

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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June 25 & 26, 2022

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Senior Pastor	Alan Kethan	<i>On Sabbatical</i>
Deacon of Word and Service	<u>Phone:</u> (979)-530-8368	Sandye Fletcher
Youth & Family Specialist		Stephanie Polasek
Music Minister		Robert Eaton
Congregational Chair		Donna Maas
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director		Briana Bedford
Secretary		Elena Holub
Custodian		Tomasa Rosales
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator		DyAnn Lauzon
Organist		Joan Husicker

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

We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIGNING OF ATTENDANCE PADS

(Ushers will be handing out Attendance Pads during the announcements. Please be sure to sign your name and contact information.)

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another, first privately then together publicly.

Silence for reflection and private confession of personal sins, then join in with combined voices this printed confession.

P Merciful God,

C we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

P Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

C Amen.

* **HYMN ELW - #798 "Will You Come and Follow Me"**

1. "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
2. "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?"
3. "Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"

4. "Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"

5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

CCLI Song #4668756 Words: John L. Bell Music: Scottish traditional
©Words & Music: 1987 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland CCLI License #1729377

* **GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C And also with you.

* **HYMN OF PRAISE:**

P This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.



1 Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo- ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless- ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al- le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

A Our first reading is from 1 Kings, chapter 19, verses 15-16, and 19-21
In the story preceding today's reading, the prophet Elijah flees for his life to the security of God's mountain. There God reveals to Elijah that there are still other faithful people in Israel and commissions him to anoint new leaders, including his own successor, Elisha.

The reading begins:

¹⁵Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁹So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. ²⁰He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" ²¹He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 16

A The Psalm today is Psalm 16. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

²**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸**I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

A Our second reading is from Galatians, chapter 5, verses 1 and 13-25.

For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.

The reading begins:

¹For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

¹⁵If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious:

fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

A Please stand as you are comfortable for the gospel.

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (Sung)



* **GOSPEL:** Luke 9:51-62

Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 9, verses 51-62.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village. ⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

* **HYMN ELW - #810 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

- 1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**
- 2. Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.**
- 3. Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.**

- 4. O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.**

Text: John Ernest Bode Music: *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

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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 OF INTERCESSION

A United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A God of faithfulness, set the face of your church firmly on you. Rooted in your self-giving love, may the church find freedom in loving our neighbors. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

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

C hear our prayer.

A God of peace, guide all who govern, that they place the good of their citizens above self-promotion. Anoint leaders of nations with your Spirit of neighborly love. Protect refugees and all who live under tyranny or conflict. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God of kindness, reveal your healing presence to all who are sick or dying. Uphold those who grieve. Support the needs of any who are unemployed, hungry, or have nowhere to lay their heads. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God of love, attend to those struggling with addiction, depression, or uncontrolled anger. Provide support systems and loving companions as they work toward health, that they may rest in hope and know the fullness of joy in your presence. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God, 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. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God of comfort, we pray for the families and friends of Verlene Kuntschik, Dolores Wessels, Jimmie Murrile and Eunice Anton Cifuentes. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God, we pray for those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:

Des Townsend; Deanna Lee; Robert Eaton; Dorothy Buttons; Nancy & Robert Eaton, Sr.; Ronnie Huebel; Candi King; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you *(Pause)*. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God of strength, we pray for all those battling cancer that they may know strength and comfort. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)* God of grace, Al Gene Canik; Jane Veghaus Taylor; George Wright; Elrose Kollatschny; Sarah Stancik; Shelly Bowden; Larry Poenitzsch; Sandy Mosley; Charlene Tesch; Cynthia Coufal; Jeffrey McDaniel; Karen Bailiff; Julian Divin; Nancy Biers; Angie Beggs; Pam Potter; Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Frnka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; 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.

C hear our prayer.

A God of life, 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.)* God of grace,

Stephanie Miles; Katie Page; Brooke Dungen Pawlak; Mallory Dungen Cook; and Madisyn Horndt Neumann.

C hear our prayer.

A God of grace, 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.)* God of grace, Adrian Fritsch; Don Morrison; Verna Coufal; Doug Hill; John Zwiengel; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Deanna Lee; Doris Poppe; Barbara McMath; Linda Munos Rodgers; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Delores Purcell; Jane Booker; Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Beatrice Zikuhr; Robert Eaton; Ronnie Rogers; Fritz Willms; Joyce Dehmer; and Donna Dehmer.

C hear our prayer.

A God of courage, 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.)* God of grace, 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.

C hear our prayer.

