

October 31, 2021 ~ 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday

Welcome and Announcements ~ Jan Lapenta

Prelude ~ *"You Are God Alone"* (B. & C. Foote) ~ "Committed" ~ our guests from Grace Bible Chapel

Call to Worship ~ *responsive*

Leader: I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised.

People: The Lord, our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer.

Leader: It's through the grace of God that we are saved.

People: Hallelujah! All praise and thanks to our great God.

**you are invited to stand in body or in spirit*

**Hymn #275 ~ "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession ~ *in unison*

Jesus, we praise you and thank you for your saving grace. We confess that we often go astray to sin. Forgive us, Lord. In your love and mercy, guide us back to you. Amen. (A time of silent, personal prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Responsive Chorus #743 ~ *"O God, You Are My God"*

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways.

And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Responsive Chorus ~ *"I Love This Family"* (arr. C. Bowes)

I love this family of God, so closely knitted into one,

They've taken me into their midst and I'm so glad to be a part of this great family.

Offering Prayer

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture ~ Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Special Music ~ *“And Can It Be”* (C. Wesley; R. Kauflin)

Christian Scripture ~ Mark 12:28-34

Message ~ “Make this a part of you”

Special Music ~ *“In Christ Alone”* (K. Getty & S. Townsend)

Community at Prayer

Prayer Preparation ~ *“Meet Me Here”*

Meet me here. Find me in my wanderings.

Meet me here. Deep within my soul.

The Lord’s Prayer ~ *in unison*

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.

Amen.

*Hymn #649 ~ *“Amazing Grace”*

*Benediction

*Choral Response #616 ~ *“Our God Is an Awesome God”*

*Our God is an awesome God who reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love; our God is an awesome God!*

Postlude

CCLI#2342595/20863950 CVLI#504305417

**Grace Bible Chapel now worships in Genesis Hall every Sunday, beginning at 7:45AM,
and they hold Bible Study in Genesis Hall every Wednesday at noon.**

From Kathy Potter...“Fall Fun Festival 2021 “Thank you, God,for Everything!” was a wonderful afternoon for children, families & volunteers! We had over 30 children with their families participate in Trunk or Treat (with a record number of trunks!), roasting hotdogs, crafts, games & a Bible story on saying thank you!

Thanks to all who volunteered, donated, &/or prayed for this event.

We planted seed. God is faithful to grow it to fruitfulness! Thank you, God!”

There will be a coffee hour following the service on Sunday, November 7.

A Brief Theology of Halloween from our friends at SALT...

The name itself comes from “All Hallows’ Eve,” of course, a carnival-like inversion celebrating the shadow side of life — ghosts and ghouls and such — just before the great festival celebrating the saints. Its deep roots may well include folk traditions of honoring the dead, appeasing evil spirits, and marking the end of the summer harvest and the beginning (in the Northern hemisphere, at least!) of the darkest days of the year.

But whatever its origins, Halloween today is worth thinking about. It’s become one of the most popular holidays in North America (second only to Christmas!), and at its best, it’s a magical, playful night of community-building and neighborhood-making. From this point of view, we might even call it a sacramental glimpse, if only for one night, of how the world is supposed to be: homes decked out in mischievous fun, doors opened to visitors of all ages, a spirit of wit and excitement in the air, and simple, sweet gifts given to children — all children, not just “our” children! — dressed up as heroes and villains alike. Even (especially?) in an age of pandemic, when the night’s celebration requires wisdom and special care, the joys of All Hallows’ Eve are as precious and important as ever.

It’s easy to grumble about “all that sugar,” “marauding teenagers,” “a waste of time,” and so forth. But think of it: when else do we intentionally spend this kind of time together as a community? When else do we do something as a neighborhood that’s this intergenerational? This open to all? This playful, goofy, and plain old fun? When else do our yards and doors open to so many? And when else are so many gifts given out — often by strangers, to strangers — just for the sake of delight?

And there’s an even deeper side to all of this, too: in many neighborhoods, lines of social division — segregated lines of race and class, for example — are often crossed on Halloween night. In such moments, Halloween can become an all-too-brief time of sharing experiences and resources, catching sight of a true “commonwealth” too often obscured from view on the other 364 nights of the year. And what’s more, there’s now some intriguing social science showing a strong correlation between a community’s health and the extent to which it celebrates Halloween.

