

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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October 8 & 9, 2022

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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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
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 Hunsicker

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**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**

*It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.*

**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, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days.

**C Amen.**

P Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does, first privately then together publicly.

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

P God of mercy and forgiveness,

**C we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

P Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

\* **HYMN ELW - #865 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" {sing to tune ELW - #864}**

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

2. Praise him for his grace and favor to our forebears in distress.  
Praise him, still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness!

3. Tenderly he shields and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows.  
In his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely as his mercy flows.

4. Angels help us to adore him, who behold him face to face.  
Sun and moon bow down before him; all who dwell in time and space.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Text: Henry Francis Lyte, 1793-1847 Music: John Goss, 1800-1880

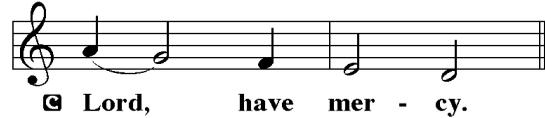
\* **GREETING**

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

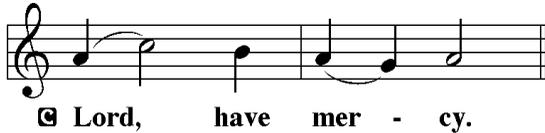
**C And also with you.**

\* **KYRIE** (Responses Sung)

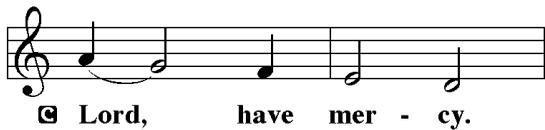
P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



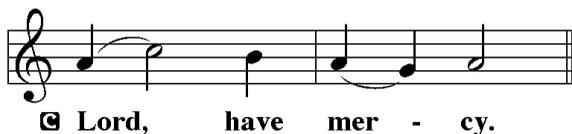
P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



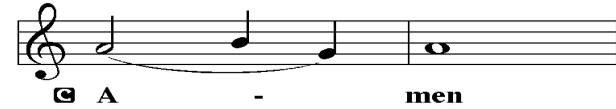
P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



\* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

A Our first reading is from 2 Kings, chapter 5, verses 1-3 and 7-15c.

*Naaman, a Syrian general, suffers from leprosy. In this passage Elisha miraculously cures his illness, but only after Naaman realizes, with the help of his servants, that he also needs healing for his pride. This foreign general then acknowledges the sovereignty of the God of Israel.*

The reading begins:

<sup>1</sup>Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. <sup>2</sup>Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup>She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." <sup>7</sup>When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." <sup>8</sup>But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." <sup>9</sup>So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup>Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." <sup>11</sup>But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! <sup>12</sup>Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup>But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" <sup>14</sup>So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean. <sup>15a-c</sup>Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 111

A The Psalm today is Psalm 111. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**<sup>2</sup>Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

**<sup>4</sup>You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

**<sup>6</sup>You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

**<sup>8</sup>They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

**<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

**SECOND READING:** 2 Timothy 2:8-15

A Our second reading is from 2 Timothy, chapter 2, verses 8-15.

*Though Paul is chained as a prisoner, the word of God is never shackled or confined. Timothy is encouraged to proclaim that word of freedom in an honest and upright life as well as in his teaching and preaching.*

The reading begins:

<sup>8</sup>Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David — that is my gospel, <sup>9</sup>for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. <sup>11</sup>The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; <sup>12</sup>if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; <sup>13</sup>if we are faithless, he remains faithful — for he cannot deny himself.

<sup>14</sup>Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. <sup>15</sup>Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

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 17:11-19

*Jesus' mission includes making people clean again. Unexpectedly, a Samaritan healed of leprosy becomes a model for those who would praise and worship God and give thanks for God's mercy.*

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 17, verses 11-19

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>11</sup>On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee.

