

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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August 13 & 14, 2022

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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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
Music Minister			Robert Eaton
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

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**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 worshipping 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.*

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

**INTRODUCTION**

*The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."*

**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.)*

**\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C Amen.**

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

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

P Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

**C Amen.**

**\* HYMN ELW - #812 "Faith of Our Fathers"**

1. Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire and sword.  
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word.

**REFRAIN:**

*Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
we will be true to thee till death.*

2. The martyrs, chained in prisons dark, were still in heart and conscience free;  
and blest would be their children's fate if they, like them, should die for thee.

**REFRAIN**

3. Faith of our fathers! We will love both friend and foe in all our strife;  
proclaim thee, too, as love knows how, by saving word and faithful life. **REFRAIN**

CCLI Song #29011 Words: Frederick William Faber Music: Henri Frederick Hemy; James G. Walton, refrain  
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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, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 23:23-29

A Our first reading is from Jeremiah, chapter 23, verses 23-29.

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

The reading begins:

<sup>23</sup>Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup>Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup>I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup>How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back — those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup>They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup>Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 82

A The Psalm today is Psalm 82. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

<sup>1</sup>God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

**<sup>2</sup>"How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?"**

<sup>3</sup>Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;

**<sup>4</sup>rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**<sup>6</sup>Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;**

<sup>7</sup>nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.'"

**<sup>8</sup>Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.**

**SECOND READING:** Hebrews 11:29 - - 12:2

A Our second reading is from Hebrews, chapter 11, verse 29 to chapter 12, verse 2. *The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

The reading begins:

**Chapter 11:**

<sup>29</sup>By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup>By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. <sup>32</sup>And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — <sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup>Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented — <sup>38</sup>of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. <sup>39</sup>Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

**Chapter 12:**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

A Please stand as you are comfortable for the gospel.

\* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (Sung)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

\* **GOSPEL:** Luke 12:49-56

*Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.*

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 12, verses 49-56.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup>"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup>From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup>they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." <sup>54</sup>He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. <sup>55</sup>And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. <sup>56</sup>You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

\* **HYMN ELW - #669 "Rise Up, O Saints of God!"**

- 1. Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;  
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.**
- 2. Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame;  
as heirs of God's baptismal grace, the word of hope proclaim.**

**3. Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom's task embrace;  
redress sin's cruel consequence; give justice larger place.**

**4. Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain;  
stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain.**

**5. Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;  
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!**

Text: Norman O. Forness Music: William H. Walter Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

\* **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 Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

A Arise, O God, and sustain your church. We pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people. Renew our commitment to our siblings in faith around the globe, and bless the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Arise, O God, and sustain your creation. We pray for all places affected by natural disasters. Transform the devastation of floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth. Fill heaven and earth with your life-giving Spirit. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Arise, O God, and sustain the nations. We pray for all elected officials. Kindle in them a desire to administer your justice. Strengthen their resolve to defend those who are vulnerable and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Arise, O God, and bring peace in Ukraine. Help to end this war and the destruction of lives and your creation. Change hearts, bring peace and show the world your existence. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Arise, O God, and bring healing to those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:

Irene Noska; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you (*Pause*). Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Arise, O God, and bring strength and comfort to all those battling cancer and especially for: Melda Coleman; Bubba Bencal; Al Gene Canik; Jane Veghaus Taylor; George Wright; Elrose Kollatschny; Sarah Stancik; Larry Poenitzsch; Sandy Mosley; Charlene Tesch; Cynthia Coufal; Jeffrey McDaniel; Karen Bailiff; Julian Divin; Nancy Biers; Angie Beggs; Pam Potter; Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Frnka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; Keith Korth; Jodi Sebesta; Cathy Siglow; Paul Casinger; Fran Gillett; Tiffany Murley; DeQuincy Lister; Angela Mazoch; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Joyce Templeton; Gracie Brune; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Jennifer Aleman; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Jessica Mauchlen; Larry Guthrie; Donna Tiner; Libby Divin; Diane Brooks; Bob Loy; Stanley King; Monty Gillett; 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; Megan Cain; Amanda Fuchs; Cyndi Wallace; Karen Broussard; Donna Young; Sharon Heimann; and Brenda Baker. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Arise, O God. We pray for all expectant mothers, and especially for: Mallory Dungen Cook; Madisyn Horndt Neumann; and Jessica Johnson that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Arise, O God, and bring caring and compassion to all those who reside in care facilities and the homebound. (*Pause for those we are praying for.*) Merciful God, Adrian Fritsch; Don Morrison; Verna Coufal; Doug Hill; John Zwiengel; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Deanna Lee; Doris Poppe; Barbara McMath; Linda Munos Rodgers; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Delores Purcell; Jane Booker; Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Robert Eaton; Ronnie Rogers; Joyce Dehmer; and Donna Dehmer.

