SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Missouri Synod



703 W 3RD Street Mercedes **Texas 78570** 956.565.1518 **Immanuelmercedes** @gmail.com **Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor** 956.463.1305 eweber10@aol.com Website: lutheranmercedes.com Sunday 9:00 AM **Worship Service** 10:30 am Adult Bible Class Sunday School **Holy Communion:** 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday www.facebook.com/ lutheranmercedes/ Website: Misionemanuel.com **Office Hrs, M-F** 8 am to 12 pm **CCLI # 2585510**

"So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."
(Matthew 20:16)

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/ Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

This week we celebrate Holy Communion. We teach that in the receiving of the Lord's Supper each person receives the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to partake of Communion, please ask to speak with Pastor Weber or one of the elders prior to the service.

- A Prayer Upon Entering Church O blessed Lord, since I cannot count on anything I have done, give me grace to count on Christ and His redeeming work upon the cross. As I delight in His grace, so give me humility to receive Your generosity without offense and trust in Your mercy alone for my salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
- **AS WE GATHER** A part of us expects justice from God. We think that fairness ought to reign—that each of us should get what we deserve. But this is a dead end. God does not give us what we deserve but acts with mercy and grace beyond belief. He is scandalously generous and lavish with us—giving us what we do not deserve and have not earned. We

are tempted to ask God for equity and what we deserve, but God is determined to give us so much more in Christ. Only in faith can we learn to let God be God, to honor His generosity with the only response He desires: faith and thanksgiving. Today we pray the Lord to break through to our hearts and minds with His abundant grace and to rejoice that He is more than fair—He is merciful!

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR PAGE 203

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation)

OPENING HYMN Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings

LSB 782

- Gracious God, You send great blessings New each morning all our days.
 For Your mercies never ending,
 For Your love we offer praise. Refrain
- **ref** Lord, we pray that we, Your people Who Your gifts unnumbered claim, Through the sharing of Your blessings May bring glory to Your name.
- 2 By Your Word You formed creation Filled with creatures large and small; As we tend that endless treasure May our care encircle all. **Refrain**
- 3 In His earthly life, our Savior Knew the care of faithful friends;

[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]

May our deeds of dedication Offer love that never ends. **Refrain**

ref Lord, we pray that we, Your people Who Your gifts unnumbered claim, Through the sharing of Your blessings May bring glory to Your name.



Heav'nly Father, may our caring Bear the imprint of Your grace; With the Son and Holy Spirit,

Praise be Yours in ev'ry place! Refrain © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012733.

INVOCATION

- Ρ In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- С Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and Ρ the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and **C** just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

- Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. Ρ
- C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature and unclean. We have sinned against You in sinful thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly

deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:19-23)
- C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17*

- P I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.
- C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me?
- P I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.
- C Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.
- P O Lord, truly I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant; You have loosed my bonds.
- P I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.

KYRIE



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 55:6–9

(Seek the Lord while He may be found.)

6 Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

PSALMPsalm 27:1–9; antiphon: v.4a
(The Lord is my light and my salvation.)

- P One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek:
- C The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- P When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell.
- C Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.
- P One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the

days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.

- C For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.
- P And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.
- C Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.
- P When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek."
- C Do not hide Your face from me; do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- P One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek:

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (Children remain seated)

EPISTLE *Philippians* 1:12–14, 19–30

(Let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ.) 12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. 19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or

by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. 25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, 26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again. 27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. 29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



ALLELUIA and VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 20:1–16

(The last will be first and the first will be last.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C Glory to You , O Lord.

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. 5 Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.' 8 "So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.' 9 And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. 10 But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. 11 And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, 12 saying, 'These last men have

worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' 13 But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. 15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

All I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one

Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAYBy Grace I'm SavedLSB5661By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain:
By grace you too will life obtain.LSB566

- By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
 Our works and conduct have no worth.
 God in His love sent our Redeemer,
 Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
 His death did for our sins atone,
 And we are saved by grace alone.
- By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
 Came down to earth to bear our sin.
 Was it because of your own merit
 That Jesus died your soul to win?
 No, it was grace, and grace alone,
 That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.
- By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
 As long as God is true, it stands.
 What saints have penned by inspiration,
 What in His Word our God commands,
 Our faith in what our God has done
 Depends on grace—grace through His Son.

