

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Growing in faith. Growing in community. Welcoming all in Jesus' name.

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST **Sunday, August 11, 2024**

**10AM Service of
Holy Communion**

Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving yourself for the other.



Catch the excitement! Witness the joy! Shape the vision!

ST. PAUL'S VISION STATEMENT (adopted 02/25/2018)

- To worship as a diverse community of all ages
- To engage in faith formation as a community grounded in God's word
- To maintain with depth and integrity the work of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless
- To nurture a strong foundation of generosity, giving, and caring for creation
- To provide a music ministry that encompasses congregation and surrounding communities

Worship at Home and Away

When we cannot be together in person, we can still hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Therefore, we offer the 10AM service through simultaneous live streaming to St. Paul's Facebook page. The service is then posted to the website, www.stpaulsnewarkde.org and can be found in the upper right hand corner of the home page, along with a digital copy of this worship folder, as well as a copy of the sermon.

**Large print worship folders and hearing assistance devices
are available in the narthex. Ask an usher for assistance.**

**A Prayground is available for young children
in the rear of the sanctuary.**

✠ GATHERING ✠

*Worship begins with God who takes the initiative and calls us into being.
We gather at the Holy Spirit's invitation and assemble as the community of faith
on the first day of the week, the day of Christ's resurrection.*

*Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation
allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.*

The sanctuary doors will be closed as worship begins with the prelude.

PRELUDE

Triptych on "In Babilone"
Movements I and II

arr. Benjamin M. Culli

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Adapted from scripture prayer
for Year B, Series 2*

Holy Wisdom,

God of abundant life,

you call us to the banquet of your love.

We find you in the gifts you give;

we know you in the ones

with whom we share this holy food,

and in the bread of this table,

your Son, Jesus Christ.

Grant that we may be bread for others

as he is bread for us.

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

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522 (harmony)



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

PEACE

As forgiven and reconciled people of God, let us greet one another with signs and words of peace and reconciliation.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The assembly exchanges Christ's peace
in word and gesture,
saying, **Peace be with you.***

Be seated.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:4-8

Elijah given bread for his journey

A reading from First Kings:

⁴Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." ⁶Elijah looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." ⁸Elijah got up,

and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 34:1-8

Antiphon: Ps. 34:8

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

¹I will bless the LORD at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

²I will glory in the LORD;
let the lowly hear and rejoice.

³Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt God's name together.

⁴I sought the LORD, who answered me
and delivered me from all my terrors.

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

⁵Look upon the LORD and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

⁶I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD
and delivers them.

⁸Taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are they who take refuge in God!

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:25—5:2

Put away evil, live in love

A reading from Ephesians:

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are parts of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building

up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ^{5:1}Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?
ELW Setting 3*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 6:35, 41-51

Christ, the bread of life

The Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

⁴¹Then the Judeans began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴²They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” ⁴³Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’”

Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; this one has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Barbara Melosh

*Feel free to take notes or write down your own reflections on this morning's message.
Spirit-led doodling is encouraged as well.*



Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Living Bread from Heaven

ELW 542

Found on p. 8

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
 2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
 4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here

The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
 and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
 And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
 my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;

O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
 for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
 My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
 and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,

My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!
 the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
 and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
 where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Reignite the prayer of the church. By your Spirit, and remembering Clare of San Damiano, who was known for her powerful prayer, root your church around the globe in prayer and spiritual practices. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We rely on the goodness of your creation in everything we do. We pray for trees that offer shade and for our fellow creatures that depend on the trees for shelter and food. Sustain the work of all who advocate for forests and wilderness areas. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Guide our leaders and nations with a spirit of justice and mercy. Let no evil come out of our mouths, but rather let us extend grace. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Sustain feeding ministries and organizations such as ELCA World Hunger and our local food pantries, especially FISH. We work and pray for a day when hunger is no more. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation and for all who are gathered. Be present among anyone who cannot be with us today. Be with all who are hurting, grieving, or ill, especially Silas, Pat, Margaret, Sheri, Jay, Kara Beth, Naomi, Matt, Hugh, Rob, Christopher, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Melissa, Ginny, Gary, Isabella, Heyward, Olive, and Jim. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Bread of life, you taught us to put away bitterness and anger, and with tenderhearted kindness to share the fruit of our labor with the needy. Strengthen us and our partners in ministry, especially Grace Lutheran Church in Hockessin and Lutheran Volunteer Corps, by your grace, that in communion with you, we may forgive one another and live in love as Christ loved us. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We remember the saints who have gone before us in faith, especially Chris, Bill, Catherine, Reginald, and Brent. Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we find hope in your communion of saints of all times and all places. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

