

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., until November 15. After that date, we will return to sending you my sermons and the Sunday bulletins via email or regular mail. (Sunday school will continue to be delayed until a later date.) With these updates in mind, my letter for today provides information about the November services and the scripture passages that you and your family members can read to prepare for them.

The gospel passage for this Sunday, November 1, is Matthew 5:1-12. This Sunday is a special day. It is "All Saints Day!" I will be preaching on the first reading, Revelation 7:9-17. Children with Story Bibles can read "A Blessing Map," which is based on the gospel reading. It is found on pages 324-325.

The gospel passage for Sunday, November 8, is Matthew 25:1-13. I will be preaching on the Old Testament passage from Amos 5:18-24. Children with Story Bibles can read "Telling the Truth," which is about the prophet, Amos. It is found on pages 142-143.

The gospel passage for Sunday, November 15, is Matthew 25:14-30. This is the parable of the talents. There is a gospel parallel in Luke 19:11-27. Children with Story Bibles can read the story that precedes this pericope (Luke 19:1-10). It is entitled, "The Short Man," and it is about Zacchaeus. The story can be found on pages 242-243.

The gospel passage for Sunday, November 22, is Matthew 25:31-46. This is a special day, which is called, "Christ the King Sunday!" Children with Story Bibles may read about the gospel passage in the story, "Seeing Jesus," on pages 326-327.

The gospel passage for Sunday, November 29, is Mark 13:24-37. Because this is the Sunday after Thanksgiving, I am thinking about offering a special service made available by Lutherans Restoring Creation. Children with Story Bibles may read "A Boy And His Lunch," which promotes the sharing of food with others. It is found on pages 264-265. (I will provide more information to you in a letter closer to November 29.)

November will offer us three Sundays of Drive-In Worship Services, and the return to Covid-safe, in-home worship beginning November 22. After that date, in addition to reading my weekly sermons and the church bulletin, you are encouraged to watch online services from any of the La Crosse Area Synod churches. Let us join together in this unique way, during this unique time, to give thanks and praise to God.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy