

Reading through the NEW TESTAMENT

at St. Michael

Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Father, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

up treasure for themselves, as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. ²⁰Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, ²¹which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you.

Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

2 Timothy

¹I, Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

²To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Encouragement to Be Faithful

³I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴Recalling your sincere faith, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ⁶For this

why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

¹³What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

¹⁵You know that I have been in the province of Asia for long, including the province of Mysia, and I have labored hard, not counting my life dear, in order to finish my race and the work assigned to me by the Lord, so that I may the Lord show mercy to me and to my household of Onesiphorus, because he refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. ¹⁷On the contrary, when

A Workman Approved by God

¹⁴Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. ¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. ¹⁶Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. ¹⁹Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," ²⁰and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from ungodliness."

²⁰In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. ²¹If a man cleanses himself from



St. Michael

Lutheran Church

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS

WELCOME!

- ❖ **INFORMATION CENTER:** Are you interested in Bible classes, Sunday School, youth activities or our J.O.Y. Group senior adult ministry? Stop by the Information Desk in the lobby—we want to meet and help you.
- ❖ **GUEST and HANDICAP PARKING:** For your convenience, parking is located across from the main church entrance and the west entrance door (4).
- ❖ **AUTOMATIC DOORS:** Two sets of automatic doors are available. One is located on the west entrance door (4) and the other is located on the main doors (2).
- ❖ **LISTENING DEVICES** for those who have difficulty hearing the service are available at the sound booth at the back of the sanctuary.
- ❖ **TODAY'S SERMON IS AVAILABLE ONLINE**, along with prior sermons and Bible studies, at stmfw.org/sermons.
- ❖ **ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE** at stmfw.org/giving.
- ❖ **WE VALUE YOUR ATTENDANCE:** Please complete a connect card or visit stmfw.org/iamhere.

St. Michael loves new parents and small children!

- ❖ **WE WELCOME CHILDREN IN WORSHIP**, but if you need it, a nursery for children under age 5 is located in Room 24B. Please ask an usher for directions.
- ❖ **THE CRY ROOM** is our lobby. Please pull up a chair so that you may watch and listen to our worship service.
- ❖ **BUDDY BAGS** are available for small children in the lobby. You may pick one up prior to service and return on your way out. Enjoy!
- ❖ **CHANGING TABLES** are located in the family and women's restrooms adjacent to the lobby.
- ❖ **CHILDREN'S CHURCH** is for children 5 and under during the sermon at the 10:45a worship.

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
October 8, 2023**

PRESERVICE

WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES

Theme of the Day: We are in a section of our New Testament readings where we are reading a lot of Paul’s letters to specific people and to specific churches. This week we read from his letters to Timothy and Titus, young pastors who receive encouragement and mentoring from the apostle Paul. If you were going to write a letter to someone to encourage them in their faith, what would you say?

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

- P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**
- P: When Barnabas arrived at the church in Antioch and saw the evidence of the grace of God,
- C: **he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.”** (Acts 11:23)
- P: Likewise, in the early church, the apostle Paul traveled extensively through all the churches,
- C: **“speaking many words of encouragement to the people.”** (Acts 20:2)
- P: In Paul’s first letter to the church in Rome he expresses his desire to visit the believers there,
- C: **“that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.”** (Romans 1:12)
- P: “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us,
- C: **so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”** (Romans 15:4)
- P: “My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love,
- C: **in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ.”** (Colossians 2:2)
- P: “Therefore, encourage each other with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

HYMN **733**
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past
(stanza 1-3)

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM 10:45a
Indie Wren Voght**

Date of Birth: November 10, 2022
Parents: Joseph and Haley Voght
Sponsors: Megan Thompson and Jonathan Rothenbush

HYMN 10:45a **733**
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past
(stanza 4)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us examine ourselves before God, confessing our sin and seeking His forgiveness. For our minds that are often on earthly things and not on things above,

C: forgive me, O Lord.

P: For being slow to act, and for misplaced priorities,

C: forgive me, O Lord.

P: For being envious of others and discontented with what I have,

C: forgive me, O Lord.

P: For greed and selfishness,

C: forgive me, O Lord.

P: For words or actions that hurt others,

C: forgive me, O Lord.

P: For not loving You with my whole heart or not loving my neighbors as myself,

C: forgive me, O Lord.

