

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 5 & 6, 2023

Tenth 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			Elena Holub

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

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

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

* **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 - #461 “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”**

**1. All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread
Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

**2. All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

3. **All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan Music: W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

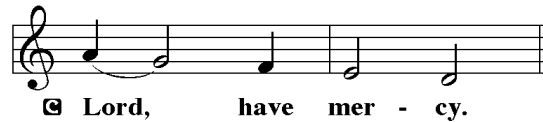
* **GREETING**

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

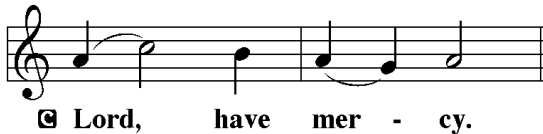
C And also with you.

* **KYRIE** *(Responses Sung)*

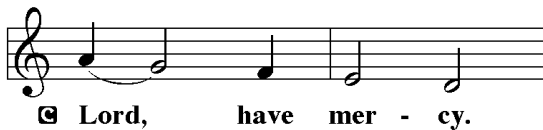
P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



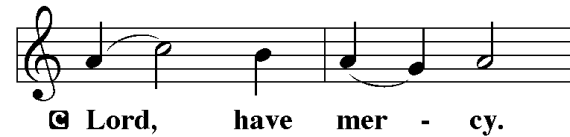
P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-5

A Our first reading is from Isaiah, chapter 55, verses 1-5.

God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

The reading begins:

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

A The Psalm today is from Psalm 145, verses 8-9 and 14-21. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹**LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁵**The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷**You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.**

¹⁸You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully.

¹⁹**You fulfill the desire of those who fear you; you hear their cry and save them.**

²⁰You watch over all those who love you, but all the wicked you shall destroy.

²¹**My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

SECOND READING: Romans 9:1-5

A Our second reading is from Romans, chapter 9, verses 1-5.

This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.

The reading begins:

¹I am speaking the truth in Christ — I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit — ²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

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:** Matthew 14:13-21

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 14, verses 13-21.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

* **HYMN ELW - #515 "Break Now the Bread of Life"**

1. **Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
my spirit waits for you, O living Word.**
2. **Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me,
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my All-in-All!**
3. **You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
your holy word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live with you above;
teach me to love your truth, for you are love.**

CCLI Song #128338 Words: Mary Artemisia Lathbury Music: William Fiske Sherwin
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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 You desire peace and justice in the world. Instill within all political leaders your desire, support the work of international peace organizations, and provide relief for those in war-torn areas, especially in Ukraine and Sudan. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**

- A You place us within communities for mutual support and love. Reveal yourself to us in worship, fellowship, and ministry with our neighbors. Provide for feeding ministries and the food pantry in our area, that we share your abundance with all who hunger. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- A We pray for all those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:
Wallace Huerta; Ronnie Polasek; Chris Schobel; Tim Page; Jordyn Templeton; Melvin Otto; Gene Chollett; Carl Geisler; Kathy Hageman; Kaci Luedke; Ronnie Huebel; 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 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.
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 We pray for all expectant mothers, and especially for:
Olivia Leyendecker; Daya Latiolais; Cassidy Zajicek 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 We pray for all those who reside in care facilities and the homebound and especially for: 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 that they receive your caring and compassion. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A 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; 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.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A 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.**

A You have placed before us examples of faithful living who have witnessed to your promises throughout time and space. Rouse us by their lives of service and dedication to be your hands and feet in this world. 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.**

* **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 All people are called to Christ's table. Come and be fed by Jesus.

C **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (Kneeling at Rail)

*{You will be coming forward to the rail for distribution. **All are welcome for communion.** You will be ushered down the center aisle beginning in the front. Fill in at the railings starting at the side and work your way around to the center, then kneel if you are able. Pastor will hand out 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. An acolyte follows with an empty tray for you to place your empty individual cup. After receiving communion, please remain at the rails until Pastor has dismissed the entire table with a blessing. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.}

(Sung)

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Please be seated.)