Amen.

Be seated.

*At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask **visitors** to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask **members** to update any changes to their information so our records can be maintained.*

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

*In response to God's love in Jesus Christ,
we offer our gifts for service and mission.*

OFFERTORY

“Taste and See”
Based on Psalm 34
Summer Choir

Text and Music by
James E. Moore, Jr.

Please stand, as you are able.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus (Holy)
ELW Setting 3*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

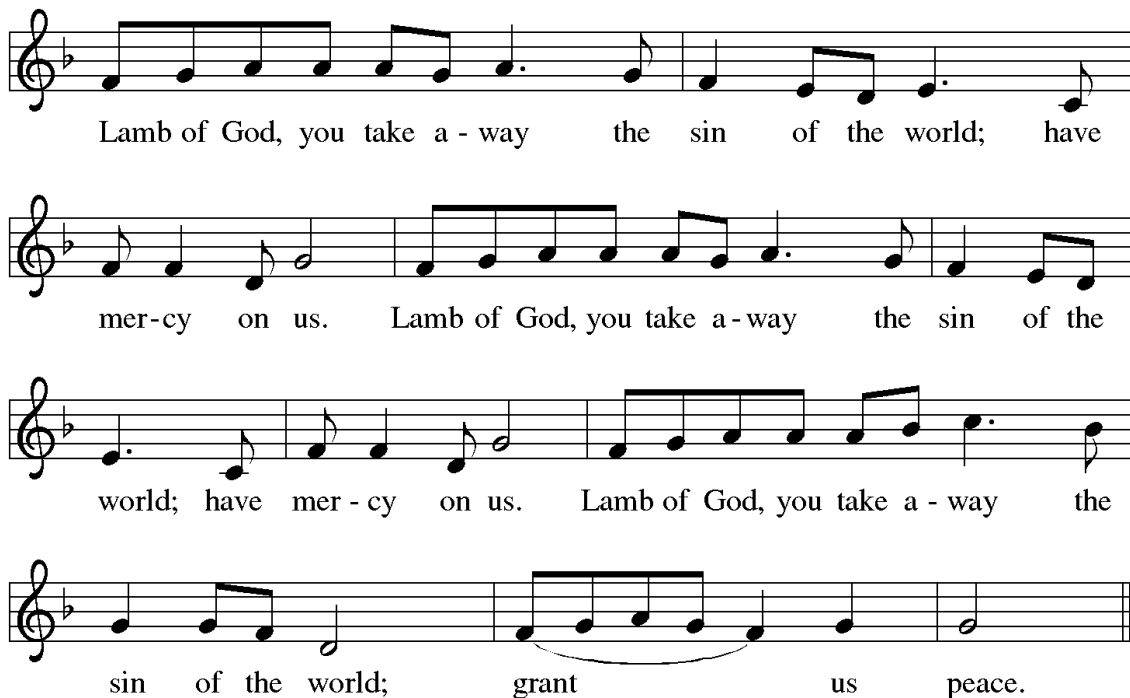
Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

ELW Setting 3



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.

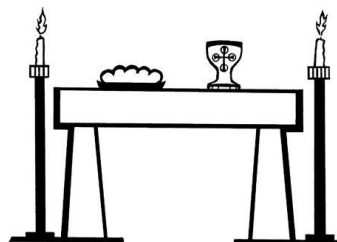
Be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

Non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.



