

# good news™

2022-2023 Lutheran Teacher Planner

SERVE  
THE LORD  
WITH  
gladness

Psalm 100:2

LUTHERAN TEACHER EDITION *good news*  
FOR THE 2022-2023 PLANNERS • SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

PP. 30-31: WEEK OF AUG. 28 - SEPT. 3, 2022  
WORD: RENOUNCE

August 28 was the 15th Sunday after Pentecost.

THE GOSPEL READING FOR NEXT SUNDAY WILL BE:  
Luke 14:25-35 The Cost of Discipleship

Faith in Jesus is serious, a matter of life or death. It's like planning to build a tower, a skyscraper, and making sure you have enough money to finish the project. It's like going to war and making sure you can win. If you can't win you need to ask for a peace treaty, fast.

What does it cost to be a disciple of Jesus? We know the price of our salvation was paid when Jesus died on the cross. This lesson is about a different cost, the cost of commitment. Think about people who are committed, or dedicated, to what they do. Athletes are dedicated to the team, ready to "give their all" in the next big game. Police, firefighters, and members of the armed forces are committed to country and comrades, willing to sacrifice their lives to save others.

What does it mean to be committed to Jesus? What must you renounce, or give up, to follow him? The answer: everything. What is allowed to have first place in your life, ahead of Jesus? The answer: nothing. We worry about Jesus' words. Hate father and mother and wife and children? Aren't we supposed to love others and honor our parents? That's true, but do you remember God's First Commandment? "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). Jesus' words are an echo of that First Commandment: "Any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). Jesus comes first, ahead of family, ahead of everything, even ahead of your own life.

God knows that you need life, food, family and friends (remember Luke 12:29-31). But those things must never come first. The apostle Paul said it this way: "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ" (Philippians 3:8).

**DISCUSSION:** What kinds of things do people put ahead of Jesus? What things are tempting to your students? How can they put Jesus first today?

*On August 29 we remember the martyrdom of St. John the Baptist. He was a prophet who told the people of Israel to repent and prepare to welcome Jesus the Messiah. When John spoke against the sins of King Herod, Herod arrested and murdered him. Jesus once said that no one was greater than John (Luke 7:28). John knew the cost of discipleship and he remained faithful. The word martyr comes from the Greek word for witness. John was martyred, or killed, for witnessing to, that is, speaking about God's truth.*

PP. 32-33: WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 4-10, 2022  
WORD: REPENTS

September 4 was the 16th Sunday after Pentecost.

THE GOSPEL READING FOR NEXT SUNDAY WILL BE:  
Luke 15:1-10 The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin

The Pharisees are watching Jesus again, looking for trouble, and they think they've found it. "Tax collectors and sinners" listen to Jesus. These were the despised and unpopular people, the "wrong kind" of people. They were Jews who collected taxes for the Roman government, often cheating fellow Jews. They were "sinners" who did not follow the religious laws like the Pharisees did. Jesus not only taught such people, he welcomed them and ate with them!

To answer the Pharisees' grumbling, Jesus tells several parables. A parable is a story that uses earthly things and situations to teach a spiritual truth, a truth about life in God's kingdom. Jesus' stories are about ordinary things, a lost sheep and a shepherd and a missing coin and its worried owner. But these ordinary things teach us about the extraordinary love of God!

In Jesus' stories what was lost is found. When the shepherd finds his sheep and the woman sweeps the house and finds her coin, both call out to their neighbors, "Rejoice with me!" The rejoicing over the sheep and the coin are a picture of the joy in heaven when a sinner repents. The ninety-nine sheep, the nine coins, and the Pharisees were not lost (well, the Pharisees thought they weren't lost). No one needed to search for them. The one sheep, the one coin, were lost, just as many people are lost in the darkness of sin. They can't find their way to God—in fact, none of us can find our way to God. Jesus came to find us and by his death and resurrection reunite us with God. As Jesus would later tell Zacchaeus, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

**ACTIVITY:** Play a game of "Seek the Lost" with your class. Hide an object (a toy or stuffed animal) in the classroom or on the playground. Appoint the students as "deputy shepherds" and send them out to "seek the lost." Lead a cheer when the object is found!

