

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Worship Devotional
October 13, 2024
Twenty first Sunday of Pentecost

Prelude Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Opening Songs “10,000 Reasons”
 “Above All”
 “I’ve Always Loved You”
 Praise Band and Congregation

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance., let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.

The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes.

In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of +Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together ...

C: Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Special Music

“Enter Now the Gates” by Douglas E. Wagner
Choral Ensemble with The Good Shepherd Chimes

FIRST LESSON

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

New Revised Standard Version Edition

5 ⁶Seek the LORD and live,
or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire;
it will devour them,
and Bethel will have no one to quench it.

7 There are those who turn justice into bitterness
and cast righteousness to the ground.

10 There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court
and detest the one who tells the truth.

11 You levy a straw tax on the poor
and impose a tax on their grain.

Therefore, though you have built stone mansions,
you will not live in them;
though you have planted lush vineyards,
you will not drink their wine.

12 For I know how many are your offenses
and how great your sins.

There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes
and deprive the poor of justice in the courts.

13 Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times,
for the times are evil.

14 Seek good, not evil,
that you may live.

Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you,
just as you say he is.

15 Hate evil, love good;
maintain justice in the courts.

Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy
on the remnant of Joseph.

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 4:12-16

¹² Indeed, the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Jesus the Great High Priest

¹⁴ Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested^[a] as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 10:17-31

The Rich Man

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.' " ²⁰ He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money^[a] to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is^[b] to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another,^[c] "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news^[d] ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Kids' Talk

Sermon

“Reconciliation”

Sermon Hymn

“Christ Be Our Light”

Song Leaders and Congregation

Apostles' Creed

Scripture Reading: Mark 10:17-31

Dear God, please find an easier way to teach me what I need to learn. —Anon.

Curious about what our culture and society think are the most important lessons of life, I turned to the internet. I found scores of articles on the subject. One was called, “Five life lessons most people learn too late.” The lessons? Perception is reality; everything is temporary; the importance of being present; do what you love, love what you do; and being happy takes work.

Most authors of these articles had trouble narrowing down the most important life lessons. One writer’s essay was titled, “137 Valuable Life Lessons to Learn TODAY.” Others needed 20, 34, 35, 50 lessons to learn about living life well. Sort of misses the point.

I did run across one list that struck a chord, and so I pass it on to you now. The suggestions make sense, they are helpful and they dovetail with scripture.

Six Important Guidelines in Life

1. When you are alone, mind your thoughts.
2. When you are with friends, mind your tongue.
3. When you are angry, mind your temper.
4. When you are with a group, mind your behavior.
5. When you are in trouble, mind your emotions.
6. When God starts blessing you, mind your ego.

Being able to master these reMINDers will go a long way to making your life a life of peace and joy.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, with your help, I will be MINDful of these ideas, as well as the wisdom of your word. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, the texts for this week seem to be speaking to today's society. We are rich beyond imagination. We live in an age of luxury, labor-saving devices, leisure time and activities, entertainment everywhere, both good and bad. Yet, this is also an evil age. The prophet Amos says, *"Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time."* But Amos also says, *"Seek good and not evil, that you may live, and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you."*
Lord in your mercy...

Our lesson from Hebrews also declares the source of good, *"Indeed, the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword... able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."* God knows our hearts. And there is one who sympathizes with our weaknesses. *"One who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* Yes, let us cry out to our Lord and Savior for His wisdom. **Lord in your mercy...**

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, legislators, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world that all might *"seek good and not evil that we may live."* May the treasure and distractions of our abundant world not distract us from the source of true wealth and goodness. It is found in the heart of God who loves all people and ministers his grace and mercy if we call upon Him and seek his face. **Lord in your mercy...**

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayers with healing, comfort and new life. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? **Lord in your mercy...**

Our God lives and reigns as King of the universe. We ask ourselves, Where is our treasure; how much will it count on God's scale of love and mercy." Be gracious to us, Lord. In Jesus mighty name, we pray. **Amen.** CAROLYN T. LINN

Sharing the Peace

Special Music

"Clap Your Hands, Children" by Mary Ellen Kerrick
Choral Ensemble

Words of Institution

Prayer Concerns

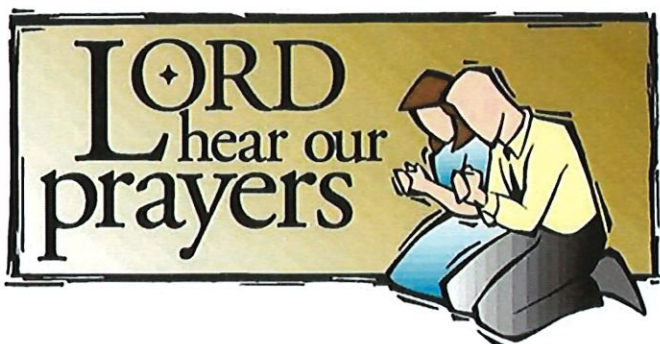


Members in Need of Prayer:

Gloria Miller
Francis Sullivan
Mary Schmidt
Kay Schumacher
Mona White
Betty Montgomery
Diane Fake
Yvonne Smith
Neil and Verna Walden
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Linda Healy (White)
Ivonne Garcia (Zamora)
Please pray for the Husband, Ken, family and friends of Paige Dose on her passing. (Fake)
Barbara Shakespeare
Kristin & Penelope Almeda (McQuillans)
Please pray for the family and friends of Jeanne Grant on her passing. (Anderson)
Brian (Hays)
Phoebe (Neer)
Phil (Anderson)
Gary Assmussen (Deuker's Cousin)
Irene Goldman (Dueker)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Betty (Anderson)
Tonya (White)
Shanese (White)
Dirk Rathwick (Norris)
Zyg Zee (Norris)
Claire (Vonny)
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan & Sandy Robbins (Robbins)



The Lord's Prayer

**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,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

Blessing

Closing Song

“Forever”

Praise Band and Congregation

Sending

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano

Week of October 13, 2024

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 1 Corinthians 10

Monday: Esther 1-2

Tuesday: Esther 3

Wednesday: Esther 4-5

Thursday: Esther 6-7

Friday: Esther 8-10

Saturday: Psalms 115-118

The Letter "O"

The nine words below are spelled correctly, except they are missing one letter — O. Use these incomplete words to complete the verse below where you will find all the missing O's!

