

Isaiah 55:6-9 (ESV)

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

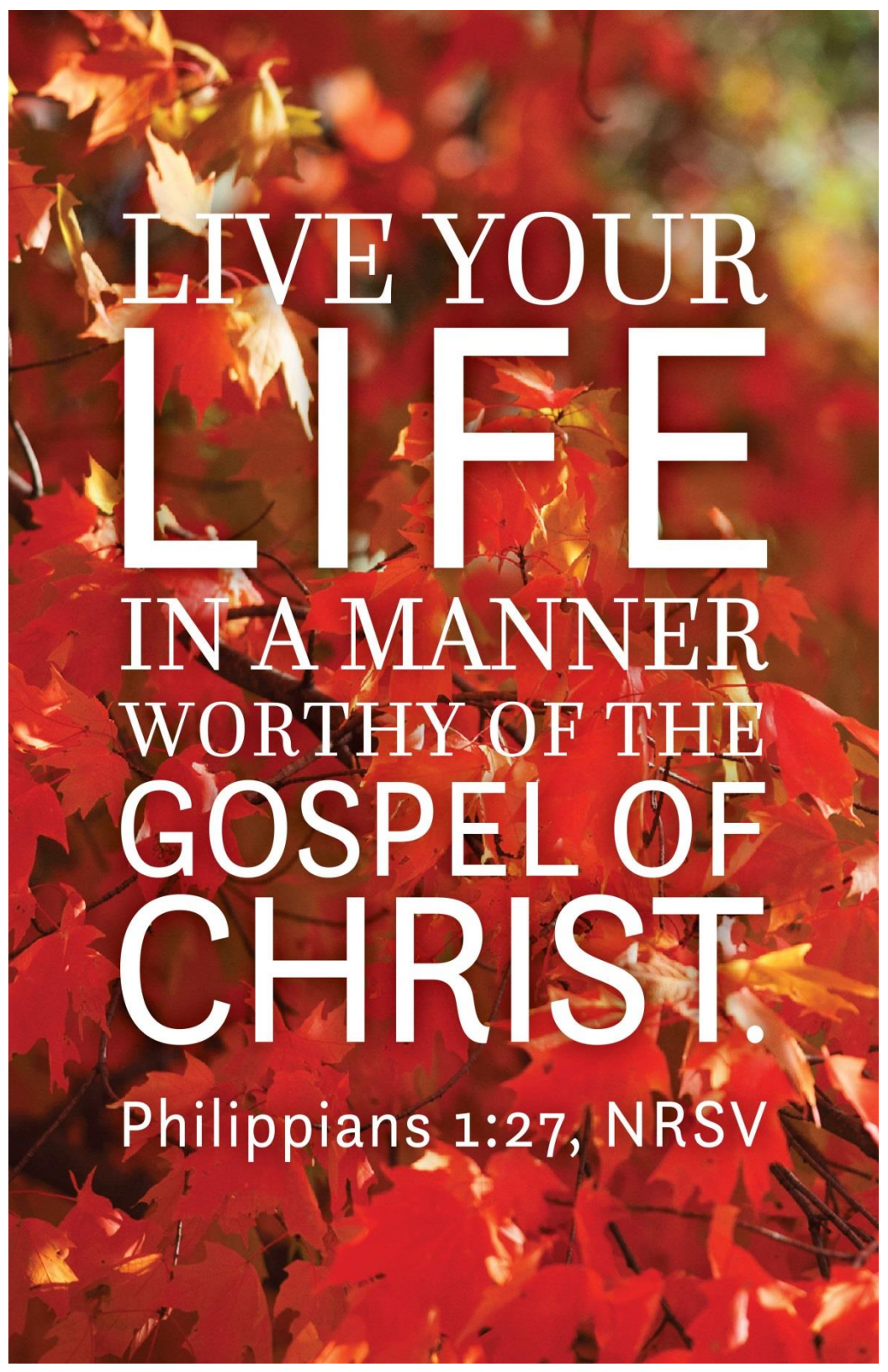
Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30 (ESV)

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by

your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1-16 (ESV)

²⁰“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”



LIVE YOUR
LIFE
IN A MANNER
WORTHY OF THE
GOSPEL OF
CHRIST.

