

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 19, 2022 Contemporary 11:05 AM

Second Sunday of 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		Tamasha 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

Today's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO MESSAGE FROM PERU

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: AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)

**Amazing Grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved,
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.**

~CHORUS~

**My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy rains. Unending love, amazing grace.**

GOSPEL: Luke 8:26-39

Jesus' mission includes foreigners and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony to God's mercy and power.

A The holy gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 8, verses 26-39.

²⁶Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me" — ²⁹for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and

be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. ³¹They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. ³²Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. ³⁴When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

GOSPEL SONG: AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)
Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

~CHORUS~

*My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy rains. Unending love, amazing grace.*

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures. **CHORUS**

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun. **CHORUS**

CCLI Song #4768151 Words and Music by John Newton, Chris Tomlin, and Louie Giglio
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CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

* **SERMON SONG: CHAIN BREAKER**

If you've been walking the same old road for miles and miles,
If you've been hearing the same old voice tell the same old lies.
If you're tryin' to fill the same old holes inside,
There's a better life. . . there's a better life.

CHORUS:

*If you got pain, He's a pain taker. If you feel lost, He's a way maker.
If you need freedom, saving, He's a prison shakin' Savior.
If you got chains, He's a chain breaker! (2nd time to **BRIDGE**)*

**We've all searched for the light of day in the dead of night,
We've all found ourselves worn out from the same old fight.
We've all run to things we know just ain't right.
When there's a better life. . . there's a better life. **CHORUS****

BRIDGE:

**If you believe it, if you receive it, if you can feel it, somebody testify!
If you believe it, if you receive it, if you can feel it, somebody testify, testify!
If you believe it, if you receive it, if you can feel it, somebody testify!**

LAST CHORUS:

**If you got pain, He's a pain taker. If you feel lost, He's a way maker.
If you need freedom, saving, He's a prison shakin' Savior.
If you got chains, He's a chain breaker!
Oh! If you need freedom, saving, He's a prison shakin' Savior.
If you got chains, well He's a chain breaker!**

CCLI Song # 7060031 Words and Music by Jonathan Smith, Mia Fieldes, and Zach Williams © 2015 Anthems of Hope
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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 United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A Holy God, you hear the cries of those who seek you. Equip your church with evangelists who reveal the continuous call of your outstretched hands and your promises of a home in you.

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 You hear the cries of those who suffer. Come to the aid of all who are homeless, hungry, and sick. Bring peace to any experiencing mental illness, that they can clearly recognize your loving presence.

A brief silence.

A You hear the cries of those who celebrate and those who grieve on this Father's Day. Nurture mutual love and tender care in all relationships. Comfort those for whom this day brings sadness or longing.

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:
Ronnie Huebel; Candi King; Janis Stancik; Doris Horndt; Patsy Hodge; Jim Murrile; Verlene Kuntschik; Carolyn Tipp; 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, and especially for:
Stephanie Miles; Katie Page; Brooke Dungen Pawlak; Mallory Dungen Cook; and Madisyn Horndt Neumann that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace.

A brief silence.

A We pray for all those who reside in care facilities and the homebound that they receive your caring and compassion. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*
Adrian Fritsch; Don Morrison; Verna Coufal; Doug Hill; John Zwiegel; 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 We give thanks for the faithful departed whose lives proclaimed all you had done for them. At the last, unite us with them as we make our home in you.

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: GLORIOUS DAY**

I was buried beneath my shame. Who could carry that kind of weight?

It was my tomb. . . 'til I met You.

I was breathing but not alive. All my failures I tried to hide.

It was my tomb. . . 'til I met You.

You called my name. . . and I ran out of that grave!

Out of the darkness. . . into Your glorious day.

You called my name. . . and I ran out of that grave!

Out of the darkness. . . into Your glorious day.

Now Your mercy has saved my soul.

Now Your freedom is all I know.

The old made new. . . Je-sus when I met You.

When You called my name. . . and I ran out of that grave!

Out of the darkness. . . into Your glorious day.

You called my name. . . and I ran out of that grave!

Out of the darkness. . . into Your glorious day.

BRIDGE:

**I needed rescue, my sin was heavy. But chains break at the weight of Your glory.
I needed shelter, I was an orphan. Now You call me a citizen of Heaven.
When I was broken, You were my healing. Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing.
I have a future, my eyes are o-pen. . . 'cuz when You called my name. . .**

I ran out of that grave!