<sup>12</sup>As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, <sup>13</sup>they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" <sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. <sup>15</sup>Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" <sup>18</sup>Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

\* **HYMN ELW - #413 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!"**

- Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

2. **Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.**

3. **Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.**

4. **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

CCLI Song #1156 Words: Reginald Heber Music: John Bacchus Dykes  
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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 In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

A Gracious God, we give you thanks for bishops, pastors, and deacons. Inspire leaders of the church to proclaim your mighty deeds, that your saving faith may be known to all. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Faithful God, we give you thanks for the healing ministries of this congregation. Equip those who visit, care, and pray for the sick. Give insight to doctors, nurses, home health aides, and all practitioners of medical arts. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A God of peace, 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. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A We pray for the family and friends of Danny Dinger. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Merciful God, we pray for all those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:  
Tiger Bergfeld; Barry Shepard; Wesley Braden; Timothy Page; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you (*Pause*). Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A God of strength, we pray for all those battling cancer and especially for:  
Rick Davis; Edna Bergfeld; Mack Machacek; Genevieve Batchelor; Hines Harrison; Darryl Stancik; Jerry Ordner; Michael Yancey; Bubba Bencal; Al Gene Canik; Jane Venghaus Taylor; George Wright; Elrose Kollatschny; Sarah Stancik; Sandy Mosley; Charlene Tesch; Cynthia Coufal; Jeffrey McDaniel; Karen Bailiff; Julian Divin; Nancy Biers; Angie Beggs; Pam Potter; Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Frnka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; Keith Korth; Jodi Sebesta; Cathy Siglow; Paul Casinger; Fran Gillett; Tiffany Murley; DeQuincy Lister; Angela Mazoch; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Gracie Brune; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Jennifer Aleman; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Bill Stolle; 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 that they may know comfort and strength. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A God of life, we pray for all expectant mothers, and especially for:  
Jessica Johnson; Ashley Dungen; Alyse Langford; and Magen Schindler Altieri that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Loving God, we pray for all those who reside in care facilities and the homebound and especially for:  
John W. Brasher; Lydia Rojas; Adrian Fritsch; Don Morrison; Verna Coufal; Doug Hill; John Zwiigel; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Deanna Lee; Barbara McMath; Linda Munos Rodgers; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Delores Purcell; Jane Booker;

Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Ronnie Rogers; Joyce Dehmer; Donna Dehmer; and Irene Noska that they receive your caring and compassion. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**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.)* Hear us, O God.  
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 Your mercy is great.**

**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. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** Eternal God, we give you thanks for your faithful people who have gone before us to your glory. Renew our trust in your eternal promises of mercy, redemption, and new life. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**P** With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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** Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.

**C Amen.**

\* **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

\* **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 Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

**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.}*

\* **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 God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

\* **BLESSING**

P God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

**C Amen.**

\* **HYMN ELW - #836 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"**

- Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**
- All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.**

3. **Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!**

CCLI Song #25321 Words: Henry van Dyke Music: Ludwig van Beethoven  
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\* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace giving thanks to God.

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

### POSTLUDE

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**UHSERS: SAT:** Brent Gorman Family

**SUN:** Sonny & Tiffany Lauzon

**LAY READERS: SAT:** Pastor John Hunsicker

**SUN:** Tiffany Lauzon

**ACOLYTES: SAT:** Henry Jones

**SUN:** Jackson Kuenstler

**STREAMING:**

**SUN:** Brian Lighthill

**SOUND:** Robert & Sydney Eaton

**ALTAR GUILD:** Ruth Poncik and Kelly Zajicek

**WELCOME:** Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran! May you be refreshed and empowered through our time together in worship, to bless the world as God has blessed you.

**ALTAR WALL FLOWERS** are placed by Keith & Loraine Gast in loving memory of Loraine's dad James Latham and grandmother Sybil Latham.

**Congratulations!** Lawrence and Belle Dungen are excited to announce the birth of their new great-granddaughter **Amelia Paige Cook**. Amelia Paige was born to Michael and Mallory Dungen Cook at 8:53 PM on Monday, October 3, 2022. She weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. Proud grandparents are Dwain and Joanie Dungen.

