

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 6, 2023 Contemporary 11:05 AM

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			Tomas Rosales
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator			DyAnn Lauzon

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

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.

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 We believe that the Bible contains instruction for us as followers of Jesus Christ to do what he asked of us. He taught the first disciples to help others to confess their sins and to proclaim to them the promise of forgiveness afterwards. So let us take a few brief moments in silence to open our hearts and minds to Jesus, to confess the things that weigh heavy on our hearts and the things we need help with so we might be more in line with what Jesus commands.

(Silence for private confession.)

P If you are truly sorry and asking God for help, here is the promise he commanded the leaders in his church to proclaim, "You are forgiven." May this forgiveness free you and help you to live; to live in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: COME TO THE TABLE

We all start on the outside... the outside looking in. This is where grace begins. We were hungry, we were thirsty... with nothing left to give. Oh, the shape that we were in! Just when all hope seemed lost, love opened the door for us.

CHORUS:

He said, "Come to the table! Come join the sinners who have been redeemed. Take your place beside the Savior. Sit down and be set free. Come to the table."

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.

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

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.”¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.”¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.”¹⁹ Then 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.²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

GOSPEL SONG: COME TO THE TABLE

**Come meet this motley crew of misfits... these liars and these thieves.
There's no one unwelcome here. That sin and shame that you've brought with you,
You can leave it at the door... and let mercy draw you near!**

CHORUS:

**He said, “Come to the table! Come join the sinners who have been redeemed.
Take your place beside the Savior. Sit down and be set free. Come to the table.”**

BRIDGE:

**To the thief and to the doubter, to the hero and the coward.
To the pris'ner and the soldier, to the young and to the older.
All who hunger, all who thirst, all the last and all the first.
All the paupers and the princes, all who've failed, You've been forgiven!
All who dream and all who suffer, all who've loved and lost another.
All the chained and all the free, all who follow, all who lead.
Anyone who's been let down, all the lost, you have been found!
All who've been labeled right or wrong, To everyone who hears this song...**

LAST CHORUS:

**Come to the table! Come join the sinners who have been redeemed.
Take your place beside the Savior. Sit down and be set free. Sit down and be set free!
Come to the table. Come to the table.
Just sit down and rest a while. Just sit down and rest a while.
Come to the table!**

CCLI Song #7036352 Words and Music by Ben Glover, Ben McDonald, and Dave Frey ©
Dayspring Music, LLC (a div. Of Word Music Group, Inc), 9t One Songs (Admin. by Capitol
CMG Publishing), Ariose Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), PencilProphet Publishing
(Admin. by Word Music Group, Inc.), Run Run Milo (Admin. by WordMusic Group, Inc.) CCLI Lic #1729377

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*** SERMON SONG: GOODNESS OF GOD**

**I love you, Lord, for Your mercy never fails me.
All my days, I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up, until I lay my head,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.**

CHORUS

**And all my life, You have been faithful. And all my life, You have been so, so good!
With every breath that I am able, oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.
[2nd time to BRIDGE]**

**I love Your voice! You have led me through the fire.
In the darkest night, You are close like no other.
I've known You as a Father, I've known You as a friend,
And I have lived in the goodness of God. CHORUS**

BRIDGE (x2)

**'Cause Your goodness is running after. . . it's running after me!
Your goodness is running after. . . it's running after me!
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now. I give You everything!
'Cause Your goodness is running after. . . it's running after me!**

LAST CHORUS

**'Cause all my life, You have been faithful. And all my life, You have been so, so good!
With every breath that I am able, oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.
Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God.**

CCLI Song #7117726 Words and Music by Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, and Jenn Johnson ©2018
Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) | SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG
Publishing) | Fellow Ships Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) | So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Capitol CMG
Publishing) | Bethel Music Publishing CCLI License #1729377

*** 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 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.

A brief silence.

- A You comfort those who are hurting. Accompany those who are alone, heal those who are sick, provide for all who hunger or thirst, console the bereaved, bring joy to the sorrowful, and attend to all who call on you.

A brief silence.

- 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.

A brief silence.

- 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.

A brief silence.

- A We pray for all those battling cancer that they may know comfort and strength. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*
Elizabeth Frisby; John Gibson; Dorothy Wicke; Pam Parker; Debbie Herzik; Randy Wendt; Susan Chandler; Heather Deviney; Jaime Sawyer; Kim Moerbe Welack; 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 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.

A brief silence.

- A 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.)*
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 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 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 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.

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 be fed by Jesus.

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 calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ☩ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C Amen.

* **CLOSING SONG: CHILD OF LOVE**

**I was walking the way-side, lost on a lonely road.
I was chasing the high life, tryin' to satisfy my soul.
All the lies I believed in left me crying like the rain.
Then I saw lightning from heaven, and I've never been the same.**

CHORUS 1:

***I'm gonna climb a mountain, I'm gonna shout about it, I am a child of love!
I found a world of freedom, I found a friend in Jesus, I am a child of love!***

**I've felt the sting of the fire, but I saw You in the flames.
Just when I thought it was over, You broke me out of the grave – Hallelujah!**

CHORUS 2:

***I'm gonna climb a mountain, I'm gonna shout about it, I am a child of love!
I found a world of freedom, I found a friend in Jesus, I am a child of love!
Yeah, yeah. . . Yeah! Oh. . . Oh! I am a child of love!
Lemme hear you say yeah. . . Yeah! Oh. . . Oh! I am a child of love!***

BRIDGE:

Nothing can change the way that You love me, nothing can change the way.
I be-long to You, yes, I do. Nothing can separate!
Nothing can change the way that You love me, nothing can change the way.
I be-long to You, yes, I do. Nothing can separate!
I'm gonna climb a mountain. . . I am a child of love.
I found a world of freedom. . . I am a child of love.

CHORUS 2:

I'm gonna climb a mountain, I'm gonna shout about it, I am a child of love!
I found a world of freedom, I found a friend in Jesus, I am a child of love!
Yeah, yeah. . . Yeah! Oh. . . Oh! I am a child of love!
Lemme hear you say yeah. . . Yeah! Oh. . . Oh! I am a child of love!

CCLI Song #7153977 © 2020 Words and Music by Andrew Berghold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, and Scott Cash.
Bay 19, Capitol CMG Genesis, Capitol CMG Paragon, We The Kingdom ASCAP Designee, We The Kingdom Music (All admin.
by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI License #1729377

*** DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Share the good news. **C** Thanks be to God, and we will.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 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: Bethany Guthmann; Sandy Cherniss; Fay & Thomas Ulbricht
LAY READER: Walter Guthmann, Jr. **ACOLYTE:** Boden Muir
STREAMING: Chase Brasher **POWER POINT:** Kay Wesson
SOUND: Todd Jacobs **ALTAR GUILD:** Lora Kuenstler

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.

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 **today 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.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006327.

OTHER READINGS: Isaiah 55:1-5

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.

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

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹LORD, 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. ¹⁵The 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. ¹⁷You 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. ¹⁹You 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. ²¹My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.

OTHER READINGS: Romans 9:1-5

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.

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.]

+++++

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.*”