

Dear Friends in Christ,

October is here, and it will be a beautiful time for us all in Christ. We thank God that we are able to gather together to hear the Word and receive the Sacraments! This month we have a number of special themes as we worship.

- On October 4th we observe the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. This is a beautiful day where we hear from the Word about how God sends His angels out to serve and protect His people. In these difficult days, it is a joy to remember how our loving Father cares for us in this special way.
- October 18 is the day the Church sets aside to give thanks to God for St. Luke the Evangelist. God raised up St. Luke to serve by writing his Gospel. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Luke recorded so many beautiful things about Christ. Luke alone gives us the details we hear in his narrative of Jesus' birth, as well as the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan. This is a day for us to give thanks to God for the Bible.
- That leads so well into our next Sunday – Reformation Day. We give thanks to God for how He has always looked after the Church. When the Church has wandered from the truth, the Holy Spirit raises up leaders to preach the Word and proclaim Christ. The Spirit did this through Luther during the Reformation. We thank God that He has always kept the truth of Christ alive in His Church and pray that He would always keep us in His Word.

This month I will be with you all on the 4th and the 25th, but on the 11th, Pastor Kaelberer will lead the service and on the 18th, Pastor Hamer will lead the service. I will be on vacation for two weeks and will return on the 19th. If you have a need for pastoral care, call the church office. Michelle will be checking messages every day and will get the word out to one of the pastors that you need a visit. The midweek service schedule will continue as normal during the weeks that I am gone. Thank you so much to these two faithful pastors for serving in the Word here at Gloria Dei!

Sunday School started up again in September. We have a felt board story for the kids after church each Sunday. We have been giving the families materials to take home with them to use during the week. But later in October we plan to have Sunday School classes meet in person again. The families are really looking forward to it!

For the rest of the year I am going to take a break from teaching Adult Bible Class on Sunday morning. Instead, I am going to teach a class after church to the children who are preparing to start taking Holy Communion. This will last about 12 weeks. When they show they are ready, they will be able to start taking Communion. This is an exciting opportunity for the children to be taught the faith. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. We also are going to start a Confirmation course in October for the children who are ready for it. We have a good group of kids starting up, which is exciting! Thanks be to God!

While I am teaching the kids, Pastor Hamer will be teaching ABC. He will teach a class called, "Let us Sing of Christ!" He has an explanation of the class and some instructions for everyone in a letter you will find at the end of my letter to you.

The Youth Group had a nice day together in September to hear more of the Higher Things online gathering. It was an encouraging day for everyone. One exciting thing for the youth is that they will be

starting their own class together on Sunday morning. Heather Seierstad will be teaching the class. Thank you, Heather!

As you can see there are many things starting up with education. This will be a time where we can all learn and grow together in Christ. In addition to the Sunday service and ABC and Sunday School, you can join in the midweek online services and Bible Studies. I encourage you to come to worship on Sunday and be part of at least one of the classes that are offered to you on Sunday or during the week. As we prepare for Reformation Day, we thank God that we have these times to gather freely and hear the Word and grow in Christ! He is our Lord and Savior. To Him be the glory, now and forever!

With love in Christ and in His Peace,

Pastor Horn

Here is the Letter from Pastor Hamer to the congregation about Adult Bible Class:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings!

You might heard the news that I will be leading ABC from October 4th through the end of the year, in part to allow Pastor Horn to catechize some of our younger lambs during this time slot, which will be a tremendous blessing to children and families. As for ABC, here are the specs for Hymnody 2.0:

We will study the text, tune, and context of the Hymn of the Day, i.e., the hymn sung immediately before the sermon. If at all possible, please have a copy of LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK in front of you, wherever you happen to be. If that is not possible, you can search www.hymnary.org for the hymn of the day and pull it up on the electronic device of your choice. And of course, we will need Bibles, preferably ESV for uniformity, or search for the passages at BibleGateway.com. Since I am going to start the class on Zoom for October, I guess we are borderline e-hymnody 101, although I hope to meet in person before long.

For each hymn, you can look forward to exploring the scriptural foundations, as listed at the bottom of the page. You may already know that the passages are listed according to their influence upon the text. In other words, the first passage listed had the most influence, and so forth. We will explore other passages (available in another resource), since the passages listed in the pew edition are not comprehensive. I regret that we probably won't be able to gather around the piano to sing at this point, at least in the way we usually do. But we can mute and sing on Zoom, as we have been doing during the mid-week daily office. And of course, we will look at the context of the hymn, its relation to the Gospel lesson for the day, and much more, always asking how Christ is named, preached, and pictured in our sung confession of the faith. Time-permitting, we will explore other hymns by the same poet and/or in the same category.

The title page of the autograph of Handel's MESSIAH oratorio quotes the poet Virgil: "Let us sing of greater things!" Applied to our study, "Let us sing of Christ!"

Fraternally,

Brian Hamer