

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEK OF OCTOBER 16, 2022

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jim & Penny Cleveland; Jack & Lureen Vaught; Darlene Welsh; Walt & Carolyn Trier

CHOIR REHEARSAL today at 11:30am. New voices are always welcome! The choir will be singing for Reformation (Oct. 30) and All Saints' Day (Nov. 6).

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING with Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador **this Saturday, October 22**, from 9am – 2pm (lunch & childcare provided!).

GUEST PREACHER & PRESENTER: next Sunday, Oct. 23, Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador will be preaching for us and presenting during the Bible Study hour.

TRUNK OR TREAT & potluck supper will be Sunday, October 30, at 3:00pm.

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2023: do you want them? Not want them? How about a year-end giving statement? Talk to Linda LeFever ASAP!

FAITH CARPOOL NETWORK: do you or someone you know need a ride to church? Would you be willing to give someone else a ride? Talk to Vicar Woodhouse! Help one another get to church if you're able—especially as it continues to be darker in the morning and evening!

CALENDAR

Sun. Oct. 16 (Trinity 18)	8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:00am Bible Study/Sunday School/Confirmation 11:30am Choir
Mon. Oct. 17	8:30am Discussion of next Sunday's readings
Wed. Oct. 19	8:30am Matins 9:00am Book of Concord Study (Lg. Catechism) 7:00pm Divine Service
Thu. Oct. 20	7:00pm Bible Study (Genesis)
Sun. Oct. 23 (St. James of Jerusalem)	8:00 & 10:00am Worship <i>Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador</i> 9:00am Bible Study/Sunday School/Confirmation 11:30am Choir

THE BACK PAGE

Both last week's gospel reading and this week's gospel reading find Jesus interacting with Pharisees and Sadducees. We talk about these groups quite a bit, and they appear with some frequency in the gospels, but who are they? What did they believe?

First, the Pharisees. The Pharisees were by far the largest sect within Judaism at the time of Christ, and indeed they appear far more often than any other such group in the gospels. In many of those appearances during Jesus' earthly ministry, they appear together with another group, the scribes. The scribes and Pharisees are Jewish authorities and strict observers and teachers of God's Law in the Hebrew Bible (our Old Testament). They did not control the government or the temple, but they were very popular among the common people, which made them very powerful. The Pharisees believed that in order to live under God's favor, the Jews needed to separate from the Gentiles and return to very strict observance of the Mosaic Law. When we talk about being "Pharisaical" we are usually referring to strict legalism, often with the invention of extra laws and regulations to ensure proper obedience to God's Word.

The Sadducees were the second largest sect within Judaism at the time of Christ. They also held strictly to God's Law, but they did not accept the traditions of the scribes and Pharisees. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection, angels, or spirits of any kind. Although they followed the Law very carefully, they only adhered to the Pentateuch (the first five books of the OT), and not the entire Hebrew Bible. This is why it is so significant that Jesus chooses to teach them about the resurrection using a passage from Exodus rather than one of the prophets (Luke 20). Finally, the Sadducees did not have the same longing for the Messiah that the other Jewish groups did, which may have been a result of their denial of the resurrection.

Hopefully this is helpful! It's easy to skim over who Jesus is actually talking to in His preaching and teaching—but knowing who's who and what's what can help us understand and appreciate the message even more. As always, send along your questions—I'm more than happy to answer them on an upcoming Back Page!