PRAYER STATION

All who desire individual prayer and anointing are invited to receive Holy Communion, then go out to the prayer station in the narthex, located to the right of the sanctuary doors.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

ELW 488 (harmony)



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and
3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -
4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and



haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,
glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;
pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less;
dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -
quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed
though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of
joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing: hum - bly now, I bow be -



bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav' - n - ly,
por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your
heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious
fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er.”
 con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
 me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts ELW 658 (harmony)



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
 2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
 3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
 4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our



life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
 feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
 chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
 mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -



parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
 head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
 turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
 way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
 Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

After all have returned to their places, please stand, as you are able.

BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us,
and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
ELW 618 (harmony)



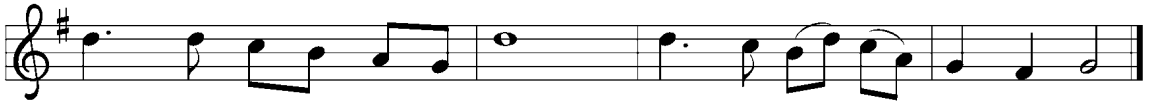
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might-y arm, shield me with your might-y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.
You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Triptych on “In Babilone”
Movement III

arr. Benjamin M. Culli

*I am the living bread that came down from heaven.
Whoever eats this bread will live forever.*

John 6:51

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Mary Beth Bergstrom
Lector:	Henry Chisholm
Bread Provider:	Linda Radwick
Altar Guild:	Cheryl Johnson
Flower Guild:	Sue Walden



**The flowers in the chancel are given
to the glory and praise of God
by Heidi Burch in honor of
Eunice Burch's seventy-fourth birthday.**



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Call to Worship adapted from *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*

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COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

August 11—Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253

At age eighteen, Clare of Assisi heard Francis preach a sermon in a church in town. From that time, she determined to follow in his example of Christian living. With Francis's help (and against the wishes of her father) she and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She became a confidante and advisor to Francis, and in standing up against the wishes of popes for the sake of maintaining complete poverty, she helped inspire other women to pursue spiritual goals.

August 15—Mary, Mother of Our Lord

The church honors Mary with the Greek title *theotokos*, meaning God-bearer. Origen first used this title in the early church, and the councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon upheld it. Luther upheld this same title in his writings. The honor paid to Mary as *theotokos* and mother of our Lord goes back to biblical times, when Mary herself sang, "from now on all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:48). Mary's life revealed the presence of God incarnate, and it revealed God's presence among the humble and poor. Mary's song, the Magnificat, speaks of reversals in the reign of God: the mighty are cast down, the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are fed, and the rich are sent away empty-handed.

THE GREATEST BREAD

Jesus uses the image of bread to demonstrate that, even compared to all the great things God has done before, God's greatest miracle is in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus, the bread of life, is a greater miracle than the manna God sent in the desert (Exod. 16:14), greater than the bread the angel brought to restore Elijah (1 Kings 19:4-8), greater even than the loaves Jesus had just multiplied to feed a crowd of more than five thousand people (John 6:1-14)! In Jesus, God gives bread for the journey—not only for this life, but also into eternal life.

We're so familiar with this image that it loses some of its original power. But the claim Jesus is making here is a radical one—and a dangerous one. To Jesus' original audience, his claim to be the bread from heaven, the Son of God, must have sounded like outrageous blasphemy. "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?" they say. "How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" (John 6:42). Who does this guy think he is?

Jesus' message is both outrageous and outrageously comforting: anyone who eats this bread will live forever. The Son of God meets us in this life and gives us real and certain hope for eternal life. Normal bread is amazing in its own right; manna is miraculous. But Jesus Christ is the true bread and the greatest miracle of all. "Taste and see that the Lord is good" (Ps. 34:8).

