

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

July 3, 2022 Contemporary 11:05 AM

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Senior Pastor	Alan Kethan	<i>On Sabbatical</i>
Deacon of Word and Service	<u>Phone:</u> (979)-530-8368	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

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

God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

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 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 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.

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: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.

A The holy gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 10, verses 1-11 and 16-20.

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.

⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'"¹⁶"Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."¹⁷The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" ¹⁸He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

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: SEND ME**

CHORUS:

**Send me, I will go! Send me, I will go... to this city, to this nation,
And to the nations of the world. Send me, I will go! Send me, I will go!
I will proclaim the truth: That Jesus Christ is Lord!**

**We stand before you pleading from our hearts, that by Your Spirit you would set us apart.
To bring Your good news to everyone else, to love our neighbors as ourselves. CHORUS**

**I cry out for every family, you'd open blind eyes and set people free.
That our hearts will be focused on You, to serve with grace and glory, too. CHORUS**

BRIDGE (x2) :

**As we humble ourselves, and seek Your face,
we fall on our knees, we turn from our ways.
As we humble ourselves, and seek Your face,
we fall on our knees, we turn from our ways.**

**As we humble ourselves, and seek Your face,
we fall on our knees, we turn from our ways.
You will hear our cry, wipe our sins away. Come and heal our land, we pray! CHORUS**

TAG END:

I will proclaim the truth: That Jesus Christ is Lord.

CCLI Song #3178144 Words and Music by Same Evans and Henry Seeley
© Planetshakers Ministries Int. Inc. | TBCO Music CCLI Lic #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 United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A Lord of the harvest, you send your church into the world to proclaim Christ's new creation to all. Renew the church as it carries out your mission of peace and healing. We pray for missionaries who accompany your people.

A brief silence.

A God of gentleness, strengthen the earth's ability to heal. Where there are dangerous storms, bring calm. Where there are destructive fires, bring rain. Protect homes, habitats, and livelihoods threatened by climate disasters.

A brief silence.

A You guard the nations; let no leaders exalt themselves, but lift up the most vulnerable and work for the good of all. Send your Spirit to eradicate violence, war, poverty and hunger.

A brief silence.

A You desire abundant life for all. As we celebrate Independence Day, instill in us gratitude, generosity, and persistence in working toward freedom for all people.

A brief silence.

A Loving God, you care for all people in need. Nourish those who are hungry. Restore employment to those who have lost work. Heal those who are sick, and comfort all who are dying or grieving.

A brief silence.

A We pray for 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.

A brief silence.

A We pray for those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:
Chris Thraen; Gloria Koehn; Des Townsend; Robert Eaton; Ronnie Huebel; Candi King; 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 strength and comfort. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*

Al Gene Canik; Jane Veghaus Taylor; George Wright; Elrose Kollatschny; Sarah Stancik; Shelly Bowden; 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; Anthony Baumbach; 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.

A brief silence.

A We pray for all expectant mothers that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*
Stephanie Miles; Katie Page; Brooke Dungen Pawlak; Mallory Dungen Cook; and Madisyn Horndt Neumann.

A brief silence.

A 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 Zwiengel; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Deanna Lee; Doris Poppe; Barbara McMath; Linda Munos Rodgers; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Delores Purcell; Jane Booker; Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Beatrice Zikuhr; Ronnie Rogers; Fritz Willms; Joyce Dehmer; and Donna Dehmer that they receive your caring and compassion.

A brief silence.

A We pray for all law enforcement officers and especially for 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 that they are protected and kept safe.

A brief silence.

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 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.

A brief silence.

A We remember the saints who proclaimed your reign on earth and now rest in you. Make us faithful in our witness to Christ's new creation.

A brief silence.

A God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

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 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, in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

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

* **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

* **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (Continuous with Individual Cups)

{Distribution will be continuous. All are welcome for communion. Please come down the center aisle starting from the front. Follow directions of the ushers, coming up one side at a time. Please keep 6 feet between those who are not your family members. Pastor will hand you the bread. If you wish to have a gluten-free wafer, please tell Pastor "Gluten-free, please." Afterward, you will choose either wine or white grape juice from the individual cups in the tray – white grape juice in the center with wine surrounding. Place the empty cups in the baskets located off to the side. Although communion is continuous, you are welcome to kneel at the rail in prayer after receiving communion. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.}

* **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.

