



## Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

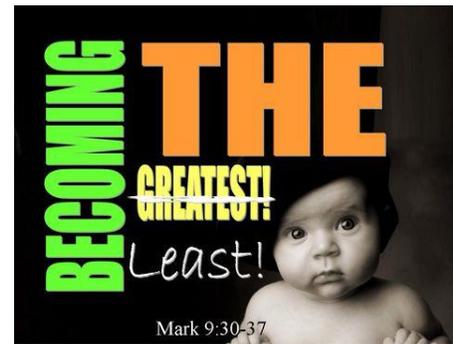
September 19, 2021

*“He sat down and called the twelve disciples over to him. Then Jesus said, **“Anyone who wants to be the first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.”** Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, **“Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes my Father who sent me.”** (Mark 9:35-36)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How many times have you found yourself seeing children as a bother, a burden? How many times do we say, “Grow up! Act your age!” And all the time, Jesus is telling us to step back and observe how children can teach us about the Kingdom of God.

What childlike characteristics does Jesus want us to develop? Is it their spontaneous joy at simple pleasures, their insatiable desire to find answers to life’s questions, their total trust of a parent who has protected and provided for their needs? Whatever these qualities are, Jesus invites us to learn from our children and become like them in order to enter and live in his kingdom.



- **Join us this Sunday, Worship Service . . . 9:30 A.M.** Pastor Doug Gast
  - **Scripture Readings** Jeremiah 11:18-20  
James 3:13-4:10  
Mark 9:30-37
- **Happening Around St. James**
  - **Children’s Sunday School is back ready to welcome all our students**
  - **NEW Adult Forum underway entitled Waiting (see details below). All are welcome.**
  - **New Adult Bible Study lead by Tracy Guffey.** The title is **“Waiting . . . a study on patience, hope, and trust as the Spirit works in our lives.”** This is a timely topic that all of us will benefit from. Join us following worship.
  - **Grief Share . . .** has returned. This a 13 week course that began August 11 and runs through November 3rd. This is a wonderful program of support for those who have lost a loved one and are struggling through the grief process. Time will be 6:30 PM every Wednesday. Questions? Contact Cindy Gregory.
  - **September is St James turn to take responsibility for filling the Community Blessing Box.** The Blessing Box is located at the Greenfield Police Dept. and is sponsored by different churches each month. We are collecting shelf stable products (like cocktail franks, canned meats, cracker filled with cheese or peanut butter. Cereal bars, and Raman noodles. There will be a more detailed list in the September Newsletter. Ahead of time let me express personal appreciation for your generosity and support.

- **Bible Studies**
  - **Women's Bible Study** Mondays at 11 A.M.
  - **Men's Bible Study Gathers** . . .at 9 A.M. on Tuesdays.
  - **Additional Bible Study Opportunity** . . included with this weekly update is a bible study for you to use in the comfort of your home.
- **Continue to Hold our Church in Prayer** as we await someone who can be a pastoral candidate. May the Holy Spirit move strong in our midst & in the heart of the person who will take the reins of pastoral leadership of St James. In the near future we will be sharing in a Bible Study on the Biblical understanding on the blessing and use of times of waiting.

**Greetings from the HMD Council Here are prayer concerns to lift up to the throne of God as we join in prayer both individually and as a church family:**

- Intentional and intensive prayer for Ethiopia during this time of significant political unrest. Pray for the seminary community there which is reeling from a devastating flood that took the lives of 8 people including 2 who were pastors. The flood also destroyed a number of buildings on the campus. The NALC is in a full-communication relationship with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, the largest Lutheran church in the world.
- Pray for Afghanistan - they need urgent prayer right now, more than ever. Please pray for the small group of believers in the country. Pray for the displaced. Pray for the women. Pray for the sick. Pray that the healthcare system will not collapse. Pray that the country will not be a haven for extremists.
- Pray for the Spirit to empower our North American Lutheran Churches for ministry.
- Pray for blessings for the Heartland Mission District (HMD) congregation of House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Elizabethtown Kentucky - including Pastor Pam Thorson, Dean of the NALC Heartland Mission District.
- Continue to pray for guidance, support and strength from the Holy Spirit for HMD seminarian Ben Black. Ben will be spending the next 4 months in officer training school in South Carolina

Thank you all for your prayers.

I can be contacted at [pastorstjamesnal@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstjamesnal@gmail.com), or by phone 317 727-0612, or calling the St James office.

**Yours in Christ,**

**Pastor Doug**