CONNECTIONS WITH THE LITURGY

In one way to interpret John's words that we will never die, the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* rite of Holy Baptism says that "our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death" (p. 227). In the commendation at a funeral, the pastor prays that the deceased be received "into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light" (p. 283). Thanksgiving at the Table VII (p. 67) prays that "we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit." These are examples of the goal that every Sunday service prepares us for dying—and for not dying.

OUR HYMN OF THE DAY

Phrase after phrase in "O living Bread from heaven" (ELW 542) complements this Sunday's readings. Like Elijah, we too are strengthened to live and to serve God by serving others. The author Johann Rist (1607–1667) was a Lutheran pastor who, while serving in many situations of social calamity and personal agony, wrote nearly 700 hymns. The tune was composed by Samuel Wesley, the grandson of Charles Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism.

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 11, 2024

LECTIONARY 19, PROPER 14 (YEAR B)

Christ has given his flesh for the life of the world. He sustains the pilgrim people of God with the word of life and the bread of heaven. Through the holy supper, Christ comes to us so that we might find the source of our unity and follow him in the way of sacrificial love. Through we will experience frustration or despair, we know that God is ever eager to nourish us back to life. We need only come to the table and receive the gift of life.

SOMETHING FISH-Y IN AUGUST

Our last FISH event of the summer will be this Thursday, August 15. At 1:00PM we will pick up food from the Food Bank and at 6:30PM we will pack boxes in Fellowship Hall. On Friday, August 16, we will have our monthly distribution from 2:30-4:00 PM, also in Fellowship Hall. You can help at any or all of these events. Call or email Keith Bart (302-345-6107/keith.m.bart@gmail.com) for more information.

BREWING THEOLOGY

Fun-loving adults, age 21 and over, are invited to join in conversation and laughs while enjoying a beverage at the home of Rich and Sue Wallden, on Wednesday, August 21. Join us at 7PM at 1440 Olmsted Drive in Bear, for fun and fellowship. Please RSVP to wallden1627@gmail.com if you will be attending.

HOLY HIKE

Outdoor adventurers of any age are invited to hike on Sunday, August 18, after worship. *Note the new location:* Springlawn Trail, a flat, shaded 4.5 miles, located at 1000 Chesterville Road in Lincoln University, Pennsylvania. Questions? Contact hike leader, Rudy Schock at 814-574-8243/ rschock324@gmail.com.

BOOKS AND BANTER

St. Paul's Book Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1PM in the Youth Room. If you have a book that you would like to share with the group, please let us know. Please join us for conversation and fellowship.

Upcoming Books: August 28 "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant
 September 26 "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown

MENCH FUNERAL

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection celebrating the life of Chris Mench will be held this Tuesday, August 13 at 2:00PM. Visitation with the family will start at 1:00PM.

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

St. Paul's Preschool Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Ms. Katelyn Farrell will be joining our school staff as our new Early Education Director on Monday, August 19. Katelyn is currently Assistant Director at The Goddard School of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, and has over eleven years of experience in Early Childhood Education. Due to this timing and other unforeseen circumstances, the Board of Directors has decided to suspend classes for the fall and re-open in the spring.

OWLS ARE CRUISING

Join the Older Wiser LutheranS as they embark on a narrated, historical, 70-minute Patriot Cruise in St. Michaels, Maryland, on Friday, September 27, at 12:30 p.m. Tickets for the cruise are \$28 (ages 18-64) and \$25 (ages 65+). If we have a group of 15 or more, ticket prices drop to \$23/person. Payment can be made once we have a final count. Following the cruise, we will have late lunch/early dinner at the nearby Crab Claw Restaurant (Dutch treat). To make a reservation, please RSVP by Saturday, August 31, to Sue Wallden (slwallden@gmail.com or 716-480-2224). Please let Sue know if you need a ride or are willing to provide transportation for others.

A GRACE-FULL INVITATION

If you are ready to take the next step and become a member of St. Paul's, you are invited to join us for our "Amazing Grace" session where together we will cover what it means to be a Lutheran, St. Paul's story and mission, and service opportunities within the St. Paul's community. Even if you are not sure yet, plan to attend on Sunday, September 8, right after worship for a 90-minute discussion, compete with light refreshments.

