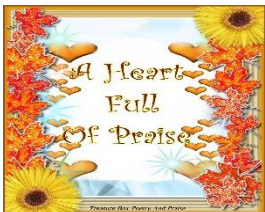


**St. Peter Lutheran Church
208 Newtown Ave.
Norwalk, CT 06851**

PARISHSCOPE OCTOBER 2020



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208 Newtown Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06851**



Pastor's Ponderings

Well, I watched the first Presidential debate between Pres. Trump and former VP Joe Biden; at least, I watched as much as I could take. Lord, have mercy upon us! Sadly, it was hardly a real debate of issues, with a sharing of and questioning of ideas, but more like a schoolyard argument between kids in grade school. It really made me wonder: if these are our leaders, then what are we becoming? What kind of a country are my children and grandchildren going to have? What will their lives be like? It's scary to think about.

I suppose much the same could have been said about the world, and the leaders who governed it, in Jesus' day. Consider, for instance, Tiberius, the Roman Emperor who ruled from 14-37 A.D., and so throughout Jesus' adult life and ministry. Although a very successful general under Caesar Augustus, he became a very sad and withdrawn man. Much of this was due to Augustus' demand that he divorce his wife so that he could marry Augustus' daughter Julia and become heir to the throne. The marriage of Tiberius and Julia was an unhappy one, for Julia was promiscuous. Tiberius came to despise her, for she publicly humiliated him with nighttime escapades in the Roman Forum. The Roman historian Tacitus wrote that this was the main reason that, in 26 A.D., Tiberius left Rome to live on the Isle of Capri, which was a traditional holiday retreat for the upper classes. The historian Suetonius wrote that there he abandoned the responsibilities of governing, was filled with paranoia, and pursued all kinds of sexual perversities. And yet, even with such a miserable man leading – or not – the world, Jesus lived His life and, by His death and resurrection, changed the world for us all.

What's my point: that it doesn't matter who leads and governs? Not at all. It can matter very much, and so we need to pray for our government and its leaders and be involved in choosing who will lead our country. But, keep in mind that, whoever governs us, our Lord remains present with us and at work among us. Even at the worst of times and through the worst of events – and, what could be worse than the crucifixion of His Son? – He is working for our blessing.

Certainly we see that in the life of Martin Luther and the world-changing movement called the Reformation, which we again remember this month. Who would ever have thought that a little-known monk in Wittenberg, Germany, would end up influencing leaders throughout Europe and establishing a whole new Church? Certainly the Pope did not imagine this happening. Nor did Charles V, the King of Spain and Ruler of the Holy Roman Empire. They were the powerful leaders of Church and State in Luther's day, and yet were ultimately unable to prevent Luther's teachings from spreading and changing the Church and the world. Luther credited this all to God. Toward the end of his life, while commenting on the words of Ps. 23, "*Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me,*" he said:

In this way I have been preserved by the grace of God during the past 18 years. I have let my enemies rage, threaten, slander, and damn me, take counsel against me without ceasing, invent many evil devices, and practice many a piece of knavery. I have let them worry anxiously about how they might kill me and destroy my teaching, or rather God's. Moreover, I have been happy and of good cheer – at one time better than at another – have not worried greatly about their raving and raging but have clung to the staff of comfort and found my way to the Lord's table. That is, I have committed my cares to our Lord God, into which He had led me absolutely without my will or counsel; and meanwhile I spoke an Our Father or a psalm. This is all the armor with which until now I have not only held off all my enemies but by the grace of God have also accomplished so much that when I look behind me and consider how matters stand in the papacy, I really must be surprised that things have gone so far. I would never have imagined that even one tenth of what is now evident would happen. He that has begun the good work will also bring it to completion (Phil. 1:6) even though nine more hells and worlds were gathered together in a heap. Therefore let every Christian thoroughly learn this art: to cling to this rod and staff and to find his way to this table when sorrow or other misfortune appears. Then he will surely gain strength and comfort for everything that worries him. (from *What Luther Says*, vol. 3, 3785)

Take what Luther says to heart, and especially when you worry about our society and world. Cling to the rod and staff of God's sure Word and make your way to His table of grace. He will work His will for your blessing, and the blessing of many!

In Christ Jesus, our Lord,
Pastor

BIBLE STUDIES

On Sunday mornings we are continuing with a study of the lives and teachings of the apostles of Jesus. We meet at 8:45 AM in the church; you can also join in on Zoom. On Thursday's at 7:30 PM there is a Bible study on Zoom, focusing on the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday. The Zoom link for both studies is sent out during the week, and at this point (hopefully!) is working well. Join us!

THANK YOU

During the summer months the members of the Shane family – John, Karen, Carson, and Dylan – were often at church taking care of the grounds: mowing the grass, trimming shrubs, etc. They took this upon themselves without being asked. Their service is much appreciated and is a blessing to us all! Also, in September they, along with Tom Collins, Steve Sabol, and Pastor, helped a parishioner to move into new lodgings.