* **CLOSING SONG: A CUP OF COLD WATER**

**I was hungry and You gave me something to eat,
I was naked and You clothed me.
I was thirsty and You gave me something to drink,
I was sick and You were there for me.
And we say, "When, Lord, did we see You thirsty?
When, Lord, were you sick and cold? When, Lord,
Did we see You hungry? When, Lord? When, Lord?"**

CHORUS:

***"What you have done for the least of these, then you have done for Me.
A piece of bread for the lonely pilgrim, and for the thirsty . . .
A cup of cold water! A cup of cold water!
A cup of cold water! A cup of cold water!"***

**Well I was lonely and You were a friend to me.
I was lost and You found me.
I was in prison and You came to sit with me.
I was a stranger and You welcomed me.**

And we say, “When, Lord, did we see You lonely?
When, Lord, had You lost your way? When, Lord,
were You a prisoner? When, Lord? When, Lord?”

CHORUS:

*“What you have done for the least of these, then you have done for Me.
A piece of bread for the lonely pilgrim, and for the thirsty . . .
A cup of cold water! A cup of cold water!
A cup of cold water! A cup of cold water!”*

BRIDGE:

**When we love them, we love Jesus. When we hold them, we hold the Lord.
When we touch them, we're touching Jesus.
We've got to reach out and touch the world!
When we love them, we love Jesus. When we hold them, we hold the Lord.
When we touch them, we're touching Jesus.
Reach out and touch someone!**

CHORUS:

Words and Music by Tim Bergmann. Used by permission.

*** DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C Thanks be to God, and we will.

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: John, Terri & Chase Brasher

LAY READER: Courtney Busselman

STREAMING: Chase Brasher

ACOLYTE: Nate Muir

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Brisco

WELCOME: Welcome to worship in Jesus' name. As we pray today that God bless America, may the whole world know God's goodness and live in peace and love.

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by Kevin & Wendy Page in joyful thanksgiving for all of their many blessings, especially their children and grandchildren.

We are pleased to have Rev. Lemae Higgs and Rev. Laird Engle sharing their messages with us this weekend. Pastor Lemae is presiding and sharing her message Saturday, July 2, and Pastor Laird is presiding and sharing his message Sunday, July 3 at both worship services. Thank you Pastor Lemae and Pastor Laird!! ☺

**** REMINDER!!** Pastor Alan continues to be on sabbatical during the month of July, 2022. In case of an emergency, please contact Deacon Sandye Fletcher at 979-530-8368. ******

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: June 25 & 26, 2022 – 161

Contributions: June 25 & 26 – \$6,595.80

Power of One: June 25 & 26, 2022 – \$45.00

Building Fund: June 25 & 26 – \$1,380.02

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! ☺

● **NOTICE!!** There will be **no Adult Sunday School next Sunday, July 10.** Class will resume Sunday, July 17, 2022 in the church library following the 9:00 AM worship service. We look forward to having you join us!

Attention all 2nd-3rd Graders!! A day of excitement and adventure awaits you at the **Houston Museum of Natural Science on Tuesday, July 5, 2022.** We will leave at 9:00 AM and return around 3:45 PM. You will need to bring a lunch and a water bottle. Contact Ms. Stephanie at 979-732-1858 if you have any questions.

Water Slides & Messy Art!! Students entering **Kindergarten and 1st Grade** are invited to come play on the water slides and get a little messy creating some art on **Tuesday, July 12, 2022** on the church lawn from **5:30-7:00 PM.** Bring your bathing suits and towels and learn about “What Love Is. . . .” Pizza and drinks will be served. **Please RSVP by Monday, July 11, 2022** to Stephanie at 979-732-1858.



Columbus Food Pantry: It is time for our church to help at the Columbus Food Pantry! The dates are **July 14 & 15, 2022**. The Food Pantry is located at the First United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 419 Washington Street. On **Thursday, July 14** the food delivery truck will arrive and grocery bags will be prepared; **please arrive at 8:30 AM** to help. **On Friday, July 15 the food will be distributed 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Please arrive at 8:30 AM** to help with the food distribution. Please mark your calendars to help with this important community service! If you have any questions, please call Kathy Fleming at 979-732-4930 or Tom Fleming at 979-732-4107.

