

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Sunday, July 31, 2022 10:00 AM

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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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		Elena Holub

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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**

*Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.*

**PRELUDE – St. Paul Praise Band:**

1. "Holy Water (Your Forgiveness)"
2. "Lord, I Need You"
3. "All Things New"

**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 are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**\* HYMN ELW - #542 "O Living Bread from Heaven"**

1. **O living Bread from heaven, how well you feed your guest!  
The gifts that you have given have filled my heart with rest.  
O wondrous food of blessing! O cup that heals our woes!  
My heart, this gift possessing, in thankful song o'erflows!**
2. **My Savior, you have led me within your holiest place,  
and here yourself have fed me with treasures of your grace;  
for you have freely given what earth could never buy,  
the bread of life from heaven, that now I shall not die.**

3. **You gave me all I wanted; this food can death destroy.  
And you have freely granted the cup of endless joy.  
My Lord, I do not merit the favor you have shown,  
and all my soul and spirit bow down before your throne.**

4. **Oh, grant me then, well-strengthened with heav'nly food, while here  
my course on earth is lengthened, to serve you, free from fear;  
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace destroy,  
where I will ever raise you glad songs in endless joy.**

Words: Johann Rist, 1607-1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1810-1876 © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain

\* **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.**

\* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

A Our first reading is from Ecclesiastes, chapters 1 and 2.

*The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.*

The reading begins:

**Chapter 1:**

<sup>2</sup>Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. <sup>12</sup>I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup>applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with.

<sup>14</sup>I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

**Chapter 2:**

<sup>18</sup>I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me <sup>19</sup>— and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup>So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup>because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup>What do mortals get from

all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? <sup>23</sup>For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 49:1-12

A The Psalm today is from Psalm 49, verses 1-12. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

<sup>1</sup>Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you who dwell in the world,

**<sup>2</sup>you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.**

<sup>3</sup>My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

**<sup>4</sup>I will incline my ear to a proverb and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**

<sup>5</sup>Why should I be afraid in evil days, when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

**<sup>6</sup>the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess, and boast of their great riches?**

<sup>7</sup>One can never redeem another, or give to God the ransom for another’s life;

**<sup>8</sup>for the ransom of a life is so great that there would never be enough to pay it,**

<sup>9</sup>in order to live forever and ever and never see the grave.

**<sup>10</sup>For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**

<sup>11</sup>Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves.

**<sup>12</sup>Even though honored, they cannot live forever; they are like the beasts that perish.**

**SECOND READING:** Colossians 3:1-11

A Our second reading is from Colossians, chapter 3, verses 1-11.

*Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God’s love in Christ.*

The reading begins:

<sup>1</sup>So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. <sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup>On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient.

<sup>7</sup>These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup>But now you must get rid of all such things — anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices

<sup>10</sup>and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge

according to the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup>In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

A Please stand as you are comfortable for the gospel.

\* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (Sung)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

\* **GOSPEL:** Luke 12:13-21

*In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.*

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 12, verses 13-21.

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

<sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." <sup>16</sup>Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup>And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup>Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup>So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

#### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### SERMON

\* **HYMN ELW - #705 "God of Grace and God of Glory"**

1. **God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r:  
crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.**

2. **Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.**

3. **Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

4. **Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.**

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#### OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALING:

*Those who wish may come down the center aisle to the altar rail to receive the laying on of hands, prayer, and anointing with oil. Please respond by saying, "Amen" after the prayer. Please return to your seats by the side aisle.*

**Special Music during Healing: "Beautiful Things" – performed by St. Paul Praise Band**

#### PRAYER AFTER HEALING

P Let us pray,  
Living God, through the laying on of hands and anointing, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