A God of mission, 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. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God of joy, we give thanks for all who have died and now celebrate the inheritance of life in you. Keep their examples of faithfulness always before us, that we trust your promises in life and in death. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

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

C Amen.

*** PEACE**

P The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.

C And also with you. *(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.

*** OFFERTORY (Sung)**



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

P God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

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

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

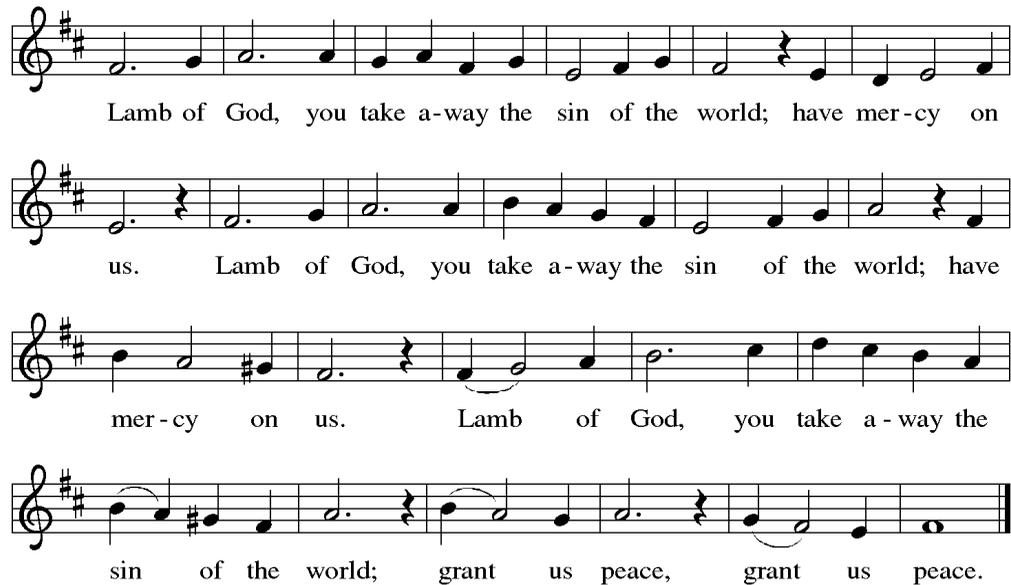
P In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (Continuous with Individual Cups)

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

(Sung)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

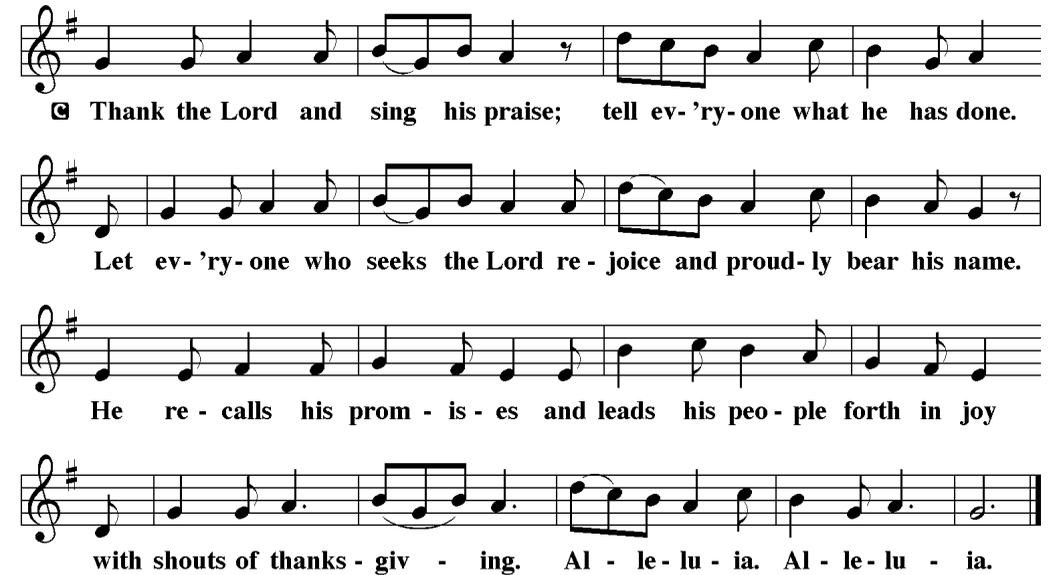
(Please be seated.)

*** BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

P Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

*** POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** (Sung)



Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.
He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

*** BLESSING**

P The God of peace, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

C Amen.