**C receive our prayer.**

A Arise, O God. 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.*) Merciful God,

Law enforcement officers: Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Johnny Kovar; Abigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; Luke Kanz; 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; and Jan Willette, as well as those active duty military members including Brian Anderson; Michael Graham; 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; and Kevin Gonzalez.

**C receive our prayer.**

A Arise, O God. 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 Iglesia Cristiana Camino de Santidad 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. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we remember the saints who have gone before us. May we run with perseverance the race set before us until we find our rest in you. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

P Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

**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)



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



bles-sing. 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 abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all. Bless our offerings to continue your work in this world, in the name of Jesus.

**C** Amen.

\* **GREAT THANKSGIVING** (Responses Sung)

**P** The Lord be with you.



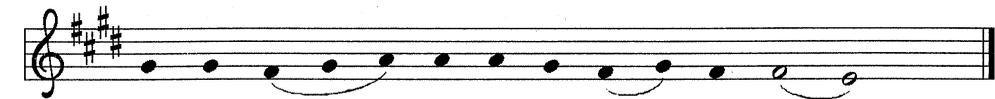
And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



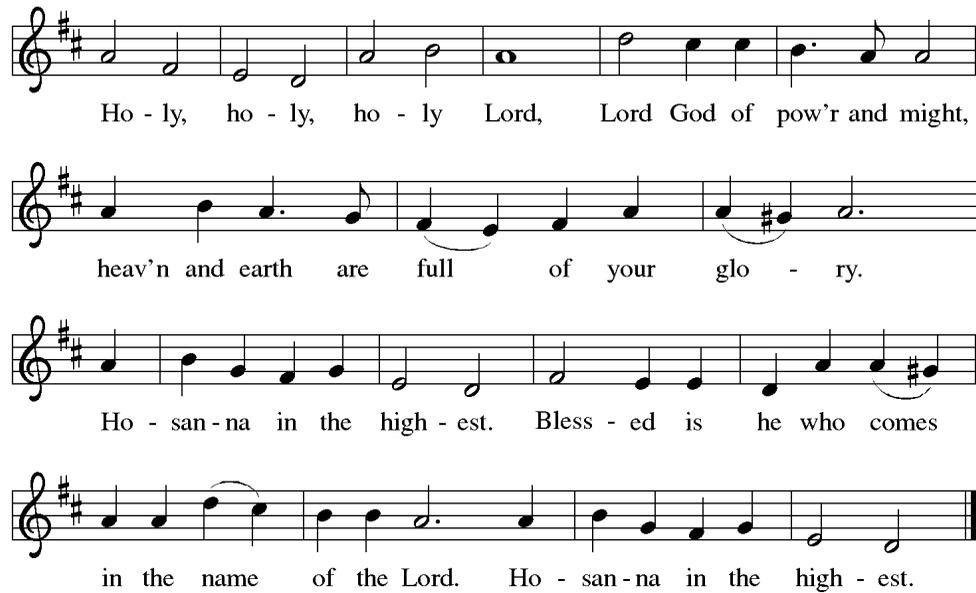
We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

\* **EUCCHARISTIC 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 In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

**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. Please keep 6 feet between those who are not your family members. 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.**

\* **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

**C Amen.**

\* **BLESSING**

P The God of peace, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

**C Amen.**

\* **HYMN ELW - #805 "Lead On, O King Eternal"**

- 1. Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come;  
henceforth in fields of conquest your tents will be our home.  
Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong;  
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.**
- 2. Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;  
for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums,  
but deeds of love and mercy the heav'nly kingdom comes.**
- 3. Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears,  
for gladness breaks like morning where'er your face appears.  
Your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light;  
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!**

\* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, with God's help.