Register for Vacation Bible School – July 18-22, 2022!! Mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School! Join us as we "Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the Southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead!" **VBS dates are July 18-22, 2022 from 6:00-8:30 PM each evening** and is open up to children who have completed 5th grade. Registration is free, however, t-shirts will be available for \$7 each. Parents may register their students online by visiting vbspro.events/p/events/stpaul2022. **Deadline to register is Sunday, July 17, 2022!!**

- **VBS FOOD DONATIONS:** Due to the cost of groceries, we are asking for donations to help with the meals served each evening before Vacation Bible School. We serve about 150 kids and volunteers *each night* of VBS. If you would like to help, you can either give a **monetary donation or** donate **specific food items**. For monetary donations, an envelope will be on the table in the narthex (foyer) that can be placed in the offering bowl. If you wish to donate specific food items, just pull a slip off the board and return it with the donation on the date specified. If you have any questions, please contact Loraine Gast at 979-732-1296. Thank you!



Worship Schedule Change!! The last weekend of July there will be a change in our worship schedule. Since the **weekend of July 30 & 31, 2022** is a 5th Sunday weekend, our worship services will be services of healing. We will have worship with healing on Saturday, July 30 at 7:00 PM. For **Sunday, July 31**, we will have **only one healing service at 10:00 AM**. Following that service we will have a pot luck meal in The Lighthouse to enjoy good food and good fellowship! **A sign-up sheet for the pot luck is in the narthex (foyer). Please sign-up if you are planning to attend!** Be sure to make note of the worship time change for Sunday, July 31 (10:00 AM), and mark your calendar for fellowship and pot luck immediately following the service!

♥ **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., July 4 – Office Closed!! (Independence Day)
Tues., July 5 – 9:00 AM-3:45 PM – 2nd-3rd Graders to HMNS, Houston
 12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)
 5:30 PM – Prayer Team (library)
 6:30-8:00 PM – The Gathering
Wed., July 6 – 9:45 AM – CLA Chapel
 10:30 AM-12:00 PM – Sewing Camp (Lighthouse)
Thurs., July 7 – 5:00 PM – County Fair Concession Stand Meeting (library)
 6:00 PM – Youth & Education Team (library)
 6:00 PM – Property Team (choir room)
Fri., July 8 – 10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)
Sat., July 9 – 7:00 AM – Men In Mission
 7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship
Next Sun., July 10 – 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship
 11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Sunday, July 3, 2022 Thomas, Apostle
 Though frequently remembered as "doubting Thomas," this apostle also demonstrated a willingness to suffer and die with Jesus (John 11:16), and finally claimed the risen Christ as "my Lord and my God!" By tradition, he later worked as a missionary in India. Long commemorated on December 21, Thomas's celebration is moved to July 3 in agreement with ecumenical calendars.

Wednesday, July 6, 2022 Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415
 Hus was a Bohemian (present-day Czech Republic) priest who spoke against abuses in the church, and was seen by Martin Luther as his predecessor in the reforming movement. He was found guilty of heresy by a council of the church, and burned at the stake.
 From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
 Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006327.

OTHER READINGS: Isaiah 66:10-14
Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman.

The reading begins:
¹⁰Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her — ¹¹that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom. ¹²For thus says the LORD: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees. ¹³As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. ¹⁴You shall see, and your heart

shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass; and it shall be known that the hand of the Lord is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies.

PSALM: Psalm 66:1-9

¹Be joyful in God, all you lands; be joyful, all the earth. ²Sing the glory of God's name; sing the glory of God's praise. ³Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you. ⁴All the earth bows down before you, sings to you, sings out your name." ⁵Come now and see the works of God, how awesome are God's deeds toward all people. ⁶God turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the water on foot, and there we rejoiced in God. ⁷Ruling forever in might, God keeps watch over the nations; let no rebels exalt themselves. ⁸Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. ⁹Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.

OTHER READINGS: Galatians 6:7-16

In the close of his letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages them to live as people made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice about how believers exercise common concern for one other in "the family of faith."

The reading begins:

⁷Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. ¹¹See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹²It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised — only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶As for those who will follow this rule — peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

SERVICE OVERVIEW: SENT WITH THE SEVENTY

Close your eyes and picture Jesus and his followers together. Most likely people either picture Jesus sitting around with the twelve disciples or standing in the midst of thousands preaching and teaching. Yet in today's gospel Jesus has seventy followers close enough that he trusts them to be sent out in pairs to heal the sick and announce that God has come near. Seventy trusted preachers. Thirty-five pairs of preachers telling the good news of God. So telling the story is clearly not to be limited to the twelve disciples. The good news is meant to be shared far and wide by those who trust Jesus and follow him.

