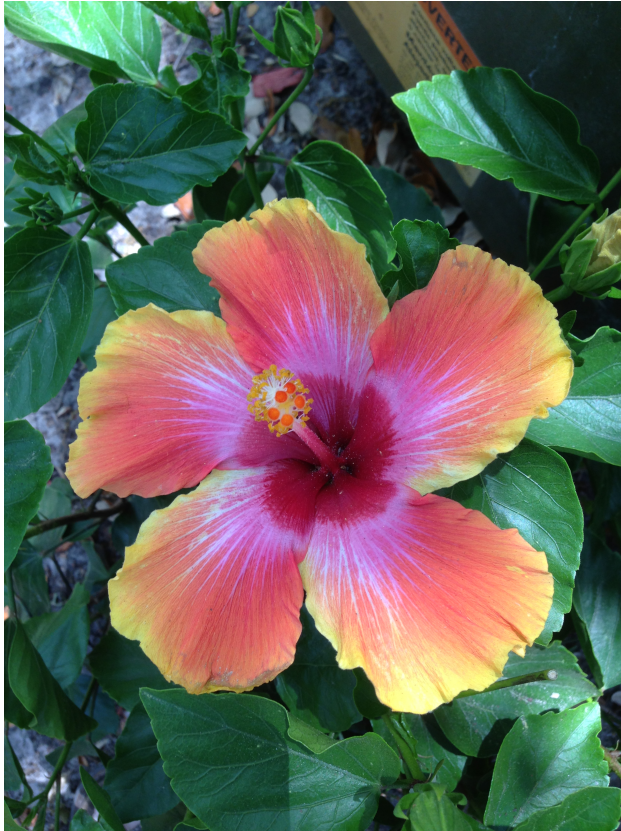


## Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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### Counting the Cost



In the old game of pulling petals off of a flower and saying “she loves me, she loves me not” it is advisable to start with an odd number of petals! Or else all you’ll ever get is bad news!

In the Gospel this morning Jesus is talking about each one of us considering the cost of what it would actually mean to follow Him. While we might give into our emotional drive to join the “team” and follow Him, Jesus encourages us to consider exactly how much it will cost.

It might cost you your family ties, should they not be responsible for their lives and walk away from your faith. It may or may not cost you anything monetarily. It may not even make that

much of an impact. What it will cost is surrendering the choosing the direction of your life to another.

Jesus is suggesting here that being a disciple is more than just being emotional. What He is saying is that it will be moving from a “thinking” proposition over to a “doing” or “being” activity. We will engage in the process, giving the direction of our lives over to the lead of the Master Himself. We’ll all stop trying to do things our way and simply follow Him.

Using our illustration above, it’s more than a flower and a verse. It actually will require us to seek out our potential love match and do things that will actively get the relationship built. It’s not a mental exercise, nor a dream, not even a wish. It is activity that is seen by all people and not necessarily acceptable by even a few.

There will be a cost!

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

## OUR WORSHIP TODAY

### GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements

### CONFSSIONAL PRAYER

Almighty God, we come before your presence this day mindful of our promises to be your people and the many times we have fallen short. We really mean to follow but are so easily distracted by just about anything. The end result of that is the fact we don't do the things we have promised we would do, and we don't even think of the things we should be doing. It is as if our feet are stuck in the mud and we simply can never get a way clear to get out of the mess we are in. For that, dear Lord, we make our confession to you this day.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

### ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our Lord hears our prayers this day, and has offered to give us the grace of forgiveness. As a result of the love of God, the work of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray and celebrate this morning in His Holy Name, **Amen.**

### HYMN 167 The Old Rugged Cross 1+4

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): **Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Alleluia. Let your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. Alleluia.**

**FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 18:1-11**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

The Lord gave another message to Jeremiah. He said, “Go down to the potter’s shop, and I will speak to you there.” So I did as he told me and found the potter working at his wheel. But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over.

Then the Lord gave me this message: “O Israel, can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand. If I announce that a certain nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed, but then that nation renounces its evil ways, I will not destroy it as I had planned. And if I announce that I will plant and build up a certain nation or kingdom, but then that nation turns to evil and refuses to obey me, I will not bless it as I said I would.

“Therefore, Jeremiah, go and warn all Judah and Jerusalem. Say to them, ‘This is what the Lord says: I am planning disaster for you instead of good. So turn from your evil ways, each of you, and do what is right.’”

**THE SECOND LESSON: Philemon vs 1-21**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

This letter is from Paul, a prisoner for preaching the Good News about Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. I am writing to Philemon, our beloved co-worker, and to our sister Apphia, and to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church that meets in your house.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon, because I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God’s people. And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ. Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God’s people.

That is why I am boldly asking a favor of you. I could demand it in the name of Christ because it is the right thing for you to do. But because of our love, I prefer simply to ask you. Consider this as a request from me—Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus.

I appeal to you to show kindness to my child, Onesimus. I became his father in the faith while here in prison. Onesimus hasn’t been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us. I am sending him back to you, and with him comes my own heart.

I wanted to keep him here with me while I am in these chains for preaching the Good News, and he would have helped me on your behalf. But I didn't want to do anything without your consent. I wanted you to help because you were willing, not because you were forced. It seems you lost Onesimus for a little while so that you could have him back forever. He is no longer like a slave to you. He is more than a slave, for he is a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, PAUL, WRITE THIS WITH MY OWN HAND: I WILL REPAY IT. AND I WON'T MENTION THAT YOU OWE ME YOUR VERY SOUL!

Yes, my brother, please do me this favor[d] for the Lord's sake. Give me this encouragement in Christ. I am confident as I write this letter that you will do what I ask and even more!

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, "If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

"But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!'

"Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

The Gospel of our Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

SERMON "Counting the Cost"

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

**SERMON HYMN: 316 Church's One Foundation 1,3,5**

**OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE OFFERING:

*After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

-PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

**HYMN 337 God of Grace and God of Glory 1+4**

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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**WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN!** Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! As a kindness to one another, **please place your cell phones on muted** for the time we are together in worship. If you are a visitor, let us know you are here!

**THE OSLC CHURCH COUNCIL** will meet this Tuesday morning at 10:00 AM here.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Please us a prayer request card if you have a specific prayer request this morning. It is our joy and our privilege to share in these petitions to Almighty God. If you have them ready before the service, hand them to Pastor when you have them completed, otherwise give them to the ushers at the time the offering is collected.

**INVITE A FRIEND:** Our rather informal Fall Membership drive begins in October and will run the balance of the month. Now is the time we can begin to think on who we might want to invite! Our best way to bring others to church with you is to simply invite them. We trust here they will experience the love of Jesus and the reason why we follow Him! If you are not yet a member yourself and would like to tidy up that relationship, just talk with Pastor Jon today!

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Our September Bible Study dates are September 14 and September 21. We do hope you can join us at 10:00 AM each time we gather! A new study will be announced soon!

**Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC**

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Website: <http://www.oslc-lcmc.com>

Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.

Bible Study Twice Monthly, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

**Rev. Jonathon Kosec, Lead Pastor**

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