

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
HOME DEVOTIONS - Week #21



Monday - Romans 12 The trouble with being a living sacrifice is that, when the heat's on, the tendency is to jump off the altar! But remember those mercies of God so that you are not only renewed in acting as a Christian but even RE-act as Christ. You are on the altar and the Word is growing.

Tuesday - Romans 13 Submit to the government? You mean I should not only pay taxes, obey the laws, and speak well of our officials but I should do it gladly? Why? Because it doesn't matter whether you think that you could do a better job of governing, for God has given the authority to the government that exists and He wants to bless us through it. Moreover, Jesus asks us to.

Wednesday - Romans 14 The Christian is a free master of all things. The Christian is a willing slave to his brother. Faith, hope, and love use freedom for the goals of peace and edifying, avoiding at all costs the action that will offend a brother. In Scripture "offend" means to cause to stumble or to snare in a death-trap. What are some things that might cause offense? Paul mentions food and observance of days. How about today?

Thursday - Romans 15:1-13 As the Word of God grows in us it does actually transform our lives into a living doxology of praise. Measure your growth today. Write down the measure of how many ways God is being praised in your life today. Compare your measure next week and next year. Pray for forgiveness for failing and coming short. Pray for the blessing of the Spirit to grow in grace.

Friday - Romans 15:14-33 It is the fulfillment of this desire of Paul to come to Rome that you have just heard about in Acts. It certainly, though, was not fulfilled in the manner that Paul had thought it would be when he wrote the epistle to the Romans about three years beforehand. Are you planning a journey? What lies ahead in your life? Pray that the One with Whom there is no tomorrow may so guide your journey that the Word of God grows in and through you.

Saturday - Romans 16 The intimate circle of fellowship is presented to us here in all of its intimate unity. This fellowship is built on continuity in the Apostle's doctrine. It is not an abstract feeling but that personal joy and unity in the LORD'S Word that is expressible in the holy kiss. Nothing contrary to the Bible's teaching is to be allowed to break this glorious fellowship in the Gospel.

Peace Thru Christ

Lutheran Church and School

Pastor: Mark H. Bernthal • Teacher: Miss Claire Abbas
Organist: Miss Pam Schulz

Church/Office (608) 233-2244 Parsonage (608) 442-9986
3232 West Point Rd. Middleton, Wisconsin 53562
middletonlutheran.org

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost — November 15, 2015

Pre-service Preparation: Ps. 125

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Worship Supplement, p. 12

Opening Hymn:	507
Before Sermon:	510
Offering Hymn:	792
After Prayers:	496
Closing Hymn:	505
Antiphon, Ps. 66	p. 37 W.S.

Scripture Readings:

Acts 28:1-31 Luke concludes his book with the Apostle Paul's arrival at Rome and his stay for two years. But even in prison, the Word was proclaimed boldly by Paul. May we, who are free, proclaim this Gospel as boldly as Paul!

Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta. 2 And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because

of the cold. 3 But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. 4 So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live." 5 But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. 6 However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god. 7 In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days. 8 And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. 9 So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed. 10 They also honored us in many ways; and when we departed, they provided such things as were necessary. 11 After three months we sailed in an Alexandrian ship whose figurehead was the Twin Brothers, which had wintered at the island. 12 And landing at Syracuse, we stayed three days. 13 From there we circled round and reached Rhegium. And after one day the south wind blew; and the next day we came to Puteoli, 14 where we found brethren, and were invited to stay with them seven days. And so we went toward Rome. 15 And from there, when the brethren heard about us, they came to meet us as far as Appii Forum and Three Inns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage. 16 Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him. 17 And it came to pass after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews together. So when they had come together, he said to them: "Men and brethren, though I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans, 18 who, when they had examined me, wanted to let me go, because there was no cause for putting me to death. 19 But when the Jews spoke against it, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, not that I had anything of which to accuse my nation. 20 For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain." 21 Then they said to him, "We neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren who came reported or spoken any evil of you. 22 But we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church & School • Announcements

LADIES: Don't forget our Hannah's November meeting will be held this Tuesday at the parsonage at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a passage with the word "praise" or "thanks" in it.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS: Our last study of Important Chapters in the Bible. This Wednesday is Revelation 21---Heaven. Come, study and learn with us! 7:00 p.m.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP: Wednesday, Nov. 25th at 7:00 p.m. Come, give thanks to the Lord!