(silence for personal confession and self-reflection)

P: Almighty God, in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, I announce to you the forgiveness of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN 8:00a	Our God, Our Help in Ages Past (stanzas 4-6)	733
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HYMN 10:45a	Our God, Our Help in Ages Past (stanzas 5-6)	733
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Gracious Father, Your Son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. Bless, guide, and encourage us in our ongoing journey of faith that we may grow in grace and in knowledge of Your Word. Grant that we may live in peace under the protection of Your holy angels, and come at last to the eternal joys that You have promised; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING		2 Timothy 1:3-14
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ANTHEM 8:00a 10:45a	Still I Sing Alleluia God of Grace	Adult Choir Harmony Ringers
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GOSPEL READING		Luke 7:18-23
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10:45a

HYMN Jesus Christ My Sure Defense **741**
(stanza 1-3)

SERMON "No Shame" **Pastor Goff**
2 Timothy 1:3-14

APOSTLES' CREED 8:00a

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

PRAYERS/THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 10:45a

PREFACE/PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS (sung to the tune of *Ye Sons and Daughters*)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

AGNUS DEI (sung to the tune of *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Just As I Am **570**

Jesus Thy Blood and Righteousness **563**

O Savior, Precious Savior **527**

Let All Together Praise Our God **389**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing **643**

POST COMMUNION (sung to the tune of *For All The Saints*)

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me **722**
(stanzas 1-3)

SILENT PRAYER

Lord, keep us close to You all the days of our lives. Amen.



Go and Serve | Sign Up Today! November 4 at St. Michael from 9:00a-11:00a

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 As we look at serving the world around us and being witnesses to Christ’s compassion, we have three unique opportunities to *Bless His World* as we gather at St. Michael on November 4.



Blessing The World | Globally

Project 216 | Packing Meals

Signup at stmfw.org/goandserve

Project 216 is a non-profit humanitarian food aid organization with the mission to show God’s love by empowering our community to provide highly nutritious food to people suffering from hunger around the world. Our meals are packaged by local volunteers and delivered to those in need with the help of worldwide partners. We need a minimum of 50 volunteers.



Blessing the World | Nationally

Red Cross | Blood Drive - Sponsored by the Clendenen family

Sign up at stmfw.org and click on the banner (or redcross.org or call 1-800-red-cross)



Blessing the World | Locally

Super Shots Flu Clinic (other adult immunizations available)

No appointment necessary, located in the St. Michael Conference Room

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT

St. Michael Lutheran Church
2131 Getz Road 46804
STMFW.ORG | 432-2033
October 7/8, 2023



FALL FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 28, 6:30p-8:30p

You are invited to join us from **6:30p-8:30p in the gym and parking lot** for a night of autumn-inspired activities. Come early for worship at 5:00p and stay for the festivities! With games, hot chocolate bar, dinner, trunk or treat, and plenty of fellowship, this event promises to be a fun-filled evening for all ages. Bring your friends! This is a great opportunity for church members to come together and build relationships with families in our community.

St. Michael needs YOU! Contact Jen Clendenen at Jen@stmfw.org or 492-2996 to decorate your trunk, help with a game, or serve the meal. Can you donate? We'd welcome peanut-free candy, individually packaged snacks (pretzels, popcorn, fruit snacks), apple cider, hot chocolate, hot dogs and buns, or desserts. Please place them under the lobby shelf or kitchenette refrigerator. Thank you!

TRUNKS NEEDED AT SHEPHERD'S HAND

October 28, 10:00a-1:00p

Are you able to set-up a trunk for this fun Shepherd's Hand event? This is a great opportunity to be a part of helping Shepherd's Hand reach out in the city of Fort Wayne, especially if you are providing a trunk for St. Michael's FALL FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL later that evening. With questions, contact Susan Hein at heinsd01@frontier.com.

LWML EVENT AT ST. MICHAEL!

The Lutheran Women in Mission North Zone Fall Event will be **Saturday, October 14, from 8:30a-12:00p**, right here at St. Michael. The theme is "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). Adrienne Bolinger, from the **Comfort Dog Ministry** will be our guest speaker. Registration and breakfast cost is \$6.00. An offering will be collected for the Comfort Dog Ministry. Reserve your spot with the church office or Linda Chapman at 417-3052 by Monday, October 9.

LWML MITE COLLECTION—October 14/15

These offerings are used for grants, locally, nationally and internationally. In the past 80 years, a total of \$28.9 million has been granted to missions in 83 different countries. God is using us to spread His word and love. Please either give cash or write a check out to the church with "Mite Collection" in the memo. Thank you!

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS CLASS (5 sessions)—Luther Hall

Sunday, October 8, 15, 22, 29 from 9:30a-10:30a

CFC is a great class for current members as well as anyone who has not been a member at a LCMS Church and is desiring to join membership at St. Michael. Contact Celine at celine@stmfw.org with questions.