* **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 (DOXOLOGY)** ELW - #884 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"
(Melody is found in #883.)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

CCLI Song #56204 Words: Thomas Ken Music: Louis Bourgeois
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* **HYMN** ELW - #689 "Praise and Thanksgiving"

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

1. Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer for all things living, you have made good: harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
2. God, bless the labor we bring to serve you, that with our neighbor we may be fed. Sowing or tilling, we would work with you, harvesting, milling for daily bread.
3. Father, providing food for your children, by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share one with another, so that, rejoicing with us, all others may know your care.
4. Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people, freely confessing your gracious hand. Where you are reigning, no one will hunger; your love sustaining showers the land.

CCLI Song #2691172 Words: Albert Frederick Bayly Music: Gaelic tune; arr. Hymnal version
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* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God, and we will.

POSTLUDE

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USHERS: SAT: Harvey Poenitzsch; Bob Poenitzsch; Audrey Rester

SUN: Charleen Andrus; Darlene Ahschlager; Emily Brod

LAY READERS: SAT: Rhanda Lattimore

SUN: Sharon Johnson

ACOLYTE:

SUN: Callen Barten

STREAMING:

SUN: Brian Lighthill

SOUND:

SUN: Todd Jacobs

ALTAR GUILD: JoAnn Venghaus and Sharon Johnson

WELCOME: Through Isaiah, God calls, “Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters” (Isaiah 55:1, ESV). We come today to the Living Water made known in Jesus Christ. Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by Ed & Michelle Thraen in celebration of their 35th wedding anniversary on August 6.

Congratulations to our St. Paul supported missionary Dina Anton de Espinoza and her husband David on the birth of their daughter **Isabella Sophie Espinoza**. Isabella Sophie was born Friday, July 28, 2023 in Lima, Peru. She weighed 8 lbs. and is welcomed home by big sister Rachel.

**** You are invited to join the Gorman Family as they honor and celebrate Doris Gorman on her 90th birthday Saturday, August 12, 2023! The celebration will be at The Lighthouse from 2:00-5:00 PM. ****

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: July 29 & 30, 2023 – 156

Contributions: July 29 & 30 – \$5,748.01

Power of One: July 29 & 30, 2023 – \$36.00

Building Fund: July 29 & 30 – \$928.23

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

*** FAVORITE HYMN: “Praise and Thanksgiving” by Albert F. Bayly**

Albert F. Bayly was born September 6, 1901 in Sussex, England. After grammar school he trained as a shipwright before entering University. In the late 1920s he became a minister for the Congregational church (later it became the United Reformed Church). During his ministry he endured the Depression of the 1930s, the Second World War, the death of his first wife and years of reconstruction. His biography does not mention children. He retired in 1971, and he died in 1984.

He was a hospitable, humble man AND a devoted pastor. He began writing hymns in 1954 to express a Christian response to contemporary problems and opportunities. Many of his hymns and poems were inspired by natural beauty and specific occasions. JOY is repeated in many of his 200 hymns and 60 poems. Twenty-six of his hymns were written specifically for children.

The specific reason or inspiration for “Praise and Thanksgiving” is not available. However, the music for “Praise and Thanksgiving” is a Gaelic folk melody.

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! ☺

► **1st Grade Creation Day!** Students entering 1st grade are invited to cool off in the Lighthouse for a day to create on **Sunday, August 6, 2023** from **12:15-2:15 PM**. Students will have time to create and play together as we talk about how we are created to be Salt & Light to the earth.

◆ **Blessing of the Backpacks:** We are sending our students and educators back to school with our prayers and blessings on **Saturday, August 12 and Sunday, August 13, 2023 at each worship service**. All students from pre-school through college are invited to bring their backpacks to worship and join us for this 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 3rd grade (and have 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.

**** 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. ****



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.

♥♥ 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 take or 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. 6) – 12:15-2:15 PM – 1st Grade Creation Day (Lighthouse)
Mon., Aug. 7 – 1:00 PM – Deacon Sandye to TLC
2:30 PM – Staff Meeting
6:00 PM – Evangelism Team (library)
Tues., Aug. 8 – 9:00 AM-12:00 PM – Quilters (Lighthouse)
10:30 AM – Pastor Alan to TLC
12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)
5:30 PM – Stewardship Team (library)
Wed., Aug. 9 – 9:00 AM – CLA Chapel
10:00 AM – Deacon Sandye to Columbus Oaks
2:00 PM – Deacon Sandye to The Oaks
Thurs., Aug. 10 – **First Day of School for CISD!!**
5:00 PM – Worship Team (library)
6:00 PM – Property Team
Fri., Aug. 11 – 10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)
Sat., Aug. 12 – 2:00-5:00 PM – Doris Gorman's 90th Birthday (Lighthouse)
7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship & Blessing of Backpacks
Next Sun., Aug. 13 – 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship & Blessing of Backpacks
10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School
11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship & Blessing
12:00 PM – Farewell Potluck for Deacon Sandye & Randy (Lighthouse)

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Tuesday, August 8, 2023 **Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), died 1221**

Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.

