

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

P. O. Box 267, 201 Veterans Dr., Columbus, TX 78934

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June 12, 2022 Contemporary 11:05 AM

The Holy Trinity

\*\*\*\*\*

Senior Pastor Alan Kethan  
Deacon of Word and Service  
Youth & Family Specialist  
Music Minister  
Congregational Chair  
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director  
Secretary  
Custodian  
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator

*On Sabbatical*  
Sandye Fletcher  
Stephanie Polasek  
Robert Eaton  
Donna Maas  
Briana Bedford  
Elena Holub  
O. C. S.  
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**

*“O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” Today we celebrate the holy Trinity. Paul writes that through Jesus we have peace with God, whose love pours into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, giving us lasting hope. We celebrate the gracious One-in-Three, eternal Three-in-One, as we worship in community; as we share water and word, bread and wine; and as we bring God’s love and hope to our neighbors.*

**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**

D 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.)*

D 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: LORD, I NEED YOU**

**Lord, I come. I confess. Bowing here, I find my rest.  
And without You, I fall apart. You're the One that guides my heart.**

**CHORUS:**

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.  
My one defense my righteousness. Oh, God, how I need You.**

**GOSPEL:** John 16:12-15

*Jesus' ongoing presence with the disciples will be made known through the coming Spirit who will guide them and communicate to them Jesus' will and glory.*

A The holy gospel according to St. John, chapter 16, verses 12-15.

[Jesus said,] <sup>12</sup>“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

**GOSPEL SONG: LORD, I NEED YOU**

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more. Where grace is found,  
Is where You are. And where You are, Lord, I am free.  
Holiness is Christ in me.

**CHORUS:**

Lord, I need you, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.  
My one defense my righteousness. Oh, God, how I need You.

**BRIDGE (twice)**

So teach my song to rise to You when temptation comes my way.  
When I cannot stand, I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay.

**LAST CHORUS:**

Lord, I need you, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.  
My one defense my righteousness. Oh, God, how I need You.  
You're my one defense my righteousness. Oh, God, how I need You.  
My one defense my righteousness. Oh, God, how I need You.

CCLI Song #5925687 Words and Music by Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, and Matt Maher.  
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**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**\* SERMON SONG: WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS**

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear;  
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

CCLI Song #27714 ELW # 742 Words and Music by Charles Crozat  
Converse and Joseph Medicott Scriven Public Domain 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 One God, giver of life, you established peace through your Son and gave your church the hope of sharing in your glory. Enliven us by your Spirit to speak and act in love for the sake of the world.

*A brief silence.*

A Loving God, we pray for 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.

*A brief silence.*

A Loving Redeemer, you delight in the human race. Move the hearts of world leaders to seek wisdom, speak truth, and care for all endangered by poverty, prejudice, or violence. Further the work of international collaboration and peacemaking.

*A brief silence.*

A Abiding Comforter, you call out to all who live. Restore severed relationships and protect children who lack trustworthy caregivers. Grant hope to those who are experiencing fear, pain, or grief.

*A brief silence.*

A Holy Three, you are community and you create community. Build up ministries that support those who are isolated or lonely. Give endurance as we nurture vital relationships in our congregation and beyond.

*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 the confirmation students and their sponsors attending confirmation camp at Sky Ranch in Colorado this week. We ask that you bless their time together, may they be blessed to grow in their faith, and we ask that you keep them safe in their travels.

*A brief silence.*

A We pray for those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:  
Jim Murrile; Verlene Kuntschik; Chris Marsh; Becky Gatzke; Duckie & Charleen Andrus; Carolyn Tipp; Michelle Kollman; Dessie Steinhauser; 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.)*  
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; Kenny Neuendorff; 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 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 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.)*  
Adrian Fritsch; Don Morrison; Verna Coufal; Doug Hill; John Zwiengel; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Deanna Lee; Dolores Wessels; 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; Robert Eaton; Ronnie Rogers; Fritz Willms; Joyce Dehmer; and Donna Dehmer.

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: 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.

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 Holy God, we remember your saints for their strong faith and witness, even unto death. Console grieving families. Stir up in us the resolve to end the sin of white supremacy and pursue the courageous path of justice.

