

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

P. O. Box 267, 201 Veterans Dr., Columbus, TX 78934

PH# (979) 732-2423 Fax (979) 733-0489

E-mail: admin@splctx.org www.splctx.com **Pastor:** pastor.akethan@gmail.com

August 12 & 13, 2023

Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost

Senior Pastor	Alan Kethan	<u>Home:</u> (979)-942-9060	<u>Cell:</u> (830)-708-1200
Deacon of Word and Service			Sandye Fletcher
Youth & Family Specialist			Stephanie Polasek
Congregational Chair			Donna Maas
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director			Briana Bedford
Secretary			Elena Holub
Custodian			Tomasa Rosales
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator			DyAnn Lauzon
Organist			Joan Hunsicker

MISSION STATEMENT: Love God, Love Neighbor (*Luke 10:27*)

VISION STATEMENT: We will work to strengthen and grow closer in relationship to God and to one another.

- *As we enter into a sacred time and space, a friendly reminder to please set your cell phone to vibrate.*
- ***We want to welcome all of our guests today and thank you for worshiping with us. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding our services, programs, day care, or preschool programs at St. Paul, please visit our Welcome Center in the narthex immediately following our service, and an attendant will be more than happy to assist you. If this is your first time at St. Paul, we hope you will take a gift along with you. We also have a gift bag for children.***
- Hearing Assist devices are available for those who need assistance in hearing worship service better. Please see a person in the Sound Room (Usher Room) to request the use of a device during worship.

* This symbol indicates that the congregation is invited to stand physically or in spirit.

INTRODUCTION

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing

bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIGNING OF ATTENDANCE PADS

(Ushers will be handing out Attendance Pads during the announcements. Please be sure to sign your name and contact information.)

60 SECONDS OF STEWARDSHIP – Property Team

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors, first privately then together publicly.

Silence for reflection and private confession of personal sins, then join in with combined voices this printed confession.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

* **HYMN ELW - #785 “When Peace Like a River”**
{This is one of your favorite hymns. Please read the brief history found in the back of the bulletin.}

1. **When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

REFRAIN:
*It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul),
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

2. **Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. REFRAIN**

3. **He lives – oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! REFRAIN**

4. **Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. REFRAIN**

CCLI Song #25376 Words: Horatio Gates Spafford Music: Philip Paul Bliss
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* **GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

A Our first reading is from 1 Kings, chapter 19, verses 9-18.

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence — earthquake, wind, and fire — Elijah now experienced God in “sheer silence.” God assured Elijah

that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

The reading begins:

⁹At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹¹He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13

A The Psalm today is from Psalm 85, verses 8-13. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

A Our second reading is from Romans, chapter 10, verses 5-15.

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

The reading begins:

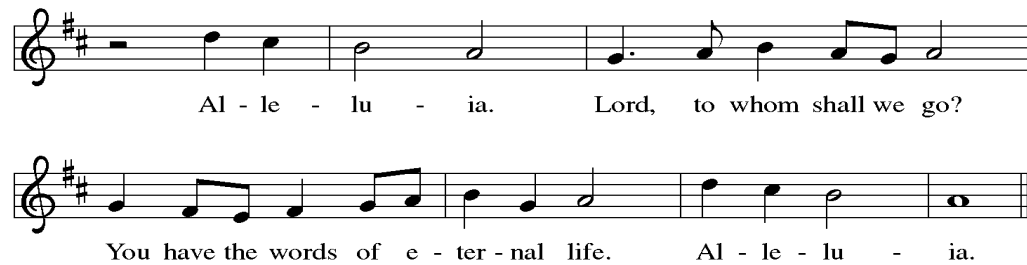
⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." ¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

A Please stand as you are comfortable for the gospel.

