# 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.

## **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Sunday, September 1, 2024**

## 10 AM Service of Holy Communion

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

### 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 10 AM service through simultaneous live streaming to St. Paul's Facebook page. The service is then posted to the website, <u>www.stpaulsnewarkde.org</u> 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	Capriccio on "We Plow the Fields and Scatter"	arr. Ashdown
	WIR PFLÜGEN	

### WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.** 

#### **ENTRANCE HYMN**

For the Beauty of the Earth ELW 879 (harmony)



Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt. Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

### **GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

### Amen.

Be seated.

#### 🕸 WORD 🕸

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

#### FIRST READING

#### **Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

God's law: a sign of a great nation

A reading from Deuteronomy:

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a deity so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we cry out? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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

#### **RESPONSIVE READING**

Psalm 15

Antiphon: Ps. 15;1

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? <sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,

who speak the truth from their heart;

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain,

nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

#### LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

#### **SECOND READING**

#### James 1:17-27

Be doers of the word, not hearers only

A reading from James:

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of the divine purpose God gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of God's creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

Please stand, as you are able.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Alleluia! from the

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Authentic religion

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

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jewish people, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

<sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Barbara Melosh



Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Restore In Us, O God HFW 1070 Found on p. 8

Originally conceived as a Lenten hymn, our Hymn of the Day is also appropriate for this Sunday. Written in 1987 by the Episcopal priest Carl Daw Jr., the hymn addresses the triune God in its plea for renewal. The image from the gospel reading of washing dishes remains in our minds as we sing for restoration and renewal.

### Restore in Us, O God



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 Music: POTSDAM, Mercer, Church Psalter, 1854

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

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.

**Apostles' Creed** 

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

### A brief silence.

God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Merciful God,

### receive our prayer.

God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe. Merciful God,

### receive our prayer.

Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Merciful God,

### receive our prayer.

Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Hear the cries of all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts, especially Earnie, Silas, Pat, Margaret, Sheri, Jay, Kara Beth, Naomi, Hugh, Rob, Christopher, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Melissa, Ginny, Gary, Isabella, Heyward, Olive, and Jim. Merciful God,

### receive our prayer.

On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. Merciful God,

### receive our prayer.

O Father of lights, for whose word of truth we have been born as firstfruits of your creatures: make us and our partners in ministry, especially Reformation Lutheran Church in Milford and Hilltop Lutheran Community Center in Wilmington, quick to listen and slow to speak, that the word implanted in us may take root to nourish all our living, and that we may be blessed in our doing and fruitful in our action. Merciful God,

### receive our prayer.

Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed, especially Anne, Chris, Bill, and Catherine. We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ. Merciful God,

#### receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.** 

### PEACE

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.

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	"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"	Jay Althouse
	Summer Choir	

Please stand, as you are able.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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) from the Liturgy for the Family of God Peter S. Klemp



### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,

and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

### Amen

### LORD'S PRAYER

And now, 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, here is your God. Jesus welcomes us to this table.

#### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) from the Liturgy for the Family of God

Peter S. Klemp



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.

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

ELW 534 (harmony) Found on p. 14

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways ELW 772 (harmony) Found on p. 15

### Savior, Again to Your Dear Name



Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, alt. Music: ELLERS, Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901

### God gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would become a kind of first fruits of creation.

James 1:18

## Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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.

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### ✤ SENDING ✤

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

### **BENEDICTION**

God all mighty, God most merciful + bless you, keep you, and give you peace. Amen.

#### SENDING SONG

# Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685 (harmony)



Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt. Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus. Thanks be to God.

#### POSTLUDE

"Jubilation!"

Jason D. Payne

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY			
Assisting Minister:	Marjorie Chin		
Lector:	Barb Rhodes		
Bread Provider:	Anu Gonumakulapalli		
Altar Guild:	Cheri Simons		
Flower Guild:	Gale Paul		



The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory and praise of God in honor of their fifty-seventh wedding anniversary by Linda and Rich Radwick.



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### COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

As our souls prosper, we shall be more and more sensible, not only of the outside, but of the inside. We first battle with the outward man, but as we advance in the divine life, we have nearer views of the chambers of imagery that are in our hearts. And one day after another we shall find more and more abomination there, and consequently we shall see more of the glory of Jesus Christ, the wonders of that Immanuel who daily delivers us from this body of sin and death. If we grow in the divine life, our heads will grow as well as our hearts, and the Spirit of God leads us out of abominable self, and causes us to flee more and more to that glorious and complete righteousness that Jesus Christ wrought out. The more your souls prosper, the more you will see of the freeness and distinguishing nature of God's grace, that all is of grace. I mention this, because we ought not to make persons offenders for a word; we should bear with young Christians, and not knock a young child's brains out because he cannot speak in blank verse.

