

THE PLAN

Part 3: • Sept. 11, 2017 - • Jan. 7, 2018



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Learning about God's Plan for Salvation
at South Shore Trinity Lutheran Church

“Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School” © Lutheran Hour Ministries

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South Shore Trinity’s Bible Reading schedule Fall 2017

In the Fullness of Time

In Galatians chapter 4, Saint Paul says, “*But when the fullness of time had come*, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” (ESV)

In those God-inspired words Saint Paul talks to those who might be tempted to see Jesus as just some purveyor of positive thoughts who shone for a few years in a backwater province of Rome. Saint Paul’s words explain that the truth is the exact opposite. “But when the fullness of time had come...” tells us that everything about Jesus and His mission had been planned. He came to a very specific time, from very specific family line, and worked His entire life for one very specific task: our salvation. God worked through sinful people to bring mankind to that exact spot in history so that His sinless Son could save all humanity.

That’s what we read about all last year. The plan of salvation began in Genesis when the human race fell into sin and God promised a Savior. That Savior was later prophesied to come from Abraham’s line. That promise seemed threatened when Abraham’s great-grandchildren ended up becoming slaves in Egypt; but even in slavery Scripture shows that God was working. He preserved His people, and His plan, through 400 years of captivity. Then when the time was right He used Moses to free the Israelites and deliver them to the promised land.

In that Promised Land, God’s people turned their back on Him over and over again although He never turned His back on them. Even when He punished them, the main goal was always to bring them back to faith in Him. The Bible shares examples, such as the time when Israel ignored God’s final warnings and He sent them into exile. Amazingly, God still remembered His people and repeated His promise to send a Savior through them. Every single event, and person that we read about in the Old Testament shows how God moved His plan precisely to the exact place where it would accomplish His purposes.

With that in mind, and as we begin the New Testament, it is important for us to know that over 400 years have come and gone since we finished the book of Nehemiah back in May. God has been silent during those years while, on the world’s stage, great leaders and monstrous armies had come and in their passing, had left a changed world in their wake. Alexander the Great was the first to conquer most of the known world. The scope of his conquest made Greek culture and language the common denominator of people all over the Mediterranean. For a while a Jewish revolt led by the Maccabee family ruled the area. Their reign was cut short however when the great Roman general, Pompeii, swept through the region and brought Jerusalem and all of the Eastern Mediterranean under Roman rule.

With God being silent and foreign nations using Israel as their super highway, it might have seemed as if God had forgotten His people, or at the very least forgotten His plan of salvation, but nothing could have been further from the truth. As we pick up the Biblical narrative, God’s word once again speaks about His Son’s entrance into this world. It is important to realize that this is the moment all of the Old Testament had been moving toward. For many reasons God chose this exact time to fulfill His plan. Among those reasons would be listed: this was a time when a majority of the known world was linked by a common language because of Alexander the Great; it was a time when the Empire of Rome had created peace throughout the Mediterranean; it was a time when Roman roads and trade routes crisscrossed the world from Spain to China and from Russia to Africa. Language, roads and routes that would soon allow the Gospel to be exported to the four-corners of the earth.

So, as you begin reading the historical account of our Savior’s life and work, know that it did not happen in a vacuum. All of human history and especially the accounts we read about in the Old Testament, have led up to Christ’s coming. God worked throughout history to save His people through His Son, which is why we read: “when the fullness of time had come.”

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Week 36 – A little prophecy or two:

All of human history has been leading up to the coming of the Messiah. However, not only does the historical record lead us to the Messiah birth, so do hundreds of prophecies in God’s Word. Through the prophets God spoke to Israel and the world. The message was a constant call to repentance accompanied by information on how to identify the Messiah when he arrived. This week we are going to look back at just a few of the Old Testament prophecies that point to Christ.

Every one of these promises was made more than 400-years before the Bethlehem birth and some of them go all the way back to the fall into sin. No matter their age, all of them are laser-focused on the coming Messiah.

- September 11, 2017 – Genesis 3:15 and Genesis 17:19 – The Messiah is promised and then promised to come through Abraham’s descendants.

- September 12, 2017 – Jeremiah 23:1-8 – God will raise up a righteous branch; the Messiah

- September 13, 2017 – Isaiah 9:1-7 – The Messiah will be the Prince of Peace

- September 14, 2017 – Daniel 9:24-27 – The time is predicted for the Messiah to be born

- September 15, 2017 – Isaiah 42:1-9 – God will make a new covenant with His people through the Messiah.