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (Sung)



* **GOSPEL:** Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 14, verses 22-33.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²²[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

* **HYMN ELW - #756 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"**

- 1. Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave, who bade the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep: oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.**
- 2. O Savior, whose almighty word the winds and waves submissive heard, who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.**
- 3. O Holy Spirit, who didst brood upon the chaos dark and rude, and bid its angry tumult cease, and give, for wild confusion, peace: oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.**
- 4. O Trinity of love and pow'r, all trav'lers guard in danger's hour from rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoe'er they go; thus evermore shall rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.**

CCLI Song #115183 Words: William Whiting Music: John Bacchus Dykes
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* **APOSTLES' CREED**

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C 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.**

(The congregation may be seated during the prayers.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A God of peace and justice, you call us to live as your beloved community throughout the world. Instill in local, regional, national, and global political and civic leaders a desire to work for the well-being of all people. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of care and compassion, you bring assurance when we are afraid. Bring calm to any who are anxious or fearful. Bless the work of therapists, nurses, and other health care providers. Comfort all who grieve and soothe any who are sick. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of wonder, you accompany us in both joys and sorrows. We pray for children, teachers, staff and administrators in this new school year. Make your presence known in our work and play, in lively conversation and in quiet rest. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of peace, we pray for peace in all the world, especially in war-torn areas of Ukraine, Sudan and Niger. Bring an end to wars and the destruction of lives and your creation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of heaven, we pray for the family and friends of Wallace Huerta who passed away this past week. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of life and love, we give you thanks and praise for the birth of Savannah Hope Latiolais to Nick and Daya Latiolais. Bless their family as they begin a new life together. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of healing, we pray for all those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including: Virginia Fritsch; Eugene Darden; Walter Glaeser; Carl Geisler; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you (*Pause*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of strength, we pray for all those battling cancer that they may know comfort and strength. (*Pause for those we are praying for.*) Hear us, O God.
Laura Walla; Elizabeth Frisby; John Gibson; Dorothy Wicke; Pam Parker; Debbie Herzik; Randy Wendt; Susan Chandler; Heather Deviney; Jaime Sawyer; Kim Moerbe Welneck; Misti Retzer; Zelda Lanford; Michelle Thraen; Pauline Gosnell; Nina Naumann; GayLynn Willms Burk; Carl Norton; Laura Harris; Todd Foster; Cindy Tanner; Joe Reck; Melinda Rodiek; Melda Coleman; Donna Culton; Nancy Hartmann; Lydia Rojas; Larry Stolar; Vivian Fortenberry; Rick Davis; Darryl Stancik; Jerry Ordner; Michael Yancey; Al Gene Canik; Jane Venghaus Taylor; George Wright; Sandy Mosley; Charlene Tesch; Karen Bailiff; Julian Divin; Nancy Biers; Pam Potter; Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Frnka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; Jodi Sebesta; Paul Casinger; DeQuincy Lister; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Jessica Mauchlen; Donna Tiner; Libby Divin; Diane Brooks; Bob Loy; Stanley King; Dawn Foster; Edward Halcolm; Amber Smith Kutach; Louis Camacho; Melvin Schobel; Janet Greene; Sabrina Galindo; Debbie Grimes; Horst Traub; Margie Fisk; Preston Carter; Penny Miller; Carl Hahn; Amanda Fuchs; Cyndi Wallace; Karen Broussard; Donna Young; Sharon Heimann; and Brenda Baker.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of life, we pray for all expectant mothers, and especially for: Olivia Leyendecker; Cassidy Zajcek Parks; Courtney Busselman; Nancy Gorman; Camille Stancik; and Kyndall Beettner that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of love, we pray for all those who reside in care facilities and the homebound that they receive your caring and compassion. (*Pause for those we are praying for.*) Hear us, O God.
Melvin Otto; Ronnie Huebel; Joey Denby; Edwin Oevermann; Paul Minar, Sr.; Adrian Fritsch; Doug Hill; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Barbara McMath; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Jane Booker; Pat Brasher; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Ronnie Rogers; Joyce Dehmer; Donna Dehmer; Rita Noska; and Cherie Moore.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of courage, we pray for all law enforcement officers, fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers, 9-1-1 dispatchers, and active duty military personnel that they are protected and kept safe. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)* Hear us, O God.
 Law enforcement officers: Charles Jobb; Joseph Smith; Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Johnny Kovar; Abbigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; Bruno Flores; Zane Weido; Josh Jones; as well as Donnie Templeton and Jason Templeton who are also fire fighters. For all fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers and 9-1-1 dispatchers, especially Brent Gorman, Sr.; Brent Gorman, Jr.; Reid Brasher; Dusty Dittmar; John Maertz; Ron Luedke; Pastor Alan Kethan; Kristi Weyand; Eric Weyand; Bradley Berger; Jon Berger; James Chollett; Edward Thraen, Jr.; Garrett Flores; Kyle Burris; Dylan Walcik; Randy Wendt; Travis Neuendorff; Brenda Henkes; Jan Willette and Terri Neuendorff, as well as those active duty military members including Brian Anderson; Michael Grahm; Bryan Kubena; Brad Bergfeld; Cody Jowers; Kyle Appelt; Montana Appelt; Douglas Neuendorff; Scott Cherniss; Kameron Page; Ryan Neisner; Anthony D'Angelo; Dalton Kapel; Kindra Dawson; William Phillips; Kevin Gonzalez; Cody Goolsby; and Reese Neisner.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of mission, we pray for the church throughout the world. May we all proclaim the good news of your love effectively. We ask, especially, that you would bless the ministry of our sister congregations Cristo Rey and their leader Armando Capcha and Iglesia Cristiana Camino de Santidad and their leaders Pastors Gumer and Naomi Anton in Peru, all Missionaries, especially St. Paul's supported missionary, Dina Anton de Espinoza, and our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

