

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*  
*18<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*  
*Christian Education From Cradle To Grave*  
*October 8, 2017*



*Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister*  
*Mike Tessman, Lay Reader*

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# Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable of the vineyard, an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread, that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.*

*The assembly stands.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God as children...**with wonder and awe.**  
Let us worship God as youth...**with questions and eager hearts.**  
Let us worship God as adults...**with gratitude and praise.**  
Let us worship God as elders...**with wisdom and hope.**  
**Let the Body of Christ sing praises to God, from whom all blessings flow.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the + holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

*The assembly shall kneel as they are able.*

Source of all life,

**we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, + God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

*The assembly stands.*

**GATHERING SONG**

**(ELW p. 460)**

**Now the Silence**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infections and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**Oh Dios, donde los corazones están temerosos y estrechos, concédenos coraje y esperanza. donde la ansiedad es infecciones y ensanchamiento, conceder paz y tranquilidad. Donde las imposibilidades cierran cada puerta y ventana, conceden imaginación y resistencia. donde la desconfianza retuerce nuestro pensamiento, concede sanación e iluminación. Donde los espíritus se intimidan y debilitan, conceden alas que se elevan y los sueños fortalecidos. Todas estas cosas que pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador. Amen.**

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

*The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.*

I'll sing a ballad to the one I love, a love ballad about his vineyard: The one I love had a vineyard, a fine, well-placed vineyard. He hoed the soil and pulled the weeds, and planted the very best vines. He built a lookout, built a winepress, a vineyard to be proud of. He looked for a vintage yield of grapes, but for all his pains he got junk grapes. "Now listen to what I'm telling you, you who live in Jerusalem and Judah. What do you think is going on between me and my vineyard? Can you think of anything I could have done to my vineyard that I didn't do? When I expected good grapes, why did I get bitter grapes?"

"Well now, let me tell you what I'll do to my vineyard: I'll tear down its fence and let it go to ruin. I'll knock down the gate and let it be trampled. I'll turn it into a patch of weeds, untended, uncared for— thistles and thorns will take over. I'll give orders to the clouds: 'Don't rain on that vineyard, ever!'" Do you get it? The vineyard of God-of-the-Angel-Armies is the country of Israel. All the men and women of Judah are the garden he was so proud of. He looked for a crop of justice and saw them murdering each other. He looked for a harvest of righteousness and heard only the moans of victims.

Word of God, word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

*Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.*

Steer clear of the barking dogs, those religious busybodies, all bark and no bite. All they're interested in is appearances—knife-happy circumcisers, I call them. The *real* believers are the ones the Spirit of God leads to work away at this ministry, filling the air with Christ's praise as we do it. We couldn't carry this off by our own efforts, and we know it—even though we can list what many might think are impressive credentials. You know my pedigree: a legitimate birth, circumcised on the eighth day; an Israelite from the elite tribe of Benjamin; a strict and devout adherent to God's law; a fiery defender of the purity of my religion, even to the point of persecuting the church; a meticulous observer of everything set down in God's law Book.

The very credentials these people are waving around as something special, I'm tearing up and throwing out with the trash—along with everything else I used to take credit for. And why? Because of Christ.

Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant—dog dung. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him. I didn't want some petty, inferior brand of righteousness that comes from keeping a list of rules when I could get the robust kind that comes from trusting Christ—*God's* righteousness.

I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience his resurrection power, be a partner in his suffering, and go all the way with him to death itself. If there was any way to get in on the resurrection from the dead, I wanted to do it.

Focused on the Goal

I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

Word of God, word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Thanks be to God." It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah." The score includes various musical notations such as chords, single notes, and rests.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel as found in: Matthew 21:33-46

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.*

"Here's another story. Listen closely. There was once a man, a wealthy farmer, who planted a vineyard. He fenced it, dug a winepress, put up a watchtower, then turned it over to the farmhands and went off on a trip. When it was time to harvest the grapes, he sent his servants back to collect his profits. "The farmhands grabbed the first servant and beat him up. The next one they murdered. They threw stones at the third but he got away. The owner tried again, sending more servants. They got the same treatment. The owner was at the end of his rope. He decided to send his son. 'Surely,' he thought, 'they will respect my son.'

"But when the farmhands saw the son arrive, they rubbed their hands in greed. 'This is the heir! Let's kill him and have it all for ourselves.' They grabbed him, threw him out, and killed him.

