

**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 6 & 7, 2022

Ninth Sunday after 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
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			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.*

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

**INTRODUCTION**

*Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning — to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.*

**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 Merciful God,

**C we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. 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 - #771 "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"**

1. **God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place, flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space: we, your children in your likeness, share inventive pow'rs with you; great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.**

2. **We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race; known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space; probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined pow'r, facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.**

3. **As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew: children of creative purpose, serving others, hon'ring you. May our dreams prove rich with promise; each endeavor well begun; great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.**

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927 Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835 Text ©1967 Hope Publishing Company

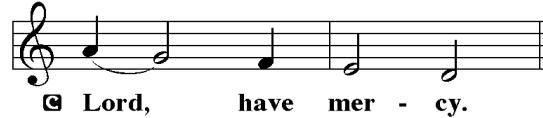
\* **GREETING**

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

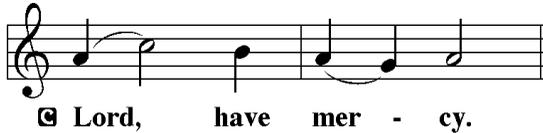
**C And also with you.**

\* **KYRIE** (Responses Sung)

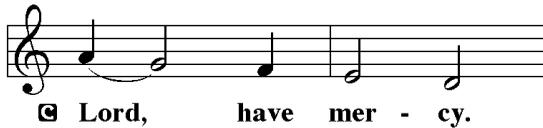
P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



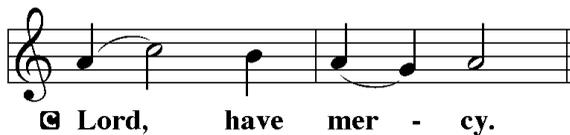
P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



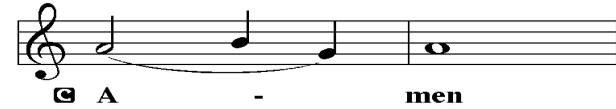
P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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 Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 15:1-6

A Our first reading is from Genesis, chapter 15, verses 1-6.

*God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.*

The reading begins:

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 33:12-22

A The Psalm today is from Psalm 33, verses 12-22. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

<sup>12</sup>Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

<sup>13</sup>**The LORD looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.**

<sup>14</sup>God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.

<sup>15</sup>**God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.**

<sup>16</sup>A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

<sup>17</sup>**The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.**

<sup>18</sup>Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

<sup>19</sup>**to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

<sup>20</sup>Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD, our helper and our shield.

**21 Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.**

**22** Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.

**SECOND READING:** Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

A Our second reading is from Hebrews, chapter 11, verses 1-3 and 8-16.

*Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

The reading begins:

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. <sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old — and Sarah herself was barren — because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” <sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

A Please stand as you are comfortable for the gospel.

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



\* **GOSPEL:** Luke 12:32-40

*Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 12, verses 32-40.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup>“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. <sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

\* **HYMN ELW - #764 “Have No Fear, Little Flock”**

- 1. Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock, for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom; have no fear, little flock!**
- 2. Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer, little flock, for the Father will keep you in his love forever; have good cheer, little flock!**
- 3. Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above, for he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you; praise the Lord high above!**
- 4. Thankful hearts raise to God; thankful hearts raise to God, for he stays close beside you, in all things works with you; thankful hearts raise to God!**

Text: Luke 12:32, stanza 1; Marjorie Jillson, stanzas 2-4 Music: Heinz Werner Zimmermann  
Text and Music ©1973 Concordia Publishing House

\* **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 Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you. Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Let your lovingkindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation and all who care for those in need. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Let your lovingkindness be upon farmers and ranchers as they continue to work hard to bring us food in this time of drought. Bless them as they sow crops and care for livestock. Send us rain to heal the earth and water to quench Your thirsty land. Let faith be born from our doubts, hope from our despair, and compassion from our troubles. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Let your lovingkindness 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 Loving God, we pray for the Columbus Junior Boys baseball team, coaches, families and supporters as they travel to Albuquerque for their Regional tournament. Bless them with safe travels, and keep the team safe from injuries. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Loving God, we pray for those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including: Jackson Chollett; Andrew Coufal; Ruth Bedford; Irene Noska; Charlotte Pesak; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you *(Pause)*. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Loving God, we pray for all those battling cancer that they may know strength and comfort. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)* Merciful God, 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.