**C Thanks be to God, and we will.**

**POSTLUDE**

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**USHERS: SAT:** Richard & Ruth Poncik

**SUN:** Charleen Andrus; Darlene Ahlschlager; Brad Hadjik; Emily Brod

**LAY READERS: SAT:** Audrey Rester

**SUN:** Sharon Johnson

**ACOLYTE:**

**SUN:** Madsion McRee

**STREAMING:**

**SUN:** Brian Lighthill

**ALTAR GUILD:** JoAnn Venghaus and Sharon Johnson

**WELCOME:** The Lord is a God nearby, not far off, Jeremiah tells us. Welcome, to each of you! God delights to draw near to you and rejoices when you come near to him.

**ALTAR WALL FLOWERS** are placed by Adrian & Virginia Fritsch in honor of their 66<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 12, Bill and Rhanda Lattimore's 37<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 17, and Bill Lattimore's birthday on August 8.

**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. 6 & 7, 2022 – 146

**Contributions:** Aug. 6 & 7 – \$11,255.83

**Power of One:** Aug. 6 & 7, 2022 – \$48.00

**Building Fund:** Aug. 6 & 7 – \$855.33

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

**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.*

**\*\* NOTICE REGARDING BULLETINS:** Please take your bulletin home after worship. We will **not** be reusing them. Thank you! \*\*

► **Children's Activity Bags** are available once again 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! ☺

♥ **From St. Paul Christian Learning Academy:** Hello, everyone! Our nursery is working on putting together **personal picture books** for each of our little ones. **We are currently in need of donations for scrap fabric materials.** We are needing material with different textures and colors, as well as any low loft batting and fusible material paper. We greatly appreciate anything that you are able to donate. We thank you so much for your help. Thank you, and God bless, Mrs. Trisha {Please turn in your fabric donations to the St. Paul Christian Learning Academy office. Thank you!} ♥

**CONFIRMATION INFORMATIONAL MEETING:** Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents are invited to register their child for confirmation on **Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary.** We will start off with information about confirmation and go over the calendar and requirements to become a confirmed member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Confirmation is a two-year program designed to educate students on the Bible and small catechism as well as facilitate growth in a student's relationship with Christ. This meeting is for second-year confirmands as well and is an important meeting to attend. Please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 if you have questions before the meeting.

**Back-to-School Blessing:** We are sending our students and educators back to school with our prayers and blessings on **Saturday, August 20 and Sunday, August 21, 2022 at each worship service.** All children from pre-school through college are invited to bring their backpacks to worship and join us for the special time of blessing. All educators are encouraged to attend worship and join us in prayer for the new school year. The Youth & Education Team will also be presenting each student entering 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (and has not received a Bible) with a student Spark Bible and students beginning confirmation with a Here We Stand Study Bible and Student Book. Please join us on this weekend at worship to send each student and teacher into the school year with the support of our church family.



**Acolyte Training:** Becoming an acolyte is a wonderful way to serve God and your church. This year we would like to open up this opportunity to serve for youth of all ages able to reach the altar, able to pay attention to the flow of service and capable of assisting with communion trays. Typical age is 9-10 years old or third grade. Acolyte training will be held on **Sunday, August 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary.** *Parents, please plan to attend this training with your child so that you may be able to help if there are questions later on.* Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) or let Stephanie 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.

## BLAST Registration for 2022-2023 School Year is OPEN!!

**Wednesday, August 24, 2022 will kick off our school year BLAST program!** That means that every Wednesday night you and your family can come have a meal, have fun with your friends and grow closer to Christ. A meal will be served starting a 5:00 PM followed by classes from 5:30-6:30 PM in the Lighthouse. High School Youth Group will meet from 6:00-7:00 PM. Classes are divided by age group: PreK; K-1st; 2nd-3rd; 4th-6th; confirmation (7th-8th); high school; and adult Bible study. Bring your friends and strengthen your Belief in God, learn to Live a Christian life, and Share the Truth about the love of Jesus Christ! To register your student for BLAST, please visit <http://www.splctx.com> and click on the BLAST Registration link.