*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**

D 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**

D 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**

D 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**

D 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**

D 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**

D 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: HOLY WATER (YOUR FORGIVENESS)**

**God, I'm on my knees again, God, I'm beggin' please again.  
I need You. Oh, I need You. Walking down these desert roads,  
Water for my thirsty soul. I need You. Oh, I need You.**

#### **CHORUS:**

***Your forgiveness... is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips!  
It's like the sound of a symphony to my ears!  
It's like holy water on my skin...***

**Dead man walkin', slave to sin. I wanna know about bein' born again,  
I need You. Oh, God, I need You.  
So take me to the river side, take me under, baptize!  
I need You. Oh, God, I need You. CHORUS**

#### **BRIDGE x3**

**I don't wanna abuse Your grace. God, I need it every day!  
It's the only thing that ever really makes me wanna change.**

#### **LAST CHORUS**

**Your forgiveness... Oh, is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips!  
It's like the sound of a symphony to my ears! It's like holy water  
Your forgiveness. . . Oh, is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips!  
It's like the sound of a symphony to my ears!  
Oh, it's like holy water on my skin...**

#### **TAG END:**

**Yeah, it's like holy water on my skin,  
Yeah, it's like holy water...**

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\* **DISMISSAL**

**D** Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

**C** Thanks be to God, and we will.

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**USHERS:** Gary & Donna Schindler

**LAY READER:** Mia Post

**STREAMING:** Mike Maas

**ACOLYTE:** Hudson Muir

**ALTAR GUILD:** Loraine Gast

**WELCOME:** Today is Trinity Sunday – not so much a time to explain a complex doctrine as an opportunity to dwell in the mystery of God. Welcome to worship!

**ALTAR WALL FLOWERS** are placed by Ken & Kay Wesson in loving memory of Kay's father Weldon Chollett whose birthday is June 8.

**ADDITIONAL FLOWERS** are placed by Terrel & Robin Maertz in thanks for God's many blessings and in celebration of their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 12.

We are pleased to have Pastor John Hunsicker and David Johnson sharing their messages with us this weekend. Pastor John is presiding over worship and sharing his message Saturday, June 11, and David Johnson is sharing his message at both Sunday services on June 12 as Deacon Sandye presides. Thank you Pastor John, Coach Johnson and Deacon Sandye!! ☺

**\*\* REMINDER!!** Pastor Alan will be on sabbatical during the months of June and 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 4 & 5, 2022 – 140

**Contributions:** June 4 & 5 – \$9,236.73

**Power of One:** June 4 & 5, 2022 – \$36.00

**Building Fund:** June 4 & 5 – \$828.23

*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.

**\*\* 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! ☺

**Attendance Pads Reminders:** Thank you to everyone for doing such a good job signing the attendance pads each week when you attend worship! Our records are more accurate when you sign the attendance pads. Here are a couple of things that will help get our records even more accurate and up-to-date: **1) When signing in, please write *everyone* in your family who is attending worship.** When you write “John Doe Family”, we do not know how many people that is and we don't know who exactly attended worship. Was it John, Sue and Sally Doe, or the whole family of John, Sue, Jim, Tom and Sally Doe? **2) Please include your address and phone number.** This is helpful especially when we have guests signing in. When they see the members writing addresses and phone numbers, guests are more likely to do the same. We like to welcome our guests by sending them a card after their visit. That is hard to do when we do not have contact information. It is also a way for us to keep up with our members when they have a change of address or phone number. Thank you for taking the time to do these items. Our staff and volunteers who take care of the personal records and oversee attendance records greatly appreciate your help.

**St. Paul Lutheran Church Youth Sewing Camp is meeting every Wednesday from now until July 6, 2022 from 10:30 AM-12:00 PM in The Lighthouse.** Debbie Eaton and her helpers are teaching the students a variety of different stitching techniques. The students will then have the opportunity to show off those techniques through different projects each week. For more information, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858.



• **THE GATHERING:** The Gathering, a young adult group, meets twice a month for food, fellowship and devotions led by Stephanie and Bradley Polasek. **Their next meeting will be Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 6:00 PM at Hound Song Brewery.** For more information, contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858.

► **God's Gals** will be meeting **Sunday, June 26, 2022 at 6:00 PM at Joe's Italian Restaurant** in Columbus for good food and good fellowship! All women of St. Paul are invited to this event. Questions? Contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127. We look forward to having you join us!