ADVENT SEASON: The Advent season begins Sunday, Nov. 29th. We will be having mid-week Advent services Wednesdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16 at 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATIONS: We plan to put up the Christmas tree and do church decorations on Saturday, Dec. 5th beginning around 10:00 a.m. Please come and help.

CLC NEWS: 2016 Mission Helper Trip to India – Applications are currently being accepted

until January 8th, 2016. More information and an online application can be found at: www.mht.lutheranmissions.org/2016-india

• Gethsemane Lutheran, Spokane Valley WA, has called the Rev. Michael Gurath, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran, Phoenix AZ.

POLO SHIRTS: Today is the last day to sign up for polo shirts so that we can proceed with our order. If you have signed up for a shirt, please give your payment to John Gerbitz or to Pastor. Cost is \$21 per shirt. Shirts will not be ordered without prepayment. Make checks payable to Peace Thru Christ. If you want a women's shirt, please indicate that on the signup sheet. If you do not indicate that you want a women's shirt, a man's shirt will be ordered.

READERS NEEDED: Pastor is looking for 8-9 men to help read Scripture lessons for our Christmas Day worship service. If you are interested, please contact Pastor.

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church is a confessional Lutheran Church. If you are interested in learning more, please call Pastor Bernthal at 608-233-2244 or e-mail him at mbern@juno.com More Information and Audio Sermons at middletonlutheran.org

on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” 14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. 18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: “Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.”

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church & School • Announcements

PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU! We praise God that you are with us this morning worshipping our Savior. May the message of the Good News of our Savior, Jesus Christ, lead you to come and worship Him again. Our desire is to get the Word of God out to you and everyone we meet; to tell them the Good News that Jesus is their Savior. The message of God’s great love for us in Christ is the only message that saves. We pray that you also trust that message and believe in Jesus. If you want to know more about your Savior, Jesus, or about our congregation, please speak with Pastor Bernthal. Please sign our guest book.

This Week:

Today 9:00 a.m. S.S.: Esther
Bible Class: Training Men to be Faithful Preachers of the Word of God • 11:15 a.m. Choir

Monday 7:00 p.m. B.O.C.E.

Tuesday 10:30 a.m. Bible Class at Artisan • 7:00 P.m. Hannah’s Helping Hands at Parsonage

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Pastoral Study Club • 7:00 p.m. Bible Class

IN YOUR MAILBOX: November Calendar and Newsletter

Next Sunday

9:00 a.m. S.S./Bible Class
10:00 a.m. Family Worship
11:15 a.m. Choir

LAST WEEK:

Worship 44 S.S. 5 B.C. 25

OFFERINGS 11/8 for Unified Budget: \$1,398 \$15 MDF

IN SERVICE TO OUR LORD:

Cleaners this week: Church--- Gbedey/Lentz
School---Bernthal
Counters today: John Birkholz & John Gerbitz

know that it is spoken against everywhere.” 23 So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening. 24 And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved. 25 So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, 26 saying, ‘Go to this people and say: “Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; 27 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.”’ 28 “Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!” 29 And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves. 30 Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, 31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

The Sermon: read/listen to sermons at www.middletonlutheran.org

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sermon Text: Romans 10:8-18

SEARCHING QUESTIONS ABOUT MISSION WORK

I: Does God want ALL to be saved?

II: Do ALL need the Gospel preached to them?

III: What can I do?

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For “whoever calls