**Out of the darkness. . . into Your glorious day.
You called my name. . . and I ran out of that grave!
Out of the darkness. . . into Your glorious day.**

CCLI Song # 7081388 Words and Music by Jason Ingram, Johnathan Smith, Kristian Stanfill, and Sean Curran.
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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: Aaron & Amanda Oppermann; Loraine Gast; Adam Torres

LAY READER: Wendy Page

ACOLYTE: Devin Oppermann

STREAMING: Kay Wesson

ALTAR GUILD: Loraine Gast

WELCOME: Welcome to worship this second Sunday after Pentecost. And a happy Father's Day to all father-figures!

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by Sandy & Randy Neuendorff in honor and celebration of their daughter Traci Neuendorff's 23rd birthday on June 24 and their grandson Colin Kunschick's 3rd birthday on June 25.

We are pleased to have George Bergfeld, Sr. and Tracy Baker sharing their messages with us this weekend. George is sharing his message Saturday, June 18, and Tracy is sharing her message at both Sunday services on June 19 as Deacon Sandye presides at all three worship services. Thank you George, Tracy and Deacon Sandye!! ☺

✚ 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!!** ✚

**** 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 11 & 12, 2022 – 118

Contributions: June 11 & 12 – \$8,847.18

Power of One: June 11 & 12, 2022 – \$33.00

Building Fund: June 11 & 12 – \$7,209.53

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! ☺

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. **Cost per student is \$20.** You will need to bring a lunch and a water bottle. To sign up, please have your parents text Ms. Stephanie at 979-732-1858.

Deadline to register is Monday, June 20, 2022.

**** Ice Skating!** If you are entering 4th-6th grade and are looking for a fun way to stay cool, join us on a trip to Memorial City Mall to go ice skating! We will leave at 10:30 AM, have lunch along the way, have fun skating, and return around 5:00 PM. The date for this cool day of fun is **Tuesday, June 28, 2022. Cost is \$20 per student.** To register, please have your parents contact Ms. Stephanie at 9797-732-1858. **Deadline to register is Tuesday, June 21, 2022.** ******

● **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.



Preschool Water Day! Calling all preschoolers! Come have fun cooling off with some fun water activities on the lawn here at St. Paul on **Thursday, June 23, 2022 from 5:30-7:00 PM**. For more information, contact Ms. Stephanie at 979-732-1858. Hope to see you there! ☺

► **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!

◆ **Meals to Heal:** The next Meals to Heal **cooking session** will take place **Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 9:30 AM** in the Lighthouse. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127.

VBS Volunteer Training: There will be a VBS Volunteer Training **Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 6:00 PM** in the sanctuary. If you have any questions or still want to register to be volunteer, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

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.

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. Questions? Contact Stephanie Polasek at 979-732-1858 or stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.



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! 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!

* *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:

Mon., June 20 –	Deadline to Register for 2nd-3rd grade HMNS trip! 9:30 AM – Staff Meeting 6:00 PM – Church Council
Tues., June 21 –	Deadline to Register for 4th-6th grade Ice Skating trip! 12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library) 5:30 PM – Prayer Team (library) 6:00 PM – The Gathering meeting at Hound Song Brewery
Wed., June 22 –	Newsletter Deadline!! 9:45 AM – CLA Chapel 10:30 AM-12:00 PM – Sewing Camp (Lighthouse)
Thurs., June 23 –	5:30-7:00 PM – Preschool Water Day (St. Paul Lawn)
Fri., June 24 –	10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)
Sat., June 25 –	7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship
Next Sun., June 26 –	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 Joe's Italian Restaurant, Columbus

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Tuesday, June 21, 2022 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.

Friday, June 24, 2022 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.

Saturday, June 25, 2022 Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530

On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Emperor Charles of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melanchthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

Saturday, June 25, 2022 Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, died 1560

Though he died on April 19, Philipp Melanchthon is commemorated today because of his connection with the Augsburg Confession. Colleague and co-reformer with Martin Luther, Melanchthon was a brilliant scholar, known as "the teacher of Germany."