S, NE, ANOTHER, GD, LVED, UGHT, T, ALS, LVE

Dear friends, since ___o___ ___o___

___o___ ___ us, we ___ ___ ___o___

o___ ___ ___ ___o___ ___o___ ___

o___ ___ ___o___ ___ ___.

Verse to Remember

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

—1 Corinthians 10:31

BRAIN TEASERS:

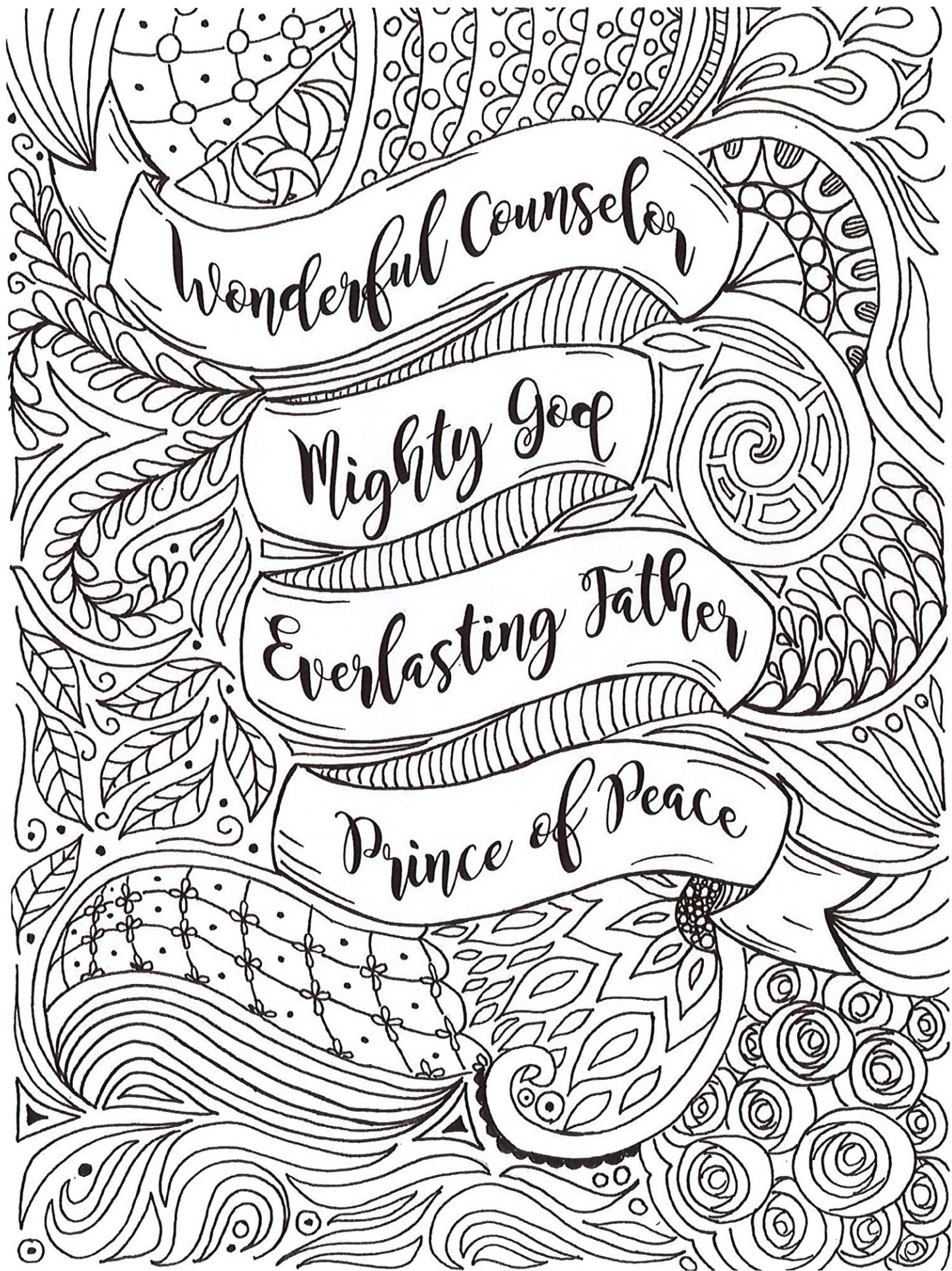
1. There are three houses. One is red, one is blue, and one is white. If the red house is to the left of the house in the middle, and the blue house is to the right of the house in the middle, where is the white house?
2. A farmer has 17 sheep and all but nine die. How many are left?

October 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

"October made the leaves on Main Street fit for a crown. They dripped from the trees in jewel-toned shades: yellow and orange and fiery red. The cool wind sent a confetti-cluster of leaves down around us." —Natalie Lloyd

SOLUTION TO BRAIN TEASERS: 1: Washington, D.C. 2: nine. SOLUTION TO THE LETTER "O" PUZZLE: "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" —1 John 4:11.



Wonderful Counselor

Mighty God

Everlasting Father

Prince of Peace