*** PEACE**

P The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.

C And also with you. *(Share the "Peace of the Lord" with your neighbors.)*

(We will be collecting offerings before and after worship each week. This includes Power of One dollars.)

OFFERING and POWER OF ONE

"Power of One" is a ministry sponsored by your Stewardship Team. We are asking each and every one of our members to give \$1.00 above what your normal giving would be. We are asking each member to place this \$1.00 bill or change in the offering plate each week. The team is also inviting all children to participate to develop the habit of giving as part of their worship experience. Parents, a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, or dollar bill, any of these will do to help your children develop a habit of giving. These "Power of One" dollars will be used to

support local ministries and ministries abroad. The purpose of this ministry is to demonstrate that something as small as one dollar can be used to make a difference in the lives of others.

*** OFFERTORY** *(Sung)*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

P God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us with what we give back to your work, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*** EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

* **LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

* **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P All people are called to Christ's table. Come and receive strength for the storms of life.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (Continuous with Individual Cups)

{Distribution will be continuous. All are welcome for communion. Please come down the center aisle starting from the front. Follow directions of the ushers, coming up one side at a time. Pastor will hand you the bread. If you wish to have a gluten-free wafer, please tell Pastor "Gluten-free, please." Afterward, you will choose either wine or white grape juice from the individual cups in the tray – white grape juice in the center with wine surrounding. Place the empty cups in the baskets located off to the side. Although communion is continuous, you are welcome to kneel at the rail in prayer after receiving communion. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.}

* **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

P Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

* **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** (Sung)



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

* **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

* **BLESSING**

P May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord look upon you with His favor and grant you His peace. In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

* **HYMN ELW - #755 "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"**

{This is one of your favorite hymns. Please read the brief history found in the back of the bulletin.}

1. **Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life's tempestuous sea;
unknown waves before me roll, hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;
chart and compass come from thee. Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

2. **As a mother stills her child, thou canst hush the ocean wild;
boist'rous waves obey they will when thou say'st to them: "Be still."
Wondrous sov'reign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

3. **When at last I near the shore, and the fearful breakers roar
twixt me and the peaceful rest, then, while leaning on thy breast,
may I hear thee say to me: "Fear not, I will pilot thee."**

Text: Edward Hopper, 1818-1888 *Music:* John Edgar Gould, 1822-1875

* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Jesus has you!