One who works hard constantly on keeping up our church property and buildings is Bob LeMay. Trimming shrubs and the grass... picking up after storms... changing light bulbs... fixing broken toilets... cleaning the kitchen sinks... the list goes on and on. Be sure to thank him when you see him!

Also a big help have been Joe & JoAnn Shapiro. Joe helped set up Pastor with a new computer after his old one began having problems, and then in late September helped fix internet problems at church. JoAnn has worked hard from the beginning of the pandemic to arrange for people to stay in touch with parishioners and make sure any needs are met.

Working hard and constantly on our website has been Eric Gustafson, and also with Pastor on

videoing the Sunday Divine Service and broadcasting the Bible study on Zoom.

Bob Streb works diligently as our Treasurer to keep our financial records up to date, ensure that bills are paid, prepare a budget for next year, etc.

Fay Sobottka is working now to move our needed renovations forward, especially of the bathrooms downstairs at church. Look for updates on this.

Carl Vogt and Gary Melfi worked to prepare for and host our first fellowship event since last March, our annual Cigar Night in September. 16 attended and had a great time! Careful precautions were taken and followed to enable this to happen. It was nice to have a touch of "normalcy" again at this event!

Thank you could be said to many others who work mostly behind the scenes: such as Nancy Saylor and the members of the Chancel who carefully prepare for, and clean up after, the Service each week; or, those who count, record, and deposit in the bank the offerings that are contributed.

Yes, it's true that Jesus said, "*when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*" (Matt. 6:3-4) We do not serve for earthly praise. But, it is a good thing to recognize what is done for us and thank those who do it, for God is helping us through them. So, thank you to so many who help out in our church! Let us all consider how we can join in and serve.

MISSION OF THE MONTH
OCTOBER 2020
KEYSTONE HOUSE

The mission of Keystone is to increase the ability of persons with disabilities to adjust to and remain in the community environments of their choice with personal success and satisfaction with as much independence as individually possible. Keystone's residential services include two transitional housing programs, one long-term housing program, a supportive apartment program and a psychosocial rehabilitation program.

Keystone House, Inc. was incorporated in the state of Connecticut in 1972 as a non-profit organization providing rehabilitation services for individuals with psychiatric disorders. Keystone started with one home serving 12 clients, growing over the years to presently operating two group home level of care facilities with an additional facility providing long-term supports. The supported apartment program provides residential support for individuals with psychiatric disorders, those dually diagnosed with a co-occurring substance abuse disorder and those homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Community Living Center program offers social, cultural, educational, and rehabilitative programs as well as recreational opportunities. Currently, Keystone House programs and services assist nearly 300 clients per year. Keystone House is located at 147 Main Street, Norwalk.

October Birthdays

October 2 **Melissa Melfi**
October 3 **Anthony S. Ferrara, Jr.**
October 5 **Carson Shane**
October 7 **Kaye Leong**
October 8 **Rebecca Sabol**
October 20 **Ethel Nelsen**
October 21 **Jonathan Shapiro**
October 26 **Tyler Collins**
October 30 **Holly Robaczynski**

Anniversaries

Oct. 2 **Michael & Suzy Graupner**
Oct. 8 **Dennis & Marie Russo**
Oct. 12 **John & Karen Shane**

USHERS

Oct. 4: J. Orban
Oct. 11: D. Cakavell
Oct. 18: S. Sabol
Oct. 25: C. Mathis

CHANCEL SCHEDULE

Oct. 5-18 L. Beinke, G. Wash
Oct. 19 - Nov. 1 D. Fasoli

COUNTER SCHEDULE

Oct. 4 C. Douthwaite, J. Orban
Oct. 11 S. Yuen, C. Douthwaite
Oct. 18 S. Yuen, J. Orban
Oct. 25 I. MacKenzie, E. Meek