- 5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble, In tribulation's furnace tried,
 By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
 The Father's heart is open wide.
 Where could I help and strength secure
 If grace were not my anchor sure?
- By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
 In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
 For though I know my heart's condition,
 I also know my Savior's voice.
 My heart is glad, all grief has flown
 Since I am saved by grace alone.

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SERMON "From Last to First - by Grace Alone!"

(Matthew 20:16)

OFFERING (Please place your offering in the offering plate as you leave.)

OFF	TERTORY The Lord Is My Light	LSB	723
ref	The Lord is my light and my salvation, The Lord is the stronghold of my life. Since the Lord is my life, my strength, and my all, Whom then shall I fear?		
1	There is one thing I ask of the Lord: To dwell in His house forever, To gaze on the beauty of the Lord All the days of my life. Refrain		
2	Do not hide Your face, O Lord; Ev'ry day I will seek Your face. Though my father and mother may forsake me, The Lord will receive me. Refrain		13

3 Teach me, Lord, and keep me on Your paths; Guide me, Lord, along a level way. I will gaze on the goodness of the Lord In the land of all the living. Refrain

ref The Lord is my light and my salvation, The Lord is the stronghold of my life. Since the Lord is my life, my strength, and my all, Whom then shall I fear?

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SHARING OF THE PEACE "Peace be with you" (John 20:21) (Learning and sharing through ASL (American Sign Language))

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord God, You have promised to hear the prayers of Your people, and so we come to You this day offering You petitions and supplications for all manner and needs of people.

You have invited us to seek Your face and to call upon You while You are near. Lord, grant to us such confidence in Your grace and favor that we seek Your wisdom, walk in Your ways, and delight in Your gift of salvation with thanksgiving in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C hear our prayer.
- P We delight in dwelling in Your house, O Lord. Bless Your Church and those who minister to us in Your name. Guide them to preach faithfully the whole counsel of Your Word so that we be steadfast in faith in the face of temptation, threat, and trial. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P You have placed in our ears Your Word and in our hearts

Your Spirit, O Lord. Grant that we learn to follow Your Word and live holy, upright, and honorable lives that reflect Your goodness and show forth the fruit of the Spirit in all we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P You are our light and our salvation and in You we rest our fears. Lord, grant Your aid, comfort, and strength to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Be especially with the sick for whom we pray this day, [especially . . .]. Heal them in accordance with Your will and sustain them through their afflictions until the perfect healing comes in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Your power is greater than all and Your mercy is without limit. Lord, look with compassion upon our world of violence and terror. Bless those who govern here and everywhere that they protect the weak, promote the cause of virtue, administer justice to the criminal, and act with mercy toward those in need. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P You have given us a place at Your Son's Table and grace to receive His very body and blood. Lord, grant that we come with repentance and faith to receive all that Christ has accomplished for our salvation in this blessed communion with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You have shown us generosity greater than we deserve, O
 Lord. Silence our complaints when we would question
 Your mercy, and teach us to be satisfied by Your grace in all
 that we need for this mortal life and find contentment in

God's promise of the life to come. Teach us to rejoice over every sinner who repents and for everyone who comes to You in faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

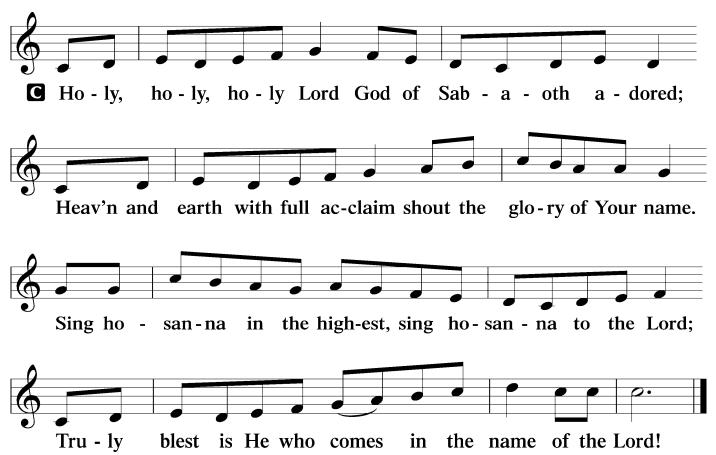
- P All these and whatsoever other things we need, we ask You to grant us in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Into Your hands, O gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

