

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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E-mail: admin@splctx.org www.splctx.com **Pastor:** pastor.akethan@gmail.com

June 18, 2023 Contemporary 11:05 AM

Third 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

Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with 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 – Outreach Team

* **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: SAME POWER

**I can see the waters raging at my feet;
I can feel the breath of those surrounding me.
I can hear the sound of nations rising up;
We will not be overtaken, we will not be overcome.**

**I can walk down this dark and painful road;
I can face every fear of the unknown.
I can hear all God's children singing out;
We will not be overtaken, we will not be overcome.**

CHORUS:

***The same power that rose Jesus from the grave,
The same power that commands the dead to wake lives in us... lives in us.
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks,
The same power that can calm a raging sea lives in us... lives in us.
He lives in us... lives in us.***

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35—10:8

The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.

A The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 9, verse 35 to chapter 10, verses 1-8.

Chapter 9:

³⁵Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Chapter 10:

¹Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. ⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

GOSPEL SONG: SAME POWER

We have hope that His promises are true;
In His strength there is nothing we can't do.
Yes, we know there are greater things in store;
We will not be overtaken, we will not be overcome.

CHORUS:

*The same power that rose Jesus from the grave,
The same power that commands the dead to wake lives in us... lives in us.
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks,
The same power that can calm a raging sea lives in us... lives in us.
He lives in us... lives in us.*

Greater is He that is living in me. He's conquered our enemy.
No power of darkness, no weapon prevails. We stand here in victory (x2)

CHORUS

CCLI Song #7031700 Words and Music by Jeremy Camp and Jason Ingram
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CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Deacon Sandye Fletcher

* 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
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* APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(The congregation may be seated during the prayers.)

PRAYERS

A Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

A brief silence.

A For the church here and around the world, we pray. Seek out disciples and send them out with authority to proclaim good news, bring healing where there is pain, and counter the forces of evil.

A brief silence.

A For the earth and all its creatures, we pray. Equip farmers, farm workers, and all who labor on the land to produce a harvest. Nourish crops with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Restore lands ruined by pollution or misuse.

A brief silence.

A For fathers and father figures, we pray. Console all who long to be fathers, children estranged from their fathers, anyone grieving the death of a father, and fathers who have lost a child. Draw near to all for whom this day stirs up difficult emotions.

A brief silence.

A We pray, O God, for peace in all the world, especially in war-torn areas of Ukraine and Sudan. Bring an end to wars and the destruction of lives and your creation.

A brief silence.

A We pray, O God, for the family and friends of Cher Marino who passed away this past week. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time.

A brief silence.

A We pray, O God, for the confirmation and high school students and their sponsors attending 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, O God, for all those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:
Curtis Berger; Harvey Frers; Joseph Fitzgerald; Jane Brugh; Gwen Reichardt; Alma Fletcher; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you.

A brief silence.

A We pray, O God, for all those battling cancer that they may know comfort and strength.
(Pause for those we are praying for.)
Randy Wendt; Susan Chandler; Heather Deviney; Jaime Sawyer; Kim Moerbe Welneck; Misti Retzer; Zelda Lanford; Michelle Thraen; Pauline Gosnell; Nina Naumann; GayLynn Willms Burk; Carl Norton; Laura Harris; Todd Foster; Cindy Tanner; Joe Reck; Melinda Rodiek; Melda Coleman; Donna Culton; Nancy Hartmann; Lydia Rojas; Catherine Poppe; 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; Keith Korth; Jodi Sebesta; Cathy Siglow; Paul Casinger; DeQuincy Lister; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Gracie Brune; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Jessica Mauchlen; Donna Tiner; Libby Divin; Diane Brooks; Bob Loy; Stanley King; Monty Gillett; Dawn Foster; Edward Halcolm; Amber Smith Kutach; Louis Camacho; Melvin Schobel; Janet Greene; Sabrina Galindo; Debbie Grimes; Horst Traub; Margie Fisk; Preston Carter; Penny Miller; Carl Hahn; Megan Cain; Amanda Fuchs; Cyndi Wallace; Karen Broussard; Donna Young; Sharon Heimann; and Brenda Baker.

A We pray, O God, for all expectant mothers, and especially for:
Montana Appelt; Dina Anton de Espinoza; Olivia Leyendecker; Daya Latiolais; Cassidy Zajicek Parks; Courtney Busselman; and Nancy Gorman that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace.

A brief silence.

A We pray, O God, for all those who reside in care facilities and the homebound and especially for:
Joey Denby; Edwin Oevermann; Paul Minar, Sr.; Adrian Fritsch; Doug Hill; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Barbara McMath; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Jane Booker; Pat Brasher; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Ronnie Rogers; Joyce Dehmer; Donna Dehmer; and Rita Noska that they receive your caring and compassion.