- September 16, 2017 – Psalm 22:1-18 – David talks of his descendant who will be crucified for the world.

- September 17, 2017 – Isaiah 53:1-12 – Jesus’ sacrificial work was prophesied long before He came into the world.

If you didn’t get to see the final videos of “Stuff they didn’t teach me in Sunday school” for the Old Testament, it is highly recommended that you take a look at them. They are a great resource to understanding the world into which Jesus was born.

- Episode 102: It's Intermission - Scenery Change!
- Episode 103: The Movers and Shakers
- Episode 104: Watching for a King Who'll Never Come

These videos can be found on www.lhmmen.com under the “Shorts” heading or there is a link at www.messiah-lutheran.org under “The Plan” page.

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Week 37 – The Savior is announced:

God’s plan has been unfolding for millennia and now it is finally coming to its culmination. As you read last week, God has been telling people about His plan of redemption since the fall into sin and now the Savior is finally here. Even so, before Jesus arrived God needed to put a few last things into place.

The first item which sets the stage is the birth of the forerunner of the Messiah. This person is born so that He could be a flashing street sign pointing people to the Savior.

The second matter which needed attention was the finding of the Savior’s birth mother and a step-father who were both descended from David, and, further back in time, Abraham. We will begin reading about these last preparations for the Savior and about the Savior’s arrival in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These books are called *Gospels* and are the first four books of the New Testament. They were all written by Apostles, or people who got their information directly from the Apostles, and each one focuses on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus from different angles and in different ways. We will spend most of our time in the gospels of Luke and John. Now, having said the rule, here is an exception to that rule: when Matthew and Mark offer information that which does not appear in Luke and John, we will look to them for help.

Please note: on some days we will start our readings with a short verse or two from the Old Testament. This is done in order to emphasize the connections between the promises which God had made in the past with the fulfillment of those promises in Christ.

With that, let’s begin looking at what the whole Old Testament was leading up to...

- September 18, 2017 – Genesis 1:1-1 – The Triune God creates the world
John 1:1-18- Who is this Jesus, AKA “The Word”
- September 19, 2017 – Isaiah 40:3-5 – A voice of one crying in the wilderness
Luke 1:1-25 – John the Baptist’s birth is foreshadowed
- September 20, 2017 – Isaiah 7:14 – The sign of the virgin birth predicted
Luke 1:26-38 – Mary is given a “little” surprise.
- September 21, 2017 – Luke 1:39-56 – A faithful response to wonderful, but hard news
- September 22, 2017 – Luke 1:57-80 – The voice crying in the wilderness is born, AKA “John the Baptist”
- September 23, 2017 – Matthew 1:1-17 – The Plan’s path from Abraham to Jesus through Joseph’s side of the family. (Mary’s lineage is in Luke chapter 3)
- September 24, 2017 – Matthew 1:18-25 – Joseph is told Mary’s child is from God.

This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:

- September 18 Reading - **Episode 135: He Came to Camp Out**
- September 19 Reading - **Episode 129: A New Gospel, a New Approach**
- September 20 Reading - **Episode 130: The Christmas Story**
- September 24 Reading - **Episode 124: A Man’s Christmas Story**

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Week 38 – “Christmas time is here!”:

To many people the account of the first Christmas has been over shadowed by toys, trees and parties. When we hear the word “Christmas” instead of mangers, shepherds and angels, we often think of the endless competition to find the perfect gift and the constant struggle to shoehorn event after event into our calendars. With all that activity and focus on material things something very important can get lost. In all the commotion we often lose sight of the fact that we already have the greatest Gift, God's Son, Who was given at just the perfect time.

In order to help us refocus our Christmas and our daily lives, this week we will celebrate Christmas in September. It all begins with God’s Son being sent to a little town in the middle of nowhere to fulfill a prophecy and a promise. The prophecy was that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem and the promise said God would send a Savior through Abraham’s descendants. Both of which these came true in a most wonderful and a terribly tragic way.

- September 25, 2017 – Micah 5:2-5 - The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.
Luke 2:1-20 – Jesus, the Messiah, is born

- September 26, 2017 – Isaiah 40:1-2 – This is the consolation Simeon is waiting for.
Luke 2:21-40 – Jesus is presented at the temple

- September 27, 2017 – Isaiah 60:6 – They will come with gold and incense
Matthew 2:1-12 – The Magi arrive and Jesus and His family flee to Egypt.

