

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, September 22, 2024

**10 AM Service of
Holy Communion**

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.



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, 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

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

arr. Wold

Partita on NETTLETON

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

All Are Welcome
ELW 641
Found on pp. 4-5

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 teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

✠ WORD ✠

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

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 11:18-20

The prophet led like a lamb to slaughter

A reading from Jeremiah:

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,

*The First Reading continues on p. 5
under the citation for the opening hymn.*

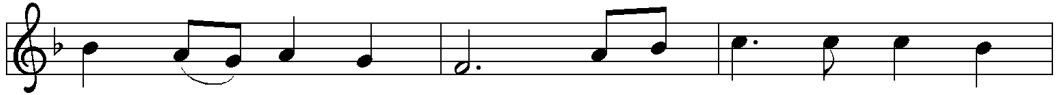
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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*The service continues with the Greeting
and Prayer of the Day on p. 3*



The First Reading continues:

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 54

Antiphon: Ps. 54:4

God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.

God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.

¹Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.

²Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God.

⁴Behold, God is my helper;
it is the Lord who sustains my life.

God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.
⁶I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.
⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble,
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.

SECOND READING

James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom from above

A reading from James:

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4:1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and the devil will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! from the
Liturgy for the Family of God

Found on p. 7

Peter S. Klemp

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! The Lord_ our_ God be
blessed! Al-le-lu-ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Your Word_ brings_ righ - teous-ness. With
all your works, we praise you! Ex - alt your Name for - ev - er! Al-le-
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing al - le - lu - ia!

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:30-37

Prediction of the passion

The Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son-of-Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when Jesus was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Fred Melton

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Children of the Heavenly Father

ELW 781



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

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.

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation in this place and those of our partners in ministry, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Wilmington and Lutheran housing projects throughout Delaware. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. We pray especially for civilians in war zones and

those serving in the military who are deployed in dangerous places, including Fergus and others known to us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer, especially Nancy, Jane, Paul, Chuck, 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. Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Guide and encourage the call committee as they interview prospective pastors and seek to discern your will for this congregation.. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, especially Anne, Chris, Bill, and Catherine. Console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

“A Place at the Table”

arr. McDonald

Sanctuary 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
Found on p. 12*

Peter S. Klemp

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, our God of pow'r and might, Sing
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Heav'n and earth are full of your maj - es -
ty! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Blest is he who
comes in the Name of the Lord! Sing loud, Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the
high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

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

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

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

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW 712

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985

Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.

Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,

who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.



*God has called us through the proclamation
of the good news, that we may obtain
the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Thessalonians 2:14

Loving Spirit
ELW 397



1 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—
2 Like a moth - er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,
3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,
4 Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am known and held and blessed:
5 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.
feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.
hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.
in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.
you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931
Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. hymnal version
Text © 1987 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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.

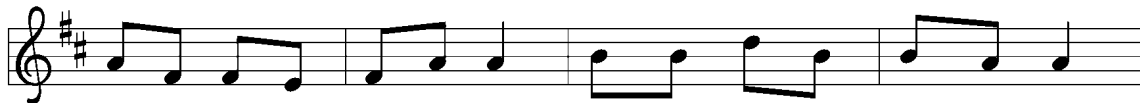
BENEDICTION

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

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Jesus Loves Me!
ELW 595 (harmony)



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.
Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Fantasia on “Built On a Rock”
KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS

arr. Fedak

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Jeanine Heath
Lector:	Eric Mease
Bread Provider:	Barb Rhodes
Altar Guild:	Janet Mease
Flower Guild:	Sue Wallden



**The flowers in the chancel are given
to the glory and praise of God.**



COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Who was this child? From where had she come? The text moves swiftly from passion prediction through teachings about servanthood to receiving a child in Jesus’ name. It is a movement from death through confronted ambition to a new insight into what it means to be a follower of Christ. Jesus speaks of servanthood, of becoming last and servant of all. The disciples may be blind with guilt, but we observe the teaching clearly, reinforced by our memory of Jesus’ basin and towel on the night before his death. In taking the child, Jesus incarnates his teaching. Jesus lays aside his own status in reaching out to a child, a symbol of the marginalized within any community. In his reception of the child Jesus models the openness, vulnerability and humility to which we are invited.

