

The Theme of the Church Year – September, 2018

This year in my pastor's page each month I have been talking about the **Theme** of the Liturgical Church Year for that month. The month of September is the season Pentecost, during the Pentecost season the emphasis is to GROW in your faith and this year's theme for our growing is "**learning from God's past about our future.**" As we learn from God's past we are better prepared to stand up against the schemes of the devil and the evil of this world.

So far during the Pentecost season we've learned that the Holy Spirit is working in our lives to make us bold confessors of our faith in Jesus Christ; that through Jesus Christ we have been given a life overflowing with God's love, grace and mercy; we have be reminded of the importance of God's rest that is given to us through His Word and Sacraments; how the Devil is striving to destroy the new relationship that God has given to us; how God is calling us back to the new relationship given to us by the righteousness of His Only Son, Jesus Christ; how we are planted in this area of the world to be the shade and shelter from the evil of this world for others; that the world's view of God's love and truth about God's love for us are quite different; that our relationship with God is not depended upon us but on God; how God has provided for us in the past and will continue to provide for us in the future; that God gives us what we need to fulfill the mission we have been given; that as we hold onto our faith we will grow in our understanding of God's love and call others to come and learn about God; and that even though we live in a upside down world God's Word and Sacraments will enable us to remain right side up and show God's love to others.

God through Isaiah tells us, "**The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.**" Throughout the Pentecost season we have learned from God's past that our relationship with God in not found on what we do, but how we let God use our lives to share His Love, forgiveness and mercy with others. As we let the Holy Spirit work in our lives instead of our selfish self we come to know the fresh joy that is found in the Lord and we give praise to God for all that He has done for us in the past and will do for us in the future.

As we move into the month of September we start to feel the change in the weather both by the temperature and the color of nature. The cycles of the season here in Colorado can be easily seen some years, but in other years it may get lost in the mildness of the season or the harshness of the weather. As we continue through Pentecost this month we will learn more about the steadfastness of God's laws and love for us even when it's hard to find in our lives. As we continue to look at God's past in the Old Testament scripture we will see how we have been transformed by God's laws to be His people, how God is the source of all life in this world, how close God is to us even though we may be going through some rough times in our life. Yes, God is there to protect us in all times and situations and as we let the Holy Spirit go to work in our lives we will find, as He has done in the past, that He will change our lives beyond our expectations.

My hope is that during the month of September you will come to know more about how God provides, takes care of and prepares His people for the love, peace and joy that He wants to give to each and every one of us. During the month of September we will be looking at the Word of God given to us by Moses as he prepared the people to go over into the Promised Land from the book of Deuteronomy and Numbers. We will learn more about God's love for us as He becomes the true source of our life and our protection in this world now and in the future as we read from the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah.

I want to encourage all of you to be in God's Word and the fellowship of one another so that we all can get the full benefits of God's love, peace and joy now and forever. Amen.

Pastor Pete Scheele

September 2018 Scripture Readings

This year we are reading the Bible by following the assigned readings for each day found on the 2018 Christian Reflections Calendar. During the month of September, we will be finishing up our reading in the Old Testament and moving into the New Testament. We will be continuing to read through the book of Ezekiel and Daniel who were written during the time when the Israelites were in captivity in Babylon. We will also finish up some more of the Psalms and move into the book of the Old Testament that were written when the Syrians sent the Israelites back to Israel to rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem, these would include the books of Ezra, Esther, Nehemiah, Zechariah and Malachi. At the end of the month we will begin our reading in the New Testament by reading the introduction of the New Testament in each of the Gospels and then get into the birth of Jesus Christ.

It has been good to work our way through the Old Testament so far this year to remind us how God is in control of our world and our lives just as He was in control of the world during the Old Testament time to prepare us for the birth of Christ.

Date	Reading	Date	Reading
September 1	- Ezekiel 29:17-21; Dan. 4; Jer. 52:31-34; 2 Kings 25:27-30; Ps. 44	September 16	- Ezra 7-8
September 2	- Psalm 74; 79-80; 89	September 17	- Ezra 9-10
September 3	- Psalm 85; 102; 106; 123;	September 18	- Nehemiah 1-5 137
September 4	- Daniel 5; 7-8;	September 19	- Nehemiah 6-7
September 5	- Daniel 6 & 9	September 20	- Nehemiah 8-10
September 6	- 2 Chronicles 36; 22-23;	September 21	- Nehemiah 11-13 Ezra 1:1-4:5
September 7	- Daniel 10-12	September 22	- Malachi
September 8	- Ezra 4:6-6:13; Haggai	September 23	- 1 Chronicles 1-2
September 9	- Zechariah 1-6	September 24	- 1 Chronicles 3-5
September 10	- Zechariah 7-8;	September 25	- 1 Chronicles 6 Ezra 6:14-22; Psalm 78
September 11	- Psalm 107, 116, 118	September 26	- 1 Chronicles 7:1- 8:27
September 12	- Psalm 125-126; 128-129;	September 27	- 1 Chronicles 8:28-9:44 132; 147; 149
September 13	- Zechariah 9 - 14	September 28	- John 1:1-18; Mark 1:1;

Luke 1:1-4; 3:23-38; Matthew

1:1-17

September 14 - Esther 1-4

September 15 - Esther 5-10

Luke 2

September 29 - Luke 1:5 - 80

September 30 - Matthew 1:18-2:23;