- September 28, 2017 – Hosea 11:1 – God called Israel out of Egypt and now He calls His Son
Matthew 2:13-23 – Herod tries to kill the new King.

- September 29, 2017 – Malachi 3:1 – The Messiah will come to the temple.
Luke 2:41-52 – Jesus as a boy in the Temple.

- September 30, 2017 – Isaiah 40:1-5 – John the Baptist foretold by Isaiah 700 years before
John the Baptist was born.
Matthew 3:1-17 – Jesus is Baptized

- October 1, 2017 – Luke 4:1-13 – Jesus is tempted

This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:

- ➔ September 26 Reading - **Episode 131: Final Preparations**

- ➔ September 27 Reading - **Episode 125: The Visitors from the East**

- ➔ September 30 Reading - **Episode 126: Haven't We Been Here**

These videos can be found on www.lhmmen.com under the “Shorts” heading or there is a link at www.messiah-lutheran.org under “The Plan” page.

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Week 39 – Jesus’ Ministry begins:

This week Jesus moves from a life of obscurity to a life of ministry and He does so with the help of His cousin on His mom’s side: John the Baptist. John has been living in the wilderness proclaiming the coming of the Messiah just like Isaiah said he would. As John proclaims that Jesus is the Savior of the world and the fulfillment of the Passover lamb, Jesus begins to preach, teach and heal. Doing works which only God can do, the Christ shows in His actions that John’s words are true.

- October 2, 2017 – Exodus 12:3-13 – The Passover lamb saves Israel just as Jesus saves us.
John 1:19-35 – John tells the world that Jesus is the ultimate Passover lamb and the ultimate sin offering rolled into one.

- October 3, 2017 – John 1:35-51 – “Follow Me”

- October 4, 2017 – Exodus 14:31 – God displays His power and the Israelites put their trust in Him.
John 2:1-12 – Jesus displays His power and the disciples put their trust in Him.

- October 5, 2017 – Psalms 69:7-10 – A psalm of David, a foreshadower of Christ.
John 2:13-25 – Soft, fluffy, cuddly Jesus, He is not.

- October 6, 2017 – Numbers 21:4-9 – The snake foreshadows Christ.
John 3:1-21 – I gotta do what?!? Can’t I just have my name on a church’s membership book!?!?!?

- October 7, 2017 – Isaiah 54:5 – The Lord is the Bridegroom, AKA the Husband
John 3:22-36 – John gives witness to Jesus again.

- October 8, 2017 – Isaiah 61:1-3 – What is the Messiah going to do?
Luke 4:14-30 – “Aren’t you that snot-nosed Kid Who grew up here?”

This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:

- October 2 Reading - **Episode 136: Christ's Humble Messenger**

- October 4 Reading - **Episode 137: A New Focal Point**

- October 6 Reading - **Episode 138: Look at Me**

These videos can be found on www.lhmmen.com under the “Shorts” heading or there is a link at www.messiah-lutheran.org under “The Plan” page.

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Week 40 – The Creator has power over His creation:

One of the proofs that Jesus is who He says He is are the miracles which He performs. In our readings over the next few days Jesus shows His power over demons, sickness, nature, handicaps, manmade religious laws and sin. All of this is to show that not only is He a prophet but He is much more. He is the God who created all things and has now entered His creation to save it.

- October 9, 2017 – Luke 4:31-44 - Jesus shows that He has power over demons and mothers-in-law

- October 10, 2017 – Luke 5:1-11 – Miraculous catch of fish

- October 11, 2017 – Isaiah 43:25 – Who is it that forgives Sins – God alone.
Luke 5:12-26 – “Now those are true friends.”

- October 12, 2017 – Luke 5:27-39 – Jesus calls Levi (AKA Matthew)

- October 13, 2017 – John 5:1-15 – Jesus heals the man at Bethesda

- October 14, 2017 – Deuteronomy 18:18-19 – Moses predicts Jesus coming and that Jesus would use Moses against the Pharisees.
John 5:16-47 – Who is Jesus?

- October 15, 2017 – Luke 6:1-11 – The Disciples pick grain on the Sabbath

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Week 42 – Jesus: provider and protector:

Real wind and waves as well as the figurative wind and waves in our lives, can threaten to overwhelm us at times. This week Jesus saves both the disciples and the crowd from serious and at possibly times life threatening problems. Through these readings we learn to rely on Christ when the storms of our lives threaten to destroy us but we also learn that Jesus is much more than a get-out-of-jail-free-card. He is the very Bread of life. He feeds and saves our souls, something much greater than even physical deliverance.