C Thanks be to God, and we will.

POSTLUDE

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USHERS: SAT: The Brent Gorman Family

SUN: Curtiss Schonenberg; DyAnn Lauzon; Charleen Andrus

LAY READERS: SAT: Pastor John Hunsicker

SUN: David Stancik

ACOLYTES: SAT: Gracelyn Gorman

SUN: Tucker Stancik

STREAMING:

SUN: Janel Barten

SOUND:

SUN: Sydney Eaton

ALTAR GUILD: JoAnn Venghaus and Sharon Johnson

WELCOME: A joyous and blessed day to you, brothers and sisters in Christ! Welcome to worship.

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by Adrian & Virginia Fritsch in honor of their 67th wedding anniversary on August 12.

Congratulations! Jerry and Audrey Rester are pleased to announce the birth of their great-granddaughter **Savannah Hope Latiolais**. Savannah Hope was born Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 7:29 AM to Nick and Daya Latiolais. She weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. and was 19¾ inches long. Proud grandparents are Hari and Cindy (Rester) Cohly.

COLLECTION OF OFFERING: Offering for the worship services is collected before and after worship. Offering bowls are placed in the back entrance and inside the side sanctuary door for you to place your offering in. This includes "Power of One" dollars.

Amount needed for average weekly budgeted expenses: \$8,405.00

Attendance: Aug. 5 & 6, 2023 – 177

Power of One: Aug. 5 & 6, 2023 – \$49.00

Contributions: Aug. 5 & 6 – \$9,938.56

Building Fund: Aug. 5 & 6 – \$943.23

Thank you to those who contributed to last week's offerings. Loving God/Loving Neighbor.

* **FAVORITE HYMN: "When Peace Like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)"
by Horatio Spafford**

Horatio Spafford was a newspaper author's son. He was born in 1828 and became a lawyer and senior partner in a large law firm. He was heavily involved in real estate when the Great Fire of Chicago reduced the city to ashes destroying most of Spafford's investments.

Two years later the family planned a trip to Europe to hear his friend preach. Business demands prevented Spafford from accompanying his wife and four daughters to England. While crossing the Atlantic on a steamship, an iron sailing vessel struck their ship killing 226 people including his four daughters (ages 12, 7, 4, and 18 months). His wife Anna survived the tragedy, and when she arrived in Wales, she sent a telegram to Spafford: "Saved alone". Afterwards, he traveled to Wales to meet his grieving wife. As his ship passed near where his daughters died, he was inspired to write "It is Well With my Soul". His good friend wrote the music and named it VILLE DU HAVRE (the name of the tragic ship).

Subsequently, Spafford and his wife gave birth to three more children (a son and two daughters). The son died of scarlet fever. Spafford's final years were not good for him as he separated from his Presbyterian congregation. He died of malaria in 1888 at the age of 59, and he was under the delusion that he was the Messiah.

"It is Well" originally had 4 verses; however, Bertha, a daughter born after the tragic drowning, added a final verse. In most hymnals the original 3rd verse is omitted, and Bertha's verse is sung. We sing her verse as the 4th verse of the hymn.

* **FAVORITE HYMN: "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me" by Edward Hopper**

Just as our Lord often taught profound spiritual truths with earthly associations, so many of our fine hymns have symbolic imagery that make them more understandable as we sing. This hymn was written especially for sailors in language they knew well – charts, compasses and the absolute need for a competent pilot to guide their crafts over the tempestuous seas.

Edward Hopper was born in 1818 in New York City. His father was a merchant, and his mother was a descendant of the Huguenots (persecuted French Protestants). In 1870 he became pastor of a church in New York harbor known as the "Church of Sea and Land". For the remaining years of his life, he remained there ministering to the many sailors who made their way to and from their ships.

