



Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost

October 17, 2021

“So Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that in this world kings are tyrants, and officials lord it over the people beneath them. But among you it should be quite different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all. For even I, the Son of Man came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many.’” (Mark 10:42-45)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is clear today that Christianity can appeal to our softness or to our strength. It can soothe us, lull us into a flabby contentment, and offer us a smooth and easy way. Many today want just that sort of religion. It’s the kind of religion that says, “What’s in it for me?” It puts its focus not on God’s will, but on human wishes. James and John represent just that sort of religion in their request for the chief places in the kingdom.

It is important for us, however to face up to the radical demands of Jesus. This is not something that is comfortable to do; the call is not easy to follow. But as we stand before the entrance to the kingdom, we can present our passport only if we are willing to repudiate past ways and enter upon the radically new way of living that we have glimpsed in the teachings of Jesus.



- **Join us this Sunday, Worship Service 9:30 A.M.**
- **Scripture Readings**
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45
Pastor Doug Gast will be with us today
- **Happening Around St. James**
 - **Children Sunday School invites and welcomes all our young disciples**
 - **NEW Adult Forum underway (see details below) All are welcome.**
 - **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.
 - **New Members Class** We have scheduled a two part new members class called Discovery. We will gathering this Sunday, October 17th and 31st from 3-5 PM. We will get a deeper understanding of our Lutheran heritage and theology, and explore our NALC Core Values, and get acquainted with other St James folks. We will receive new members on All Saints Day November 7th. If you have questions or like to sign up for these classes just jot a note on the Connections Card, call the office, or contact me directly. This is exciting.

- **Coffee With Council** Our next coffee with Council will be October 24th following our worship service that day. This is our time to share the work and the vision of the council since the last time we met. It is also time to ask questions you may have. Our goal is clear and open communications.
- **Blood Drive is coming on Halloween.** Sunday October 31st 9:30 AM to 2 PM. Mark the date on your calendar. You are giving the gift of life. There will be a special gift for all who give. You can sign up in the narthex. Blessings to all.
- **All Saints Day . . .** November 7th. On All Saints Day we remember all the saints that have left the church militant on earth and joined the church triumphant in heaven. We specially remember those who have died in the past year. If you have a loved one who has died in the past 12 months, please write them down on the All Saints sheet in the narthex.
- **Poinsettias . . .** We received the order forms for Christmas poinsettias this week. The order needs to be complete by November 7th. They are \$12 and you can order red, white, pink and marble star. So if you would like to order a poinsettias to adorn our altar area, there is a signup sheet in the narthex for your convenience.
- **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.
- **Looking for Volunteers . . .** As part of Care & Prayer ministry we have been thinking there may be a need to offer transportation to and from church to local residents in the Greenfield area. If you would be willing to serve in this way contact the church office or Linda Hess.
- **Grief Share . . .** continues 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.
- **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:

- Pray for the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) faculty as they form pastors and church leaders for the North American Lutheran Church who will faithfully preach, teach, and live God's eternal truth, through Word and Sacrament, proclaiming Christ's cross and resurrection, and making disciples who will renew and grow the church in Christ's name.
- Pray for blessings for the Heartland Mission District (HMD) congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn Indiana including Pastor Jonathan Hunter.
- Pray for blessings for the Heartland Mission District (HMD) mission of Christ is Lord Ministries and Pastors Salome and Divaker Pathak as they bring Jesus and proclaim the Gospel to people.
- Pray for guidance, support and strength from the Holy Spirit for HMD seminarian Ben Black and Pastor Chris Wendel who are both currently at Ft. Jackson in Chaplain Officers Training.

I ask for your prayers for wisdom, strength of leadership, vision, the building unity and discipleship as I take on the role of Dean of the HMD. Thank you all for your prayers. I can be contacted at pastorstjamesnalc@gmail.com, or by phone 317 727-0612, or calling the St James office.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Doug