

Announcements and Readings for Sunday, November 8, 2020

The Prayer of the Day

O God of justice and love,

You illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading

Amos 5:18-24

- ¹⁸ Woe to you who long
for the day of the LORD!
Why do you long for the day of the LORD?
That day will be darkness, not light.
- ¹⁹ It will be as though a man fled from a lion
only to meet a bear,
as though he entered his house
and rested his hand on the wall
only to have a snake bite him.
- ²⁰ Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light—
pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?
- ²¹ “I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.
- ²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.
- ²³ Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
- ²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

The Word of the Lord, **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 70 will be read responsively.

- ¹ Hasten, O God, to save me;
come quickly, LORD, to help me.
- ² **May those who want to take my life
be put to shame and confusion;
may all who desire my ruin
be turned back in disgrace.**
- ³ May those who say to me, “Aha! Aha!”
turn back because of their shame.

**⁴ But may all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who long for your saving help always say,
“The LORD is great!”**

⁵ But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come quickly to me, O God.
You are my help and my deliverer;
LORD, do not delay.

The Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord, **C: Thanks be to God**

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

Gospel Response **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁵ “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

⁷ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

⁹ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹ “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

¹² “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

¹³ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord – **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

CALENDAR

TODAY Voting on Budget and Council Nominees
MONDAY 7:00 Council Meeting
WEDNESDAY 6:30 Bible study at St. Paul
THURSDAY 1:00 Bible study at Zion Lutheran
SATURDAY Synod Assembly

FOOD CUPBOARD – NOVEMBER NEEDS

Canned Soup.

BOILER REPAIR

The church boiler is now up and working. As stated in your November newsletter to help with the cost of this expensive but needed repair, any donation will be greatly appreciated. Just mark the white pew envelope or your check as “boiler repair” and leave in the offering plate.

WORSHIP NOTES

As we worship together once again, we want everyone to feel safe and comfortable during worship. Therefore, with that in mind the following steps will be taken:

We will sit every third pew to keep a safe distance from each other.

The offering plates will not be passed around, instead you will leave your offering in the plate as you leave worship along with the attendance form.

Hymns are also included in your bulletin as an insert. Hymns and liturgy will be sung by a cantor at this time. We will not have a Gathering Hymn. If you wish to sing along you may do so, but we request that you keep your mask on during any singing.

Communion will also be done together in the pews from the prepackaged wafer and juice you picked up on your way into the sanctuary. A waste receptacle will be on the table in the narthex for you to dispose of your communion as you leave worship.

Open the clear cellophane for the wafer first and then open the purple tab for the juice.

Included in your bulletin is an attendance form, please fill out and leave in the offering plate. This is to help us keep track of our members each Sunday.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Occasionally members of our congregation need assistance with transportation to and from doctor appointments and help with groceries or meals especially during this time of the pandemic. We would like to make up a list of volunteers that would be able to assist. See Colleen or email the office at 215stpaul@gmail.com include the days and times you would be able to volunteer and contact information.

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday at 6:30 PM at St. Paul and Thursday afternoon at 1:00 at Zion, we will be studying the following readings: **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, Psalm 90:1-12, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30.**

HARVEST SUNDAY

Remember to bring your nonperishable food items for the SWBC Food Cupboard on Sunday, November 22. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

COOKIE WALK 2020

Sign up sheets for donations of ingredients are on the flower chart in the narthex. Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, November 21 from 9 to 12.

VOTING ON BUDGET AND COUNCIL NOMINEES

Today we will be voting on both the budget and council nominees for council. We have three – three year term spots to fill and 1 for one year. Members running are Bobi-Jean Alexander, Thom Cipro, Linda Flora and Jeff Miller.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

A sign up sheet is in the narthex for volunteers in the lighting of the Advent wreath. This usually involves a member of a family reading a short history of the candle to be lit and another member lighting the candle. Advent starts on Sunday, November 29.

WOMEN'S JOINT CHRISTMAS PARTY

We will be hosting the Christmas Party with the women of Zion Lutheran on Thursday, December 10, at 6:00 PM. Dinner will be \$15 and also bring a \$10 Grab Bag. **Please sign the signup sheet in the narthex or RSVP to Linda Flora 724-452-1347, 724-272-2563 or lflora604@gmail.com by November 26.**

ZELIENOPE ROTARY FALL BLOOD DRIVE

Will be held Thursday, November 12, from noon to 6 PM at the American Legion Post #474 Social Hall. The American Legion is located at 308 West New Castle Street. To make an appointment visit Vitalant.org and click the "Log In" button. On the new window, choose Donor Login (previous donor) or New Donor (haven't donated with Vitalant before), and search with the group code C5300093 or call 412-209-7000. Vitalant will donate \$5.00 to the Southwest Butler Food Cupboard for each donation of blood on 11/12/2020. Vitalant is now testing blood donations for Covid-19 antibodies. Please help us maintain the community blood supply.

MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET – DECEMBER 3

Zelienople is still planning on holding the Miracle on Main Street event on December 3. Due to Covid-19 restrictions some activities will not take place. The month of November we will be collecting new or almost new children's coats, plus hats and gloves. Box for your donation will be in the back of the church next Sunday. Coats will be given out to those in need at the Miracle on Main tent. We are also planning on taking part again with handing out free hot chocolate and coffee. If you would like to help, please see Pastor Tim. More information will follow as we get closer to the event.

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW

Nathan Brewer will be performing his annual Christmas show virtually this year, meaning that friends from afar can watch from home. Zelenople resident, Traci Fucsko (Butia), will be performing live in the show from the stage of Strobel Hall. Christian music legend Sandi Patty will also be singing in the show from her home in Oklahoma. Saturday December 12 at 7:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased at nathanbrewer.simplix.com