DISCIPLESHIP FOUNDATIONS CLASS (3 sessions)

Sunday, November 5, 12, 19 from 9:30a-10:30a

DFC is for anyone taking further steps connecting into the church. It includes current members and those joining in membership at St. Michael by transfer from another LCMS church. Contact celine@stmfw.org.

FREED FROM DARKNESS MULTI-ARTS RETREAT—October 20/21

St. Michael is partnering with United Adoration to host a retreat designed for all creative types. At this retreat you will be given the space, the time, and spiritual care while dwelling in Christian community with others which is intended to bring you into collaboration and celebration of your gifts. You don't want to miss out on this powerful time of connection and renewal! If you or someone you know is often designing, crafting, making, writing, or imagining this retreat is for you. All ages and experience levels are encouraged to participate. See Stephanie Maxson for questions or register online at:

<https://unitedadoration.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1758970>

GRACE NOTES HANDBELL CHOIR—Mondays from 3:45-4:45p

We have a beginning handbell choir for children from 3rd - 5th grade. There is no cost and all abilities are welcome. This is a great way to get your child started with a musical instrument. Contact Celine Newman at celine@stmfw.org for more information.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH—Sunday, October 15

MARK YOUR CALENDARS—1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of the month

Middle school youth from 4:00-6:00p and High school youth from 6:00-8:00p

Parents of Youth Fall Seminars – 1st Sundays of the Month

Join Celine Newman on the first Sundays of the month this Fall (Nov 5, Dec 3) for a parent seminar for those with youth. Celine will be talking about a variety of subjects focusing on sharing faith with your students. Middle School and High School parents join us from 5:00p-6:00p in Luther Hall.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS! CHECK OUT THIS OPPORTUNITY

Monday, October 16, 5:00p-7:00p (open to public)

Did you know you can continue your Lutheran education after high school, and choose from among universities in California, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin? On Monday, October 16, representatives from 5 of the 6 universities in the Concordia University System and our two Seminaries will be at CLHS to share more about all they have to offer. Join us at Concordia Lutheran High School in the Worship Conference Center to learn about the many programs and opportunities, and how affordable a Lutheran post-secondary education can be!

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP (BSF) FOR YOUNG ADULTS 18-35

St. Michael is hosting Young Adult BSF on Monday evenings from 6:45p-8:15p in Luther Hall. Join us for contemporary Christian music and small group discussion. Discover that the wisdom of the Bible is relevant to every age. BSF is a place to go deeper—to grow in your relationship with God as you navigate the early years of adulthood. Visit join.bsfindernational.org.

REDEMPTION HOUSE UPDATE

We will provide a meal at Wayne Street on November 5 and Fairfield Avenue on October 15/November 12. Contact Candi Luchnenko to provide a dish at 422-2061.

THE HANDBELL CHOIRS WANT YOU!

All abilities are welcome! Contact Celine Newman at celine@stmfw.org with questions!

THE SHEPHERD'S HAND COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER

As a St. Michael partner in ministry, Shepherd's Hand is reaching out in the city by caring for the Shepherd's people, daring to be the Shepherd's hands, and sharing the Shepherd's love. To volunteer, please contact Susan Hein at heinsd01@frontier.com or 418-0725.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF INDIANA (LSSI)

Our Sunday School and Bible study offerings for the remainder of 2023 benefit LSSI. The Cup of Kindness Program, through referrals from social-service agencies and Lutheran congregations, offers supportive services through case management, financial-literacy education and/or financial assistance to help families move toward financial stability. Call LSSI Works at 426-3347.

J.O.Y. GROUP—Thursday, October 12, Noon in Luther Hall

Join us for lunch and a guest speaker for a presentation on the history of Lutheranism in America with particular focus on the Fort Wayne area. Enjoy a luncheon prepared by members of the J.O.Y. committee that will include brats, baked beans, potato salad and topped off with an ice cream bar with favorite toppings. **RESERVE YOUR SPOT by calling Penny Pequignot 580-8730 ASAP.** Cost is just \$5 at the door, and compliments to the chefs are required!

DO YOU LIKE FOOD AND REFRESHMENT?

We are looking to gather all people who are interested in helping to support and further develop St. Michael's service groups that provide food and refreshments in early November. If you would like to be a part of this conversation, please contact Celine Newman at celine@stmfw.org. "St. Michael is a place where all guests, members, and friends belong. We meet people with Jesus' grace, respect, and dignity. We offer rest and refreshment in beautiful and safe spaces."