### 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](https://vbspro.events/p/events/stpaul2022).

**BE A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER!** Volunteers are Needed . . . VBS is a wonderful way to connect with the youth and to share how God has worked in your life. Sharing your love for Christ with the younger generation can be a humbling and rewarding experience and can impact the youth in so many ways. We all have gifts to give no matter what age, and we invite you to join our team. You may register on line by visiting [vbspro.events/p/stpaul2022](https://vbspro.events/p/stpaul2022). Questions? Contact Stephanie Polasek at 979-732-1858 or [stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com](mailto:stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com).

\* *Whenever you have a question about our church, whether it be the facilities, worship services, or just want to know who to talk to about a certain Ministry Team, our **Church Council members** are always there to help, answer questions, and guide us. Posted on the bulletin board across from the church office is a list of all of our hard-working council members and the Ministry Teams they work with and represent. Please use that as a guide to help you contact the appropriate council member with your questions. \**

♥ **Grief Support Group:** Are you experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of friend who has moved? The Grief Support Group is a place to share and discuss these issues with other individuals. The group meets the **third Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 PM in the church library.** For questions or more information, contact Peggy Geisler at 979-732-0350.

#### SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

<b>Today (June 12) –</b>	Confirmation Students/Sponsors go to Sky Ranch Camp, Colorado
<b>Mon., June 13 –</b>	9:30 AM – Staff Meeting
<b>Tues., June 14 –</b>	9:00 AM-12:00 PM – Quilters (Lighthouse) 12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library) 5:30 PM – Stewardship Team (library)
<b>Wed., June 15 –</b>	9:00 AM – Morning Circle (library) 9:45 AM – CLA Chapel 10:30 AM-12:00 PM – Sewing Camp (Lighthouse)
<b>Thurs., June 16 –</b>	5:30 PM – Grief Support Group (library)
<b>Fri., June 17 –</b>	10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library) Confirmation Students/Sponsors return from Sky Ranch

<b>Sat., June 18 –</b>	7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship
<b>Next Sun., June 19 –</b>	9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship 10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School 11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship

#### UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Tuesday, June 14, 2022 Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, died 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, died around 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, died around 389; Macrina, teacher, died around 379**

The Cappadocian fathers, as the three men in this group are known, explored the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Basil's monastic rule forms the basis for Eastern monastic life. Gregory of Nazianzus defended orthodox Christianity in Constantinople. Gregory of Nyssa, Basil's younger brother, wrote on the spiritual life. Macrina, older sister of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa, was the leader of a community dedicated to asceticism, meditation, and prayer.

#### Friday, June 17, 2022 Emanuel Nine, martyrs, died 2015

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

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#### OTHER READINGS: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

*In the Bible, wisdom is portrayed in terms sometimes human and sometimes divine. Often, wisdom is personified as feminine. In this passage, Woman Wisdom is depicted not only as the first creation of God, but also as God's helper, rejoicing in God's creation, especially in human beings.*

The reading begins:

<sup>1</sup>Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? <sup>2</sup>On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; <sup>3</sup>beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: <sup>4</sup>"To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. <sup>22</sup>The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. <sup>23</sup>Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. <sup>24</sup>When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. <sup>25</sup>Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth — <sup>26</sup>when he had not yet made earth and

fields, or the world's first bits of soil. <sup>27</sup>When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, <sup>28</sup>when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, <sup>29</sup>when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, <sup>30</sup>then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, <sup>31</sup>rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race."

**PSALM:** Psalm 8

<sup>1</sup>O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! — <sup>2</sup>you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger. <sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses, <sup>4</sup>what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them? <sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them. <sup>6</sup>You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet: <sup>7</sup>all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field, <sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea. <sup>9</sup>O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**OTHER READINGS:** Romans 5:1-5

*Paul describes the life of faith with reference to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Even now, we have peace with God through Jesus, and our hope for the future is grounded in the love of God that we experience through Christ's Holy Spirit.*

The reading begins:

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

**SERVICE OVERVIEW: DRAWN INTO RELATIONSHIP, GUIDED INTO TRUTH**

The doctrine of the Trinity invites us to consider how a God constituted by relationship - the Father with the Son, the Son with the Spirit, the Spirit with the Father - draws us into that relationship with God and one another. Through the work of the Spirit, we come to know our belonging to the Father and to Christ's body.