"Now, when the owner of the vineyard arrives home from his trip, what do you think he will do to the farmhands?"

"He'll kill them—a rotten bunch, and good riddance," they answered. "Then he'll assign the vineyard to farmhands who will hand over the profits when it's time."

Jesus said, "Right—and you can read it for yourselves in your Bibles:

The stone the masons threw out

is now the cornerstone.

This is God's work;

we rub our eyes, we can hardly believe it!

"This is the way it is with you. God's kingdom will be taken back from you and handed over to a people who will live out a kingdom life. Whoever stumbles on this Stone gets shattered; whoever the Stone falls on gets smashed."

When the religious leaders heard this story, they knew it was aimed at them. They wanted to arrest Jesus and put him in jail, but, intimidated by public opinion, they held back. Most people held him to be a prophet of God.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ!**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

**Rev. Arden Dorn**

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**(ELW p. 492)**

***Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup***

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

Restore what is broken in your church, loving God. Heal divisions among Christian communities, give courage to leaders facing hardship, and open our ears to the prophets' cries among us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God open wide your arms to embrace our tortured world, especially the victims who were injured and for the families mourning the deaths of the many who were killed in Las Vegas that we may not turn away our eyes, but instead abandon ourselves to your mercy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Restore what is broken in creation, gracious God. Revive farmlands and vineyards, protect waters needed by all living things, and move us to care for this earthly home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Restore what is broken in our world, mighty God. Quell the rush to violence between peoples and nations. Break down dividing walls and promote growth for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Restore our broken bodies, O God. We pray for those suffering any loss: the grieving, those who have lost homes or property, the imprisoned, those neglected or abandoned, and the sick, especially Lorain, Pauline, Shane, Linda, Norma, Ann, Lorene, Steve, Francis, Carol, Ella, Emil, Linda, Charles, Eli, Beth, Steve, Hope, Tom, Jackie, Yvonne, Lawrence, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma: meet their need by your bountiful compassion and our community's action. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Restore our faith in you, saving God. We pray for Bible study and small group leaders, Sunday school teachers, musicians, devotion writers, and for all whose work nurtures our faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember the saints whose devotion proclaimed your saving help. In company with them, root us firmly in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Peace is shared among the assembly, and then the assembly is seated.*

## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERING** An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

*The assembly stands.*

**OFFERING HYMN**

**(ELW p. 465)**

***As the Grains of Wheat***

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth,  
these resources of our life and our labor.  
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,  
and use them to set a table that will heal the whole  
creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.  
**Amen.**

Gott des Lebens, du gibst uns diese Gaben der  
Erde, diese Ressourcen unseres Lebens und  
unserer Arbeit. Nehmen Sie sie, angeboten in  
großer Danksagung, und benutze sie, um einen  
Tisch zu setzen, der die ganze Schöpfung heilen  
wird; durch Jesus Christus, unseren Erlöser und  
Licht. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE

**"Food For The Journey!"**

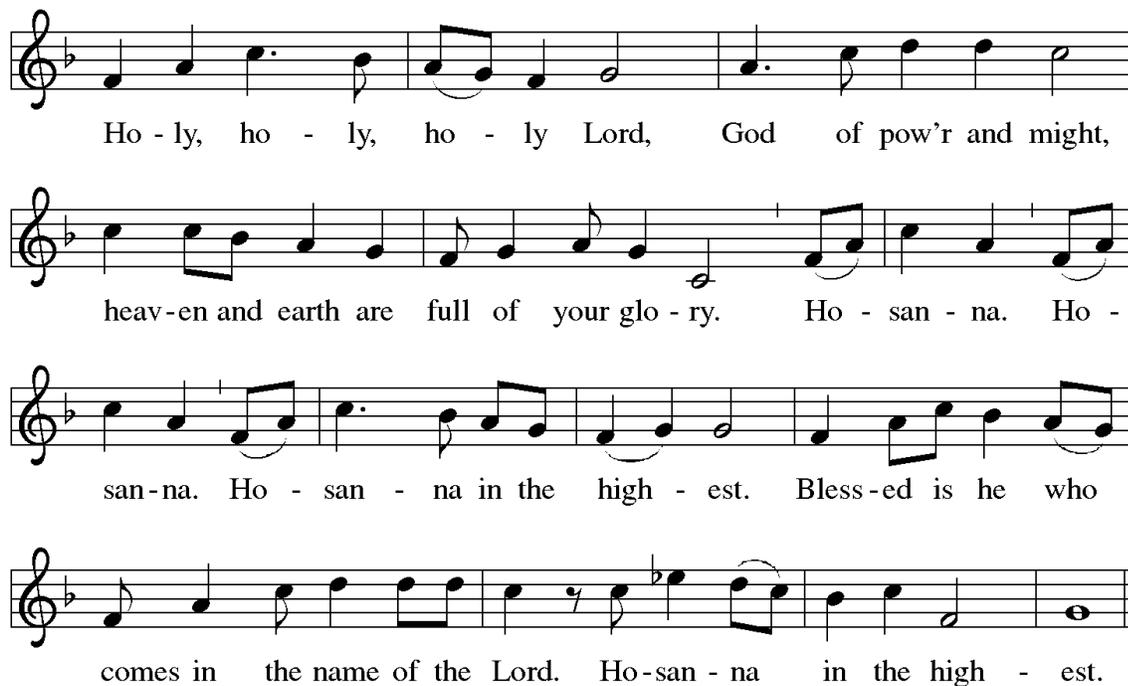
## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ: our Good Samaritan, who tends the wounds of body and spirit with the oil of consolation and the wine of hope; the Sun of righteousness, who raises us to life on his healing wings. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.  
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: *(The assembly joins hands to pray)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

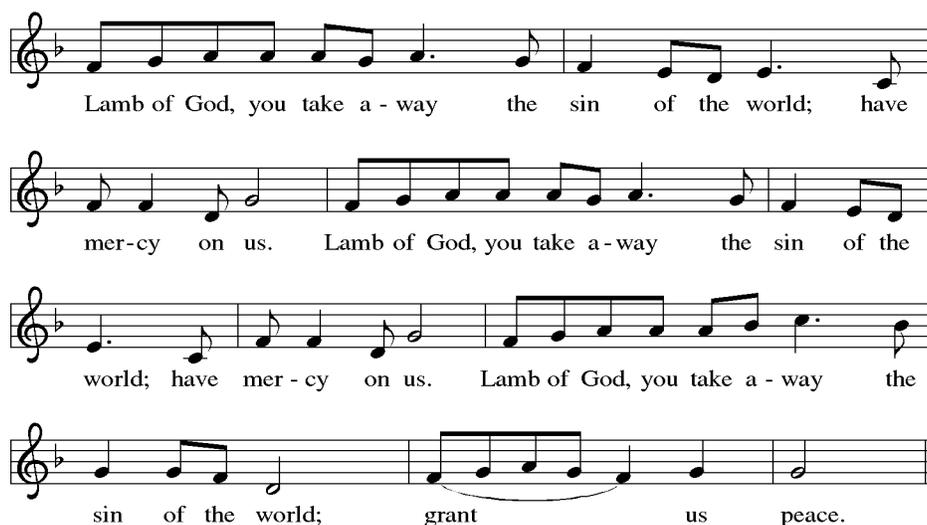
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,  
and make us one with you.

*The assembly is seated.*

### DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

*This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Following Communion, the assembly stands.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*The assembly stands.*

## BLESSING

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN (ELW p. 614) *There Is a Balm in Gilead***

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**DOXOLOGY (ELW p. 884) *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow***

## Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul's by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul's. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

**A Nursery** is located at the rear of the sanctuary in the overflow area.

**If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance,** please signal an usher.

## For Prayerful Consideration

***Ill or Injured***

Lorain Chandler, Pauline Davidson, Shane Edens, Linda Franke, Norma Foreman, Ann Gary, Lorene Janek, Steve Kelly, Francis Kempe, Carol May Liberty, Ella Manka, Emil Manka, Linda Peterek, Charles Pierce, Eli Rios, Beth Schultz, Steve Scotten, Hope Segura, Tom Shockome, Jackie Tiemann, Yvonne Watkins, Lawrence Waltersdorf, Mary Ruth Witte, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow.

***For those in the military***

Nick Adams, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Michael Rosales, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.