- October 23, 2017 – Psalms 107:23-32 – The Lord delivers those in peril on the water
Luke 8:22-39 – Jesus calms the sea and casts out Legion
- October 24, 2017 – Luke 8:40-56 – The woman and the Jairus’ daughter
- October 25, 2017 – Matthew 14:1-21 – John the Baptist beheaded and Jesus feeds 5000
- October 26, 2017 – Matthew 14:22-36 – Jesus walks on water...Peter not so much.
- October 27, 2017 – John 6:22-7:1 – Jesus is the Bread of Life
- October 28, 2017 – Mark 7:1-23 – What makes us clean or unclean in the eyes of God.
- October 29, 2017 – Mark 7:24-37 – Jesus said what to her!?!?!?

This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:

- October 27 Reading - **Episode 139: A Tough Teaching To Swallow**
- October 28 Reading - **Episode 111: Politically Incorrect**
- October 29 Reading - **Episode 112: He Sure Has a Way with People**

These videos can be found on www.lhmmen.com under the “Shorts” heading or there is a link at www.messiah-lutheran.org under “The Plan” page.

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Week 43 – Identity:

Who is this Jesus guy? That’s the number one question which the gospels are trying to answer for us. Is Jesus just a regular person, is He a prophet, or is He even more than we can imagine? Early this week Peter will get the answer right when He proclaims that Jesus is the “Son of the living God”, but the gospels don’t stop there. They continue on and show us Jesus’ true nature by giving us a glimpse of His glory in the transfiguration. That event is then followed by Jesus’ own words about who He is.

As we read the gospels this question of “Who is Jesus?” becomes more than a question asked of disciples and Pharisees. It becomes a question for us, too. It is a question whose answer drastically affects our lives both now on earth and our final home after judgment.

Let me explain: Messiah Lutheran Church, (and to be honest every church in the world), has people on their books who would say on a phone survey that they are Christian. Unfortunately, their faith is nothing more than words. As you read this week, ask yourself, “Do I believe the truth that the Holy Spirit is trying to place into my heart about Jesus? Do I believe that Jesus is God’s Son sent to save me?” In other words, “If you were put on trial for being a follower of Jesus, would you have given enough evidence to convict you?”

These readings challenge three different types of people in three different ways.

1. The first group are those who find themselves standing with the Pharisees in unbelief. These texts dare you to continue to read the salvation story of Scripture. You see, God has promised that He will work through His Word and through His Holy Spirit. The Lord is knocking at your heart and wants to give you the wonders of His forgiveness and love which faith brings.
2. Second, if you are doubting or struggling with who Jesus is, bring your doubts and concerns to God. There were many people in Jesus’ day Who knew Jesus was Someone amazing. Even so, they had some questions about exactly Who He was. If this is you, continue reading God’s word and bring your doubts to God asking Him to strengthen your faith and answer your questions. There was not a single person who brought their honest and heartfelt doubts to Jesus that He turned away.
3. Lastly, if you believe, ask yourself, “Do I live the truth I know about Jesus? Do I live my life as if Jesus is the Son of God sent to save me or do I live my life as if Jesus was just a teacher from long ago? Ask yourself, “What difference does faith make in my life?” If the answer is **none**, through prayer and introspection take a good look at the things you can change and ask the Lord for direction to the new ways you can reflect the faith that lives in you.

- October 30, 2017 – Mark 8:1-21 – Jesus feeds the 4000
- October 31, 2017 – Mark 8:22-9:1 – Peter gets it so right and then soooo wrong.
- November 1, 2017 – Luke 9:28-45 – The Transfiguration
- November 2, 2017 – Luke 9:46-50 – Who is the greatest
- November 3, 2017 – John 7:1-24 – Jesus goes to the feast of Tabernacles
- November 4, 2017 – John 7:25-53 – Who is this Jesus guy?
- November 5, 2017 – John 8:1-11 – The woman caught in Adultery.