► **God' Gals:** Calling all women of St. Paul!! On **Sunday, August 28, 2022 at 6:00 PM** join us for our first ever **potluck salad supper at the St. Paul Lighthouse!** Bring your favorite salad and your recipe to share. Your salad can be veggie, fruit, gelatin, chicken, etc. – whatever you call a salad! Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127.

● **Sr. Explorers Jumping Out of Airplanes!!** Hey, Explores! Anybody want to jump out of a perfectly fine airplane? I'm looking at Tandem Parachute Jumps at "SkyDive" at Fentress Airport between Luling and San Marcos. With training and jumping, we will be there about 4 hours. I'm thinking we leave early and get done before bad heat sets in sometime during the week in later August. **I'm polling the audience for interest of jumpers and supporters.** Hoping for 6-10 jumpers. It will cost about \$230 per parachuter. We're also looking for an Astro game in August. We've been fighting the heat with our event planning. The bus has the AC all fixed now. **Please call Kevin Page with questions or to RSVP a response of interest at 979-732-0845.**

**\*\* Volunteers, please step forward!** We need volunteers to comprise the reestablished **St. Paul Lutheran Financial Review Team.** We need at least three congregational members to make this happen. The term is for three years, but we will start up again with a 1-year term member, a 2-year term member and a 3-year term member. You do not have to have a background in finances, but a sincere desire to serve the best interests of the congregation of St. Paul is highly recommended. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Maas at 713-775-6408 or any council member. To submit your interest to serve, please contact Donna Maas, any council member or Elena in the church office. God bless all of our many volunteers, and thank you! \*\*

**Colorado County Fair Concession Stand:** The St. Paul Lutheran Youth and St. Paul CLA again have been given the opportunity to take on the concession stand this year at the Colorado County Fair. Last year was so much fun and such a beneficial fundraiser! 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 fair is **September 8-10, 2022**, and **we will cover all three days from 7:00 AM-10:00 PM.** A shift and cooker schedule is posted in the narthex (foyer) along with 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.

**Women of JOY:** The Women of JOY Bible study group will start back **Monday, September 12, 2022.** We will meet every Monday at **6:00 PM in the Hackfeld Gathering Room.** Our topic will be "Living a Chocolate Life", and it is a 6-8 week study. Only the book by Deb Burma is needed for the group and can be purchased from [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com) or Amazon. A daily devotional is optional to purchase for your personal use. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Gerri Hackfeld at 979-732-4711.



The **Noon Bible Study group** that meets on Tuesdays will be **taking a brief summer break during the month of August.** The group will resume meeting Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at noon in the church library. Hope to see you there!

♥ **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:

<b>Mon., Aug. 15 –</b>	10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 6:00 PM – Church Council
<b>Tues., Aug. 16 –</b>	5:30 PM – Prayer Team (library) 6:30-8:00 PM – The Gathering
<b>Wed., Aug. 17 –</b>	CISD First Day of School!! 9:00 AM – Morning Circle (library) 9:00 AM – CLA Chapel <b>Newsletter Deadline!!</b>
<b>Thurs., Aug. 18 –</b>	5:30 PM – Grief Support Group (library) 6:00 PM – Confirmation Meeting (sanctuary)
<b>Fri., Aug. 19 –</b>	10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)
<b>Sat., Aug. 20 –</b>	7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship & Back-to-School Blessing
<b>Next Sun., Aug. 21 –</b>	9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship & Back-to-School Blessing 10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School 11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship & School Blessing

### UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Sunday, August 14, 2022 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.

### **Monday, August 15, 2022 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.

### **Saturday, August 20, 2022 Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153**

Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.

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### **SERVICE OVERVIEW: THE REALITY OF DIVISION**

Throughout the Gospel of Luke, Jesus calls on his hearers to turn their hearts away from greed and instead to generosity, to turn away from anxious self-preservation and instead to faithful self-giving. But such practice rubs against humanity's deepest-seated sin, so conflict is born out of Jesus' peace-filled activity. Jesus' words and actions had already pitted him against the religious leaders and will lead him to the cross. Now, in today's gospel, Jesus speaks to the reality of that division.

