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## From the Pastor's Desk by Pastor Maxwell Whitehead

*"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard....<sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup> They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ...<sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage."* - Matthew 20:1, 6-7

Last week, the 17th Sunday after Pentecost, we heard Jesus' parable of the master in the vineyard. A quick recap: The master hires people at varying times in the day and then pays them all the same. This upsets those that were working the longest, but the master does not care because it's his money and he chooses to be generous.

There are so many things going on in that parable, but for the sake of this moment, let us look at the people who were hired last. The master asks, "why are you standing here idle all day?" They reply, "Because no one has hired us."

And then the master hires them. No more questions, no background check. The master just wants them in his vineyard knowing full well that he is going to give them an entire day's pay for just an hour of work.

So often we see people standing idle, that is, not having or hearing the promise that the master has for us. I'd say that all of you reading this have likely been in the vineyard for some time. If you are new to the vineyard - the folds of Christianity, God's flock - then welcome! We are glad you are here. But we tend to see the people standing idle and instead of hiring them to come and work, instead of telling them, "hey, come join us in the kingdom," we look on and simply think, "they must not want to be working."

We then play the role of the manager of the vineyard and decide who the master should hire.

John Doe has never been to church, he probably wouldn't be comfortable here with us. Or Jane Doe seems too busy, she probably doesn't have time for God. Or how about this, "it's so great when we have the church full of people, I wish it were always this full."

We are called to invite all the people into the vineyard! We get in our own way so often trying to qualify who should receive the call. The master of the vineyard does not see the people sitting idle and think "you must not have been hired for a reason," or "you are not great friends with a few of the others that I have already hired, I do not want you."

God's Word is for all those with ears to hear. Plus, it is His Word and He will do with it as He pleases. Therefore, let us be equipped with that Word and spread it boldly. If you are not comfortable giving the word of promise yourself, give an invitation to a place where the Word will get heard - worship, bible study, etc. Let us go without question to hire laborers for God's vineyard. Our payment is safe, no one can take that away. Let us share the love, mercy, and forgiveness that God has given us with those who stand idle.

This is most certainly true.

*Pastor Maxwell Whitehead*

# October Calendar

## Sunday, October 1

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)

## Wednesday, October 4

2:00 PM Bible Study  
3:45 PM Jr. VCIS  
5:30 PM Confirmation  
7:00 PM VCIS  
7:00 PM Council Mtg

## Saturday, October 7

9:00 AM Church Workday

## Sunday, October 8

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service (traditional)

## Wednesday, October 11

2:00 PM Bible Study  
3:45 PM Jr. VCIS  
5:30 PM Confirmation  
7:00 PM VCIS

## Sunday, October 15

10:30 AM Joint Worship Service/Fall Festival

## Wednesday, October 18

2:00 PM Bible Study  
3:45 PM Jr. VCIS  
5:30 PM Confirmation  
7:00 PM VCIS

## Sunday, October 22

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)

## Wednesday, October 25

2:00 PM Bible Study  
3:45 PM Jr. VCIS  
5:30 PM Confirmation  
7:00 PM VCIS

## Sunday, October 29

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service (Contemporary)  
6:00 PM Book Study with Ellie

## Worship Helpers

### Sunday, October 1 (Communion)

Reader ..... Samantha Bjerke  
Acolyte/Communion Helper ..... Anna Jo  
Live Stream ..... Maxx  
Organist/Pianist ..... Melanie Parsons

### Sunday, October 8 (Traditional)

Reader ..... Belinda Holm  
Acolyte ..... Grace  
Live Stream ..... Maxx  
Organist/Pianist ..... Melanie Parsons

### Sunday, October 15 (Communion)

Reader ..... Tyler Bjerke  
Acolyte/Communion Helper ..... Piper

Live Stream ..... Maxx  
Organist/Pianist ..... Melanie Parsons

### Sunday, October 23 (Contemporary)

Reader ..... Matt Wirth  
Acolyte ..... Quinn  
Live Stream ..... Maxx  
Organist/Pianist ..... Kayla Mehlhaf

### Sunday, October 29 (Communion)

Reader ..... Sharon Wirth  
Acolyte/Communion Helper ..... Curtis  
Live Stream ..... Maxx  
Organist/Pianist ..... Melanie Parsons

## Committee's of the Month

The committee reads Scriptures on Sundays each month. Confirmed youth of members are included. List of duties are on the bulletin board.