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OTHER READINGS: Isaiah 65:1-9

The prophet announces God's impatience. The people's self-absorption is idolatry, and images of practices that displease God fill this reading. Like a vintner who crushes the grape to release the wine, God will use Israel's exile to establish a new community of the faithful.

The reading begins:

¹I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that did not call on my name. ²I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; ³a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks; ⁴who sit inside tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat swine's flesh, with broth of abominable things in their vessels; ⁵who say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long. ⁶See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their laps ⁷their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together, says the LORD; because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the hills, I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions. ⁸Thus says the LORD: As the wine is found in the cluster, and they say, "Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it," so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all. ⁹I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

PSALM: Psalm 22:19-28

¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid. ²⁰Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog. ²¹Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me. ²²I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you. ²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel. ²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them. ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD. ²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek

the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever! ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God. ²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

SECOND READING: Galatians 3:23-29

For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.

The reading begins:

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

SERVICE OVERVIEW: PROCLAIMING HOW MUCH JESUS HAS DONE

We feel powerless when life's storms rage about us. Despite our best efforts, we cannot navigate those dangers without the hand of God to guide and free us.

Paul reflects on the human condition of being "imprisoned" and "guarded" and the necessity of Christ to restore us. He reminds us of the power of our baptism to free and unite us. The text goes on to make the radically inclusive statement that there is no longer "Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

Together, these texts recount the journey of faith from bondage to freedom, from separation to unity, from death to new life. And this is a path open to all, no matter who we are or from whence we've come. The scriptures energize us to join that man in the gospel who went out proclaiming "how much Jesus had done for him," even to those who would rather not hear it.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Today we hear about a naked madman who would break out of his restraints and run around in a cemetery. Hear what happens when this man encounters Christ. Welcome to worship! Shake off your own demons and encounter Christ for yourself.

The gospels identify demons with a wide range of physical or mental illness: this man acts mentally deranged and uncontrollable. This man's demons recognize Jesus for who he is. He is healed and tells everyone what Jesus has done for him.

Jesus' presence brings change to individuals and communities. For the community of the Gerasenes, Jesus altered the social standing of the newly healed man, the community's relationship to the man, the lives of the people who made a living from the pigs, and others who are not named in the text.

Paul's vision in the second reading continues to challenge the global Christian community wherever Christians allow long-standing ethnic and racial divisions, prejudices and hostilities to guide their interactions with one another instead of embracing unity in Christ. Paul's vision challenges us all to work very diligently, and in the Spirit's power, to love one another rather than continue to live out the scripts that the broken domination systems have written for us over the centuries. What is standing in the way of this community's unity in Christ? What barriers do you see in your own life that may be preventing unity in Christ?

KID STUDY:

People are unhappy. People suffer. It's easy to say that people can improve their lives through discipline or hard work. While that is sometimes true, not all people can do it by themselves. Some people need help. The man in the story today had problems. His behavior was so out of control that he was often put in chains by people in his community. He couldn't be around or live near other people. He lived on the outskirts of town in the tombs all by himself, suffering. He felt powerless. The man approached Jesus as soon as he arrived on the shore. He pleaded for help, and Jesus helped him. It didn't matter how 'crazy' he was. It didn't matter where he was from or who his family was. Jesus healed the man. The people of the community saw the man 'in his right mind,' sitting calmly at the feet of Jesus. It is another example of how Jesus can change lives. Jesus can change your life, too. All you have to do is ask for help like the man asked for help.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

*Hasten to the bath that will purify you thoroughly. The living water, tempered by the Holy Spirit and fire, most sweet, now invites you with its tender murmur. Rejoice. For you will plunge naked into the font, but you will soon emerge clothed with a heavenly garment, dressed in white. And he who does not soil his baptismal robe will possess the kingdom of heaven. - Zeno of Verona [Zeno of Verona, in *Baptism: Ancient Liturgies and Patristic Texts*, ed. Andre Hamman, O.F.M (Staten Island, NY: Alba House, 1967), 66.]*

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Next Week's Theme (June 25 & 26): Jesus' teachings about being followers

Next Week's Scriptures (June 25 & 26):

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

"Elijah says to Elisha, Follow me and do not continue plowing."

Psalm: Psalm 16

"I have set the LORD always before me." (Ps. 16:8)

Second Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

"Love is the whole law, gift of the Spirit."

Gospel: Luke 9:51-62

"Jesus says, Follow me and do not look back."