His words unsettle us, yet they are spoken for a reason. In the reading from Jeremiah, God challenges the prophets who dole out lies and deceit and asks, how long until they turn their hearts back to me? This is a question of compassion and yearning for a restored relationship. Likewise, although Jesus' words are incendiary and speak of broken relationships, they are meant to prompt the people's faithful response: to lay aside anxiety and greed and to turn their hearts to the treasures of God's promised kingdom, where Christ takes division upon himself on the cross.

While fully aware of the realities of conflict and division, we are to live as hopeful people, praying fervently for God's compassion and for the restoration of right relationships.

### **THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:**

Over the last weeks we have encountered lots of forgiveness in Luke's gospel, but today it is surprisingly harsh: being a believer brings not peace, but dissension. Welcome to worship! Listen. Pray. The bread and wine will strengthen us for our future, no matter what comes.

Jesus, at a clear breaking point, lashes out in this week's gospel - raging about how he is bringing "fire to the earth" and rebuking his most loyal supporters as "hypocrites" unable to perceive the implications of their mission. Our responses to breaking points reveal who we really

are. Faithfulness to Christ and to the community of the baptized can be counter-cultural, unpopular, even divisive.

Luke is uncharacteristically severe about the need to remain faithful, no matter how long the wait or how intense the conflict. The early Christian movement brought about much family divisiveness. Many baptized members in the early Christian movement came as individuals, not in family units, and devotion to Christ might well mean dissension in the family. How would you feel if your husband or brother was a fisherman, providing much needed food, then one day simply picked up and left? Devotion to Christ can also mean dissension in the Church family itself – each denomination with their own set of beliefs and practices.

Luke's picture of the divided family contradicts many dreams about happy families united in faith. But have hope! Look around you. You likely know people in your congregation or broader community whose lives have been similarly fraught with challenge and strength. Is that person you? Remember this simple truth - the mighty ones of scripture were exactly the same as the mighty ones among us today. We are everyday people who hear and respond to God's call. It is that simple. It is that glorious.

### **KID STUDY:**

Soon many of you will return to school, where you will be subjected to division upon division upon division. You may be judged on what clothes you wear, how your hair looks, what you say, how you walk, whether you are too smart, not smart enough, athletic enough, the list goes on and on. Even grown ups are constantly dividing each other into groups, the insiders and the outsiders, the good guys and the bad guys, Republicans and Democrats.

But Jesus is teaching us something about our identity – that means who we understand ourselves to be. We are children of God – fully loved by God and fully known by God. When we are touched with this kind of love we are no longer strangers, no longer slaves, no longer sinners, but sons and daughters. Then we can share the good news that God's love is for all people.

### **INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:**

*God's love is inclusive enough and wide enough to upset those who want to limit love to a chosen few who follow a few cherry-picked and misconstrued rules and regulations about beliefs mixed with politics. God's love is radical enough and dangerous to threaten our own safety and security. It forces us to confront who we are, the evil we have done, left undone and done on our behalf. Not to make us feel guilty but to show us a way forward through our privilege and oppression of others and into right relationship with all of God's beloved children, our neighbors. It asks us to see our worth not in our wealth or in what we acquire, but in what we give away and in how much we love. God calls us to go out into the world and proclaim that this unconditional and unbounded love of God is for all. You are God's beloved, whoever you are, wherever you are, however you are. This good news does indeed cause division. Will it cause division to stand with those our dominant society deems unworthy: the marginalized, the poor, the oppressed?*

*Will it cause division to go out into the world and proclaim this unconditional and unbounded love of God for all? Most certainly. - David Roberts*

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**Next Week's Theme (Aug. 20 & 21):** Jesus heals on the Sabbath day; breaks Jewish Law

**Next Week's Scriptures (Aug. 20 & 21):**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 58:9b-14

*"Do not trample the sabbath, but feed the hungry."*

**Psalm:** Psalm 103:1-8

*"The LORD crowns you with mercy and steadfast love." (Ps. 103:4)*

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 12:18-29

*"You have come to the city of the living God and to Jesus."*

**Gospel:** Luke 13:10-17

*"Jesus heals a crippled woman on the sabbath and is condemned."*