C 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 forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

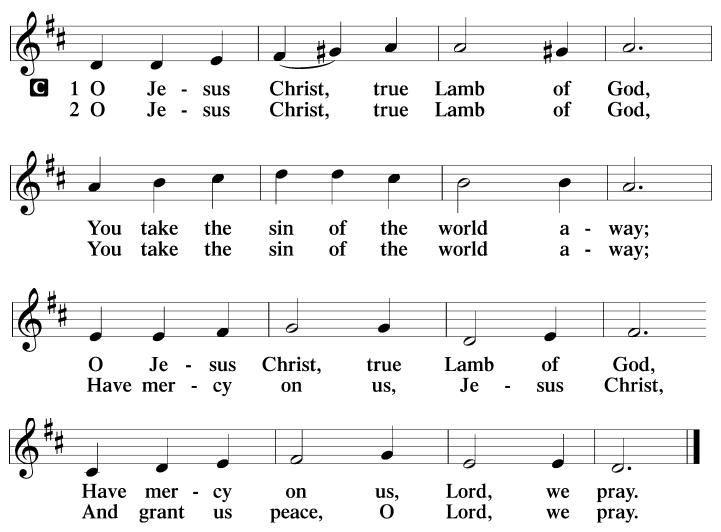
- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying:
 "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



AGNUS DEI



DISTRIBUTION HYMN Chief of Sinners Though I Be LSB 611

- Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me, Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die. As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above, Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!

Love that found me—wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.

- Only Jesus can impart
 Balm to heal the wounded heart,
 Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
 Faith and hope to walk with God
 In the way that Enoch trod.
- Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me; All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own. He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.
- 5 O my Savior, help afford
 By Your Spirit and Your Word!
 When my wayward heart would stray,
 Keep me in the narrow way;
 Grace in time of need supply
 While I live and when I die.

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NUNC DIMITTIS



POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
- **C** for His steadfast love endures forever!
- P Heavenly Father, it is Your gracious will that Your children on earth live together in harmony and peace. Defeat the plans of all those who would stir up envy and strife, and teach us to examine our own hearts that we be free from malice and ill will. Help us by Your grace so that we live lives worthy of the Gospel and live at peace with all people. Fill us with zeal for the work of Your Church and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which alone can bring that peace which is beyond all understanding; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

- P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Numbers 6:24–26
- C Amen.

SENDING HYMN Beautiful Savior

LSB 537

 Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

- Fair are the meadows,
 Fair are the woodlands,
 Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
 Jesus is fairer,
 Jesus is purer,
 He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.
- Fair is the sunshine,
 Fair is the moonlight,
 Bright the sparkling stars on high;
 Jesus shines brighter,
 Jesus shines purer
 Than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, Praise, adoration

Now and forevermore be Thine! Public domain

DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
- C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE:

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Portals of Prayer for October to December are available in the Narthrex or office.

Memory Verse Challenge

The LCMS invites everyone to join together memorizing a verse together each week.

This week's memory verse: 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

" For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures."



Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ

Those who are sent as "laborers for his vineyard" (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear "the burden of the day and the scorching heat" on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that "he may be found" (Is. 55:6), "have compassion" and "abundantly pardon" (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, "whether by life or by death" (Phil. 1:20), by "fruitful labor" (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are "worthy of the gospel" (Phil. 1:27).

9/6 & 13/2020				Seventeenth Sunday after		
Sunday Worship	13 (9/	′13)		Pentecost Readings :		
Plate:		\$ 40.	.00			
Envelopes:		\$ 5 <i>,</i> 495.	.00	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-10		
Donation:		\$ 100.	.00	Psum 25:1-10 Philippians 2:1-4 (5-13), 14-18		
	Total:	\$ 5 <i>,</i> 635.	.00	Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32)		
Bible Class:	N/A	Ν	I/A			
Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule						
	September Sunday Servants:					
Elder: Joe Winston						
Altar Guild: Billie Jo Neuhaus & Maribel Perez						
Music:	Bonny Winston					
This Week Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost						
Usher:	Jsher: Don Vogel					
Sunday:	Inday: Holy Communion Worship Service 9:00 am					
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am						
Next Week	Next Week Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost					
Usher:	Dan Wehling					
Sunday:	Worship Service 9:00 am					
28	²⁸ Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am					