**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:** Oct. 1 & 2, 2022 – 177

**Contributions:** Oct. 1 & 2 – \$11,505.18

**Power of One:** Oct. 1 & 2, 2022 – \$47.25

**Building Fund:** Oct. 1 & 2 – \$713.91

Thank you to those who contributed to last week's offerings. Loving God/Loving Neighbor.

**Wednesday Night Attendance:** – Wed., Oct. 5 – **79 Total**

**BLAST/Confirmation:** 63

**Adult Class:** 2

**Support Staff:** 14

**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 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! ☺



**THE MARRIAGE COURSE:** We realize that strong marriages make strong families and strong families make strong communities. The Marriage Course is relevant for any couple wanting to invest in their relationship and make it stronger. Whether you have been married 4 months, 40 years or cohabitating and not married, you feel your marriage is fine, good, great, struggling or stuck; this course is for you. The course is more like a date night. There will be dinner and dessert mixed in with video presentations and discussion questions for you and your partner. You will not be asked to share anything about your relationship with anyone but your partner. **The Course will run several Sundays in a row concluding November 13, 2022. It runs from 6:00-8:00 PM.** Cost for materials, workbook and seven meals is \$150 a couple. Scholarships are available. Please register in the church office with cash or check. For those who need babysitting during these meals, please take them down to the old fellowship hall, the last building towards the golf course. Have them fed, or you can bring food for them to eat there. Meals and programs start promptly at 6:30 PM in The Lighthouse. In order to offer this course to our community, I am in need of Team members to help in the following areas: Advertising; Course Hosts; Administrator; Room Stylist; Technical Team; Caterer – Meals; Additional hosts – Servers; Set Up and Take Down; Registration; and Child Care. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex hallway. Thank you! – *Pastor Alan*

**Peru Team:** We are planning a return trip to Peru in the summer of 2023!! We are looking for people to join our team, even if you don't plan on traveling to Peru. We are meeting monthly on the second Thursday of each month. **If you are interested in learning more about our plans or just want to learn more about our Peru friends, please plan on attending our next Peru Team meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 6:30 PM in the church library.** If you have any questions, please contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127 or [4brasher@gmail.com](mailto:4brasher@gmail.com).



We will be having a CPR and AED training session on **Sunday, October 16, 2022 from 12:30-2:30 PM in the Lighthouse.** Our church has 2 automated external defibrillators

(AEDs), and this class is designed to teach you how to use an AED in an emergency. A light lunch will be served. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex (foyer). Questions? Call Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127.



**God's Work, Our Hands Day is Back On!** Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 6, 2022**. In celebration of Columbus' 200<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and cooler weather, we have scheduled this very meaningful day of service for November 6. We will meet at the Lighthouse following the 11:05 AM service for a light lunch, take a group picture, and then disburse from there. Ruth Poncik will lead our group in baking and snack bag preparation for the 200+ Boys and Girls Club participants across Colorado County. Miss Stephanie will lead our youth in washing county service vehicles. Brent Gorman, Sr. has graciously volunteered to be our Team Leader for other projects. We are looking for ideas for a couple of service projects in Columbus (painting, maintenance, etc.). Suggestions can be shared with Brent, Stephanie, Kevin Page, Pastor Alan or Elena. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. *If you would like to order a "God's Work Our Hands" T-shirt, they will be \$10 each. T-shirt orders must be in by Friday, October 21, 2022.* Everyone is invited to join in, and all will be welcome and useful. The group picture might be huge, and the day will be meaningful and memorable. Thank you! – *The Outreach Team*

**COURAGEOUS WOMEN IN THE BIBLE:** All women are invited to a community-wide women's study/brunch called Courageous Women in the Bible. There are two sessions remaining this fall from **9:00-11:30 AM** on Saturdays, **October 22**, and November 12, 2022 hosted by the First United Methodist Church in Columbus. Join us at the FUMC Family Life Center, 419 Washington Street, for Biblical dramatic story telling, fellowship, song, prayer and Scripture. **No registration is needed, but each person is asked to bring a dish to share for the brunch.**

Sign-in and self-serve brunch will be 8:15-8:55 AM.



