

THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

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Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

Volume 40 Issue 10 October 2024

The Cab Ride

Twenty years ago, I drove a cab for a living. When I arrived at 2:30 a.m., the building was dark except for a single light in a ground floor window. Many drivers would just honk, wait a minute, then drive away.

Unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door. This passenger might be someone who needs my assistance. So I walked to the door and knocked. "Just a minute", answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor.

After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 80s stood before me, wearing a dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the cab then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm, walking slowly to the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing", I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated."

When we got in the cab, she gave me an address then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?" "It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly. "Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry, I'm on my way to hospice". I looked in the rearview mirror. "I don't have any family," she continued. "The doctor says I don't have very long." I quietly reached over and shut off the meter.



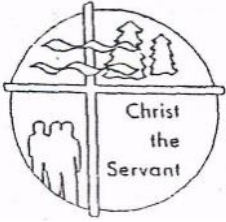
For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived as newlyweds. We stopped at a furniture warehouse that once was a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness.

As the first hint of sun, she suddenly said, "Let's go now." We drove in silence to the address. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. "How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing," I said. "You have to make a living," she answered. "There are other passengers," I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent down and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you." I squeezed her hand.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run or had honked once and then driven away?

We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware--beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

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Pastor Gwen's October Office Hours:

Monday 1-4 PM

Wednesday 2-5:30 PM

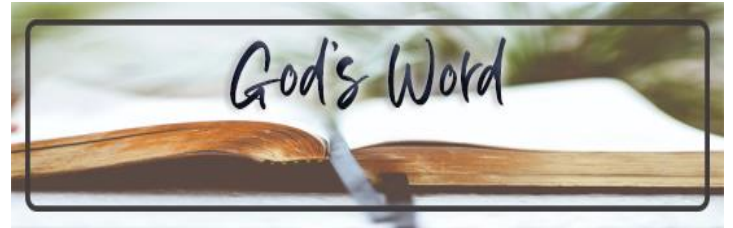
There are no office hours on
October 14th and 16th.



Woman's Group meets every
Tuesday from 10AM -2PM.



Men's Group will meet
Saturday, October 12th at 8AM.



October Bible Readings

October 6, 2024 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson	Genesis 2:18-24
Psalm 8	
Second Lesson	Hebrews 1:1-4 – 2:5-12
Gospel Reading	Mark 10:2-16

October 13, 2024 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

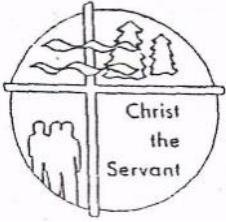
First Lesson	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
Psalm 90:12-17	
Second Lesson	Hebrews 4:12-16
Gospel Reading	Mark 10:17-31

October 20, 2024 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson	Isaiah 53:4-12
Psalm 91:9-16	
Second Lesson	Hebrews 5:1-10
Gospel Reading	Mark 10:35-45

October 27, 2024 – Reformation Day

First Lesson	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46	
Second Lesson	Romans 3:19-28
Gospel Reading	John 8:31-36



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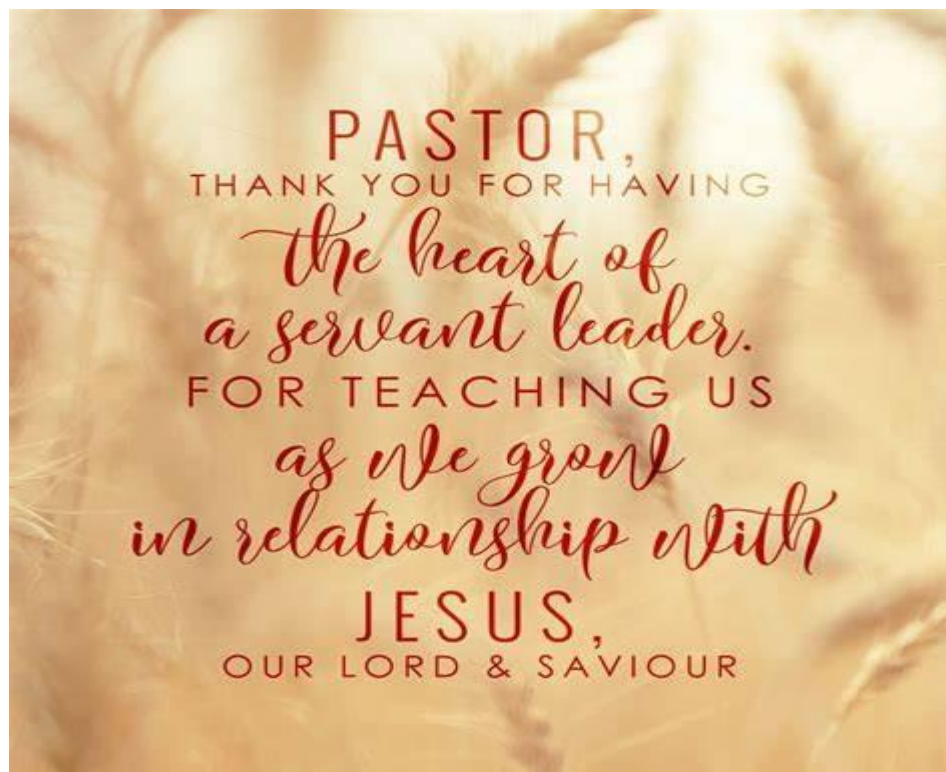


PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE AND REQUESTS IN YOUR PRAYERS.