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Attendance:	Saturday, September 30	132
	Sunday, October 1	441
	Sunday Livestream	87

PRAYERS THIS WEEK

We are privileged to pray for each other. Please notify the staff on your connect card or by email if you would like your prayer needs kept private. Otherwise, we will print them in this publication on a weekly basis.

- **October Milestone Birthdays:** Harry Jones, 10/2, 81; Ron Nieman, 10/2, 82; Lynn Schrogam, 10/5, 82; Mary Nichols, 10/7, 87; Linda Lewis, 10/13, 81; Otis Vincent, 10/18, 89; Ken Springer, 10/20, 81; Frank Helfrich, 10/25, 81; Tom Risk, 10/26, 81.
- **Altar Flowers:** Thank you to Ron and Diane Menze for celebrating the marriage of their daughter Anna to Mr. Jeff Wagner with our altar flowers.
- **Pray for...**
 - Peace and comfort for the family of Nila Goshert at her passing
 - Pray for the mother of Kathy Palmreuter who is hospitalized.
 - Pray for Gary Gotsch as he has a procedure next week.
 - Pray for our preschoolers who are still struggling with anxiety and separation.
 - Pray for Misty Hernandez, that she receives relief from pain and her cancer is healed. Nichole's marriage that her husband would return to Jesus. That all people who have strayed return to the Lord, that we learn to forgive others and ourselves.
 - Bernie Braswell, brother-in-law of Kris McKay, who is near the end of his fight with leukemia. Lynn Weimer, cousin, having a biopsy this week.
 - Larry and Marsha, friends of Ron and Kendra Nieman, who have severe health issues.
 - Mary Campbell's daughter, Mary, who sprained her ankle.
 - Beth Ann Hargrove, who will have foot surgery on October 26. Pray for the medical team who will care for her and her family.
 - Continued prayers for Valerie Hensley; Corbin Lawson, Mary Collins; Audrey Meyer
 - The upcoming LWML fall event, October 14, and the mite collection that weekend. Pray for many to attend and learn more about the Comfort Dog Ministry.

SERVING AT ST. MICHAEL this weekend

Are you able to join a worship service team? Contact Tina Hoover at tina@stmfw.org or 432-2033.

Greeters: Jama Fry, Amy Wills (5p); Dave and Christine Harrison; Tim and Marilyn Crum (8a)
Mary and Jerry Nichols; Terry Hammond (10:45a)

Lay Readers: Mary Leininger (5p); Rich Kraus (8a); Karen Hall (10:45a)

Ushers: Dave and Myra Atkinson (5p); Dave Crow, Greg Caudill (8a); Dennis Brink (10:45a)

Children's Church: Macy and Vaughn Hendrickson (10:45a)

Acolytes: Nevaly Roehm (5p); Jacob Schult (8a); Ethan Loggins (10:45a)

Information Desk: Jami Hahn (5p), Celine Newman (8a), Liz Edwards (10:45a)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday

3:45p Grace Notes (beginning Oct 2)

6:00p Harmony Ringers Rehearsal (8th grade to adult)

6:45p BSF Young Adults

7:00p Parables of Jesus Adult Bible Study

7:00p Resound Rehearsal (Advanced 8th grade to adult)

Tuesday

6:00p Worship Team Meeting

7:00p Church Council Meeting

7:00p Praise Teams Rehearsal

Wednesday

6:30p Men's/Women's Choir

7:00p Dart Ball

7:00p Adult Choir

Thursday

Noon J.O.Y. Event "History of Lutheranism in America"

6:00p Orchestra Practice

6:15p Puppet Practice

7:00p Jubilant Fields Rehearsal

Friday

8:00p Men's Basketball

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Our Lord invites to His table those who have been baptized, who repent of their sin, who believe Jesus Christ is their Savior, and who believe the body and blood of Jesus is really present together with the bread and wine. Anyone who is not yet instructed in the Christian faith or who has a differing belief are asked to first speak with one of the pastors. If you need communion delivered to where you are sitting, please notify an usher or elder before the service begins. Gluten free communion wafers are available by raising your index finger as communion is distributed signaling to the elder that you wish to receive a prewrapped gluten free wafer. Grape juice is available in the purple tinted cups located in the center of the tray of individual cups. Children or adults who have not yet been confirmed or instructed in the Lord's Supper are welcomed to come forward for a blessing placing their arms over their chest.



Reading through the New Testament—Week 40

October 8-14

Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

This week’s reading covers 2 Timothy and the first chapter of Titus. Along with 1 Timothy, these two letters are often referred to as the Pastoral Epistles. That title is often used for two reasons. First, Paul, shows pastoral concern for the recipients, Timothy and Titus. Second, all three deal with pastoral matters involving the care of souls and the orderly conduct of God’s people in the church as well as in the world.