At its best, then, Halloween amounts to a vivid portrait of what “neighborhood” actually looks like. That alone is worth celebrating. And after all, what better way to honor the dead, prepare to celebrate the saints, and enter together the darkest time of the year than to embody — with equal parts creativity and joy — the “loving our neighbors as ourselves” to which Jesus calls us every day?

Those mini peppermint patties never tasted so good!

Happy Halloween, The SALT Team

Livonia Community Theatre presents... "ALMOST, MAINE,
a series of nine amiably absurdist vignettes about love, with a touch of good-natured magic realism...witty, romantic, unsentimental. A beautifully structured play, with nifty surprise endings (most but not all of them happy)."

November 11, 12, 13, 19, 20 @ 7:30PM; November 20 @ 2:00PM

Tickets available on the **Livonia Community Theatre** website - click on "Box Office"

Masks will be required for all show attendees regardless of vaccination status.

From the Board of Deacons..."Do you have someone or something to celebrate? You can share your joy with your St. Paul's family, help feed the hungry, and honor the person or object of your celebration with a tribute gift to the Board of Deacons Hunger Ministries. Tribute gifts may also be in memory of someone or something, or your donation can simply be a gift to the Hunger Ministries. An acknowledgement will be placed in the bulletin and e-Branch. No set amount is required, and acknowledgements will go in the bulletin as soon as possible after checks are received. Donations may not be made far in advance for future dates. To donate, please:

- **Make your check payable to: St. Paul's Board of Deacons**
- In the Memo line, write: Hunger Ministries
- Enclose a note with: Donor(s) Name(s) and the dedication. (Dedication examples: In honor of the first responders. In honor of our grandchildren. In memory of my parents).

Send the donation with your check and note to St. Paul's, drop it in the secure mailbox outside the entrance, or bring it to the church during office hours. The Board of Deacons appreciates the congregation's generous spirit. Let's feed each other spiritually, and the hungry, literally. May the peace of Christ be with us all."

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers* 

Meta Tulley, Gail Artinian, Ron Frank, Karen Bright, Sheldon Davis, Doris Knecht, Joyce Barton
Pam Phillips, Suzanne Tabaka, Jim & Joanna Roye, Nola Bonandrini, Nancy Saunders
Jerry Stone, Beverly Dearth, Kathleen Warren, Bob Liebertz, Grace Campbell, Susan Grant
Bruce Phillips, Patricia Hutchison, Linda Thompson & her sister, Shirley Kircoff
Finley Farquhar ~ granddaughter of Eric; Rosemary Iaquina ~ sister of Cathy DeSautel
The Dylegowski Family ~ friends of Jan Burgess
Mark Feely ~ friend of Judy McGregor; Glenn Ellan Rubright ~ sister of Mike Graham
Nicole Snead ~ daughter of Bill VanEck; Nancy Kreipke ~ mother of Christian
Rich McKenzie ~ son of Jean; Erin Lewis ~ daughter of Pattie Benoit
Phyllis Badman ~ niece of Georgia Hunt; Christie Piastowski ~ daughter of Karen Bright
Janet Kusuhara ~ cousin of Meta Tulley; Joe Ducsay ~ friend of Mike & Carol Graham; Mark Osborne ~ son of Janet

Diane Calloway & Tony S. ~ cousins of Gail Artinian; MaryAnn Tabaka ~ mother of Suzanne
Eric Tabaka ~ nephew of Suzanne; Cyndi Knecht ~ daughter of Doris; Joe Perko ~ friend of Wanda & Bob Seymour
David Bonandrini ~ son of Nola & Ben; Zoe Marcus ~ friend of Karen Erwin
Gideon Janku ~ great nephew of Bob Westbrook; Judy Siegfried ~ sister-in-law of Pam Phillips
Randy Tillman ~ son of Gloria Rubbo; Leslie Benoit ~ daughter of the late Tamar and Jim Duthie
Mary Rayes ~ friend of Pat Hutchison; Adam Schilling & Eric Shilling ~ grandsons of Ron & Janet Frank
Donald Keller III ~ son of Jan Lapenta; Scott Davis ~ son of Sheldon & Marion Davis

Please review the prayer list and report any changes to the office as soon as possible.