While ministering there, Hopper wrote the text for this hymn especially for the sea-faring men's spiritual needs. Because he wrote anonymously for most of his works, it is not known how many other songs he wrote. Even his sailors did not know that their pastor was the author of the sailors' favorite hymn. "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me" has been included in nearly every evangelical hymnal published. John E. Gould wrote the music for this hymn which he named PILOT.

At the age of 72, Hopper's prayers expressed in the 3rd stanza of this hymn were fulfilled when he died in 1888. He was sitting in his study chair, pencil in hand, writing a new poem on the subject of heaven.

*When at last I near the shore, and the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and the peaceful rest – then, while leaning on Thy breast.
May I hear Thee say to me, “Fear not – I will pilot thee.”*

Though there may be storms and waves that at times almost seem to swamp us, we can be certain that our Lord is still in control and will lead us safely to our heavenly home.

ATTENTION: *Names on the prayer list in the bulletin will be printed for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the names will be removed from the bulletin unless the church office has been notified to keep them.*

► **Children's Activity Bags** are available for use by our young members and guests! You can find them on the coat hooks in the coat area of the narthex. After worship, **please place the used activity bags and their contents in the receptacle in the narthex.** Thank you! ☺

**** Please join us for a farewell pot luck honoring Deacon Sandye Fletcher and her husband Randy on Sunday, August 13, 2023 in the Lighthouse following the 11:05 AM service. ****



A Trip to the Ball Game
ST. PAUL SENIOR EXPLORERS ARE GOING TO THE ASTROS! The Astros will be playing the Boston Red Sox on **Thursday, August 24, 2023.** Game time is 1:10 PM. We will **depart St. Paul at 10:00 AM**, stop and eat brunch at Cracker Barrel, and arrive comfortably at Minute Maid Park before game time. The grey area is that we think we can get pretty good tickets for \$30-\$50, depending on how many are going and the Astros' performance. We will call everyone before buying tickets if they are going to cost more than that. Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) by Sunday, August 13, 2023. Call Kevin Page with any questions at 979-732-0845.



PRAYER LIST UPDATES: We are asking you to help us update our prayer lists that are found in our weekly bulletins (cancer; care facilities; military; etc.). In the past we have discovered that we have continued to pray for someone who was deceased for some time, someone who had not been in the military for a long time, etc.. Look over the lists carefully. **Please notify the office by Tuesday, August 15, 2023 of the people you want to remain on the lists.** You can stop by the office in person, call at 979-732-2423 or send an email to admin@splctx.org. Thank you for helping us to update our lists!!



Acolyte Training: Becoming an acolyte is a wonderful way to serve God and your church. Being an acolyte is open for youth entering the 3rd grade and older, able to reach the altar, able to pay attention to the flow of service and capable of assisting with communion trays. Acolyte training will be held **Sunday, August 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary.** *Parents, please plan to attend this training with your child so you*

may be able to help if there are questions later on. Please text or email Stephanie to let her know you will be attending. If your child is interested in becoming an acolyte but cannot make it to this training, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

► **New Members/Informational Class:** Are you interested in joining St. Paul Lutheran Church or just getting more information about the ministries here? If so, come to the next New Members/Informational Class on **Saturday, August 26, 2023 from 9:00-11:30 AM.** We will meet in the church library. Please let the church office (979-732-2423) know that you are planning to attend.

◆ **God's Gals** will meet **Sunday, August 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM at Los Cabos** in Columbus for food, fellowship, and visiting!! All women of St. Paul Lutheran are invited. Bring a friend! Questions? Please contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127. ◆



Colorado County Fair Concessions!! The St. Paul Lutheran Youth and St. Paul Christian Learning Academy once again have been given the opportunity to take on the concession stand this year at the Colorado County Fair. This is such a beneficial fundraiser and a lot of fun working with everyone! We are excited to again be a part of this community event, however, it is a big task, and we will need your help. The carnival and rodeo will be **September 14, 15, & 16, 2023**, and we will cover all three days from **3:00 PM to 10:00 PM.** A shift and cooker schedule is posted in the narthex (foyer) as well as other ways you can volunteer to help with this fundraiser. If you are a good cook, cashier, organizer, supply runner or just have a heart for serving, we need you! All proceeds will go to support the St. Paul Lutheran youth programs and the St. Paul Christian Learning Academy. If you would like to know more or be a part of the planning team, please contact Stephanie Polasek at 979-732-1858.

