

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 3, 2025

LECTIONARY 18/PROPER 13 (YEAR C)

The church prays, “We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions.” We do much more than support the work of our congregation as we make our contribution. We actually reorient ourselves to what we possess and what we value the most. God’s word speaks to us about this fundamental realignment of our lives.

MONTH-LONG SABBATICAL

It has been three years since Mike Bareham, Director for Music and Worship, took his first sabbatical during the month of July back in 2022. He is excited to be taking his second month-long sabbatical to work more on setting his children’s music into printable notation. You see he is putting together a songbook of liturgical music for young singers, like the children in our preschool, that he hopes to have published very soon. This additional time off was approved by the congregational council over a year ago. Joanne Hench will be “on the bench” for the month of August. Mike will return to us ready for our musical opportunities in September.

PASTOR CRIS OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pastor Cris will be out of the office for Navy training from Monday, **August 4, through Friday, August 15**. He will have access to email and his cell phone for most of that time. He will then be on vacation from **Saturday, August 16, through Tuesday, August 19**, and will not be available for contact during this time. If there is an urgent pastoral need, please contact the church office and you will receive contact information for Pastor Tara Magoon.

HOLY HIKE

Please join us Sunday, August 10, after worship, for our monthly Holy Hike, as we visit Lum’s Pond at 1068 Howell School Road in Bear. We will meet at Area 4 parking lot. This will be a four- mile hike — out and back, along a wooded and mostly flat trail.

BREWING THEOLOGY

Join us at 7 PM on Wednesday, August 13, at the home of David and Linda Grund, located at 46 Arizona State Drive in Newark. Our topic will be the importance of community and fellowship. Please RSVP to lgrund923@gmail.com

OLDER, WISER, LUTHERANS

Join us for food, fun, and fellowship at a “Dog Days of Summer” potluck dinner at 4:00 PM, Monday, August 18, at Rich and Sue Wallden’s home. Please RSVP by Thursday, August 14, to Sue at slwallden@gmail.com. More specifics to follow to those who plan to attend.

BOOKS AND BANTER

St. Paul’s avid readers meet 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.

August 27 “True Colors” by Kristen Hannah

SURVEY – CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Following up on our “Gifts to Share” survey, we’d like to hear your thoughts again. This survey is one question that should take you just a minute or two. We’re hoping to learn what is on your mind about the needs in our neighborhood and the world. You don’t have to have a solution; we just want to know what folks are concerned about. Please use the QR code to the right or go to <https://bit.ly/StPaulsCommunityNeeds>.



CONNECTIONS WITH CREATION

In Colossians, the writer urges us, “Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (3:2). Verses like this have been used by Christians to exploit the earth, but in the climate crisis, we cannot allow these sensibilities to go unchecked. Now we must set our minds on earth to be faithful, and this does not contradict the message of Colossians. The writer urges us to confess our sins: the climate crisis has been caused by human sin, especially by those in the Global North. Greed, which the writer calls idolatry, causes us to overconsume our shared and limited earthly resources. Yet in Christ we receive forgiveness of sins and are renewed in the image of our creator.