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PP. 34-35: WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11-17, 2022  
WORD: FAITHFUL

September 11 was the 17th Sunday after Pentecost.

THE GOSPEL READING FOR NEXT SUNDAY WILL BE:  
Luke 16:1-15 The Shrewd Steward and the Merciful Master

This lesson isn't about one sheep or one coin, but about lots of coins. A dishonest manager—a steward or accountant—is fired for mishandling his master's money. Knowing he will soon be out of work, the steward depends on his master's merciful reputation to make new friends who will help him out when he loses his job. A dishonest move perhaps, but it was a clever thing to do, and the master commends his manager (although we don't know if he gets his job back).

Jesus' story about earthly wealth—masters, managers and money—is a lesson about true wealth. The shrewd steward worried about finding a place to stay after he lost his job. Jesus wants us to think about where we will stay for eternity! Seek God's kingdom, Jesus said earlier. Your heart will be where your treasure is. Now he tells us that we must not love money more than God. The Pharisees heard that and ridiculed Jesus. They loved money! Jesus responded, "What is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God" (vs. 15).

The Pharisees were dishonest in handling a small thing like earthly wealth. Because of their unbelief, they would not be trusted with the true treasure of the kingdom. Many of the "tax collectors and sinners" understood what the Pharisees did not. Like the clever accountant, these repentant sinners put their faith in the mercy of their new Master, Jesus. Some of them even began using their earthly wealth to serve others instead of themselves. In a few weeks we'll read about Zacchaeus, a tax collector and something of a dishonest accountant himself. After he met his new and merciful Master, Zacchaeus said, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold" (Luke 19:8).

**DISCUSSION:** Talk to your students about earthly wealth. It is important to have the things we really need, like food, clothing and shelter, but when do we start to love money too much? How can we be faithful stewards, or managers, or what God has given to us?

*September 14 is Holy Cross Day. The cross, an instrument of death, is for us a symbol of life. On the cross, Jesus, the Son of God, gave his life to save the lost—that's you and me! Go into the church and count the crosses you see.*

**ART PROJECT:** Have students research, draw and decorate different artistic forms of the cross that have been used in the past. They can also create their own unique and colorful cross designs.

PP. 36-37: WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18-24, 2022  
WORD: COMFORTED

September 18 was the 18th Sunday after Pentecost.

THE GOSPEL READING FOR NEXT SUNDAY WILL BE:  
Luke 16:19-31 The Rich Man and Lazarus

Who is really rich? A rich man's wealth brings him good things on earth and Lazarus, a poor man, has almost nothing. But at death, their circumstances are reversed. The rich man suffers in hell and Lazarus—who trusted God, his true Treasure—is comforted in heaven, finding a home among Old Testament saints like Abraham. The rich man wants Lazarus to go back to earth and warn his five brothers. But the brothers already have the truth available to them. They have the writings of Moses and the prophets, that is, the Old Testament Scriptures.

The rich man comes up with a great idea! "If someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." Something spectacular, like someone rising from the dead—that will get his brothers' attention! But sadly enough, they won't be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.

The warning in the parable was true. Jesus would raise a real person named Lazarus from the dead. Yet many people still refused to believe in Jesus. (In fact, unbelievers wanted to kill Jesus and Lazarus; read John 11:49-53 and John 12:9-10). Finally, they succeeded in killing Jesus. But that was part of God's plan to save us and a far greater miracle was still to come. Jesus rose from the dead, never to die again!

Moses and the prophets, although they did not yet know Jesus' name, wrote about the Savior to come. The Old Testament Scriptures said Jesus would die on the cross (read Psalm 22) and rise from the dead (read Hosea 6:2). The Old and New Testament Scriptures point to our true Treasure, Jesus. The story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection was written down "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). Who is really rich? In Christ, we are!