*** HYMN ELW - #768 "Lead Me, Guide Me"**

REFRAIN:

**Lead me, guide me, along the way;
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

REFRAIN:

*Lead me, guide me, along the way;
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. **REFRAIN**

3. I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. **REFRAIN**

Words & Music: Doris Akers ©1953 Doris Akers, admin. Unichappell Music, Inc.

* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C Thanks be to God, and we will.

POSTLUDE

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USHERS: SAT: Kenny & JoAnn Venghaus; Janeen Venghaus; Emily Frank

SUN: Youth; Charleen Andrus; Darlene Ahlschlager; Brad Hajdik

LAY READERS: SAT: Ruth Poncik

SUN: Youth

ACOLYTE:

SUN: Camdin Barten

STREAMING:

SUN:

ALTAR GUILD: Carol Ripper and Carol Lighthill

WELCOME: As we gather for worship, we welcome you – and please turn and welcome one another – in the name of Jesus Christ.

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by David & Janis Stancik in thanks for God's many blessings and in celebration of their 43rd wedding anniversary on June 30.

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Dolores Wessels who passed away this past week. May God comfort them during their time of loss.

We also extend our Christian sympathy to Shana Neisner and family for the loss of her father Jimmie Murrile who recently passed away and to Dina Anton de Espinoza for the loss of her sister Eunice Anton Cifuentes who passed away this past week. May God comfort them during their time of loss.

We are pleased to have Pastor John Hunsicker and the St. Paul Youth sharing their messages with us this weekend. Pastor John is presiding over worship and sharing his message Saturday, June 25, and the St. Paul Youth will be sharing their message and presiding at both services Sunday, June 26. The youth participating in Sunday's services are: Calleigh Barrett; Cullen Barrett; Colton Carter; Erich Cox; Brook David; Leira Gonzalez; Madison McRee; Thomas Ulbricht; Shaprecious Warren; and Israel Westbrook. Thank you Pastor John and youth!! ☺

**** 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 18 & 19, 2022 – 150

Contributions: June 18 & 19 – \$5,877.18

Power of One: June 18 & 19, 2022 – \$45.60

Building Fund: June 18 & 19 – \$438.23

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! ☺

New Church Sign!! St. Paul Lutheran Church says a big “Thank You!” to the families who have generously donated funds to upgrade our church sign! The sign will be a digital sign that will be programmable. How exciting! There have been some delays along the way to making our new sign a reality, but those delays are in the process of being resolved. A fund has been set up for future maintenance and upkeep of the sign. If you wish to donate to that, you can. Once again, thank you to our generous donors. We are blessed!

► **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!

NOTICE!!! The St. Paul Quilters will **not** be meeting Tuesday, June 28, 2022. We will meet on our next regular quilting day, Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at the Lighthouse.

◆ **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.

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

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



Register for Vacation Bible School – July 18-22, 2022!!

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

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

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.

* *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:

Today (June 26) –	6:00 PM – God's Gals to Joe's Italian Restaurant, Columbus
Mon., June 27 –	9:30 AM – Staff Meeting 2:30 PM – Neighbor-to-Nighbor 4th-of-July Buckets (Lighthouse)
Tues., June 28 –	10:30 AM-5:00 PM – 4th-6th Graders Ice Skating (Houston) 12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library) 6:00 PM – CLA Board
Wed., June 29 –	9:45 AM – CLA Chapel 10:30 AM-12:00 PM – Sewing Camp (Lighthouse)
Thurs., June 30 –	9:30 AM – Meals to Heal Cooking Session (Lighthouse) 6:00 PM – VBS Volunteer Training
Fri., July 1 –	10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)
Sat., July 2 –	7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship

Next Sun., July 3 – 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship
10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School
11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship
Next Mon., July 4 – Office Closed! (Independence Day)

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Monday, June 27, 2022 Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, died 444

Cyril defended the orthodox teachings about the person of Christ. After a conflict involving all of the major Christian leaders of the time, it was decided that Cyril's interpretation, that Christ's person included both divine and human natures, was correct.

Tuesday, June 28, 2022 Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.

Wednesday, June 29, 2022 Peter and Paul, Apostles

These two strong-willed apostles are the pillars of the church in the first generation after Christ. Peter was one of the Twelve, one who both offered a glorious confession of faith and later denied knowing Jesus. Paul once led the persecution of Christians, then was converted and helped bring the faith to non-Jewish people.

Friday, July 1, 2022 Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; hymn translators

Neale was an English priest who specialized in the translation of Latin and Greek hymns into English. Winkworth lived in Manchester, England, and devoted herself to translating German hymns. Almost all English-speaking hymnals include many of their translations.

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SERVICE OVERVIEW: ASKING FOR EVERYTHING

What does it mean to be a disciple? Today's texts answer this question in various ways.