♥♥ Our next **Marriage Course** will be every Sunday, **September 17-October 29, 2023.** On these Sunday nights from **6:00-8:00 PM** in the Lighthouse this seven-week course will take place. We realize that strong marriages make strong families, and strong families make strong communities. The Marriage Course is relevant for any couple wanting to invest in their relationship and make it stronger. Whether you have been married four months, 40 years or cohabitating and not married; you feel your marriage is fine, good, great, struggling or stuck; this course is for you. The course is more like a date night. There will be dinner and dessert mixed in with video presentations and discussion questions for you and your partner. You will not be asked to share anything about your relationship with anyone but your partner. **Cost is \$150** – this includes meals, workbooks and video materials. If you need childcare, the cost is an additional \$35 for the seven weeks. This course is limited to 11 couples. Sign up in the office or call Elena Monday-Friday during business hours to get your name on the list. When you sign up, please indicate if you will need childcare.



CONNECTED TO CHRIST: It's the beginning of a new school year, and we need **names and addresses for all of our 2023 high school graduates and all others that are still in college!** Connected to Christ is a ministry of St. Paul that keeps our new graduates and college students connected to St. Paul with fun, Christian-based mailings four times a year. So students and/or family members, please send the name and address of your student to either Terri Brasher at (979)-732-1127, Stephanie Polasek at (979)-732-1858 or the church office. Thank you!



Pictures Needed!! I am in the process of changing all song backgrounds to royalty-free pictures for Power Point. Please send me any pictures of backgrounds (trees, rivers, oceans, mountains, etc.) you may have taken on your vacation. You can email them to peggeisler@gmail.com. Thanks! – *Peggy Geisler*

♥ **Grief Support Group:** Are you experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of friend who has moved? The Grief Support Group is a place to share and discuss these issues with other individuals. The group meets the **third Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 PM in the church library.** For questions or more information, contact Peggy Geisler at 979-732-0350.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Today (Aug. 13) – 12:00 PM – Farewell Potluck for Deacon Sandye (Lighthouse)
Mon., Aug. 14 – 9:30 AM – Staff Meeting
Tues., Aug. 15 – 10:00 AM – Pastor Alan to Columbus Oaks
 12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)
 5:30 PM – Prayer Team (library)
 6:30-8:00 PM – The Gathering
Wed., Aug. 16 – **Newsletter Deadline!!**
 9:00 AM – CLA Chapel
 9:00 AM – Morning Circle (library)
 12:00-3:00 PM – Ministerial Alliance Retreat
Thurs., Aug. 17 – 5:30 PM – Grief Support Group
Sat., Aug. 19 – 7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship
Next Sun., Aug. 20 – 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship
 10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School
 10:00 AM – Acolyte Training (sanctuary)
 11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Sunday, August 13, 2023 **Florence Nightingale, died 1910; Clara Maass, died 1901; renewers of society**

Nightingale was born in England, and horrified her wealthy family by deciding to become a nurse. She led a group of nurses in ministering in the midst of the Crimean War, and worked for

hospital reform. Maass, a native of New Jersey, was also a war nurse, and volunteered as a subject for research on yellow fever. She died of the disease.

Monday, August 14, 2023 **Maximilian Kolbe, died 1941; Kaj Munk, died 1944; martyrs**
 Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest arrested by the Nazis and confined in Auschwitz. Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man. A Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, Munk strongly denounced the Nazis who occupied Denmark in the Second World War. His sermons and articles helped to show the anti-Christian nature of the movement.

