

**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](mailto:admin@splctx.org) [www.splctx.com](http://www.splctx.com) **Pastor:** [pastor.akethan@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.akethan@gmail.com)

August 13, 2023 Contemporary 11:05 AM

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

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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.***
- 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.*

**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 As we move into this time of worship, we begin by first getting rid of the stuff that can hinder or keep us from hearing and honoring God. Because we all are broken from God and sin, we confess those sins to God to acknowledge our need for God's help and forgiveness. As we take a few moments of silence for private confession, we recognize those things we need to change or that weigh our hearts and souls down. After this time of opening our souls and hearts to God, we will hear the promise of forgiveness and new life that Jesus instructed the leaders of worship to proclaim.

*(Silence for private confession.)*

P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.  
C Amen.

**GOSPEL SONG: OCEANS (WHERE FEET MAY FAIL)**

You call me out upon the waters.  
The great unknown, where feet may fail.  
And there I find You in the mystery  
In oceans deep, my faith will stand.

**CHORUS**

***And I will call upon Your name, and keep my eyes above the waves.  
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours, and You are mine...***

**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.*

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

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

**GOSPEL SONG: OCEANS (WHERE FEET MAY FAIL)**

Your grace abounds in deepest waters.  
Your sov'reign hand will be my guide.  
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,  
You've never failed - and You won't start now.

**CHORUS**

*And I will call upon Your name, and keep my eyes above the waves.  
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours, and You are mine...*

**BRIDGE x3**

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders.  
Let me walk upon the waters, wherever You would call me.  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander  
And my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Savior.

**LAST CHORUS**

*I will call upon Your name, and keep my eyes above the waves.  
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours, and You are mine...*

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**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**\* SERMON SONG: RESCUE**

**You are not hid-den. There's never been a moment  
you were for-got-ten. You are not hopeless, though  
you have been broken, your innocence stolen.  
I hear you whisper underneath your breath. . .  
I hear your SOS, your SOS.**

**I will send out an army to find you.  
In the mid-dle of the dark-est night, it's true. I will rescue you.**

**There is no distance that cannot be covered  
over and over. You're not defenseless.  
I'll be your shelter, I'll be your armor.  
I hear you whisper underneath your breath. . .  
I hear your SOS, your SOS.**

**I will never stop marching to reach you.  
In the middle of the hardest fight, it's true. I will res-cue you.**

**I hear the whisper underneath your breath.  
I hear you whisper you have nothing left.**

**I will send out an army to find you.  
In the mid-dle of the dark-est night, it's true. I will rescue you.  
I will never stop marching to reach you.  
In the middle of the hardest fight, it's true. I will res-cue you.  
I will rescue you. I will rescue you.**

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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

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.

*A brief silence.*

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.

*A brief silence.*

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.

*A brief silence.*

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.

*A brief silence.*

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.

*A brief silence.*

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.

*A brief silence.*

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.

*A brief silence.*

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.)*  
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.

A God of life, we pray for all expectant mothers that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*  
Olivia Leyendecker; Cassidy Zajicek Parks; Courtney Busselman; Nancy Gorman; Camille Stancik; and Kyndall Beettner.

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.)*  
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.

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.)*  
Law enforcement officers: Charles Jobb; Joseph Smith; Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Johnny Kovar; Abigail 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 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; Kevin Gonzalez; Cody Goolsby; and Reese Neisner.

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.

*A brief silence.*

A 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 As Jesus shared peace, let us also share His peace with one another. *(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.*

**\* 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.**

**\* REMEMBERING JESUS' WORDS, PROMISES, AND COMMANDS**

**\* LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. 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.}*

**\* 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 The God who walks on water, raises us from the dead, ☩ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

**C Amen.**

**\* CLOSING SONG: BELIEVER**

**I walk a bit different now, now that my heart's been found,  
nothing feels the same. I hold my head a bit higher,  
I lift my voice a bit louder. Yeah, something inside has changed.**

**CHORUS**

***I am a mountain mover, water walker,  
more than just an overcomer, 'cause I've been set free.  
I am a gospel preacher, heart on fire,  
Freedom singing testifier, 'cause I've been redeemed!  
I am a believer! I am a believer!***

I know this is not my home, I know I don't walk alone.  
No matter what comes my way. I have peace through the trouble,  
I have joy through the struggle,  
And now my hope's in a brighter day.

### CHORUS

I am a mountain mover, water walker,  
more than just an overcomer, 'cause I've been set free.  
I am a gospel preacher, heart on fire,  
Freedom singing testifier, 'cause I've been redeemed!  
I am a believer! I am a believer!

### BRIDGE x2

I am a child of the Father, an orphan no loner.  
No doubt about who I am. I'm in the hands of the Healer,  
The arms of the Savior. His grace makes me who I am.

### LAST CHORUS

I am a mountain mover, water walker,  
more than just an overcomer, 'cause I've been set free.  
I am a mountain mover, water walker,  
more than just an overcomer, 'cause I've been set free.  
I am a gospel preacher, heart on fire,  
Freedom singing testifier, 'cause I've been redeemed!  
I am a believer! I am a believer!  
I am a believer! I am a believer!

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### \* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Jesus has you!

C Thanks be to God, and we will.

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**USHERS:** Gary & Donna Schindler; Cindy Kahlden

**LAY READER:** Ashlyn Pugh

**STREAMING:** Mike Maas

**SOUND:** Todd Jacobs & Sydney Eaton

**ACOLYTE:** Harlie Lewis

**POWER POINT:** Kay Wesson

**ALTAR GUILD:** Lora Kuenstler

**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 67<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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

**Building Fund:** Aug. 5 & 6 – \$943.23

*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.

► **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 today in the Lighthouse following this service. \*\***



**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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:**

<b>Today (Aug. 13) –</b>	12:00 PM – Farewell Potluck for Deacon Sandye (Lighthouse)
<b>Mon., Aug. 14 –</b>	9:30 AM – Staff Meeting
<b>Tues., Aug. 15 –</b>	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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**OTHER READINGS:**    1 Kings 19:9-18

*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:

<sup>9</sup>At [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?" <sup>10</sup>He 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." <sup>11</sup>He 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; <sup>12</sup>and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup>When 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?" <sup>14</sup>He 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." <sup>15</sup>Then 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. <sup>16</sup>Also 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. <sup>17</sup>Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. <sup>18</sup>Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

**PSALM:**    Psalm 85:8-13

<sup>8</sup>I 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. <sup>9</sup>Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land. <sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. <sup>11</sup>Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. <sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase. <sup>13</sup>Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

**OTHER READINGS:**    Romans 10:5-15

*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:

<sup>5</sup>Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup>or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup>But 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); <sup>9</sup>because 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. <sup>10</sup>For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup>The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For, "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!”

**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.”*