A brief silence.

A We pray, O God, 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: 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; and Cody Goolsby.

A We pray, O God, 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 For all the saints, we give thanks. Receive into your eternal care all those who have died and fill us with hope that does not disappoint.

A brief silence.

A Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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 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, 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**

D All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

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**

D 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**

D 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: DAYS OF ELIJAH**

**These are the days of Elijah, declaring the word of the Lord.
And these are the days of Your servant Moses, righteousness
Being restored. And though these are days of great trials,
Of famine and darkness and sword, still we are the voice in the
Desert crying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"**

CHORUS:

***Behold, He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun,
At the trumpet call! Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee,
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes!***

**And these are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh.
And these are the days of Your servant David, rebuilding a temple
Of praise. And these are the days of the harvest, the fields
Are as white in the world. And we are the laborers in Your vineyard
Declaring the word of the Lord**

CHORUS: (TWICE)

**Behold, He comes, riding on the clouds, shining like the sun,
At the trumpet call! Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee,
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes!**

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*** DISMISSAL**

D Go in peace. Share the harvest. **C** Thanks be to God, and we will.

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USHERS: Aaron & Amanda Oppermann; Loraine Gast; Adam Torres
LAY READER: Mike Hackfeld **ACOLYTE:** Hattie Post
STREAMING: Mike Maas **POWER POINT:** Peggy Geisler
ALTAR GUILD: Loraine Gast

WELCOME: A blessed third Sunday after Pentecost to all, and Happy Father's Day to dads and father-figures. Welcome to worship.

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by Walter & Bethany Guthmann in honor of Spencer Guthmann and Calli Guentert who were united in Holy Matrimony here at St. Paul this weekend. God's blessings on their marriage.

✚ As you leave worship today, be sure to pick up a pen in honor of or in memory of the fathers in your life. **Everyone takes home a pen!!** ✚

THANK YOU!! A BIG Thank You to all who purchased tickets or made donations for our Peru fundraiser dinner held June 13, 2023. We sold 387 tickets, and our profit from ticket sales and donations was \$2,493.50! These funds are earmarked for the church in Cañete for improvements to their building. THANK YOU for all your support! – *Peru Team*

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 10 & 11, 2023 – 210

Contributions: June 10 & 11 – \$9,669.56

Power of One: June 10 & 11, 2023 – \$ 64.30

Building Fund: June 10 & 11 – \$878.23

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! ☺

Attention Graduating Seniors and Current College Students: This is a reminder that if you are planning to or are currently pursuing a degree in education *or* nursing, you are encouraged to apply for the Frank & Ann Derr Scholarship here at St. Paul. For an application, please see Ms. Stephanie or stop by the church office. Complete your application and return it to the church office as soon as possible.

NOTICE!! Summer office hours for Stephanie Polasek are Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Please make note of this change for the summer when scheduling any office appointments.

**** Colorado County Senior Connections ** –**

A place for Seniors, 65 years and older, to socialize with others.

Beginning Wednesday, June 7, 2023, the group will meet at the Stafford Opera House – Columbus in the Buddy Rau Room from **10:00 AM-1:00 PM** the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month.** Lunch will be provided. Various activities will include: Card games/board games; Bingo; Movies; Educational Speakers; Field trips; and Social gathering time! **The next gathering is this Wednesday, June 21, 2023.**

**** Senior Explorers!! Get Ready for Some Blue Marlin Fishing in Cabo, San Lucas! ****

Join us **Wednesday, June 21, 2023** (this is a date change) for the **movie** "Blue Miracle" in **The Lighthouse at 10:30 AM.** *A lunch will be served following the movie.* The movie is about Papa Omar and his kids that partner with a washed-up boat captain for a chance to win a lucrative fishing competition to save his orphanage. For questions, please contact Kevin Page at 979-732-0845. Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) by Sunday, June 18, 2023.

★ **VBS Decorating Work Days:** *Decorating for Vacation Bible School is quite a task and takes quite a bit of time. To make things easier, we are having **work days every Monday in June** (June*

19 & 26) and the **first Monday in July** (July 3) from **9:00 AM-1:00 PM**. We will be working in the **Lighthouse**. Please feel free to come and go. Sunday, July 2, 2023 we will decorate in the sanctuary from 1:00-5:00 PM following the 11:05 service. Any touch-ups and last-minute details will be done on Wednesday, July 5, 2023. Questions? Please contact Wendy Page at 979-732-1756. Your help would be greatly appreciated! ☺



God's Gals will meet **Sunday, June 25, 2023** at **Hound Song Brewing Company** in Columbus at **6:00 PM**. All women of St. Paul are invited for food, fellowship and laughter! Guests are always welcome!! Contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127 for more details.