**DISCUSSION:** Read Psalm 22 with your students. What details can they find in the psalm about Jesus' death on the cross? Read Isaiah 53:7-9. What can your students learn from the prophet about Jesus' trial, death and burial? Read Hosea 6:2 and Psalm 16:10. What do these verses tell us about Jesus' resurrection?

*September 21 is the day to remember Matthew, the apostle and evangelist. The word apostle means "one who is sent." Jesus sent his apostles out to preach. The word evangelist comes from the Greek word for "good news." An evangelist is someone who writes down the good news. Matthew wrote the story of Jesus in his Gospel. Matthew was a tax collector when Jesus said to him, "Follow me" (Matthew 9:9). Matthew got up and followed his true Treasure.*

# SEPTEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
A GOAL FOR THIS MONTH:				1	2	3
4 13th Sunday after Pentecost	5 Labor Day (USA) Labour Day (CAN)	6	7	8	9	10
11 14th Sunday after Pentecost Patriot Day (USA)	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 15th Sunday after Pentecost	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 16th Sunday after Pentecost	26	27	28	29	30	

Books to Read:

Reviews and Tests:

x	Due Date	Long-term Projects

# OCTOBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
A GOAL FOR THIS MONTH:						1
2 17th Sunday after Pentecost	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 18th Sunday after Pentecost	10 Thanksgiving Day (CAN)	11	12	13	14	15
16 19th Sunday after Pentecost	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 20th Sunday after Pentecost  30 21st Sunday after Pentecost  Reformation Sunday	24  31 Reformation Day	25	26	27	28	29

**Books to Read:**

**Reviews and Tests:**

x	Due Date	Long-term Projects



8 Monday

Green

What's the Word?

A **division** is a separation. Jesus said there would be division between those who accepted him and those who did not.

9 Tuesday

Green

My Thoughts

Is there anyone from whom I feel separated? How could I heal that **division**?

10 Wednesday

Green

I Pray

Lord Jesus, help me never to be separated from you, even if someone tells me not to believe in you. Amen.

11 Thursday

Green

Faith Facts

God said, "I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me." My God is the one true God and is the most important thing in my life.

12 Friday

Green

Serve With Gladness

Be mindful of the issues and attitudes that cause **division** among your classmates. Make an effort this school year to bring groups of friends together.



Jesus explains that his teachings will cause division while he and his disciples journey to Jerusalem.







14th Sunday after Pentecost  
Patriot Day (USA), Grandparents' Day

12 Monday Green

**What's the Word?**

If you say you will take out the trash, your parents have **faith** in you to do it. If you do take out the trash without being nagged, you are worthy of their **faith**. You are **faithful**.

13 Tuesday Green

**My Thoughts**

How do I feel when others show me that they aren't **faithful** to their promises?

14 Wednesday Red

Holy Cross Day

**I Pray**

Dear Jesus, thank you for **faithfully** taking my sins to the cross. Help me always to be **faithful** to you. Amen.

15 Thursday Green

**Faith Facts**

At baptism, your parents and Godparents promised to instruct you in **faith**. As you grow and mature, pray that God continues to strengthen your **faith**.

16 Friday Green

**Serve With Gladness**

Which commandment tells us not to steal?

- (a) Second Commandment
- (b) Fourth Commandment
- (c) Seventh Commandment

Answer: (c)



When Jesus tells his disciples "The Parable of the Dishonest Steward," they are in **Jerusalem**.





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28 Monday Violet

**What's the Word?**  
 Expressing **repentance** means you \_\_\_\_\_ what you did or said or thought.  
 (a) repeat (b) regret  
 (c) ignore

Answer: (b)

29 Tuesday Violet

**My Thoughts**  
 When I know I have done something wrong, I feel sad and sorry. To put things right again, I can ...

30 Wednesday Red

St. Andrew the Apostle

**I Pray**  
 Dear God, I have sinned against you in thought, word and deed by what I have done and by what I have left undone. Forgive me, I pray, in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

1 Thursday Violet

**Faith Facts**  
 To **repent** literally means to turn around. If we are truly repentant, we turn away from our sinful behavior and turn back to God's way.