Philippians 1:27, NRSV

September 24, 2017

16th Sunday After Pentecost

Zion Lutheran Church, 17927 Dice Road, Hemlock, MI 48626
www.zionhemlock.org ~ Church Office 642-5909 ~ Pastor Cell 989-964-8722

✝ In the Name of Jesus ✝

Theme of the Day ~ Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ. Those who are sent as “laborers for his vineyard” (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear “the burden of the day and the scorching heat” on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that “he may be found” (Is. 55:6), “have compassion” and “abundantly pardon” (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, “whether by life or by death” (Phil. 1:20), by “fruitful labor” (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are “worthy of the Gospel” (Phil. 1:27).

We are grateful for VLHS’s 40th Anniversary of educating High School students, celebrating with them in the presence of Dr. John Brandt and Mr. Paul Eschmann and the Chamber Choir today. In honor of VLHS’s blessing to educate many students of Jesus, we will have a ***Door Offering to bless Teen Challenge*** after the service, to provide Bibles on an upcoming weekend seminar for troubled youth that they may learn to know and trust Jesus Christ as their Savior.

ORDER OF SERVICE Service of Prayer and Preaching	p. 260
OPENING HYMN “ <i>Now, Thank We All Our God</i> ”	895
SERMON HYMN “ <i>Christ, Be My Leader</i> ”	861
SERMON “ <i>Blessings in Disguise</i> ”	Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30
CLOSING HYMN “ <i>I Am Trusting Thee Lord Jesus</i> ”	729

Pastor	Paul Hauser
Organist	Carolyn Laurenz
Elder/Reader	Dale Rohde
A/V	Brad Pinet
Acolyte	Calista Goward
Ushers	Marc Pinet & Mike Hingston
Greeters	Ken & Grace Knoerr
Altar Guild	Troy and Michelle Beyersdorf

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week – 90 *Needed for The Lord's Work at Zion* \$3,856 ~ *Received for the Lord's Work* \$3,691 = Loose Plate \$85, Envelopes \$2,496 Mission \$82, Maintenance \$228, Teach. Rent \$750, Hall Rent \$50.

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday: Oct 3- Sue Dijak; Oct 4- Alan Reno; Oct 5- Nicholas Coulter.

Today's Memory Verse ~ "Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Psalm 51:9-10

Flowers have been placed on the altar in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary by Bud and Millie Parker.

Retirement ~ Immanuel Lutheran, Wheeler invites you to celebrate with Pastor Larry & Pam Warsinski their retirement on Sunday, October 1, pastor's last worship service at Immanuel. A buffet lunch will be served from 11:15 am – 1:00 pm followed by a punch and cake reception from 1-3 pm. Please RSVP for the lunch by calling 989-842-3459.

Substitute Teachers Needed ~ Bethlehem Lutheran School is in need of substitute teachers. For additional information or if you or anyone you know may be interested, please call the principal, Nicole Frederick, at 989-755-1144 ext. 212.

Chicken Dinner ~ St. Peter Lutheran Church, Hemlock, will have their annual Chicken Dinner on Sunday, October 8, serving from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm in the school gymnasium, 2440 N. Rauchholz Road, Hemlock. Come and enjoy a delicious chicken dinner with all the trimmings; pie for dessert. Donations are: \$9.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children ages 5-12; ages 4 and under are free. Take-outs are available. Take-out parking and plenty of handicapped parking will be available.

Volunteers Needed ~ Work on the parsonage has been mostly completed and we are now looking for volunteers to help clean the parsonage to get ready to rent. Cleaning of floors, windows, ceiling fans, outside windows, cupboards inside and out, refrigerator, stove, etc. We would like to get a group together possibly some evening to do this. It should take no more than two or three hours if we get a good group together. See Irene Kruth as to when you might be available to help.

LWML Fall Rally will be held Saturday, October 7 beginning at 8:30 am at Faith Lutheran Church, 4241 Williamson Rd. Bridgeport. Guest speaker Jen Bagnell from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Ingathering of school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Registration \$6.