In such loving relationships, truth is discovered. But people may not be able to bear the truth all at once, so discipleship and faith formation are gradual processes of listening for the Spirit's voice. Communication is the key. Christian practices such as prayer, worship, learning, and service are occasions for people of all ages to be "guided into truth." Such practices are rooted in baptism. God draws us into a lifelong relationship in which we grow into truth and love over time, guided by the Spirit, accompanied by Jesus, and having peace with the Father.

In Romans, we hear the truth of how love originates and grows in us: Poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, God's love gives us a hope that will never disappoint. Christian community offers the delightful opportunity to experience one's own growth in hope, faith, and love, and to witness others' growth as they too are drawn more deeply into relationship with the triune God. Understanding of the Trinity and how we integrate the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit into our lives offers the delightful opportunity to celebrate that growth.

**THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:**

The week after Pentecost, we celebrate the Holy Trinity. We meditate as a church body on the mystery of our God, one divine unity of three distinct presences. Each way that we speak about the Trinity is inadequate. Indeed, a God we could understand wouldn't be much of a God. Welcome to worship! Today we will be helped by a poem in Proverbs, a psalm, Paul, John, our prayers, several hymn writers, the text of our liturgy, a sermon, and the gift of bread and wine. In worship, we are gathered into the life of our unfathomable God.

That we are called Christian, the ones marked by Christ, is clear in today's gospel. The Father and the Spirit declare the truth we have witnessed in the crucified and risen Christ. Today in worship we receive this truth in the proclamation of this word. Consider the many and various ways God is at work in the world, from the beginning of time to the present. Our life of faith involves asking for God's help as we learn to enlarge the circle of our trust and understanding to embrace the largeness of the mystery of God. Don't get too preoccupied with explaining (or understanding) the Trinity, though. Just have faith! Rejoice in the mystery of what God in three persons is doing in our midst.

The rite of Confession and Forgiveness begins in the name of the Trinity. The standard greeting with which to begin the Sunday liturgy proclaims the Trinity. Our worship concludes with a Trinitarian blessing. Christian worship begins and ends not the usual social hello of "Good morning" and "Bye, now." Rather, we are privileged to stand within and under uniquely Christian phrases: we give to one another and we receive the grace, love, and communion of the Triune God.

**KID STUDY:**

We are taught to have a relationship with God, so our minds try to understand just who God is. Our gracious and loving God is revealed to us as ONE God, but exists as THREE distinct parts: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It's a puzzle that Christian thinkers have tried to make sense of for thousands of years. Even grown ups have trouble understanding it! Our brains just cannot take in or imagine everything that God is. Images and explanations fall short, but that's okay! It's exciting and wondrous! God is bigger than all of us.

**INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:**

*Godhead! O supreme goodness! For when you said, "Let us make humankind in our image and likeness," in this the whole Trinity might give assent together. In the power of our soul you fashioned us after the very Trinity, Godhead eternal. To fashion us after yourself, eternal Father, you gave us memory to hold and keep what our understanding perceives and knows of you,*

*infinite goodness, And in knowing, our understanding shares in the wisdom of your only-begotten Son. You gave us our will, gentle mercy, Holy Spirit, that like a hand reaches up, filled with your love, to take whatever our understanding knows of your unutterable goodness. Thanks be to you, high eternal Godhead, that you have shown us such great love. - Catherine of Siena [The Prayers of Catherine of Siena, ed. Suzanne Noffke, O.P. (NY: Paulist, 1983), 16.]*

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**Next Week's Theme (June 18 & 19):** Jesus healing Gerasene demonic and killing pigs

**Next Week's Scriptures (June 18 & 19):**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 65:1-9

*"The prophet sent to a rebellious people."*

**Psalm:** Psalm 22:19-28

*"In the midst of the assembly I will praise you." (Ps. 22:22)*

**Second Reading:** Galatians 3:23-29

*"In baptism, clothed with Christ; no longer Jew or Greek."*

**Gospel:** Luke 8:26-39

*"Jesus casts out demons possessing a man of the Gerasenes."*