This week’s “Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School” suggested videos:

- October 30 Reading - **Episode 113: Time to Take a Closer Look**
- November 4 Reading - **Episode 140: He Was There in the Wilderness**

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Week 44 – Jesus and the ‘I am’ statements:

In our journey through God’s plan we have begun to get a good picture of the purpose and person of the Messiah. Some of the clearest insights into Jesus and His purpose come to us through His “I AM” statements. This week we have three of the “I am’s”. In the opening reading, Jesus tells us “I am the Light of the world.” and in the Saturday reading He tells us that He is the “good shepherd.” In each of these passages He gives us a glimpse into His mission and identity. However, the most important of the three verses is the one we will read on Tuesday. In this reading Jesus leaves behind the usual formula and just says, “I AM.”

Now if you and I were to say, “I AM” people would get pretty confused. “I am” doesn’t make sense. It needs more. But Jesus, in the context of questions about His identity, refers to Himself by the same name which the Triune God used when He called Moses from the burning bush. You may remember, “I am” was His reply when Moses asked, “Who shall I tell them has sent me?” In this one verse, John 8:58, Jesus dispels any thought that He isn’t God. In this one verse He says that He is the God who made Abraham a father of nations and brought Israel out of Egypt. In other words, Jesus is saying, “I am the creator of all things, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

- November 6, 2017 – Job 33:28 – Job, like all who believe, will see the light of the world.
Isaiah 60:1-3 – The Light of Christ is coming into the world.
John 8:12-30 – “I am the Light of the World”

- November 7, 2017 – Exodus 3:14 – God’s name is the great “I AM”
John 8:31-59 – Jesus is the “I AM”

- November 8, 2017 – Luke 10:25-42 – The Good Samaritan and Mary and Martha

- November 9, 2017 – John 9:1-34 – Jesus heals a man born blind

- November 10th, 2017 – John 9:35-41 – Spiritual sight and spiritual blindness

- November 11, 2017 – Ezekiel 34:22-24 – A descendant of David will be the Lord’s shepherd.
John 10:1-21 – Jesus is the Good Shepherd

- November 12, 2017 – John 10:22-42 – The Jews don’t believe Jesus is God’s son.

This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:

- November 8 Reading - **Episode 132: Walking Headlong into Resistance and Opposition**

- November 11 Reading - **Episode 141: On Being Sheep**

These videos can be found on www.lhmmen.com under the “Shorts” heading or there is a link at www.messiah-lutheran.org under “The Plan” page.

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Week 45 – The Savior continues to search for the lost:

This week we have two main themes. The first is the account of Lazarus being raised from the dead. In this narrative we hear another “I am” statement as Jesus declares that He is the resurrection and the life and then proves it by raising Lazarus from the grave. In this account the main point is that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. However, another point to ponder is found in the opening few verses of the text. When Jesus is told of Lazarus’ sickness He waits for two more days and then, when they get up to leave, He tells them that Lazarus is already dead.

Why? Why did Jesus allow this suffering and pain to come to a family He dearly loved? The answer to that difficult question is revealed to us when Jesus arrives in Bethany and uses the situation as a witness to the world of God’s power and love. Sometimes God allows bad or painful things into our lives to teach us certain lessons, to help us make a witness to others or a myriad of other important reasons. He knows He can make all things work together for good to those who love Him.

These verses encourage us to trust in the Savior, even when we don’t see the reasoning for the pain. By faith and the Holy Spirit’s power, we can believe our loving Father will use this trial for our benefit or the blessing of others.

The second half of the week focuses on Jesus as He reaches out for the lost. In these readings we see that Jesus didn’t come for those who think they have it all together. He came for those who have made a mess of things,...otherwise known as... each and every one of us. Jesus wanted those sitting at His feet and those of us who would be listening in the future, to know that there is no sin so bad, no pain so deep, that Jesus cannot save you. We are the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son, and just as each one of them was found by someone desperately searching for it, we too have a Savior who is desperately searching for us.

- November 13, 2017 – John 11:1-16 – Lazarus dies
- November 14, 2017 – John 11:17-37 – Jesus wept
- November 15, 2017 – John 11:38-54 – And the Pharisees said, “Oh great, now what do we do!?”
- November 16, 2017 – Luke 14:1-24 – Jesus at the Pharisee’s house.
- November 17, 2017 – Luke 14:25-35 – What it costs to be a disciple.
- November 18, 2017 – Ezekiel 34:11-16 – The Messiah will be the good shepherd
Luke 15:1-10 – The lost sheep and the lost coin
- November 19, 2017 – Jeremiah 31:10 – God will gather His lost sheep through His Son.
Luke 15:11-32 – The lost son

This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:

- ➔ November 13 Reading - **Episode 142: Thinking Differently About Judgment Day**

These videos can be found on www.lhmmen.com under the “Shorts” heading or there is a link at www.messiah-lutheran.org under “The Plan” page.