—Stephen M. Larson, in *Homilies for the Christian People*, 338



THE MOST CHALLENGING SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

The writers of today's readings express to God their fears about death and those who do evil. They rage against the cravings, coveting, envy, and selfish ambition that lead to disorder and war, within and around us. They describe one caught in this reality who is led to slaughter, tested with insult and torture, and faces a shameful death. Through our lenses we see Jesus. In fact, Jesus keeps describing what is going to happen to him, but his followers can't understand. They don't want to understand. Instead, they argue about who is greatest. Putting a quick end to that line of argument, Jesus brings a child into their circle. Embracing the child, Jesus invites disciples into humble service—this is how we draw near to God and God to us.

It is easy to be fearful in view of events outside us. It is easy to be thrown off course by feelings inside us or to work hardest for the wrong things. But Jesus invites us to practice what may be the most challenging spiritual practice of all. Jesus invites us to love our neighbor. Jesus asks that we look around for someone concrete to invest our time and energy in, someone who cannot necessarily return the favor. Jesus challenges us to receive others' ministry to us, since we are also little children in faith.

In real life, there is no way to avoid shame and death. At some point, it comes to each of us. However, for now, wherever we are, we can participate in God's way of life. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, disciples look where Jesus points and see those whom they can serve. They do not escape death but can know that resurrection is on the other side. Each day, God is with us through dying and rising.

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ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

LECTIONARY 25, PROPER 20 (YEAR B)

In worship we learn the reversals in the kingdom of God: greatness is not defined by wealth, power, or prestige. Rather, all people are welcomed in the name of Christ. The children in our midst are a sign of the hospitality that God offers to all persons regardless of their status in the world. We go forth from our Sunday assemblies to be servants who find greatness in humble service on behalf of those who are often forgotten or rejected in society.

WELCOME OUR GUEST PASTOR

Welcome The Reverend Fred Melton, serving in worship today while Pastor Barbara and Gary are on vacation this weekend.

ADULT FORUM

On Sunday, September 29, we begin a two-part series "Malta: The Gem of the Mediterranean," about the history of the Island of Malta. Our own Rick Cassar will cover the island's history from 5200 BC up to the Crusades, including St. Paul's landing and a bit of mythology. Join us at 8:30 AM in the Blue Room.

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

If you attend St. Paul's, you are invited to participate in our interactive opportunity to chat with fellow members about what's good and what could use improvement in our church worship, fellowship, and service opportunities this Sunday, September 22. Hosted by the Membership Ministry, as challenged by our Five Year Plan, we want to give you the opportunity to offer suggestions and solutions to help us make our church the best that it can be. Snacks will be provided. Topics will include communications, potential global missions, and endowments.

HOLY HIKE

Outdoor adventurers of any age are invited to hike this Sunday, October 13, after worship. Carousel Park is a partly paved, four-mile trail with gentle hills and woodlands, located at 3700 Limestone Road in Wilmington. Questions? Contact hike leader Kathy Palmer (302-547-5168/eli2220@comcast.net).

BREWING THEOLOGY

Fun-loving adults, age 21 and over, are invited to join in conversation and laughs while enjoying a beverage on Wednesday, October 2, at Delaware Saengerbund. Join us at 7 PM at 49 Salem Church Road in Newark for fun and fellowship.

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 25 "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown

October 23 "The Making of Another Major Motion Picture" by Tom Hanks

LCM FUNDRAISER REQUEST

Lutheran Campus Ministry is seeking hand-crafted items, baked goods, event tickets, as well as creative, themed baskets (total value \$50-\$60; items included listed on a small tag) for the raffles that will occur at their annual fundraising event on Saturday, November 2. Other than baked goods which can be dropped off the day of, they are requesting these items be received by Wednesday, October 23.

Contact Chaplain Mindy Holland at chaplain@lcmde.org to make arrangements to drop off items or have them picked up. She will be happy to answer any questions, too.

OWLS TO EXPERIENCE DELAWARE HISTORY

Plan to join the Older Wiser LutheranS on Thursday, October 17, when they will travel back in time and visit Old Swedes Church and a replica of the Kalmar Nyckel.

The tour will start at 12:30 PM at Old Swedes, continue with a tour of the ship at 2 PM, and end with a tour of the Copeland Maritime Center Museum until 3:30 PM. They will then have an early dinner at Iron Hill Brewery at 4 PM. For anyone who would like to carpool, they will meet in the back (school side) parking lot of church at 11:45 AM. The address for Old Swedes is 606 North Church St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Iron Hill Brewery is located at 620 Justison Street, Wilmington, DE 19801.

Reservations, along with payment of \$27 for this tour, are needed by Sunday, September 29. To RSVP, contact Kathy Palmer (elie2220@comcast.net/302-547-5168) and provide your email address and cell phone number. Payment can be made by check, cash, or Venmo. Also let Kathy know if you would like to carpool or if you can drive.