This is a reminder to all of the followers of Jesus of every time and place. Sharing the good news is not just the responsibility of "professionals" like clergy. Sharing the good news is the calling of everyone who follows Jesus.

Consider the assignment Jesus gives to the ones he sends. First, they are sent to cure the sick. Second, they proclaim that "the kingdom of God has come near." It has been said that "you don't throw a drowning person a sandwich." Jesus sends the seventy out with not only words of comfort but with acts of grace as well.

God's people are sent out into the world to serve in the name of Jesus each time they gather for worship. In this gospel text we are again reminded that the gospel message is to be shared in more than just words. We share the message by welcoming others, sharing bread with the hungry, and offering compassion to the afflicted. Yet our baptism also reminds us that God has first come near to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ - a relationship that is like a mother comforting a child. The promise that God is near in Christ compels us to live faithfully and compassionately, wherever our journeys take us.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Today Jesus sends out seventy disciples to spread the word of salvation. Just like them, we gather at the feet of Jesus, hear the word, share the meal, and are then sent out as emissaries for Christ in our daily lives. Welcome to worship! Proclaim Christ to the world!

Even with the best of intentions, social groups have their own ways of identifying insiders and outsiders - think of fixed rituals like circumcision. Less formal challenges for "outsiders" can be knowing which door to use to enter the church building or how one might receive communion if they've never done it before. Paul insists that no human practice can ever be more central to Christian faith and life than the cross of Christ. What humans do is still important, but what Jesus has already done is everything.

There are two sides to hospitality: providing it and accepting it. Which one is more difficult for you? Which one do you see as more difficult in your community? Hosting obviously requires work, but being received as a guest is not necessarily easy either. A host is usually in charge of their environment; a guest may feel more vulnerable in an unfamiliar place. Jesus taught his disciples to be good guests: graciously accepting what is provided, staying in one place without shopping around, and accepting rejection without retaliating.

Jesus taught his followers to begin each visit in a new place with an offer of peace. If the offer is rejected, no harm done. If the offer is accepted, though, then that person receives peace! Although it might not sound as impressive as casting out demons, the ability to grant peace in itself is a miraculous gift. Greetings with peace are mentioned in many places in the New Testament, and any or all of them may be in mind when the peace is shared during a worship service. "Peace be with you" is not just a polite expression or a kind wish - it is a statement that becomes reality.

Jesus invites his followers to go out and join in the work he has already been doing. They return delighted to have been able to participate. Consider the old image of Jesus standing in front of a door, with one hand raised as if to knock. What if, instead of imagining that Jesus is about to ask if he can come in, you imagine that he is going to ask if you can come out and join him?

KID STUDY:

This weekend you may be celebrating Independence Day. What kinds of celebrations do you have with your friends and family? Imagine a festive gathering space that includes a two tables loaded with your favorite foods. There signs on each table – one says, “*Reserved*” and the other says “*All are welcome.*” At which table do you feel comfortable sitting? If we sit at the one that says, “*Reserved*” we may be asked to move or get some strange looks from people if we are not supposed to sit there. If we sit at the table that says, “*All are welcome,*” we know there are no rules for who can and cannot sit at the table. Today’s gospel shakes up our thinking about insiders, outsiders, borders, and boundaries. We are reminded to stay focused on and to share the important message that everyone is included and invited to receive God’s love. That love comes from us because we are the hands and feet of Jesus! We give and receive the peace of God by loving and caring for our neighbors.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

You, O Lord, brought me, a naked baby, into the light of day, for nature’s laws always obey your commands. You have nursed me with the spiritual milk of your divine words. You kept me alive with the solid food of the body of Jesus Christ, and you let me drink from the chalice of his life-giving blood, poured out to save the whole world... You, O church, are a most noble assembly whose assistance comes from God. You in whom God lives, now receive an exposition of the faith that is free from error, just as our forebears handed it down to us. - John of Damascus [John of Damascus, in Prayerbook of the Saints, ed. Charles Dollen (Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 1984) 67.]

+++++

Next Week's Theme (July 9 & 10): Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan

Next Week's Scriptures (July 9 & 10):

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:9-14 “*The LORD will take delight in your fruitfulness.*”

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10 “*Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.*” (Ps. 25:4)

Second Reading: Colossians 1:1-14 “*The gospel is growing, bearing fruit in the whole world.*”

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37 “*The parable of the merciful Samaritan.*”