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Week 46 – The Messiah will return, but when?:

Will you be ready when the Lord returns? It’s a good question and one that is asked in a couple different ways this week. On that last day, in Whom or what will you put your trust ? Will it be the things of this world or the Savior? On the last day will you be waiting for the Lord’s return or will you be caught completely by surprise? This week and always we are encouraged to be prepared and trust in the only One who saves.

- November 20, 2017 – Luke 16:1-18 – The Shrewd Manager
- November 21, 2017 – Luke 16:19-31 – The rich man and the beggar
- November 22, 2017 – Luke 17:1-19 - The ten lepers
- November 23, 2017 – Luke 17:20-37 – Be ready for the kingdom to come
- November 24, 2017 – Luke 18:1-14 – The tax collector and the Pharisee
- November 25, 2017 – Luke 18:15-30 – Jesus and the little children
- November 26, 2017 – Luke 18:31-42 – A blind beggar is healed

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Week 47 – The beginning of the end that leads to a new beginning:

Now that statement might be a very confusing title for a week of Bible readings... if it weren’t for the fact we are talking about God’s Son. You see, this week is the beginning of Jesus’ march to the cross. We start with our Savior riding into Jerusalem on a Donkey; something which had been predicted centuries before. Then we are unseen guests at the Last Supper where Jesus gives us the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

These readings signal the beginning of the end of Jesus’ ministry. Still, as the title infers, these events are not the end of Jesus. Yes, Jesus is headed to the cross. Yes, He will die there just as he promised He would, but His journey does not end there. The cross is coming but so is the empty tomb.

- November 27, 2017 – Luke 19:1-27 – Zacchaeus was a wee little man, but he was a saved one

- November 28, 2017 – Zachariah 9:9 – Behold, your king comes riding humbly on a donkey!
Luke 19:28-48 – Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem

- November 29, 2017 – Isaiah 5:1-7 - The vineyard
Luke 20:1-19 – The tenants and the Son

- November 30, 2017 – Luke 20:20-21:4 – Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s

- December 1, 2017 – Daniel 7:23 – The son of man (Jesus) will come at the end of the age.
Luke 21:5-38 – The end of the age

- December 2, 2017 – Jeremiah 31:31-34 – Jesus is making a new covenant bought with His blood.
Luke 22:1-23 – The Last Supper

- December 3, 2017 – John 13:1-20 – Jesus washes the disciples’ feet

This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:

- ➡ December 3 Reading - **Episode 143: The King Stoops Low**

These videos can be found on www.lhmmen.com under the “Shorts” heading or there is a link at www.messiah-lutheran.org under “The Plan” page.

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Week 48 – The Last Supper:

For many of us Maundy Thursday, the day before Jesus is crucified, is summed up by Jesus instituting Communion and washing His disciples’ feet. While those things happened on that day, Jesus did and said far more than those two particular events. John spends over 3 chapters recording Jesus’ words which were spoken the night He was arrested. In those three chapters, Jesus speaks of many things, but a quick viewing will show that most of His words show love and concern for His immediate disciples and those of us who would believe in Him in the future. He prays over and over again that those who would be given faith in Him would be kept safe and remain faithful through the temptations they will face.

- December 4 2017 – Luke 22:24-38 – Be a servant as I am a servant.
- December 5, 2017 – John 14:1-14 – Jesus tries to comfort the disciples at the last supper.
- December 6, 2017 – John 14:25-31 – Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit
- December 7, 2017 – John 15:1-17 – Jesus is the vine and we are the branches.
- December 8, 2017 – John 15:18-27 – The world will hate those that follow Jesus
- December 9, 2017 – John 16:1-15 – When the Holy Spirit comes.
- December 10, 2017 – John 16:16-33 – The grief of the disciples will ultimately turn to joy

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Week 50 – “I love it when a Plan comes together”:

In the 80’s there was a TV show called the A-team. It wasn’t the best acted show on TV but it was fun and people loved it. One of the parts of the show people always looked forward to was the elaborate contraptions and gadgets that the team would put together to defeat the bad guys. No show would be complete without the A-team creating amazing fortifications, traps and vehicles out of scraps which were just lying around. And at the end of every episode, after the bad guys had been vanquished by the A-Team’s elaborate plan, Hannibal, the leader of the team, would say, “I love it when a plan comes together!”

