

This Week at VIC

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Today 9/17	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
Tuesday, 9/19	1:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Saturday, 9/23	8:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Sunday, 9/24	10:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch

Weekly Stewardship Focus

Romans 14:7 – “For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.” We just don't belong to ourselves. We belong first of all to God, and, through Him, we belong to our neighbors. We are here to serve God in our service to one another. God has called you to this service through your vocation. As a Christian, you serve others in the church; as a neighbor, you serve others in society; and as a son or daughter, husband or wife, father or mother, you serve your family.

Life Thought in the Church Year for September 17 – Pentecost XVI (Proper 19A) – Surprise pregnancy often comes with complications and difficulties. Terminal diagnosis can involve suffering and sorrow. But our God brought Jesus back from the dead. He makes it His way to wring blessings out of burdens (Genesis 50:19-20). Are we in the place of God, to let abortion or assisted suicide judge (Romans 14:4) someone else's life as hopeless?

Life Quote in the Church Year for September 17 “No matter what our days bring, God is the answer. His love never ends. His strength is our strength. He cares about each one of us in the most intimate of relationships. Through Jesus, we are His beloved children. We are here, in the land of the living, for His good purpose and at His will. Each day is a day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!” *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, D.V.M., Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

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Victory in Christ Lutheran Church



*Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me,
and I forgive him?*

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023
10:00 a.m.

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church
508 Main Street
Newark, Texas 76071
817-489-5400

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WELCOME! We thank God for you and pray that He will richly bless our worship activity together.

Communion: We welcome all of our guests worshipping with us today and pray your faith is strengthened. God's Word declares to us that the bread and wine we receive in the Lord's Supper is the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ given for the forgiveness of sins and nourishing of faith (Matt. 26: 26-28; Mark 14: 22-24; Luke 22: 19-21; 1 Cor. 11: 23-26). When receiving His true body and blood, all communicants are to be united in their understanding and confession of Jesus Christ and all of His teaching (Jon. 17: 22; 1 Cor. 1: 10). An unworthy reception of this gift results in one who "eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Cor. 11: 29). Therefore, if you are still learning Lutheran doctrine or are not part of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you forward for a blessing and encourage you to speak with the pastor *before* the service in order to learn more about our teaching on the Lord's Supper.

Hymn of Invocation: #609 – Jesus Sinners Doth Recieve

Divine Service Setting Three: pg. 184

Introit

Psalm 143:1-2, antiphon 143:9 (English Standard Version)

⁹ Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!

I have fled to you for | refuge!

¹Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!

In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

² Enter not into judgment with your | servant,
for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

⁹ Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!

I have fled to you for | refuge!

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15-21 (English Standard Version)

God's Good Purposes

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Epistle Reading

Romans 14:1-12 (English Standard Version)

Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to the Lord. ⁸For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35 (English Standard Version)

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²¹Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. ²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Sermon Hymn: #501 – Come Down, O Love Divine

Sermon:

Communion Hymn: #634 – The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

Closing Hymn: #851 – Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

Announcements

Lutheran Witness – If you are interested in receiving the *Lutheran Witness*, please let Doug Rohloff know by Sunday, October 22. The cost is \$22.50 for 11 issues. Please make your checks out to Victory in Christ, earmarked *Lutheran Witness*, and give them to Doug, too.

Church Cleaning – Scheduled for church cleaning the week of September 30, is the VanDekerkhove family.

Nominations for Elected Officers – There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for members to submit names for the offices available. The offices available are Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of Christian Education, Chairman of Evangelism, and one position each for Elder and Trustee.

Church Council Meeting – There will be a Council Meeting following the noon meal on Sunday, October 1.

Church Voters' Meeting – There will be a Voters' Meeting following the noon meal on Sunday, October 22.

**The Readings for today –
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Genesis 50:15–21

Romans 14:1–12

Matthew 18:21–35

Forgiving as the Lord Forgives Us

In settling His accounts with us, our Lord acts not with anger but with compassion. He does not imprison us as we deserve, but He forgives all our debts and releases us (Matt. 18:23–27). Therefore, our Lord bids each of us to have *"mercy on your fellow servant"* and *"forgive your brother from your heart"* (Matt 18:33, 35). By the Lord's forgiveness of our sins, we are free to forgive those who sin against us because He has been handed over to the jailers in our stead, and He has paid our entire debt with His lifeblood. Whether we live or die, we *"are the Lord's"* (Rom. 14:8). Since we all will *"stand before the judgment seat of God,"* we are not to despise our brother (Rom. 14:10) but gladly forgive him. By the grace of God, our brother also *"will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand"* (Rom. 14:4). Though we daily sin against each other, the Lord intends *"to bring it about that many people should be kept alive"* (Gen. 50:20). Jesus speaks kindly by His Gospel and promises: *"I will provide for you and your little ones"* (Gen. 50:21).

**A Look Ahead to Next Sunday –
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Isaiah 55:6–9

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

Matthew 20:1–16

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), *"he may 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).