***Birthdays***

Joyce Witte (Oct. 9), Sandra Dickens (Oct. 12)

**LAY READERS FOR OCTOBER**

Oct 22: Mary Maddox

Oct 15: Stacey Mika

Oct 29: Randy Witte

**ORGAN & PIANO DEDICATION, RECITAL AND RECEPTION: OCTOBER 22, 3:00 P.M.** Members are asked to bring cookies for the reception. They may be left in the church kitchen on the morning of the event.

**OCTOBER 27: ST. PAUL'S WILL HOST 5<sup>TH</sup> 1/4:** We need volunteers, monetary donations and hand held sweets such as cookies, rice crisps and brownies! See Barb Jonas for more information.

## NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD OFFICE

### You Raised \$60,000 for Disaster Support - Well Done!

Well done, good and faithful servants! Together you raised \$60,000 for disaster recovery: \$30,000 for Lutheran Disaster Response and \$30,000 to be used for local Lutheran churches. You have also contributed well needed supplies and volunteer hours to help your neighbors at a crucial time. This will go a long way toward recovery. Lutheran Disaster Response has raised \$5 million in three weeks.



However, the need is still there. Pastor George Haynes reports that Holy Cross in Rockport will be worshipping out of a trailer-like building for the foreseeable future (they were hoping until the end of the year, but probably longer). SAM JoAnn Cox and President Johnny Schlabach have led teams to continue to clean up their damage, and the communities surrounding these areas are still recovering.

Please continue to keep all of these communities in prayer. They also can still use the [supplies suggested by Upbring](#) (see list attached). Of course, continuing contributions to [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) and the Synod (text "SWTXT" to 73236 or send check marked for disaster response) are still encouraged. When one member of the body suffers, we all suffer. Thank you for upholding and building up the Body of Christ.

Bishop Ray Tiemann

### Update on Rockport and Woodsboro - Help Still Needed

Bishop Tiemann and Pastor Judith Spindt, the Synod's Director for Evangelical Mission, accompanied staff from Lutheran Disaster Response and Upbring to visit Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Rockport, Peace Lutheran in Woodsboro and their surrounding communities.



Thanks to:

- the people who helped clean up the damage in both churches;
- Hutto Lutheran Church and others who sent Flood kits suggested by Upbring to both Rockport and Woodsboro;
- The many who have contributed for reparations of these and other churches and surrounding communities;



### Jesus Turns Toward the Winds

In the face of 130 mph winds, the vibrations turned this statue of Jesus toward the winds. An apt reminder to all of us facing storms in our synodical, congregational or personal lives that we have to turn and face them in order to get through to the other side.

## Opportunities for Commemorating Reformation 500

### TLU Events

- Rev. Bradley Schmeling lecture Wed Oct 4 7:30 pm at TLU Chapel
- Kathleen Norris Lecture Wed Oct 25 at Jackson Auditorium
- Reformation 500 Vespers: A Service of Word and Music Tuesday October 31 at 7 pm



### Triumphant Love Lutheran Church

October 20, 21, 22  
For more information, see [tllc.org](http://tllc.org)

**ELCA Reformation Celebration Event in Washington, DC** - Gulf Coast Conference Chairman, Paul Pfeifer, will be representing our conference at the ELCA Reformation Event the last weekend of October. There will be live streaming of many of the weekend's Events on the ELCA web site.

**Aransas Co. Donation List Please know we are only accepting the following at this time. Thank you! Revised 9/25/17**

#### Priority items:

Heavy duty work gloves	Box cutters,
Crowbars	Box fans
Contractor garbage bags	Flat Shovels,
Rakes	Sunscreen & bug spray
Shockwave Duck tape	Brooms, mops, dustpans
Hand sanitizer	Safety goggles
Extension Cords	Tarps (large)
N95 Masks	Water hoses
Buckets	Loppers
Industrial spray bottles	Plastic storage tubs
Personal size BBQ	Canopy Tents

**Recovery items:** Trash cans, Wheel barrows, Dollies, Electric tools, Chainsaws, Blowers, Generators, Power Washers, Push Mowers

**Tools:** Heavy duty staple gun, hammers, pliers, screwdrivers, (standard toolbox tools), Digital cameras with Lat/Long for damage and construction assessments; IPADs mobile for case management, construction, etc.

**Monetary donations** can be directed to the Rockport - Fulton Chamber Foundation. This is the 501c3 org. that is community wide for giving. Please call 361-729-6445 with any further questions.