This week we get to say, “I love it when a plan comes together!” Or in century’s old Theological lingo, we can say: “Christ is risen!!!” From the fall into sin to this, the final week of Jesus earthly life, the Lord’s plan had been steadily marching toward the defeat of Sin, Death and the Devil. This week we see the success of that plan when Jesus’ borrowed tomb is broken opened open and Christ walks out.

From that moment on, everything in our lives and in our future was going to be different. Our relationship with God is restored and made new. We no longer need to fear death because death had been made the door into eternal life. Everything is changed and believers are born again to a new life, bought and paid for by Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection from the grave.

Take a few minutes this week to sit and meditate on God’s amazing plan and what that plan means for your life. And when you do, you will say, “I love it when a plan comes together! Christ is risen!!!”

- December 18, 2017 – Isaiah 53:10-12 – The suffering servant shall be brought back to life.
Luke 24:1-12 – “He has risen!”

- December 19, 2017 – Luke 24:13-35 – The road to Emmaus

- December 20, 2017 – John 20:24-30 – Thomas does what we all would have done

- December 21, 2017 – John 21:1-14 – It’s just like good old times

- December 22, 2017 – John 21:15-25 – Peter is brought back in

- December 23, 2017 – Acts 1:1-11 – Jesus’ ascension

- December 24, 2017 – Acts 1:12-26 – We need another disciple if we are going to be called
“The twelve disciples”

This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:

- December 18 Reading - **Episode 134: Time to Go to School**

- December 21 Reading - **Episode 145: Back Home to Galilee**

- December 23 Reading - **Episode 146: Where's Your Crown?**

“The Plan”

South Shore Trinity’s Bible Reading schedule Fall 2017

Week 51 – Soooooo.... What just happened?:

The Gospels tell us many things about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. They tell us a great deal about who He was and is and what He did. One of the things upon which the Gospels do not elaborate on is what it all means. The Holy Spirit accomplished that job when He inspired the Apostles to write epistles, or letters, explaining what Jesus’ sacrifice means for us and the world.

This week we will look at the writings of St. Paul and other authors for wonderful, Holy Spirit inspired, insights into Christ’s work.

- December 25, 2017 – Hebrews 9:1-28 – Because of His sacrifice Christ is now our mediator.
- December 26, 2017 – Hebrews 10:1-25 – Christ’s blood is shed once for all
- December 27, 2017 – Hebrews 11:1-16 – The people of God lived by faith in God and the unseen Messiah
- December 28, 2017 – Ephesians 2:1-10 – Saved by grace and not by the law
- December 29, 2017 – Galatians 3:1-14 – Christ became the curse of sin for us.
- December 30, 2017 – Galatians 3:15-29 – We are Abraham’s descendants
- December 31, 2017 – 2nd Corinthians 5:17-21 – We are a new creation in Christ

“The Plan”

South Shore Trinity’s Bible Reading schedule Fall 2017

Week 52 – Saved by faith and not by works:

Every religion in the world has one thing in common: each one of them has a list of certain things that you need to do or not do to get to heaven. Some of the things are similar from one religion to the next, and some have completely unique chores, but they all have hoops through which you need to jump if you are to be saved.

Every religion has these things... except for Christianity. Christianity is the one religion in the world that says that you can’t make it to heaven on your own. You can’t be good enough to earn God’s love. The only way you are going to walk through those pearly gates is if God’s Son has done it for you. The ultimate, Divine, unchanging truth of Scripture is this: only through God-given faith in the Redeemer can you be saved. And there is no place in the Bible where that point is driven home more clearly than in the book of Romans. In its pages we hear over and over again, “The world says ‘Do!’, Christ says ‘Done!!!’”

- January 1, 2018 – Romans 3:9-31 – Saved by Faith, not by works
- January 2, 2018 – Romans 5:1-12 – Christ died for those who did not deserve it.
- January 3, 2018 – Romans 5:12-21 – Sin came into the world through one man but so did salvation
- January 4, 2018 – Romans 6:1-23 – We are now given Christ’s life, death and resurrection through our baptism.
- January 5, 2018 – Romans 8:1-17 – What does a baptized life in Christ look like?
- January 6, 2018 – Romans 8:18-39 – How does a baptized life in Christ help us in times of struggle?
- January 7, 2018 – Romans 12:1-21 – What does it mean to live as those who Christ died for?