**C receive our prayer.**

A Loving God, we pray for all expectant mothers, and especially for: Mallory Dungen Cook and Madisyn Horndt Neumann that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Loving God, we pray for all those who reside in care facilities and the homebound and especially for: Adrian Fritsch; Don Morrison; Verna Coufal; Doug Hill; John Zwiegel; 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; Fritz Willms; Joyce Dehmer; and Donna Dehmer that they receive your caring and compassion. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A 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 Loving 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.**

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)*



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.**

\* **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 Jesus comes to serve you in this meal. Come to the banquet.

**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 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 - #638 "Blessed Assurance"**

1. **Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

**REFRAIN:**

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

2. **Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

**REFRAIN**

3. **Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**

**REFRAIN**

CCLI Song #22324 Words: Fanny Jane Crosby Music: Phoebe Palmer Knapp  
© Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain CCLI License #1720377

\* **DISMISSAL**

- P Go in peace. Love God, love neighbor. C Thanks be to God, and we will.

**POSTLUDE**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006327.  
New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.  
Used by permission.

**USHERS: SAT:** Harvey Poenitzsch; Emily Frank; JoAnn Venghaus

**SUN:** Curtiss Schonenberg; DyAnn Lauzon; Marilyn Yearwood

**LAY READERS: SAT:** Ruth Poncik

**SUN:** David Stancik

**ACOLYTES: SAT:** Alex Rester

**SUN:** Paisley Stancik

**STREAMING:**

**SUN:** Janel Barten

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

**WELCOME:** In the name of Jesus – teacher, friend, healer, Lord, Messiah, Savior – we welcome you to worship.

**ALTAR WALL FLOWERS** are placed by Ed and Michelle Thraen in honor and celebration of their 34<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 6.

**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 30 & 31, 2022 – 119

**Contributions:** July 30 & 31 – \$6,664.17

**Power of One:** July 30 & 31, 2022 – \$41.00

**Building Fund:** July 30 & 31 – \$395.00

*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! ☺



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

\*\* **End of Summer Pool Party!!** St. Paul Families and youth are invited to a **Family Pool Night Wednesday, August 10, 2022 from 7:00-9:00 PM** at the Columbus City Pool.



**Friday Adult Bible Study:** The Friday Adult Bible Study group that meets with Deacon Sandye **will take a brief summer break for the remainder of August.** They will resume their class on **Friday, September 2, 2022.** See you then!

♦ **Peru Team Meeting:** Our next Peru Team meeting will be **Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 6:00 PM.** Join us in the library to get an update from Pastor Alan on his trip to Peru and how we can best serve our South American neighbors. Plus, get in on the beginning planning stages of our 2023 Peru mission trip!

**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 at 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 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 Marriage Course:** *October 2-November 13, 2022, Sunday nights from 6:30-8:30 PM in the Lighthouse.* This will be opened up to the public and limited to 25 couples. Be looking for more information to come. Building stronger marriages builds stronger families that builds a stronger community.

♥ **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:**

**Mon., Aug. 8 –** 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting  
**Tues., Aug. 9 –** 9:00 AM-12:00 PM – Quilters (Lighthouse)  
5:30 PM – Stewardship Team (library)  
**Wed., Aug. 10 –** 9:45 AM – CLA Chapel  
7:00-9:00 PM – Family Pool Night (Columbus City Pool)  
**Thurs., Aug. 11 –** 5:00 PM – Worship Team (library)  
6:00 PM – Peru Team (library)  
**Sat., Aug. 13 –** 7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship  
**Next Sun., Aug. 14 –** 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship  
10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School  
11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship

#### **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Monday, August 8, 2022** **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.

**Wednesday, August 10, 2022** **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.

**Thursday, August 11, 2022** **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.

**Saturday, August 13, 2022** **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.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006327.