Senior Explorers are going on a cruise! We will **depart from St. Paul at 7:30 AM** on Thursday, July 6. We will board the ship before 10:00 AM for a 90-minute Sam Houston Boat Tour. It will be a narrated, educational ride along the Houston Ship Channel. There is an outside deck and inside air conditioned area. Free tour and ride. One free beverage provided mid-cruise. Walkers are OK. **PHOTO ID REQUIRED**. You may bring water, but you cannot bring any other food or drink on board. We will stop for lunch on the way home and expect to be home about 3:00 PM. **We currently have 24 spots reserved.** Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) by Sunday, July 2, 2023. Please call Kevin Page at 979-732-0845 with any questions.

► **Escape Room Trip:** St. Paul youth entering grades 6, 7 & 8 are invited to test their skills as a group at Armadillo Escape Room Adventures in Katy on **Monday, July 3, 2023**. We will **leave the church at 10:00 AM**. After our Escape Room experience we will have lunch and devotion before returning home. Come join us in learning how, even though we are different, we all have gifts and are a part of one body, the Body of Christ. **Cost per student is \$25.** RSVP by Monday, June 26, 2023 by contacting Stephanie at 979-732-1858.

Stellar VBS!! Mark your calendars for "Stellar" VBS! Join us at Vacation Bible School **July 10-14, 2023** as kids go on a cosmic quest and have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world! A meal will be served 5:30-6:00 PM, and VBS will be held 6:00-8:30 PM. VBS is open to children in preschool up to students who have completed 5th grade. Registration is free, however, t-shirts will be available to purchase for \$8 each. *Space is limited so register early!* Parents may register their students online by visiting vbspro.events/p/spfu2023. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or by email at stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

Be a Vacation Bible School Volunteer!! 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. Last year we hit our capacity of 100 students! This year we have increased our capacity to 125 students, but, in order to accomplish this, more volunteers are needed. We all have gifts to give no matter what age, and we invite you to join our team. You may register online by visiting

vbspro.events/p/spfu2023. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or by email at stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

• **VBS FOOD DONATIONS:** To help defray the cost, we are asking for donations to help with the meals served each evening before Vacation Bible School. We served about 200 kids and volunteers *each night* of VBS last year. 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 to the St. Paul Lighthouse. If you have any questions, please contact Loraine Gast at 979-732-1296. Each donation is and will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!



Newman's Castle for 2nd & 3rd Graders! St. Paul students entering 2nd and 3rd grade this fall are invited to experience Newman's Castle in Bellville, Texas. On **Tuesday, July 25, 2023** we will leave the church parking lot at **9:30 AM and return by 2:30 PM**. After exploring the castle and catapult, students will be served lunch and hear the story of Queen Esther. Please RSVP to Stephanie by Monday, July 17, 2023 at 979-732-1858.

♣ **Day Camp at Lutherhill!** Youth completing K-5th grade are invited to experience a week at camp without the over-night stay during the week of **July 30-August 4, 2023**. Camp starts each day at 8:00 AM and will end at 5:15 PM. Stephanie Polasek will shuttle youth each day to and from camp. We will leave the church at 7:20 AM and will return at 5:50 PM. **Cost is \$195 for the week**. Register online at lutherhill.org and then contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 for transportation. It's always a great time for the kiddos!

♥ **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., June 19 –	10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 1:00 PM – Deacon Sandye to TLC 6:00 PM – Church Council 6:00 PM – Women of JOY Bible Study (Hackfeld Family Room)
Tues., June 20 –	Newsletter Deadline! 10:00 AM – Pastor Alan to Columbus Oaks 12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library) 5:30 PM – Prayer Team (library)

Wed., June 21 – 9:00 AM – CLA Chapel
 9:00 AM – Morning Circle (library)
 10:30 AM – Senior Explorers Movie Day & Lunch (Lighthouse)
 1:30 PM – Neighbor-to-Neighbor Quarterly Meeting (library)

Thurs., June 22 – 1:00-2:30 PM – Summer Craft Camp (Lighthouse)

Fri., June 23 – 10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)

Sat., June 24 – 7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship

Next Sun., June 25 – 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship
 10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School
 11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship
 6:00 PM – God's Gals to Hound Song Brewing Co., Columbus

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931

Onesimos was born in Ethiopia. Captured, enslaved, and taken to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.