BIBLE READINGS FOR OCTOBER

Oct. 1	<i>Isaiah 62:6-65:25 Philippians 2:19-3:4a Psalm 73:1-28 Proverbs 24:13-14</i>	Oct. 10:	<i>Jeremiah 14:11-16:15 1 Thessalonians 2:10-3:13 Psalm 80:1-19 Proverbs 25:1-5</i>
Oct. 2:	<i>Isaiah 66:1-24 Philippians 3:4b-21 Psalm 74:1-23 Proverbs 24:15-16</i>	Oct. 11:	<i>Jeremiah 16:16-18:23 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:3 Psalm 81:1-16 Proverbs 25:6-7</i>
Oct. 3:	<i>Jeremiah 1:1-2:30 Philippians 4:1-23 Psalm 75:1-10 Proverbs 24:17-20</i>	Oct. 12:	<i>Jeremiah 19:1-21:14 1 Thessalonians 5:4-28 Psalm 82:1-8 Proverbs 25:8-10</i>
Oct. 4:	<i>Jeremiah 2:31-4:18 Colossians 1:1-20 Psalm 76:1-12 Proverbs 24:21-22</i>	Oct. 13:	<i>Jeremiah 22:1-23:20 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 Psalm 83:1-18 Proverbs 25:11-14</i>
Oct. 5:	<i>Jeremiah 4:19-6:14 Colossians 1:21-2:7 Psalm 77:1-20 Proverbs 24:23-25</i>	Oct. 14:	<i>Jeremiah 23:21-25:38 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 Psalm 84:1-12 Proverbs 25:15</i>
Oct. 6:	<i>Jeremiah 6:15-8:7 Colossians 2:8-23 Psalm 78:1-31 Proverbs 24:26</i>	Oct. 15:	<i>Jeremiah 26:1-27:22 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18 Psalm 85:1-13 Proverbs 25:16</i>
Oct. 7:	<i>Jeremiah 8:8-9:26 Colossians 3:1-17 Psalm 78:32-55 Proverbs 24:27</i>	Oct. 16:	<i>Jeremiah 28:1-29:32 1 Timothy 1:1-20 Psalm 86:1-17 Proverbs 25:17</i>
Oct. 8:	<i>Jeremiah 10:1-11:23 Colossians 3:18-4:18 Psalm 78:56-72 Proverbs 24:2</i>	Oct. 17:	<i>Jeremiah 30:1-31:26 1 Timothy 2:1-15 Psalm 87:1-7 Proverbs 25:18-19</i>
Oct. 9:	<i>Jeremiah 12:1-14:10 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2:9 Psalm 79:1-13 Proverbs 24:30-34</i>	Oct. 18:	<i>Jeremiah 31:27-32:44 1 Timothy 3:1-16 Psalm 88:1-18 Proverbs 25:20-22</i>

Oct. 19:	<i>Jeremiah 33:1-34:22</i> <i>1 Timothy 4:1-16</i> <i>Psalms 89:1-13</i> <i>Proverbs 25:23-24</i>	Oct. 28:	<i>Jeremiah 51:54-52:34</i> <i>Titus 3:1-15</i> <i>Psalms 100:1-5</i> <i>Proverbs 26:18-19</i>
Oct. 20:	<i>Jeremiah 35:1-36:32</i> <i>1 Timothy 5:1-25</i> <i>Psalms 89:14-37</i> <i>Proverbs 25:25-27</i>	Oct. 29:	<i>Lamentations 1:1-2:19</i> <i>Philemon 1:1-25</i> <i>Psalms 101:1-8</i> <i>Proverbs 26:20</i>
Oct. 21:	<i>Jeremiah 37:1-38:28</i> <i>1 Timothy 6:1-21</i> <i>Psalms 89:38-52</i> <i>Proverbs 25:28</i>	Oct. 30:	<i>Lamentations 2:20-3:66</i> <i>Hebrews 1:1-14</i> <i>Psalms 102:1-28</i> <i>Proverbs 26:21-22</i>
Oct. 22:	<i>Jeremiah 39:1-41:18</i> <i>2 Timothy 1:1-18</i> <i>Psalms 90:1-91:16</i> <i>Proverbs 26:1-2</i>	Oct. 31:	<i>Lamentations 4:1-5:22</i> <i>Hebrews 2:1-18</i> <i>Psalms 103:1-22</i> <i>Proverbs 26:23</i>
Oct. 23:	<i>Jeremiah 42:1-44:23</i> <i>2 Timothy 2:1-21</i> <i>Psalms 92:1-93:5</i> <i>Proverbs 26:3-5</i>		
Oct. 24:	<i>Jeremiah 44:24-47:7</i> <i>2 Timothy 2:22-3:17</i> <i>Psalms 94:1-23</i> <i>Proverbs 26:6-8</i>		
Oct. 25:	<i>Jeremiah 48:1-49:22</i> <i>2 Timothy 4:1-22</i> <i>Psalms 95:1-96:13</i> <i>Proverbs 26:9-12</i>		
Oct. 26:	<i>Jeremiah 49:23-50:46</i> <i>Titus 1:1-16</i> <i>Psalms 97:1-98:9</i> <i>Proverbs 26:13-16</i>		
Oct. 27:	<i>Jeremiah 51:1-53</i> <i>Titus 2:1-15</i> <i>Psalms 99:1-9</i> <i>Proverbs 26:17</i>		

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH - OCTOBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	5	6	7	8 7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	9	10
11 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	12	13	14	15 7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	16	17
18 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	19	20	21	22 7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	23	24
25 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 8:45 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Study REFORMATION SUNDAY	26	27	28	29 7:30 pm Zoom Bible Study	30	31