### October

Matt & Sharon Wirth  
Shelley Wray  
Chad & Belinda Holm  
Tyler & Sam Bjerke

### November

Josh & Kristie Huth,  
Jay & Melanie Parsons,  
Ellie Whitehead,  
Troy & Amy Lee,  
Neal & Jenny Hanson

### December

Mike & Laura Stevens,  
Evan Stevens,  
Les Sampson

# October Scripture Readings

**Oct 1** - Exodus 17:1- 7, Psalm 25:1- 9, Philippians 2:1- 13, Matthew 21:23- 32

**Oct 8** - Exodus 20:1- 4, 7- 9, 12- 20, Psalm 80:7- 15, Philippians 3:4b- 14, Matthew 21:33- 46

**Oct 15** - Exodus 32:1- 14, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1- 9, Matthew 22:1- 14

**Oct 22** - Exodus 33:12- 23, Psalm 96:1- 9, (10- 13), 1 Thessalonians 1:1- 10, Matthew 22:15-22

**Oct 29** - Deuteronomy 34:1- 12, Psalm 1, 1 Thessalonians 2:1- 8, Matthew 22:34-46



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS  
YOU ARE APPRECIATED

## Looking Ahead To November

### Wednesday, November 1

2:00 PM Bible Study  
3:45 PM Jr. VCIS  
5:30 PM Confirmation  
7:00 PM VCIS  
7:00 PM Council Mtg

### Sunday, November 5

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)

### Wednesday, November 8

2:00 PM Bible Study  
3:45 PM Jr. VCIS  
5:30 PM Confirmation  
7:00 PM VCIS

### Sunday, November 12

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service (traditional)

## CHURCH WORKDAY at OSLC



We have a bunch of work to do around the property and inside the Parish Hall. We'll be tackling these projects on October 7 at 9:00AM. All welcome!



## Our Thrivent Projects!

We have just two projects for which we are seeking funding assistance:

1. The VCIS Haunted House Fundraiser
2. Parsonage Touch-ups

To learn how you can help, please scan the QR code or visit:

<https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams>



## DEADLINE

The November Newsletter Deadline is October 24. Submissions after the deadline are not guaranteed inclusion into the newsletter. **Please submit all articles and information on time. Thank you!**





JR. VCIS kids doing some service work and enjoying s'mores after school.



Sunday School singing on Rally Day

We are back to Wednesday evenings and are in full swing! VCIS is an opportunity for the youth of our congregations and community to gather together in fellowship, service, and scripture. This year we have implemented some new plans!

Each week we rotate between being an evening of service or an evening focused on Scripture. While it is still nice out, we have spent the evenings playing together in the lot next to the Parish Hall as well as sitting around a fire and hammocking in the new outdoor fellowship area on the northeast side of the Hall. We have consistently had 12-15 kids showing up to spend time together!

Our first week of service was simple: move 30-40 chairs for the people of Our Savior's. Our focus on Scripture has had us diving into what the Bible tells us about worship and what we need in our own worship services. As the fall carries on and leaves begin to fall, it is likely we will spend service time doing some raking and fall clean up for people. If you have a service project we could tackle in an evening or perhaps over a couple Wednesday evenings, let me know!

One of the big things this group has done over the past 2 years is go on mission trips. I am excited to officially announce our plan for the next 2 years! Summer 2024: Mission at Home. Everything we have done on the mission trips can/need to be done here in our own community. The kids have all said it. So we are going to make it happen. The details are still being ironed out, but the plan is for this Mission at Home to happen in June of 2024. We are very excited to take a week devoted to serving the community here at home!

Summer 2025: YouthWorks High School and Up. The past 2 mission trips have been a mix of high school and middle schoolers. Summer 2025 will be for the class of 2025 through the class of 2029. The destination will be either South Texas or Puerto Rico, this will be decided later. As the trip is designed for high schoolers, the kids will get a slightly different experience than their past 2 trips. On behalf of the Youth, I'd like to thank everyone for their support of this ministry that we are joined together in! We look forward to the growing faith, fellowship, and service that the future holds for us.

Peace be with you all!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGING



The OSLC Sunday School will be singing in church for Harvest Festival on Oct. 15th. There will be Sunday School that Sunday.

## Flamingo A Friend!

Help support the VCIS Mission At Home by Flamingo-ing a Friend!

Cost:

- ✿ \$30 to send the flock,
- ✿ \$15 to have them removed,
- ✿ \$5 to find out who sent them.

Contact Pr. Max to schedule!