#### 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 Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

A O God, you are wholeness. Where there is division in your church, bring reconciliation and healing. Guide the work of theologians, Sunday school teachers, seminary professors, and all who provide instruction for the building up of your church. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A O God, you are the source of all life. Where creation cries out in distress, bring relief and renewal. 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. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A O God, you are wisdom. Where nations and communities yearn for peace, bring justice. Strengthen those who toil for the welfare of others and for the healing of the nations. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A O God, you are life. Where your people are overwhelmed with the busy-ness of life, bring encouragement. Accompany all who experience emotional, mental, or physical distress. Renew us at your table of mercy. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A O God, you are our treasure. Where scarcity and anxiety pervade your church, bring abundance and vitality. Guide the work of church councils and committees and give them clarity for the work of ministry in this place. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A O 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. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A O God, we pray for the family and friends of Anthony Baumbach. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

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

Sharon Brod; Ruth Bedford; Darrell Grafe; Irene Noska; Charlotte Pesak; Tiffany Murley; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you *(Pause)*.

Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A O God, we pray for all those battling cancer that they may know strength and comfort.

*(Pause for those we are praying for.)* Merciful God,

Melda Coleman; Bubba Bencal; Al Gene Canik; Jane Veghaus Taylor; George Wright; Elrose Kollatschny; Sarah Stancik; 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; 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; 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 receive our prayer.**

A O God, 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.)* Merciful God, Mallory Dungen Cook and Madisyn Horndt Neumann.

**C receive our prayer.**

A O God, 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.)* Merciful God, 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 receive our prayer.**

A O God, 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.)* Merciful 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 receive our prayer.**

A O God, 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. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A O God, you are resurrection. We give you thanks for all your saints. Inspire us by their example of faithful living to set our minds on things above and to be rich in love toward you. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

P Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

**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.**

**\* EUCHARISTIC 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 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.}*

**Special Music during Communion: "I Am Yours" – performed by St. Paul Trio  
(Tracy Baker, Sharon Johnson, and Diane Rau)**

**\* 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 - #592 "Just As I Am" (St. Paul Trio lead – sing a cappella)**

1. Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
2. Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
3. Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**4. Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

CCLI Song #23206 Words: Charlotte Elliott Music: William Batchelder Bradbury  
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\* **BLESSING OF THE MEAL**

\* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

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

**POSTLUDE**

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**USHERS:** David Johnson; Byron Marburger; Brad Hajdik; Debbie Yancey

**LAY READER:** David Johnson **ACOLYTE:** Camdin Barten **STREAMING:** Janel Barten

**ALTAR GUILD:** Janeen Venghuas, Emily Brod and Sandye Fletcher

**WELCOME:** Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church as we gather to worship God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**ALTAR WALL FLOWERS** are placed in loving memory of Kenny Frank on his birthday (7-27-54) and his anniversary (7-31-76). He has been gone for two years (8-4-20). We still miss him everyday, but we know he is in a good place, still fishing! Linda, Melanie and Laney

We are pleased to have the Rev. Jen Kindsvatter from Lutherhill sharing her message and presiding at both worship services this weekend. Thank you Pastor Jen!! ☺

**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:** July 23 & 24, 2022 – 136

**Contributions:** July 23 & 24 – \$5,345.17

**Power of One:** July 23 & 24, 2022 – \$36.00

**Building Fund:** July 23 & 24 – \$103.21

*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! ☺



The **Noon Bible Study** group that meets on Tuesdays will be **taking a brief summer break during the month of August.** Be sure to make note of this break! The group will resume meeting Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at noon in the church library. Hope to see you there!

**\*\* End of Summer Pool Party!!** St. Paul Families and youth are invited to a **Family Pool Night Wednesday, August 10, 2022 from 7:00-9:00 PM** at the Columbus City Pool. Dinner and drinks will be served. Please sign up in the narthex by Thursday, August 4, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858. \*\*



**Friday Adult Bible Study:** The Adult Bible Study group that meets with Deacon Sandye on Fridays will meet Friday, August 5, 2022 at their regular time at 10:30 AM in the library. **They will then take a brief summer break for the remainder of August. They will resume their class on Friday, September 2, 2022.** See you then!