Please RSVP your intention to join us no later than Sunday, August 25, by emailing coordinator Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com.

ADULT FORUMS RETURN

Our adult Christian Education program resumes on Sunday, September 8 at 8:30AM in the Blue Room. Our first series of discussions will feature a return visit by now member of St. Paul's, Victoria Kenyon. The topic of her three-part series will be church architecture through the centuries.

BISHOP EATON ADDRESSES POLITICAL VIOLENCE

7/16/2024 5:30:00 PM

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us (Ephesians 2:14).

Just a few weeks ago in my June column for *Living Lutheran* I wrote, "I can't think of an election cycle more fraught and divisive than this one. People all across the political spectrum claim that life as we know it is on the line. It's not possible to agree to disagree—one must decide and put a stake in the ground. There is the potential for violence." That potential is now a reality after last weekend's shooting at a Trump campaign rally that killed Corey D. Comperatore and injured other attendees. I am thankful that former President Trump's injury was minor and pray for his recovery alongside those affected.

I also wrote, "But division and violence don't have to be our inevitable future." I believe this and that God calls this church to say a definitive "no" to political violence now and in the future. Political violence has a long history but no place in democracy. This church belongs to God, and our unity in Christ is a grace-filled and healing gift in a fractured society. As the ELCA we have theological and community resources to meet this moment through worship, discipleship and civic engagement.

In the face of violence, God's resolve for peace in human communities is unshakable. In proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ's forgiveness, healing and new life, the church addresses the ultimate root of violence. God calls us as church together in this moment to hear and embody this good news by embracing our identity as peacemakers through active civic engagement grounded in our baptismal identity and our institutional witness to foster justice, racial and social equity, reconciliation, and healing with compassion and imagination.

Last weekend's shooting has distressed and destabilized our nation. Political violence breeds fear and can set in motion cycles of violence that will further shatter us. Consider how, as individuals and communities in our life together, you will:

- Confess and confront the violent tendencies within ourselves and our society.
- Resist use of dehumanizing language about people with different political leanings.
- Build bridges of curiosity and compassion with people who think differently.
- Find ways to cultivate the practices of nonviolence in civic life.

Our inevitable future belongs to God. In this certainty and bound together in Christian hope, consider how you can join me in ongoing prayer and actions for our nation, a peaceful election season, the safety of candidates for office, and a bold and life-giving witness of our church in the time ahead.

In Christ,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A Prayer from
[Worship Resources for a National Election](#)

Holy God,
out of your great love for the world,
your Word became flesh to live among us
and to reconcile us to you and to one another.
Rekindle among us the gift of your Spirit
that we might live as one new humanity in Christ,
dismantling the walls that divide,
ending the hostility between us,
and proclaiming peace to those who are near
and to those who are far away;
through Christ Jesus, in whom we all have access,
in the one Spirit to you,
both now and forever. Amen.

Holden Prayer around the Cross, p. 132-33

Resources:

[ELCA social statement *For Peace in God's World*](#)
ELCA social message [*Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy*](#)
[ELCA social message *Gun-related Violence and Trauma*](#)
[Draft social statement on Civic Life and Faith](#)
[ELCA Civic Engagement Guide](#)
[Service of Prayer in Times of Violence \(2016\)](#)



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: www.stpaulsnewarkde.org

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.



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Barb Rhodes, *Vice President*

Heidi Burch, *Secretary*

Mary Collins, *Treasurer*

Kristine Cassar, Winnie Hull, Greg Johnson,

Susie Olson, Emily Pierce

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

prayonstpauls@gmail.com

or contact Pastor Barbara Melosh

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Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

Articles due by Wednesday morning at 10AM. Late submissions will be shared the following week. Please send articles to splcmusic@comcast.net for the time being.

**WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES
OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?
THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE**

