

## This Week at VIC

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
Today 11/19	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
Wednesday, 11/22	6:00 p.m.	Pie Social
	7:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, 11/26	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

**Matthew 25:30 – “And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness.”** Why did the worthless servant act the way he did? Because of what he believed about the Master. He didn't trust or love the Master; so, his actions did not demonstrate love and trust, but rather hate and mistrust. It's the same with us, but in reverse: since we know our Lord God to be faithful and kind, we desire to serve Him and render faithful service with what He has given us.

**Life Thought in the Church Year for November 19 – Pentecost XXV (Proper 28A)** – Many around us despair because the world pressures them into the violence and fraud (Zephaniah 1:9) of viewing death as a solution to difficulty. In the sanctity of every human life, we have riches to spare (Matthew 25:15). Gospel hope and joy are not just for us to possess. Jesus brings us faith and life to proclaim and put into practice.

**Life Quote in the Church Year for November 19** “For it can be easy on Thanksgiving to be thankful for the things, thankful for what we are and have, but thankfulness in faith cries out to God, ‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on me!’ and falls on its face at Jesus’ feet, giving thanks to Christ.” *Rev. Cody Cooper, Guest Speaker on “The Lutheran Hour” – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

*Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* by Julius Schnoor von Carolsfeld.  
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## Victory in Christ Lutheran Church



*He who endures to the end will be saved.*  
*Matthew 24:13*

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
November 19, 2023  
10:00 a.m.

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

Pastor Philip Schielke

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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 worshiping 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: #941 – We Praise You  
and Acknowledge You, O God**

**Divine Service Setting Three: pg. 184**

**Introit**

***Psalm 143:2, 5-6, 10-11 antiphon Ps. 143:1 (ESV)***

<sup>1</sup>Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!  
In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

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

<sup>5</sup>I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that | you have done;  
I ponder the work | of your hands.

<sup>6</sup>**I stretch out my | hands to you;  
my soul thirsts for you like a | parched land.**

<sup>10</sup>Teach me to do your will, for you | are my God!  
Let your good Spirit lead me on | level ground!

<sup>11</sup>**For your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!  
In your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!  
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.**

<sup>1</sup>Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!  
In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

**Old Testament Reading**

***Zephaniah 1:7-16 (English Standard Version)***

***The Day of the LORD Is Near***

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.

<sup>8</sup>And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—"I will punish the officials and  
the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire.

<sup>9</sup>On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold,  
and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.

<sup>10</sup>"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish  
Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills.

<sup>11</sup>Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!

For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off.

<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the  
men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts,  
'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.'

<sup>13</sup>Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;  
the mighty man cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup>A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,

<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

**Epistle Reading**

***1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (English Standard Version)***

***The Day of the Lord***

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no  
need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully  
aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While  
people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden

destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

### **Gospel Reading**

#### ***Matthew 25:14-30 (English Standard Version)***

##### ***The Parable of the Talents***

<sup>14</sup>[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup>So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup>But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he

has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

**Sermon Hymn: #508 – The Day Is Surely Drawing Near**

**Sermon:**

**Communion Hymn: #625 – Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread**

**Closing Hymn: TLH #605 – The World is Very Evil**

### **Announcements**

**Thanksgiving Eve Service** – We will have our Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m.

**Pie Social** – Our annual Pie Social is Wednesday, November 22, at 6:00 p.m. Bring your favorite pie to share and enjoy some fellowship (and sugar) before the Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service.

**Church Cleaning** – Scheduled for church cleaning the week of November 25, are the Higby and Metoxen families.

**Church Flowers** – If you have a special occasion and you want to donate flowers for this occasion for the church service, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. You can either purchase the flowers and bring them for our church service, or you can donate \$50, and flowers will be purchased on your behalf. Please sign-up on the bulletin board and list the special occasion beside your name.

**Altar Guild Sign-up** – Please sign-up to serve on the Altar Guild for the 2024 year. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

**Advent Services** – We will have Advent Wednesday Services beginning December 6, at 7:00 p.m. These services will be preceded by a free will donation dinner provided at 6:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Service** – We will have our annual candlelight Christmas Eve service on Sunday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Service** – This year, we will have a Christmas Day service on Monday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m.

## **The Readings for today –**

### **Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Zephaniah 1:7–16

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Matthew 25:14–30

#### ***God's Gift of Forgiveness Engenders Our Forgiveness of Others***

The Day of the Lord is *"near and hastening fast,"* and it will be *"a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation"* (Zeph. 1:14, 15). The Lord will search out and punish *"the men who are complacent"* concerning His Word, *"who fill their master's house with violence and fraud"* (Zeph. 1:9, 12). Then all their works and efforts will be for nothing: *"Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them"* (Zeph. 1:13). But those who fear, love and trust in the Lord are *"good and faithful"* stewards of His property (Matt. 25:21). They live by faith in His free gift of forgiveness, and they multiply His goods in the loving forgiveness of their neighbor, and *"the master of those servants"* settles His accounts with them by the gracious reckoning of His Gospel (Matt. 25:19). Likewise, *"God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Thess. 5:9). Therefore, let us also *"put on the breastplate of faith and love"* in our dealings with one another (1 Thess. 5:8).

## **A Look Ahead to Next Sunday –**

### **Last Sunday of the Church Year**

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

Matthew 25:31–46

#### ***By the Cross of Christ We Enter the Kingdom of Our God and Father***

When the crucified and risen Lord Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead, *"he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats"* (Matt. 25:32). *"To those on his right,"* who have been crucified and raised with Him through repentance and faith in His Gospel, He will grant the blessed Kingdom of His Father (Matt. 25:34). Having been justified by His grace, they live unto righteousness in Him (Matt. 25:35–40). But *"those on his left,"* who trust in themselves and despise their neighbor, will depart *"into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels"* (Matt. 25:41). Until that day, the Lord searches for His sheep *"as a shepherd seeks out his flock"* (Ezek. 34:11–12). Through His preaching of repentance, He disciplines the proud sheep and goats, *"the fat and the strong,"* but through the preaching of forgiveness He rescues the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak and feeds *"the lean sheep"* (Ezek. 34:16, 20). In this way, He destroys the power of death in the children of Adam by His cross, so that *"in Christ shall all be made alive"* by His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20–26).