#### **SERVICE OVERVIEW: A KINGDOM FOR THE LITTLE FLOCK**

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Jesus promises the kingdom to us, his little flock. We strain our minds with this uninhibited generosity. Even to us, so little and undeserving? Even to us, in the face of so many things to be afraid of? Suddenly the value of everything we hold dear in this world is questioned, and the true value of things becomes plainly clear. We are being given the kingdom! So why not sell our possessions and give to those in need? We are being given the kingdom! So why not wait on expectant tiptoes for the master? When he comes he will wait on us! The Father’s free generosity calls forth in us a generosity we have never before known. Fear is now met with anticipation, and tightfistedness with open hands. We are being given the kingdom, so now we know what true treasure looks like. And yet, like our fathers and mothers in faith that the Hebrews reading speaks of, we too “desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.” But in Christ our heavenly country has already arrived. In him, God has freely given us the kingdom.

#### **THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:**

Today, we hear about a master who serves his slaves at table. Once again we meet the Son of Man, and as always, there is something of Christ’s presence that surprises us. Welcome to worship! Christ welcomes us, forgives us, speaks with us, and serves us bread and wine. Join us in the Master’s company.

We are given four different images of the life of faithfulness: we are a flock that is well shepherded; we put our money into sturdy purses; we are slaves served at table by the master; our lives are broken into by God’s very self. At holy communion today, we are those very slaves served by the master.

The slaves are waiting faithfully for the master to arrive, and then to their utter surprise *the master serves them at the table!* How can modern society, with technology undergirding both our brilliance and depravity, make Jesus' call a reality? We, who think that there ought to be no slaves and that the master should be serving everyone at table, find this image nowhere near as shocking as it was to Luke’s audience.

Even our most carefully chosen language fails to express the full mercy of God. We see this in the odd final image: the Son of Man, who at the end of time will judge evil and bridge the chasm between God and humankind, is a thief who breaks into our house. When we imagined that a thief might come, we were prepared by having set our house alarm, but then the thief came when we least expected it and carried off our treasures. It is a surprising way to describe the coming of Christ into our lives. Are we like a locked house, hiding inside from everything we fear? What does this mean, then, for those who are physically and spiritually "at home"? How can we care for and welcome those who will never be truly at home among us?

Enshrined in the US Constitution as "endowed" by God, the quest for "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" permeates our American life, yet the "assurance of things hoped for" described in

the second reading from Hebrews often ends in disillusion and ruin. So then, what is the difference between the "home" promised by God and the one we seek in this life? How do we keep from falling for the world's vision as opposed to God's? Our identity and worth as children of God make it possible for us to participate as God's disciples now.

**KID STUDY:**

Today Jesus tells the people not to worry too much about building up treasures on earth. That means not to worry too much about money and things. Instead, we should spend our time building up treasures in heaven. What do you think would be treasures in heaven? Sometimes we worry, or have a tough time separating ourselves from our things. We look around and want what we do not have. God takes care of our needs, and we want to make Him our hope and true treasure. When we live our lives loving and serving our neighbor, we show that living a life of service (being the hands and feet of Jesus) is the most valuable thing we have. Our faith in God's promise is worth more than any "thing" we can ever possess.

**INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:**

*Abraham and Sarah never gave up responding to God in faith. When their confident assurance was stretched to the limit of its endurance, God fulfilled the promise planted in their hearts so many years earlier. Our confident assurance of hope is intensified in the gospel revelation, a precious little jewel within which the entire gamut of God's dealings with humankind is compressed. The injunction "Be dressed and ready" calls us to be prepared to move at once, as the Israelites were on the night of the Passover in Egypt. Our lamps are to be burning, the light of faith as our guide. Jesus can reveal to us God's tremendous love only when we are willing to make the changes called for in the light of faith. We are the servants awaiting the return of Christ, not only at the end of time when he will come again to judge the living and the death, but also whenever he comes in the events of our daily life. - Mary Pierre Ellebracht, C.Pp.S. [Mary Pierre Ellebracht, C.Pp.S., in Homilies for the Christian People, 508-509.]*

+++++

**Next Week's Theme (Aug. 13 & 14):** Expect division when following Jesus

**Next Week's Scriptures (Aug. 13 & 14):**

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 23:23-29

*"God's word is like fire, like a hammer that breaks rocks."*

**Psalm:** Psalm 82

*"Arise, O God, and rule the earth." (Ps. 82:8)*

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 11:29 - - 12:2

*"The faith of the Hebrew people, a great cloud of witnesses."*

**Gospel:** Luke 12:49-56

*"Jesus brings fire on earth and has a baptism with which to be baptized."*