

Pondering October 2020

SHALOM Y'all! The Jewish New Year has just begun. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement is starting it of. It usually falls somewhere in September/October. It was the one and only day in the year when sacrifices were made in the Temple for the forgiveness of all sins. The literal scape goat was burdened with all the sins and then sent out to die in the wilderness. This was the tradition until the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in the year 70 A.D. Yom Kippur is preceded by a period of ten days known as "Rosh Hashanah", ten days of penitence preparing for the new year. This feast is marked by the blowing of the shofars to bring in the new year and confuse the enemy. There have been no sacrifices ever since the Temple was destroyed, so it has become a season of introspection, seeking peace with GOD, and doing good works in an attempt to better oneself with the help of GOD.

This year it dawned on me that we are celebrating World Communion Sunday always on the first Sunday in October in close proximity to the date of Yom Kippur. Christians from all kind of different Christian denominations are celebrating Holy Communion, the LORD's Supper, Holy Eucharist, das Heilige Abendmahl and remind each other that it is by the all-sufficient sacrifice of our Savior and LORD at the cross of Calvary. We are able to boldly come before the throne of GOD, celebrating the forgiveness of our sins and reminding each other that we are sons and daughters of the Most High – by the grace of GOD – ALLELUIA!

Sunday, October 4, we will offer Holy Communion in our Sunday morning service. Yes, we will use the standard of clean individual Communion sets, but it is still special to do it together in fellowship, knowing that millions if not billions of believers will do the very same thing celebrating Christ's sacrifice and our access to eternal life.

But wait, there is more. We are getting ready to celebrate another outdoor worship service. We will have our church picnic on Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 10:00 am in our little park on the north side of our church. The flatbed trailer will be in place and we will enjoy GOD's goodness in an outdoor setting. Keeping proper social distancing will not be a problem and immediately after the service we will have dinner on the grounds. This time we will invite everyone to bring their own food and discourage sharing, but the time will come when we will again enjoy a good covered-dish / potluck meal. Just be patient.

The psalmist proclaims, "I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the House of the LORD!" And it is my prayer that we will meet and celebrate GOD together so our actions and testimony give hope to a battered world that is looking for love, joy, peace, and a renewable power source they can trust with their life. When we get together in worship and fellowship, we become that guidepost to divine hope in JESUS CHRIST, our Savior ad LORD.

Keep the faith and stay safe!

Pastor J. Paul <><