

TOGETHER IN CHRIST



September 24, 2026

God Pause Devotional

Brought to you by alumni of Luther Seminary

By: Terrance L. Stratton '73 M.Div, '93 D.Min.



Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him,

This Week at OSLC

Thursday, September 24th

9:00-12:00pm / Parents' Morning Out
5:30-6:30pm / Worship and Music Meeting
6:15-7:05pm / Choir Practice

Friday, September 25th

8:00-9:00am / Mens Bible Study (Zoom)
9:00am / Preacher's 'Tiquers (Bedford Trip)

Saturday, September 26th

9:00am-12:00pm / **Congregational Retreat**

Sunday, September 27th

8:45am / Adult Sunday School
10:00am / Worship with Eucharist
11:15am / G.I.G Potluck and Program
3:00-5:00pm / Eklesia & CYP - Movie Night

Monday, September 28th

All Day / VA Ministerium in VA Beach

Tuesday, September 29th

9:00-12:00pm / Parents' Morning Out
All Day / VA Ministerium in VA Beach

Wednesday, September 30th

9:00-12:00pm / Parents' Morning Out
Ends at 12pm / VA Ministerium in VA Beach

Thursday, October 1st

9:00-12:00pm / Parents' Morning Out
10:00-Noon / The Common Cup Coffee Hour
6:15-7:05pm / Choir Practice

Friday, October 2nd

8:00-9:00am / Men's Bible Study (Zoom)

Saturday, October 3rd

8:00-2:00pm / **Lord's Acre Sale @ OSLC**
11:00am-12:00pm / Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4th

8:45am / Adult Sunday School
10:00am / Worship with Eucharist
11:15am / Fellowship After Worship
2:30-3:30pm / Interfaith Discussion Group

but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Devotion:

In the first part of the gospel reading Jesus catches the religious leaders in their own trap. They want to know how Jesus dares to be so uppity as to teach and preach without their stamp of approval. And besides, he seems to speak for God instead of citing the proper authorities. Jesus just leaves them puzzled, but the people sensed that he spoke with the voice of God. The people could feel God asking them to trust God's love and grace, so they followed. Jesus' teaching didn't fit some safe pattern that the religious leaders expected. God's love is like that. It doesn't fit safe patterns, but it is abundant and free, and it comes to us out of pure grace. God asks us to trust this extravagant, forgiving grace as we love God, God's good creation, and all of God's people.

Prayer:

Extravagant God Thank you! Amen.



OSLC Ministry Corner



Congregational Retreat
Sept 26th / 9am-12pm

On Saturday, September 26th from 9-12pm, the entire congregation is invited to continue their work in building the mission statement that will represent us well today and into tomorrow. The group will also be presented with a new updated logo and branding for the church for their consideration.



G.I.G Potluck and Program
Sept 27th / During Fellowship

This years theme will be around Whole Health. In this first installment we will venture into "Communal Equality: Welcoming Neural Diversity"

Bring a dish to share and stay for the fruitful time of conversation and learning led by our own Nathaniel Porter.



"There never yet have been, nor are there now, too many good books."
Martin Luther

For Life's Ups and Downs

"Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long."

Psalms 25:1-9

Our God straightens our path ahead.

Christ wears the path underfoot, marking the way to follow.

The Holy Spirit lights the path and guides our steps as we journey.

Therein we are led to truth and salvation.

In the comforting presence of our Lord that is with us each step along the way.

Until the faithful day that we reach the kingdom that is to come.

- PJ

Want to talk or in need Pastoral Care?



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**Our Saviour
Lutheran Church**
Serving God's Community through
Worship, Outreach and Fellowship

Always Remember Who and Whose You Are