In the first reading, Elisha was given the burdensome mantle of Elijah. Up until this point he'd simply been a student of the great prophet. Then, without much warning, Elijah passed the leadership responsibility onto him and transitioned dramatically from this life into the next. Because it was an immense responsibility, Elisha asked his master for a double portion of his spirit and was given it. God generously provided for Elisha so that he could faithfully continue Elijah's work.

In the second reading, Paul spells out the mission before us. Last week, he pointed out the power we've been given through our baptism. Now he explains that with the Spirit of God within, our lives should be different. He contrasts the work of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. We are called to use our freedom in Christ for good, so that God can transform our lives and empower us for ministry.

In the gospel, Jesus faces more resistance from those he's called. People conjure up all sorts of excuses why they can't start right away, but Jesus will have none of it. He's calling and he wants a straight answer now. You're in or you're out. He makes it clear that answering his call and living the life of discipleship requires no less than everything.

These passages are difficult. They show how much God is demanding of those who wish to follow. Those called are asked to give everything. No wonder there is resistance. Yet, they also remind us that the Spirit will support our work and, in turn, give us everything to enable us to answer the call.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Today we continue through Luke's gospel and Paul's letter to the Galatians. Jesus says once more, "Follow me." Thankfully, we have one another accompany us on the path. In baptism, we have been yoked to one another, accompanying each other as we cultivate a field full of the fruits of the Spirit. Welcome to worship! Together we hear this word and heed the invitation to the life of the Spirit.

When Jesus is in Galilee, he is in his home region. When he sets out for Jerusalem, he is heading to the region of Judea. Galilee and Judea are different. Different cultures, different clothes, different food, different people. It is easy for them, as it is easy for us, to quickly determine that someone is from the "wrong" place. Considering these differences, many people struggle to recognize God at work in the world outside of their home or even outside of designated holy spaces like church buildings. Instead of treating the fruits of the Spirit as just virtues to imitate, consider them clues to what God is *already* doing. Can you identify concrete examples of fruits of the Spirit in your daily life? Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Why or why not?

Jesus has called each one of us. As you read the gospel, consider your own "call story." Did it feel like you were the one who approached Jesus, or more like Jesus was the one who approached you? What questions did you ask, or how did you try to put off responding? How did God respond to that? All call stories are different, but a better understanding of your own call story can help to focus your commitment to your call.

The reading from Galatians also tells us that "for freedom Christ has set us free..." But what is freedom? People today often disagree about that, and the fact that Paul has to explain freedom to the Galatians suggests it wasn't a settled question then either. Perhaps one solution is to examine the results. If the way you exercise your freedom results in the fruits of Spirit, then it is likely to be the freedom that comes from Christ. But if the way you exercise your freedom results in the "works of the flesh," you might be acting out of selfishness, not freedom.

KID STUDY:

Our Bible lesson today is about fruit. No, we aren't talking about apples and oranges. It is about a different kind of fruit - the fruit of the Spirit. We are talking about the way we act when we put our faith in Jesus, ask him to forgive us of our sins, and promise be his followers. The Bible tells

us that when we do that, the Holy Spirit fills us with God's love and produces some good fruit in our life.

If you see an apple tree, what do you expect to find on that tree? Apples! When you see someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit, you expect to see what the Bible calls the fruit of the Spirit. What is that? It is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Oh my, that is some good fruit, isn't it?

Are you always patient? Are you always gentle and kind? No, there will be times when you fail. When you fail, ask God to forgive you and fill you with his Spirit so that you will produce the kind of fruit that he wants to see in your life.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

You, O Christ, are the one who loves me into endless life. You open up the way of risk. You go ahead of me along the way of holiness. Day by day you transfigure the "No" in me into "Yes." You ask me, not for a few scraps, but for the whole of my existence. You kept on saying: live the little bit of the gospel you have grasped. Proclaim my life. You, follow me... Until one day I understood: you were asking me to commit myself to the point of no return. - Roger Schutz [Roger Schutz, Parable of Community (NY: Seabury, 1981), 58-59.]

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Next Week's Theme (July 2 & 3): Jesus sends them out two by two (harvest is plentiful, workers are few)

Next Week's Scriptures (July 2 & 3):

First Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14

"Jerusalem, a nursing mother giving life to her children."

Psalm: Psalm 66:1-9

"All the earth bows down before you and sings out your name." (Ps. 66:4)

Second Reading: Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16

"Do what is right now and reap at the harvest time."

Gospel: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

"Jesus sends out seventy disciples into the harvest."