2 Friday Violet

**Serve With Gladness**  
 Before bed tonight, think about what you did today. As you pray, honestly **repent** for anything you did wrong. God promises to forgive you and cleanse you through Jesus.

3 Sat. Violet

Notes

[John said], "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Matthew 3:11

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5 Monday

Violet

**What's the Word?**

**Christ** is a title for Jesus that means the "Anointed One." Anointing marks a person, place, or thing as holy and dedicated to God. **Christ** is also a synonym for Messiah.

6 Tuesday

Violet

St. Nicholas

**My Thoughts**

Nicholas was a Christian bishop in an ancient town in Turkey. He was known for his generosity. Many people celebrate Nicholas by being generous to someone today. I can ...

7 Wednesday

Violet

Pearl Harbor Remembrance

**I Pray**

John the Baptist asked if you were the **Christ**, Lord. You told him all you were doing that proved you were the promised one. If I am ever doubtful, Lord, forgive my disbelief. Amen.

8 Thursday

Violet

**Faith Facts**

The word **Christmas** refers to the worship service, or Mass, that celebrates **Christ**. Celebrate **Christ** this season by wishing those you meet a Merry **Christ-mas!**

9 Friday

Violet

**Serve With Gladness**

Advent is a time of preparation for the joy of our **Christ's** coming not only at Christmas but at the Second Coming on the last day. As you light the candles on your wreath, imagine what Jesus' return will be like.



Jesus was preaching throughout **Galilee** when John was imprisoned.

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"

Matthew 11:2-3

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26 Monday Red

St. Stephen, Martyr  
Boxing Day (Canada)

**What's the Word?**

Find the city of Nazareth on your map. What other cities are nearby? Even his childhood home shows that Jesus is the promised Savior.

27 Tuesday White

St. John, Apostle

**My Thoughts**

I live in a city called ...  
I'm proud of my hometown because ...

28 Wednesday Red

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

**I Pray**

Today I pray for the protection of all children and others who are unable to care for themselves.

29 Thursday White

**Faith Facts**

This coming week we will celebrate the Wise Men's visit to see Jesus on Epiphany. The season of Epiphany highlights the way Jesus was (and is) revealed to the world!

30 Friday White

**Serve With Gladness**

The holidays are a great time for doing things in your hometown. Plan a family outing this weekend around town.



After returning from **Egypt**, Joseph settles down with his wife and child in the city of **Nazareth**.



And [Joseph] went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that [Jesus] would be called a Nazarene.

Matthew 2:23

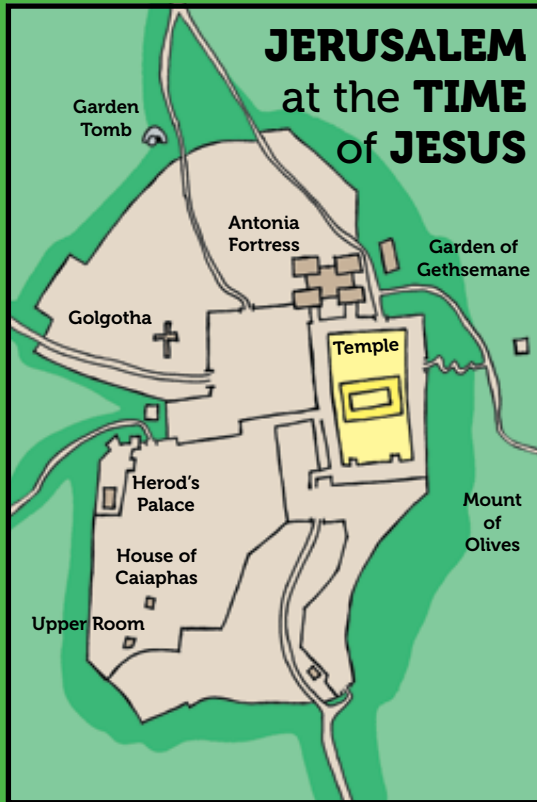
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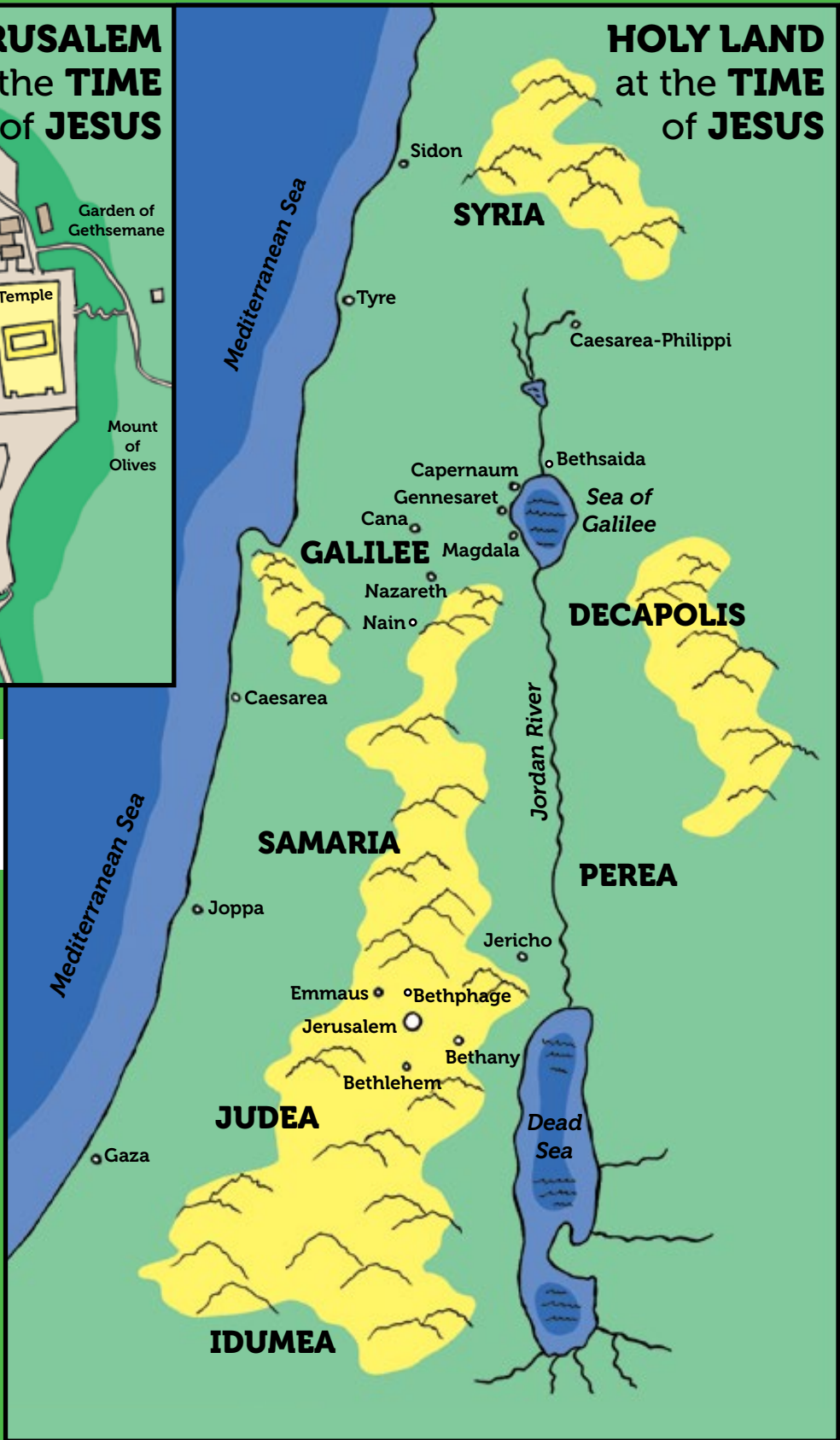
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**REGIONS**

Bodies of Water

Cities



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Student Code ZSW22

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