**Communion Instruction Class:** Youth in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend the next milestone in their Christian education. Communion instruction is a formal teaching on the Sacraments of the Altar and will begin the process of getting students ready for confirmation ministry. Students will meet on **Sunday, October 23, 2022 from 12:15-2:00 PM in the Lighthouse**. Lunch will be served. Whether you are already taking communion or have waited for this class, all 5<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to attend. Parents are invited to attend with their child as well so they may continue the conversations at home. Please let Stephanie Polasek know if you plan to attend. (979-732-1858 or stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com)



**God's Gals:** We are going to **Brookwood** on **Saturday, October 29, 2022** for lunch at the Café and shopping at the gift shop. We will *leave at 10:30 AM from the church parking* lot and will be taking the church van. We should be back around 2:30 PM.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex (foyer) the first part of October. **The deadline to sign up is Sunday, October 23, 2022.** Please contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127 if you have any questions.



**Senior Explorers to Howl with the Wolves!** How about a tour of a Wolf Sanctuary? We are planning a tour – a really cool tour with all the wolves' stories. Small amount of flat walking; benches and ceiling fans all along the tour. **We are going Thursday, November 3, 2022. We will depart from St. Paul at 10:15 AM**, eat lunch in Hempstead at the Thirsty Parrot, proceed to the Saint Francis Wolf Sanctuary for a full tour **and return about 3:30-4:00 PM**. Cost of the tour is \$14.00. Please sign up by Sunday, October 23, 2022 in the narthex (foyer). Call Wendy Page with any questions at 979-732-1756.

► St. Paul will be celebrating Reformation during Reformation Weekend with *regular holy communion worship on Saturday, October 29, 2022 at 7:00 PM* and an **"Oktoberfest" on Sunday, October 30, 2022 at 10:00 AM**. Be sure to wear red for Reformation at each service! On **Sunday** for the "Oktoberfest", participate in singing hymns to the tunes of Polkas. Guest musicians will be joining us again this year to add that "something extra" to the service. Following the service on Sunday, join the youth in the parking lot for Trunk-or-Treat, either as a youth collecting the treats or as the one with the trunk of treats. *(\*Be sure to read the Youth October Newsletter page for more information.\*)* There will be a German-style lunch including sausage and sauerkraut in The Lighthouse for all to enjoy after worship and all of the trunk-or-treating! The main course will be provided, and everyone is asked to bring either a side dish or dessert to accompany the main course. **Please sign the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend the meal.** Come join us! It will be wunderbar!!

◆ **Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study:** The Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study group that meets with Randy Fletcher **will take a brief fall break for the remainder of October.** They will resume their class on Wednesday, November 2, 2022. See you then!

\* **Looking for a Blood Drive Coordinator!** Our St. Paul Blood Drives have been a huge success and benefit to our community, state and world. One donation can save three lives. A blood transfusion is needed every two seconds in the United States, and 38,000 blood donations are needed in the U. S. every day. For the past six years, Bethany Guthmann has done an amazing job of coordinating these blood drives for our community. We truly appreciate all of her hard work, dedication and love to this ministry. However, she will be taking a step back for a while. Therefore, we are in need of one or two people to take the helm and continue this fantastic Outreach Ministry of St. Paul Lutheran. Would you please consider it? Yes, *You!!* We have a lot of experience that will be fully shared with our new Blood Drive Team leadership. This is so important, and You are really needed. Please consider volunteering. Call Bethany Guthmann (979-733-6521), Kevin Page (979-732-0845) or Elena (979-732-2423) with any questions or to put your name in. Thank you, and God Bless! ☺

**\*\* Volunteers, please step forward!** We need volunteers to comprise the reestablished **St. Paul Lutheran Financial Review Team**. We need at least three congregational members to make this happen. The term is for three years, but we will start up again with a 1-year term member, a 2-year term member and a 3-year term member. You do not have to have a background in finances, but a sincere desire to serve the best interests of the congregation of St. Paul is highly recommended. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Maas at 713-775-6408 or any council member. To submit your interest to serve, please contact Donna Maas, any council member or Elena in the church office. God bless all of our many volunteers, and thank you! \*\*

♥ **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.

 **WANTED – POWER POINT OPERATORS:** *We need people to run the Power Point at the 11:05 AM service.* You only have to operate the computer that day. The program is set up for you. Plus, easy step-by-step directions with visuals are provided. If you are interested, contact Peggy Geisler (text or call) at 979-732-0350.

#### **SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

**Today (Oct. 9) –** 6:00-8:00 PM – The Marriage Course (Lighthouse)  
**Mon., Oct. 10 –** **Office Closed! (Columbus Day)**  
 6:00 PM – Women of JOY Bible Study (Hackfeld Family Room)  
**Tues., Oct. 11 –** 9:00 AM-12:00 PM – Quilters (Lighthouse)  
 10:30 AM – Holy Communion at TLC  
 11:15 AM – Staff Meeting  
 12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)  
 5:30 PM – Stewardship Team (library)  
**Wed., Oct. 12 –** 9:00 AM – CLA Chapel  
 5:00 PM – Meal  
 5:30 PM – BLAST and Confirmation  
 6:00 PM – High School Youth  
**Thurs., Oct. 13 –** 10:00-11:30 AM – Manna for Moms (Lighthouse)  
 5:00 PM – Worship Team  
 6:30 PM – Peru Team (library)  
**Oct. 14-16 –** Fall Family Retreat at Lutherhill, La Grange  
**Fri., Oct. 14 –** 10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)  
**Sat., Oct. 15 –** 7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship

**Next. Sun., Oct. 16 –** 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship  
 10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School and Confirmation  
 11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship  
 12:30-2:30 PM – CPR & AED Training Session (Lighthouse)  
 6:30-8:30 PM – The Marriage Course (Lighthouse)

#### **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Monday, October 10, 2022** **Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, died 1996 (TFF)**  
 A native of Chicago, Kennard was a major figure in supporting and working toward ethnic and racial inclusiveness in the former Lutheran Church in America. Ordained in 1958, he served in positions including Director for Minority Concerns of the Division for Mission in North America.

**Saturday, October 15, 2022** **Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582**  
 A mystical writer and reformer of the monastic order (Carmelites) to which she belonged, Teresa may also be commemorated with John of the Cross on December 14. Latino Christians traditionally remember her on this date.

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#### **SERVICE OVERVIEW: BLESSINGS AND MIRACLES ABOUND**

Today is a day of unexpected blessings and miracles, signs of how God is active and alive and present in our world and in our lives when we are open and receptive to the possibilities. We hear, read about, and experience healing. Fragile relationships are restored. Hope is experienced in profound ways. Naaman, a commander and mighty warrior, suffers from leprosy, and even though he first denies the cure, Naaman accepts the advice of his servant, and by God's action his skin and its disease is washed clean. Also afflicted with leprosy, ten lepers implore God's mercy and are made clean. But the outsider—the foreigner—is the only one who returns to give thanks. Today many of us encounter other hardships of all sorts, and our reading in 2 Timothy makes the stark point that we all suffer. But our God joins us in our sufferings and in our hardships, making us whole through our spiritual cleansing of baptism and filled with God's Spirit.

#### **THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:**

Today, Jesus heals ten people of leprosy. In Christ, we join with ancient people and with today's community of faith to pray for God's mercy. Welcome to worship! Encounter once more God's care for the outsiders like us.

Today's gospel lifts up the faith of a Samaritan. That statement would have shocked most of the people hearing Jesus' say it. Why do we constantly struggle with a desire to place ourselves over and against other people? "Foreigners" whose dignity and worth are constantly questioned. "Others" who are not like us. "Them." "Peculiar." "Separate." "Unconventional." "Unworthy." If "gospel" means to proclaim to the community the healing and saving mercy of God, why can't we do it? We want to keep undesirables away. Each society has its lepers. As usual in the gospels, to our dismay, if there are folks who have been placed on the other side of a line, Christ is on the other side of that line standing with that group.

In the reading from 2 Kings, Naaman, “a great man,” suffers from a lack of humility, which could have cost him the healing he so desired. *Pride often hides itself within our trust in our own expertise and experiences - to the exclusion of others.* Exclusion is simply *not* what Jesus teaches. How do we encourage humble and respectful listening to the multitude of diverse voices within the lives of people around us? After all, we are called to honor Christ in everyone. God seeks to be in relationship with ALL people, especially the ones we don’t consider to be *our* people.

Jesus embodies humility to perfection. He praises that quality in others. Today humility is often seen as weakness, but the way of humility invites us to follow God’s path. In a world that worships power, it can be hard to accept that the way of humility can potentially lead to our failure to achieve our ambitions through strength.

Thank goodness we live by a grace that precedes us! Gratitude is built into the structure of creation, but it’s only we humans who seem to forget it. Naaman is unimpressed with Elisha’s command to wash in the Jordan; he expected something more. The waters of baptism are no less humble. Sprinkled or dunked, we find ourselves in Naaman’s shoes, asking *is this all there is?* Our lives are a miracle from the start, yet how easily we lose sight of this. The eyes of faith are the eyes of gratitude and abundance, seeing God “in, with, and under” every aspect of life, and especially in the sacraments, where God has promised to meet us.

**KID STUDY:**

When we think of things that are contagious, we usually think of colds, strep throat, the flu, and covid. But today's story tells us that there is something even more powerful and contagious than scary diseases - *God's healing love.* There was a group of people with a disease called leprosy. They asked Jesus to have mercy on them. Because Jesus was filled with God's healing love, he was not afraid of the people like everyone else was. He reached out and shared His healing and love with the people. The most powerful and contagious thing in the world is God's healing love. The more we follow Jesus and learn how to receive God's healing love, the more we'll be able to share this most powerful, contagious thing in the world.

**INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:**

When Jesus said *your faith has made you well,* that’s different than saying *your faith is the price you pay if you want to be well.* The 10 lepers were healed with or without attributing it to God. They were healed with or without seeing it. They were healed with or without an expression of gratitude. It’s such a beautiful invitation. Such a beautiful gift to trust that God is God and we are not. It means we are free from the bondage of having to fill in the blank when it comes to other people. *That’s* some healing right there. Knowing that you are not the labels put onto you by those who want to feel good about themselves and only know how to do that in relation to others. Healing is knowing that you are God’s image bearer, but so is everyone who wants to say you’re *not* so that they can feel that they are. There is no extra credit to be had. No ranking to be jostled for. No worthiness to be earned. No one to vote off the island so that I have a place. -

Nadia Bolz-Weber

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**Next Week's Theme (Oct. 15 & 16):** Justification and defense for us from God

**Next Week's Scriptures (Oct. 15 & 16):**

**First Reading:** Genesis 32:22-31

*“Jacob's struggle with the angel: I'll not let go until you bless me.”*

**Psalm:** Psalm 121

*“My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.” (Ps. 121:2)*

**Second Reading:** 2 Timothy 3:14 - - 4:5

*“In the presence of Christ the judge, proclaim the message.”*

**Gospel:** Luke 18:1-8

*“The widow begs for justice; God grants justice to those who cry to him.”*