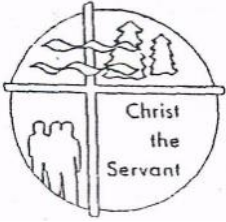
Health/ Concerns: Olivia, Stephanie, Carrie, Meg, Nancy, Bob, Carol, Lori, Mary Jo, Debra, Carl, Autumn, Shirley, Jere, Mary, Leigh, Bill, Robert, Bill, Joe and the Family Robert Hamann.

Military: Anton, Autumn, Ryan, Josh and Natalie.

Groups: CTS Church Council, Quilting Ministry, Men's Group, Adult Bible Studies, CTS Youth, those who are struggling with hunger and injustice in the world, and the Sleep in



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God's Finger Painting

I love when God,
starts to finger-paint...
Autumn's glorious colors
with no holds or restraint.

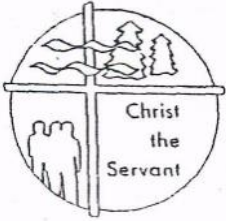
The colors splash about,
vibrant shades of orange-red
mingled with shiny slivers of a
brilliant golden thread.

As the rain begins to fall,
the colors appear to run
smeared across the horizon
as the clouds hide the sun.

The streets get all blotted,
with crispy yellow leaves
as they do their wind dance
to soggy roads they cleave.

I love when God's
fingers begin their painting
it reminds me of the glory....
He has for me awaiting!

<https://poetrybydeborahann.wordpress.com/tag/autumn>



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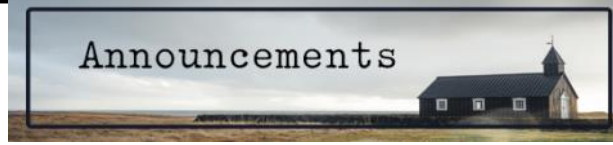
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Announcements



Bible Study: Come and join us for a new Bible study on October 6th and 27th. Watch for details in the bulletin.

Men's Group: Men's group will be meeting over coffee and pastry on October 12th at 8 AM. See Scott Carpenter for a book. All men are welcome to and encouraged to come!

Plastic, Plastic, Plastic: We are still collecting plastic bags and film. We did receive one bench which is outside next to the sidewalk. We would like to get a matching bench for the other side. We will need to collect an additional 1000 pounds.

Sleep In Heavenly Peace: This ministry in Park Falls continues to need donations of pillows, beds in a bag, quilts, and sheet sets. They are all twin size beds for youth, age 4 through 17, in our community with no bed of their own. To volunteer in the ministry, please see the Melvolds. To donate money, see Beth Melvold. Bedding can be dropped off any time in the church office.

The Lord's Cupboard: The pantry could use more volunteers to work once a month on a Saturday morning from 8:30 – 11:00 AM. You must be able to lift 35 pounds and work on your weekend! See Pastor Gwen if you are interested.

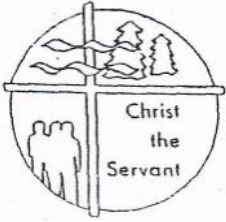
Consecration Sunday: This years Consecration Sunday is October 20th. Look for a special letter from our church council in the mail addressing Consecration Sunday. Prayerfully consider you or your family's pledge for 2025. Commitment cards can be turned in during worship on October 20th or mailed to the office prior. We will bring our 2025 pledges to the Lord during worship. Following worship, we will celebrate with a potluck. Please sign up on the sheet next to the office for what you are bringing. Please join us in celebration and thankfulness!

Trunk or Treat: Christ the Servant will be participating at the annual "Trunk or Treat" downtown Park Falls on October 26 from 10 AM—2 PM. We do have items that need to be put together. Check with Margaret McCulloch or Sheila Noordzy to hear just how much fun we had last year. Anyone interested in helping in any capacity, please see Pastor Gwen.

Sunday School: Sunday School began on September 16th. Ask any of our young people who David and Goliath are, and they will tell you.

Confirmation: We can always use additional voices on Wednesdays during Confirmation. We gather from 4-5 PM if you would want to join us in our study of the New Testament.

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Volunteer Schedule October and November 2024

Date	Assisting Minister	Altar Guild	Coffee Hour	Ushers
October 6th				
October 13th			Herb and Joan Seifert	Herb and Joan Seifert
October 20th	Beth Melvold			
October 27th				
November 3rd				
November 10th				
November 17th				
November 25th				



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