♦ **Peru Team Meeting:** Our next Peru Team meeting will be **Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 6:00 PM.** Join us in the library to get an update from Pastor Alan on his trip to Peru and how we can best serve our South American neighbors. Plus, get in on the beginning planning stages of our 2023 Peru mission trip!



**Acolyte Training:** Becoming an acolyte is a wonderful way to serve God and your church. This year we would like to open up this opportunity to serve for youth of all ages able to reach the altar, able to pay attention to the flow of service and capable of assisting with communion trays. Typical age is 9-10 years old or third grade. Acolyte training will be held on **Sunday, August 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary.** *Parents, please plan to attend this training with your child so that you may be able to help if there are questions later on.* Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) or let Stephanie know you will be attending. If your child is interested in becoming an acolyte but cannot make it to this training, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858.

► **God' Gals:** Calling all women of St. Paul!! On **Sunday, August 28, 2022 at 6:00 PM** join us for our first ever **potluck salad supper at the St. Paul Lighthouse!** Bring your favorite salad

and your recipe to share. Your salad can be veggie, fruit, gelatin, chicken, etc. – whatever you call a salad! Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127.

***Sr. Explorers Jumping Out of Airplanes!!*** Hey, Explores! Anybody want to jump out of a perfectly fine airplane? I'm looking at Tandem Parachute Jumps at "SkyDive" at Fentress Airport between Luling and San Marcos. With training and jumping, we will be there about 4 hours. I'm thinking we leave early and get done before bad heat sets in sometime during the week in later August. **I'm polling the audience for interest of jumpers and supporters.** Hoping for 6-10 jumpers. It will cost about \$230 per parachuter. We're also looking for an Astro game in August. We've been fighting the heat with our event planning. The bus has the AC all fixed now. **Please call Kevin Page with questions or to RSVP a response of interest at 979-732-0845.**

**\*\* *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.

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

**Today (July 31) –** 11:00 AM – Pot Luck Lunch & Fellowship (Lighthouse)  
**Aug. 1-5 –** Day Camp for K-5th Grade, Lutherhill (La Grange)  
**Mon., Aug. 1 –** 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting  
12:00 PM – Colorado County Fair Concession Stand Mtg. (library)  
6:00 PM – Evangelism Team (library)  
**Tues., Aug. 2 –** 5:30 PM – Prayer Team (library)  
6:30-8:00 PM – The Gathering  
**Wed., Aug. 3 –** 9:45 AM – CLA Chapel  
12:00 PM – Ministerial Alliance  
**Thurs., Aug. 4 –** ***Deadline to RSVP for Family Pool Night!!***  
6:00 PM – Youth & Education Team (library)  
6:00 PM – Property Team (choir room)  
**Fri., Aug. 5 –** 10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)

**Sat., Aug. 6 –** 7:00 AM – Men In Mission  
7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship  
**Next Sun., Aug. 7 –** 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship  
10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School  
11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship

#### **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Monday, August 8, 2022** **Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), died 1221**

Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.

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#### **SERVICE OVERVIEW: DYING TO BE RICH**

"All is vanity and a chasing after wind," says Ecclesiastes, yet we chase wealth like it will last forever, forgetting that we ourselves will one day die and that everything we have stored up here will be useless to us. Into the tragedy of our human drive to be rich in possessions, even at the cost of being poor in everything else, Jesus tells the parable of the rich fool. It is first told to brothers squabbling over an inheritance, and now it is told to us, some of us squabbling with our relatives or neighbors over wealth and possessions.

The rich fool, despite his great wealth, is poor in every other way, eating alone, and even dying alone. In Jesus' depiction of this fool our own sinful hearts are exposed. We too vainly chase after even more, sacrificing right relationship with God and neighbor in the process. Death comes to the rich fool when he least expects it, as it must come to all of us.