—George Whitefield, in 20 Centuries of Great Preaching, ed. Clyde E. Fant, Jr., and William M. Pinson, Jr. (Waco, TX: Word, 1970), III, 165



# **ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE** Important News for the Week of September 1, 2024

### LECTIONARY 22, PROPER 17 (YEAR B)

In our worship, we pray to God who is the giver of every good and perfect gift. We ask God to bring to fruition the word of truth sown in our hearts by Christ, so that we will live in the law of love. It is this liberating law that judges all other laws of human origin. It is this gracious command that is satisfied with Christ's blood. In this supper Christ forgives us and strengthens us to be communal witnesses to his love.

### **BREWING THEOLOGY**

Fun-loving adults, age 21 and over, are invited to join in conversation and laughs while enjoying a beverage on Wednesday, September 4, at the Delaware Saengerbund. Join us at 7 PM at 49 Salem Church Road in Newark for fun and fellowship.

### ADULT FORUMS RETURN

Our Adult Forums are back starting next Sunday, September 8. We welcome Victoria Kenyon, PhD candidate at the University of Delaware, as she tells us about church architecture. The first of her three-part discussion, "Church Architecture 101: From the Medieval to Mid-Century," is an overview of some basic terms and the development of church design over time. Join in the fun starting at 8:30 AM in the Blue Room.

### MINISTRY FAIR

Following worship next Sunday, September 8, you are invited to stay for coffee and fellowship, as well as explore the many opportunities to get involved at St. Paul's. Our annual ministry fair boasts tables and activities representing our various ministries and committees. Come and learn more from those involved and sign up to participate. There is no pressure to do so but your involvement is desired to make St. Paul's the best place it can be for you, your family, and for all!

#### **AMAZING GRACE SEMINAR**

Next Sunday, September 8, our new member seminar will be held right after worship, following a visit to the the ministry fair. If you are interested in membership, join those ready to take the next step at St. Paul's for a 90-minute discussion, complete with light refreshments.

### STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN KICKOFF SANDWICH SUPPER

The Stewardship Committee invites you to join in giving our upcoming Stewardship Campaign a jump-start at a Sandwich Supper on Saturday, September 14, at 5 PM in Fellowship Hall. Come and learn about the 2024 campaign, "Here and Beyond," receive a pledge card, and ask questions. If you'd like to attend, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or by email to Rich Wallden, <u>rwsilvercoins@gmail.com</u>.

### HOLY HIKE

Outdoor adventurers of any age are invited to hike on Sunday, September 15, after worship. The Newark Reservoir/Redd Park Trail is a paved, wooded, mostly flat 2.6 miles, located at 250 Old Paper Mill Road in Newark. Questions? Contact hike leader, Laura Blenderman (302-220-6708/ljblenderman@comcast.net).

### **BOOKS AND BANTER**

St. Paul's avid readers meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1 PM 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:

September 26"The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James BrownOctober23"The Making of Another Major Motion Picture" by Tom Hanks

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

St. Paul's is blessed with a vibrant ministry of music and a plethora of talented singers and instrumentalists who lead in worship weekly. Our regular schedule of rehearsals begins on Thursday, September 5. Please consider joining one of these ensembles this fall and make a joyful noise in this place!

6:30 – 8:00 PM HANDBELL ENSEMBLE (Ringers high school age and up)

8:00 – 9:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR (Singers high school age and up)

### SOUND THE TRUMPETS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

If you play a brass instrument, consider joining our *Sounding Brass* ensemble. They will start rehearsing for Reformation Sunday (October 27) at the end of September. If you play trumpet, horn, baritone, trombone, or tuba, please let Mike Bareham know and a rehearsal time will be set that meets player availability (most likely on Monday afternoons).



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: <u>www.stpaulsnewarkde.org</u>

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

**The Reverend Barbara Melosh** *Interim Pastor* 302-354-5512 (cell) bmelosh@gmu.edu

Jerilynn Hinrichs *Office Administrator* 302-368-0064 ext. 101 <u>splcstaff@gmail.com</u>

### **Church Council**

Anne Sullivan, *President* 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: prayonstspauls@gmail.com or contact Pastor Barbara Melosh Michael Bareham Director for Music and Worship 302-368-0064 ext. 123 splcmusmin@gmail.com

> Nalini Janaki Business Administrator 302-368-0064 ext. 102 stpaulsoffice@comcast.net

Katelyn Farrell *Early Education Director* St. Paul's Lutheran School 302-368-0064 ext. 118 stpaulschool@comcast.net

### Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

Articles due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM. Late submissions will be shared the following week. Please send articles to <u>splcmusmin@gmail.com</u> for the time being.

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