Saturday, June 24, 2023 John the Baptist

John said, "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease." And so his birth is celebrated half a year before Jesus', just as the daylight in the northern hemisphere begins to wane. Jesus honored John as being the greatest prophet.

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OTHER READINGS: Exodus 19:2-8a

At Sinai God assured Israel, "You shall be my treasured possession," and commissioned them to serve as mediating priests for the nations. The people commit themselves completely to God's will.

The reading begins:

²[The Israelites] had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. ³Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: ⁴You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites." ⁷So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ^{8a}The people all answered as one: "Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do."

PSALM: Psalm 100

¹Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands! ²Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with a song. ³Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong; we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture. ⁴Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise; give thanks and bless God's holy name. ⁵Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

OTHER READINGS: Romans 5:1-8

We are no longer God's enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ's death.

The reading begins:

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and 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. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

SERVICE OVERVIEW: LABORERS NEEDED

Jesus speaks of the church's mission with images drawn from daily life. The harvest is already plentiful, he says, but laborers are needed for work in the fields of daily life. What are we to do? We are to do what our worship invites us to do: let our conversation be shaped by the good news, extend Christ's peace wherever we find ourselves, and share our bread with the hungry.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Jesus calls the twelve apostles and sends them out to carry on his work of proclaiming the good news and healing the sick. Welcome to worship! Hear the good news again. Come to the table and be strengthened, because Jesus is also calling *you* to do this very work.

God reminds the people of Israel that they have been chosen in order to be a blessing to the world. The Israelites' status as "a priestly kingdom and a holy nation" described in Exodus is not a self-serving designation. Their calling is to pursue justice and righteousness in order that the communities around them might also flourish. Similarly, in today's gospel, Jesus invites his disciples to turn outward and work for the healing of communities to which they travel. Does our worshiping community exist primarily for the sake of our members? Since the beginning of the year, you have heard about the many ministries that extend outward into the wider world. Cultivating a wide welcome is not always easy, but Jesus challenges you today to put your faith to work in the world!

Jesus employs harvest imagery to describe the disciples' call to ministry, which might sound different to different members of your congregation. In our agricultural and farming community, many of us engage in the daily work of planting and harvesting. In urban areas, where residents can be very removed from the work of cultivating the land, how might they receive this image?

What type of work is required? Peace. Healing that touches both physical and spiritual dimensions. Use these gifts of God to bring wholeness. We may consider those who are "sent out" as laborers with much to give and those on the receiving end as those with much to receive, but consider this: *being "sent out" is as much about experiencing the work of God as it is about delivering something to someone.* In the process, we receive peace. We receive healing. We experience God's kingdom. As we give it, we also receive it. This is the power of mutual transformation. The kingdom of God becomes a tangible part of the world of both the givers and the receivers.

KID STUDY:

Jesus tells the disciples that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. He then calls them together and sends them out to work in the world – sharing peace and healing in Jesus's name. When we are baptized, we are also called and sent to care for our neighbors, live out our faith, and labor in the field. We aren't really laboring in a field, but we are being Jesus's hands and feet in the world and this takes work! Jesus calls us all to radical love, not just enough love to get by. As people of faith, what kind of work can you think to do that cares for our neighbor, our community, and the earth? Talk to your family about it. Maybe there is something you can all do together. If you need some ideas, ask Pastor Alan, Deacon Sandye, or Ms. Stephanie for help.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

You are like stones of the temple of the Father, prepared for the building of God the Father, hoisted up on high by the crane of Jesus Christ (that is the cross) using the Holy Spirit for a rope. Your faith is your windlass, and love is the road that leads up to God. So you are all traveling companions, carrying God and temple, and Christ and your sacred things, and being fully arrayed in the commands of Jesus Christ. Pray constantly for others. Permit them to be instructed by you, at least through your deeds. To their anger, be meek; to their boasts, be humble; to their abuse, utter your prayers; to their error, be steadfast in faith; to their savagery, be gentle. Let us be zealous to imitate the Lord, so that no plant of the devil may be found in you, but with all purity and sobriety you may remain in union with Jesus Christ, in both flesh and spirit. - Ignatius of Antioch [Ignatius, in The Apostolic Fathers: An American Translation, ed. Edgar J. Goodspeed (NY: Harper & Brothers, 1950), 209-210.]

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Next Week's Theme (June 24 & 25): Have no fear little flock – Loose your life for Christ

Next Week's Scriptures (June 24 & 25):

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

"The prophet must speak despite opposition."

Psalm: Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18

"Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind." (Ps. 69:16)

Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

"Buried and raised with Christ by baptism."

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

"The cost of discipleship."