How, then, are we to be "rich toward God"? Paul reminds the Colossian Christians of their own unexpected deaths in the waters of baptism: "you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." In baptism we are joined to Christ's death, and we are to be dead to all foolish chasing after more possessions. We have died, not alone, but with Christ. Our lives now are hidden with Christ in God, and in Christ we share a fortune of true riches that also are good for our neighbors. Death will come, but our treasure is already secure. By faith we have acquired abounding riches above, and by faith we are freed from storing up treasures for ourselves here on earth.

#### **THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:**

A rich man has such successful harvests that he must build bigger and bigger barns to store all his stuff. Today we gather, corpses all, to celebrate our new selves which are hidden with Christ in God. Welcome to worship! Receive very different kind of treasure in your community, in the word, and in the sacrament.

The rich man has a spirituality of the self. He ponders his surplus crop *to himself*. He comes to a conclusion and speaks *to his own soul*. His is a spirituality from within that has no grounding

outside himself, which is ironic for someone whose wealth comes from the ground and a dependence on sun and rain. In the context of our modern world, what insights might this text offer? How might such insights invite shifts in the way we live as the church together? How about shifts in the way we live as the church with those outside of the church?

It is easy to use the parable of the rich fool to be critical of luxury items indulged in by the “rich” or “elite,” but what if the surplus product for which we make more space is a basic necessity? Remember the toilet paper shortage? Consider that shared experience. Store shelves were empty, leaving people struggling to find it for weeks. The panic and resulting shortage was created by those who stockpiled toilet paper – just as the rich man expects that bigger barns will give him an opportunity to relax and be well cared for. Consider the communal impact of some having an excess that leaves others struggling for the necessities of life.

A brother asks Jesus to arbitrate a dispute about inheritance. At its heart is a question less about money and more about relationship. Jesus' response invites the brother (and us) to think about ways we all might be rich toward God through our relationships with others. How often do we as people displace relationship struggles to arguments in other areas of life: finances, chores, politics, school, church? What conflicts in our congregation are deeper relationship problems brought to disputes about worship, budgets, or other aspects of ministry leadership? How does today's text invite us to be guided by grace into these hard places of reconciliation?

All of today's texts carry the urgency of action in this world, an urgency that comes from the uncertainty of death. How might our free gift of grace give us an urgency in our actions today? Not as we seek to gain points with God when we die, but an urgency to act in God's name in the world as a response to God's gifts?

#### **KID STUDY:**

Stuff. We all have it. We all want more of it. We want the right kind of clothes, the right kind of games. Today's gospel is a wake up call from Jesus! The rich man was very successful but hoarding his riches, which were sitting unused. We are called to be grateful receivers and generous givers, not greedy hoarders. All the money and stuff in the world will not secure our lives or shield us from sadness or tragedy. What is your equivalent of the rich man's full barn?

#### **INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:**

*“When I have these new barns filled,” you say, “then I will distribute something to the poor.” You have given yourself a long time to live! And promises of that sort are not very helpful, but are an indication of a perverse heart, rather than of kindness. For you promise, not that you will afterwards fulfill it, but to relieve yourself of a present embarrassment. What keeps you from giving now? There are no hungry perhaps?! The hungry are dying before your face. The naked are stiff with cold. And you, you put off your alms until another day? You yourself are indeed poor, poor in love for your neighbor, poor in humanity, poor in faith in God, poor in the hope of eternity. “Who I am injuring,” you will say, “when I keep what is mine for myself?” And what, tell me, is yours? Did you not come forth naked from your mother's womb, and will you not return naked to the earth? How then are these things yours? - Basil [Basil, in Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers, II, 331-332.]*

**Next Week's Theme (Aug. 6 & 7):** (Stewardship Sunday) Where your Treasure is your heart is also

#### **Next Week's Scriptures (Aug. 6 & 7):**

**First Reading:** Genesis 15:1-6

*“God's promise of a child for Abram and Sarai.”*

**Psalm:** Psalm 33:12-22

*“Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you.” (Ps. 33:22)*

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

*“A model for us: Abraham's faith in a new home given by God.”*

**Gospel:** Luke 12:32-40

*“God will give you the treasure of the kingdom; sell all that you have.”*