Tuesday, August 15, 2023 **Mary, Mother of Our Lord**
 The church (including Martin Luther) honored Mary with the title theotokos, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God's lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.

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SERVICE OVERVIEW: SILENCING THE WIND

In a world filled with noise and empty words, God comes to us as stillness and silence, even to the point that wind ceases. Jesus walks over stormy waters to his disciples, entering their boat and being present with them despite their fears and doubts. Today's readings encourage us to keep our words spare and meaningful, lay aside our little faith with its wordy worries and doubts. Listen for God, who comes to us as quieting comfort.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

The sea is our chaos, Peter's doubt represents our own. Alongside Peter we plead for Jesus to save us, and with the disciples we acclaim him the Son of God. Jesus says, "Do not be afraid." Welcome to worship! No matter your storms, encounter Christ standing by you, then stand with others to be the presence of Christ for them.

Jesus meets the disciples in the midst of a storm, and Peter seeks proof of Jesus' identity by trying to join him on the wind-tossed waves. The wind can blow us powerfully, frighteningly, making even familiar places seem strange, stirring up debris to obscure our vision and make our journeys fearful and slow. Today Jesus comes to us in our drowning panic, responding to our cry of, "*Lord, save me!*" with a quick response. The little faith of Peter (and that of ourselves) calls us to "do better" in our faith lives and respond with discipline, but we are also given simultaneous forgiveness! God's hand is there to reach out and catch us. Where is Jesus calling *YOU* to courageous faith in your life's storm?

To command even the wind to be still is a powerful thing. Jesus walked out upon the water and helped Peter in his fear to return to the boat's safety and security. Jesus gives powerful reassurance and the gift of presence. God is not distant from our fears, but holds us close to keep us safe. In the first reading, Elijah has an experience like this on Mount Horeb. Great and powerful signs precede the arrival of God, who has promised to pass by, but it is in the sheer silence that Elijah meets God – a total reversal of Elijah's expectations. When has something

showed up looking almost the exact opposite of what you expected? What truth did you learn? What did it show you?

KID STUDY:

What do you do when you are scared? In the gospel reading, Peter was scared when he began to sink below the waves of a storm. In our first reading, Elijah was also scared. Elijah wanted to know that God was still with him and nearby. When we are scared, what do we like to have close by? Some like a special blanket, stuffed animal, or a night light to comfort and soothe our fears. Elijah didn't feel close to God when there was scary blowing wind, a loud earthquake, or a fire. But Elijah did feel God in a whisper, in the quiet. God is close to you, even when you are scared. Give thanks to God for that special connection. You are God's child.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

O Jesus, gentle love, you who are the true and complete peace in every discord, bring peace and concord to every conflict. Let my enemies come, who in the world are so numerous; but if I feel myself to be with you, I overthrow them all, and the world itself I overthrow. I am like a fish that rests in the sea; when the waves sweep over it and the great tempests assail it, the fish enjoys swimming, because it cannot be captured, and it leaps more nimbly. Thus do I in this world that is a troubled sea: the great currents arise, and I sail below them, and I take shelter in your bosom, and let them pass by. Feeling myself with you I have no fear of the currents. But if I do not possess you, I am like the whale that when the tide goes out sits on the sand and is condemned to death, because without the tide it no longer has the chance to escape. - Umilta of Faenza [Umilta of Faenza, tr. Richard J. Piolo, in Medieval Women's Visionary Literature, ed. Elizabeth Alvilda Petroff (NY: Oxford, 1986), 251.]

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Next Week's Theme (Aug. 19 & 20): Canaanite woman called a dog/daughter was healed/persistence

Next Week's Scriptures (Aug. 19 & 20):

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 "A house of prayer for all peoples."

Psalm: Psalm 67 "Let all the peoples praise you, O God." (Ps. 67:3)

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 "God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile."

Gospel: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28 "The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter."