

**Birthdays:** George Bates, Linda Pennington, Darlene Gorles, Ellie Zayas

**Friday's Calendar**  
7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
9:00 a.m. A Way Out  
9:30 a.m. Life Group  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
8:00 p.m. Friday Night Young Peoples' AA

**Today's Ministry:** Bell Choir

**Saturday, September 29**

Luke 4:38-44 *After leaving the synagogue that day, Jesus went to Simon's home, where he found Simon's mother-in-law very sick with a high fever. "Please heal her," everyone begged. Standing at her bedside, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and prepared a meal for them.* (vv.38-39)

What a very sweet and simple prayer, "Please heal her!" And our God who heals just did it. That is a very powerful model of prayer for us to follow. Just ask.

Now consider the same event from the point of view of the mother-in-law. Nobody likes to be sick, but having a high fever is kicking it up notches. High fever drains you of any strength and, as you recover, it often takes days to regain your energy. When Jesus healed this woman, she didn't just gradually get better, she instantly recovered. Then, to top it off, she used that energy to serve others. What a faith-building story for the disciples and for us!

Recently, a friend was diagnosed with two brain aneurisms. She went into the hospital with stroke-like symptoms. She came out of the hospital two days later—no symptoms, no aneurisms (an MRI proved it)! Thank you, Jesus. We boldly ask for you to heal your people.

Hosea 1:1—2:1; Psalms 87, 90; Acts 20:1-16

**Birthdays:** Kingston Hart

**Saturday's Calendar**  
7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
9:00 a.m. Shepherd Group  
9:30 a.m. AA Step Study for Women  
11:00 a.m. Shahood Funeral  
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**Today's Ministry:** Women's Cursillo

*By Charlene Laird*

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**"Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with love"**

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**St. Mary's**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with Love*

**Good News Daily**

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**Sunday, September 23**

Psalm 93 *God is King, robed and ruling, God is robed and surging with strength. And yes, the world is firm, immovable, Your throne ever firm—you're Eternal!* (vv.1-2 The Message)

Our God is a majestic King! Not like an earthly king, flawed and broken. Our King isn't robed in cloth but in light and power. He doesn't come and go with popularity or wars. He is a forever King that chooses you and me to inherit all His wealth, power, and property. "He will give us the nations as an inheritance" (Psalm 2:8). He shares His throne with us as we rule and reign with Him. The wonder in the truth of His promises makes me stand and honor Him. I want to make Him known to everyone I encounter.

How then can I choose to live as a disinherited pauper, powerless and afraid? How can I worry that it might be politically incorrect to tell another that God loves them? I encourage you to meditate on the promise of James 1:25 as a response to those questions.

Lord, you are mightier than any problem, situation, or challenge that we face. Father God, please bless us with strength and courage.

Esther 3:1—4:3; Psalm 96; James 1:19-27; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

**Birthday:** Samuel D'Auria

**Anniversary:** Alan & Carol Block

**Sunday's Calendar**

MISSION SUNDAY  
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship Service  
10:15a.m. Stephen Leaders Meeting  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
Coffee Hour - Smith Hall after 10:30 A.M. Service

**Today's Ministry:** 20's & 30's

**Monday, September 24**

Acts 18:1-11 *One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision and told him, "Don't be afraid! Speak out! Don't be silent! For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me." So Paul stayed there for the next year and a half, teaching the word of God.* (vv.9-11 NLT)

In this passage from Acts, the Holy Spirit is directing the apostle Paul and, of course, the church in Corinth. Isn't it interesting how often God tells us, "Don't be afraid!" Paul knew that Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, and his family were also believers, and yet he was afraid. Fear is an emotion that robs us of peace, joy, and the awareness that the Holy Spirit is with us all the time. We are never alone! So, what do we do with that fear? Let's lay it at the foot of the cross where it belongs.

Dear Holy Spirit, who are you leading me to talk to? Who needs to hear the story of the saving power of Jesus Christ today? There is nothing we can do on our own, so we are trusting in you to direct our path.

Esther 4:4-17; Psalm 80; Luke 1:1-14, 3:1-14

**Birthdays:** Scott Fetner, Lisa Hader, Art Lorr, Billy Tischbin

**Anniversary:** Tricia & Jason Cooper

**Monday's Calendar**

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
 5:30 a.m. Stevens Ministry Supervision  
 5:30 p.m. ACA Families

**Today's Ministry:** Acolytes

**Tuesday, September 25**

Esther 5:1-14 *Esther replied, "My petition and my request is this: If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question."* (vv.7-8 NIV)

Favor is something that is done or granted out of goodwill, not from justice or demand. Esther was in no position to do anything but hope for favor. In our culture it is very common to believe that we must earn everything, and sometimes this includes the belief that we must earn our own salvation. If we perform enough religious acts or serve enough, we will be good enough to be saved. That is the opposite of what it means to be a Christian. Our salvation is a gift freely given by the King who chose to take all our sin upon himself and die for us. If we receive that gift, we are God's children. Walk today in the truth that we are highly favored by our God. We are His favorite, so to speak.

Lord, we are so grateful that You favor us, not because we deserve it but because Jesus is our very good Savior. We are so grateful!  
 Psalm 78:1-39; Acts 18:12-28; Luke 3:15-22

**Birthdays:** Anne Krauss, Bob Ward, Jeffrey Harfst, Kathy Butcher, Jason Hart, Austin Bovie

**Tuesday's Calendar**

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study  
 12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Healing  
 6:00 p.m. Overeaters' Anonymous  
 6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting

**Today's Ministry:** Alpha Course

**Wednesday, September 26**

Esther 6:1-14 *When Haman told his wife, Zeresh, and all his friends what had happened, his wise advisers and his wife said, "Since Mordecai—this man who has humiliated you—is of Jewish birth, you will never succeed in your plans against him. It will be fatal to continue opposing him."* (v.13 NLT)

Either by prophesy or reputation, the wise advisors knew that God keeps His promises to His people, the Jews. Even though they warned him, Haman, in his wicked jealousy, continued to pursue his plan to kill Mordecai and the Jewish people. How does this apply to us centuries later? Believing that our God is a promise-keeping God opens our lives to endless possibilities. He says He blesses us for a thousand generations if we love and obey Him. His love is endless. His provision is endless. His plan is to protect us. His plans for us are good and not evil, all the days of our lives. When I follow the plan He has for my life, I am fulfilled. He designed me for His plan, so it's the best fit for my life and I feel like it fits—similar to my favorite clothes. Esther and Mordecai found God's plan for their life trusting that He is a promise-keeping God.

Lord, as I surrender my life to You again today, I declare Your word from Psalm 119:101, "I have refused to walk in any evil path so that I may remain obedient to your word." Let it be so!

Psalm 119:97-120; Acts 19:1-10; Luke 4:1-13

**Birthday:** Amy Mac Dowell, Gladys Steinbach, Art Elliott, Steve Karr, Marilyn Beebe, Pam Baker, Audrey Gillis, Aidan Jones, Parker Tuthill

**Anniversaries:** Ken & Debbie Flerx, Jim & Brigitte McLernon

**Wednesday's Calendar**

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study  
 7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
 4:45 p.m. Mary's Kitchen  
 5:30 p.m. AA "Daily Reflections"  
 6:00 p.m. Life Groups  
 6:30 p.m. Alpha Dinner and Class

**Today's Ministry:** Altar Guild

**Thursday, September 27**

Esther 7:1-10 *So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet. On this second occasion, while they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "Tell me what you want, Queen Esther. What is your request? I will give it to you, even if it is half the kingdom!"* (vv.1-2)

Tell me what you want, says our God. Can I believe He's really asking that? Lord, I want a world that looks like Luke 4:18-19. I want to bring good news to the poor. I want to comfort the broken-hearted. I want to set the captives free. I want to tell the whole world that they are favored by You and that You will bring beauty out of the ashes of our broken lives. That's the kind of community we hear about in Acts 20. Paul and the early church did exactly what Jesus proclaimed. The fulfillment of God's word ushers in God's kingdom and the freedom that He promised. Let's do that as well.

"Praise the LORD! How good to sing praises to our God! How delightful and how fitting! He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds. He counts the stars and calls them all by name. How great is our Lord! His power is absolute!" (Psalm 147:1, 3-5a).  
 Psalms 146, 147; Acts 19:11-20; Luke 4:14

**Birthdays:** William Maxwell, Tanner Hughes

**Thursday's Calendar**

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
 5:30 p.m. ACA Men's Group  
 7:00 p.m. AI-Anon "Stepping Stones"  
 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

**Today's Ministry:** Backpack Buddies

**Friday, September 28**

Luke 4:31-37 *Then Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and taught there in the synagogue every Sabbath day. There, too, the people were amazed at his teaching, for he spoke with authority.* (vv.31-32)

What does it mean to teach with authority? Authority means that there is enough power behind what is being spoken to command others to listen. The power of God's truth commanded ears to hear. In our world we heed speed limits when driving because police officers have authority to issue a ticket and fine if we don't obey. All authority was given by the Father to Christ Jesus. If we don't obey he has the power to issue a consequence. Jesus, when returning to heaven after his resurrection, sent the Holy Spirit to live in us. With the Holy Spirit, that same authority was passed on to us. What a glorious privilege we have to speak with the authority given to us! Let us be diligent to speak the truth of our mission: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

Father, thank You for Jesus and all he accomplished for us. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to live in us as believers. Please strengthen us in Your truth so that others will be drawn to You.

Esther 8:1-8, 15-17; Psalm 88; Acts 19:21-41