In 2 Timothy, Paul appears to write from prison (1:8; 2:9) where he awaits final trial and execution. It was shortly after writing 2 Timothy, Paul suffered death by beheading instigated by the madness of the Roman emperor Nero. Much of 2 Timothy is devoted to reflections on suffering. Paul urges Timothy to suffer for the sake of the gospel. This is not a wish that Timothy would land in jail like Paul, but an encouragement to be true to Christ even when the price for such fidelity is high. Paul urges Timothy to continue to proclaim the message of Christ even when others would rather not hear it.

Paul’s letter to Titus stresses good works (2:7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14). These references are a valuable reminder that Paul’s stress on justification “by faith apart from observing the law” (Rom 3:28) should not be taken to mean that good works are unimportant or optional. Jesus taught that those who love Him will keep His commandments (John 14:15). In the Pastoral Epistles, and especially in Titus, Paul underscores this truth.

Remember to take a look of the summary of these letters by watching the brief videos from the Bible Project: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/2-timothy/> and <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/titus/>.

New Testament in a Year—October 8-14

2 Timothy 1-4 / Titus 1

Chapter 1  2  3  4  1 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading

2 Timothy 1 Reflect on what Paul tells Timothy to do (and why) in 1:6; 1:8; 1:13-14; 2:-13.

2 Timothy 2 Reflect on the things Paul warns people not to quarrel about in 1:14, 16, 23.

2 Timothy 3 Reflect on what Paul describes in 3:1-5 that are opposite of the “form of godliness” he encourages.

2 Timothy 4 Reflect on Paul's words in 4:1-5 and why he may have needed to write this.

Titus 1 Reflect on the list of leadership qualifications Paul gives to Titus. Notice the similarities, and differences, between this list and the list in 1 Timothy 3:2-7

Blessing the World

Jesus told His disciples, “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Act 1:8

We have a unique opportunity to bless the world around us as we “go and serve” November 4 at St Michael. Join us as we come together to show love:

Globally through Project 216, Packing Meals **Signup at stmfw.org/goandserve**

Nationally through a Red Cross Blood Drive **Signup at stmfw.org (click on banner)**

Locally by offering free flu shots and other vaccines through Super Shots. No sign up necessary.

Belonging in Community

Shame is one of the first emotions mentioned in the Bible. When Adam and Eve sinned and ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they became ashamed. (Genesis 2:25, 3:3-8)

As with Adam and Eve the power of shame is something used to separate us from God and place on us a new identity. Can you imagine what it would feel like to be completely seen? You may be thinking of the nakedness mentioned in Genesis, but go beyond that. Your every thought, intention, action, and inaction. Your finances, and your internet searches, your eating habits, your desires, and your expectations of others and yourself. Go beyond those embarrassing habits or moments that are comparatively easy to talk about and bring to mind those things that you would never mention to anyone.

- Take a moment and think about what it would feel like to be seen in this way and take the brave step to share what that brings to mind for you.

When we think of being seen in this way we often consciously or subconsciously begin to build up walls to avoid having to face these areas.

- What are ways that you build up walls and defenses around areas that bring you shame?

We know that God sees us deeply, but we don't often engage Him in those deep places. You have a chance to do that with each other now. Take some time for each person to hear these words.

"The scriptures tell us over and over that (NAME) you are loved. All those things you have just now been thinking about, God has seen and He has forgiven. Because of the power of His love He has redeemed you and given you belonging and purpose."

What was it like to hear those words?

This is the shame breaking power of God. And in 2 Timothy 7-9 we learn what we are to do with this truth. We can speak to the "Good News" of what His love means for us. In the salvation of the cross and the power of daily redemption that we receive because of it. Who can you share this with today?

THIS WEEKEND'S SERMON OUTLINE

"No Shame"

2 Timothy 1:6-12

Shame or no shame?

- Genesis 2:25 – "The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame."
- Genesis 3:7 – "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves."

The Israelites were out of Egypt, but Egypt wasn't out of them.

Paul's second letter to Timothy

- Paul's _____ letter
- Written from _____
- Paul's death was _____

2 Timothy 1:8, 12 – "So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord . . . I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed."

Paul had no _____. Why? Because of _____.

- 2 Timothy 1:9-10 – "He saved us not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace. The grace was given us in Christ Jesus . . . who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."
- Hebrews 12:2 – "Look to Jesus . . . who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

The joy set before Jesus is _____.

- 2 Timothy 1:12 – "I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day."

Jesus took away our _____, so there is no reason for us to be _____ of Him!