Thursday, August 10, 2023 **Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258**

As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor. Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor had him put to death.

Friday, August 11, 2023 Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253

A contemporary of Francis of Assisi, Clare and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She inspired other women to pursue spiritual goals.

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SERVICE OVERVIEW: ABUNDANCE FROM SCRAPS

Jesus is able to feed us abundantly, even with scraps. He meets earthly needs by feeding the crowds and continues now to offer himself as holy meal, freely given to all, no matter their income or rank in society. It can be hard to relax and trust God to take care of us and nourish us with the mere scraps we often see around us. We panic and take matters into our own hands instead of trusting. We experience that crushing sense of responsibility, not just to ourselves, but to our children or parents or other loved ones to keep them fed and clothed and healthy. Trusting as the crowd did that day seems completely foreign to those of us living in North America, abundant in resources.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Today Jesus feeds the multitude with only a little bread, and continues to do this for us today. Welcome to worship! Hear this blessing. Eat the food that our Savior gives to us!

With food freely given, with quantity enough to feed only a few, Jesus makes this miracle. There are even leftovers to clean up. For most of us, belief comes slowly and warily when we've been burned by experience: how will there be enough for all of us? What if we see people in the crowd we don't want fed? Will it be fair? Trusting that our daily bread and even our very lives are in God's hands is hard to do as we grow older and burdened by responsibility, but God has compassion for every member of the crowd, and we are blessed and invited to be joyful recipients of that generosity.

When we speak of food and feasting in worship, we also do well to remember how complex our relationship to food can be. Food can translate directly into physical pleasure and power, unless we live with illnesses that make food an enemy or keep it from nourishing us. God's banquet table is one of food that nourishes all who hunger and empowers God's people for freedom and life. As we await the fullness of this promise, consider, and honor, those who have found themselves at tables where good food and freedom have been withheld.

Isaiah invites all who are hungry and thirsty. It may be tempting to spiritualize these desires, but many experience physical hunger and thirst. Where do they go? How do they quench their thirst and satisfy their hunger? Often it is through the incredible work of feeding ministries in their communities. *We* are sent to work with these feeding ministries that bless so many. *We* are called to ensure we are feeding our neighbors food that nourishes. *We* are tasked to create a world where these ministries are not needed. As we come to the table to partake in the holy meal of communion, we are sent to work for better food systems and easier access to healthy food.

KID STUDY:

Matthew's account of the feeding of the multitudes mention that children were present, but they are not included in the head count. We are more likely to include the number of children when we count those present. How many other kids do you see at worship today? Share God's peace with them. Invite them all to come forward to the table, to eat God's bread or to receive a blessing.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

Eternal Goodness, I shall contemplate myself in you. By this light I shall come to know that you, eternal Trinity, are table and food and waiter for us. You, eternal Father, are the table that offers us as food, the Lamb, your only-begotten Son. He is the most exquisite of foods for us, both in his teaching, which nourishes us in your will, and in the sacrament that we receive in Holy Communion, which feeds and strengthens us while we are pilgrim travelers in this life. And the Holy Spirit is indeed a waiter for us, who serves us this teaching by enlightening our mind's eye with it and inspiring us to follow it, and who serves us charity for our neighbors and the salvation of the whole world for the Father's honor. - Catherine of Siena [Catherine of Siena, The Prayers of Catherine of Siena, ed. Suzanne Noffke OP (NY: Paulist, 1983), 101-102.]

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Next Week's Theme (Aug. 12 & 13): Jesus and Peter walking on water

Next Week's Scriptures (Aug. 12 & 13):

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18

"The LORD speaks to Elijah on Mount Horeb."

Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13

"I will listen to what the LORD God is saying." (Ps. 85:8)

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

"Hearing and confessing the word of faith."

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

"Jesus walking on the sea."