the service. They decided that we would continue with the outdoor Drive-In Worship Services at 9:00 a.m., throughout October. (Sunday school will be delayed until a later date.) Therefore, my letter for today, provides information about the October services and the scripture passages that you and your family members can read to prepare for them.

The gospel passage for this Sunday is Matthew 21:33-46. It is a continuation of last week's pericope. But, this Sunday is also a special day in which we remember Francis of Assisi. My sermon includes information about the gospel passage, as well as some stories about Francis of Assisi. Children with Story Bibles can read "The True Vine," on pages 330-331.

The sermon for Sunday, October 11, by Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing, is taken from Jonah 3:10-4:11. We will have a lay-led worship service on that day (while I am on vacation). Joel Arndt and John Ornes will be providing leadership. The theme is "Creation Care." The service is from the ELCA's Lutherans Restoring Creation team. This service has already been utilized/viewed by hundreds of churches throughout the United States. Children with Story Bibles can read 2 stories about Jonah on pages 132-133 and 134-135.

The gospel passage for Sunday, October 18, is Matthew 22:15-22. It is the story in which Jesus is asked the question, "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" (Matthew 22:17b). Children with Story Bibles can read pages 168-169 about "[H]ow God wants us to live in the world" (pg. 168).

Sunday, October 25, is Reformation Sunday (John 8:31-36). It is also Confirmation Sunday (Matthew 22:34-46). Ayawyn Conner, Brooklyn Gruen, Marah Gruen, and Vanessa Anderson are the Confirmands. Pastor Libby Howe, Assistant to the Bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod, will be joining us for this special day. She will preach and preside at communion. I will be leading the other portions of the service. Children with Story Bibles may read pages 344-345, which is based on verses 36-40 of the Matthew gospel passage.

October will be a busy month at St. Paul's Lutheran Church! Please join us each Sunday as we worship the one, Triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit!

Peace,

Pastor Cathy