Vital Signs

	August 2024 Activity (\$)	YTD Balance (\$)	Budget YTD (\$)	Over/Under YTD + (-) (\$)	August 2024 Avg. Sunday Attendance	YTD Average Sunday Attendance
TOTAL INCOME	21,654.69	222,847.71	242,004.00	(19,156.29)	64	81
TOTAL EXPENSES	30,931.37	216,845.25	229,835.00	(12,989.75)		
DIFFERENCE	(9,276.68)	6,002.46	12,169.00			

- **Income:** YTD is 8% (\$19,156) below YTD budget projections. Pledged Offerings are ahead of budget due to several families prepaying for the entire year, while unpledged offerings are behind.
- **Personnel Expenses:** YTD are 15% (\$18,894.48) below budget due to the interim pastor continuing into the second half of 2024 and the office administrator position being unfilled in August.
- **Administrative Expenses:** YTD are 23% (\$2,139.24) above budget YTD due to the costs associated with exiting our copier contract and higher than anticipated telephone and internet access charges. Work continues to address software expenditures for the church and reconciling insurance payments for the new copier.
- **Property Expenses:** YTD are 8% (\$4,358.97) above budget YTD due to weekly cleaning services, property insurance and electricity costs.
- **All Other Expense Categories (Worship & Music, Committee, Mortgage and Benevolence):** All these categories are running at or under budget.

Overall: the benefit of having a delay in the hiring of a senior pastor offsets the decrease in the total income received such that we are ahead of budget year to date. At current spending rates in all other categories, our expenses YTD would be \$18K higher and YTD income would not cover the additional costs of a full time pastor.



OWLS CRUISE AROUND ST. MICHAEL'S

St. Paul's Older Wiser LutheranS will embark on a narrated, historical, seventy-minute cruise around St. Michael's, Maryland, this coming Friday, September 27. Those who signed up should meet at the St. Michael's dock at the Chesapeake Maritime Museum by 12:00 PM. Following the boat ride, the OWLS will enjoy a late lunch/early dinner at the Crab Claw Restaurant at 2:00 PM. Feel free to call Sue Wallden at 716-480-2224 if you have any questions.



UPDATE FROM ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We reported in late July that it has been a turbulent spring and summer for the school since the departures of our former director and bookkeeper. We were thankful when we hired Ms. Katelyn Farrell to join the school staff as our new Early Education Director in August. Regrettably, Ms. Farrell resigned from her position here at St. Paul's just two weeks after her arrival to accept a position in a local public-school district. Board members were shocked and dismayed by her sudden departure, which set us back to beginning a new search process. The Board met earlier this week to strategize plans for the future for our school. We established decisive dates to achieve critical milestones that must be met for us to be positioned to offer classes beginning in January. The position description for the director has been re-advertised, and we have received interest already from new candidates. However, we are working on a very tight time frame. We ask you, members of our congregation for help in two ways: First, please pray for success in hiring a director and teachers in order to offer classes again in the spring; and second, if you know of anyone qualified for the position, please reach out to alert them to this opportunity. The position description is available on the school website: <http://www.st-pauls-lutheran-school.org>. Thank you for your support!

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 this month on Monday afternoons.

Also, if you play woodwinds, strings, keyboards, or percussion, consider joining St. Paul's chamber orchestra for Christmas Eve and our annual Sounds of the Season concert in early January. A high school level of proficiency and the ability to read music are required. Contact Mike Bareham, Director for Music and Worship, with your interest and availability.



SAENGERBUND SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

The Delaware Saengerbund will hold their annual Erntedankfest, a Service of Thanksgiving, here at St. Paul's on Sunday, October 6, at 3:00 PM. The presiding minister will be The Reverend Greg Johnson. Music will be provided by the DSB Singers and the Johannes Brass, along with our very own Mike Bareham at the organ.



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.



The Reverend Barbara Melosh

Interim Pastor

302-354-5512 (cell)

bmelosh@gmu.edu

Jerilynn Hinrichs

Office Administrator

302-368-0064 ext. 101

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Director for Music and Worship

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Nalini Janaki

Business Administrator

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stpaulsoffice@comcast.net

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

Early Education Director

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 118

stpaulschool@comcast.net

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

prayonstpauls@gmail.com

or contact Pastor Barbara Melosh

Articles due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM. Late submissions will be shared the following week. Please send articles to the church office at splcstaff@gmail.com.

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

