ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713



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

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Sunday, August 17, 2025

10 AM Service of Holy Communion



The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

We believe all people are created in God's image. Rooted in Jesus' ministry of liberation, unconditional love, and hospitality, we strive to welcome all into our community. This welcome explicitly includes those who have traditionally been marginalized in the church and society due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, racial and ethnic background, physical ability, developmental ability, citizenship/documentation status, and socioeconomic status.

We hope that our young people experience God in our gathering together. Families, you are welcome to use the Prayground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Prayground in the narthex if you need a break from the activities in the sanctuary. Most of all, know that the joyful noise of young people in our worship is welcome!

Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex. If you need any other help with worship, please speak with an usher at the doors to the sanctuary.

+ GATHERING +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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.

PRELUDE

"Has Anybody Seen My Lord" Moncia Small, soprano

arr. Manney

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

GREETING

God of all nations, who rescued your people out of the Red Sea and delivered Rahab from battle,

rescue the lowly and needy from injustice and tribulation.

Surround us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we may have faith to live by your word in our time, courage to persevere in the race set before us,

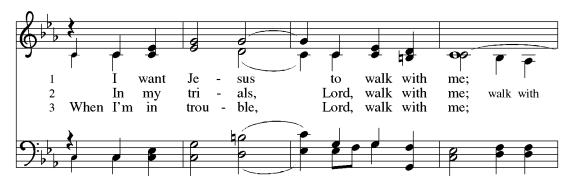
and endurance in the time of trial.

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.

OPENING HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me ELW 325





Text: African American spiritual Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with the power of the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**.

The assembly is seated.

+ WORD +

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

FIRST READING Jeremiah 23:23-29

God's word is like fire, like a hammer that breaks rocks

A reading from Jeremiah:

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy

lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back — those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

God of justice, your word is light and truth restoring us to walk in your way, seeking justice and doing good.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 82

- ¹God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:
- ² "How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?
- ³ Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;
- ⁴ rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.
- ⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- ⁶ Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;
- ⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.' "
- 8 Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own

SECOND READING Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2

The faith of the Hebrew people, a great cloud of witnesses

A reading from Hebrews:

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

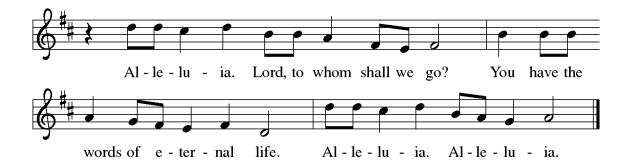
^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

God of justice, your word is light and truth restoring us to walk in your way, seeking justice and doing good.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 3



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 12:49-56

Jesus brings fire on earth and has a baptism with which to be baptized

The Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

When Pain of the World Surrounds Us FLW 704



- 1 When pain of the world sur-rounds us with dark-ness and de-2 We see with . . fear and trem - bling our ach - ing world in
- 3 The church is a ho ly ves sel the liv ing wa ters
- 4 We praise you . . for our jour ney and your a bun-dant





false hopes ev - 'ry - where, when lives are starved for mean - ing and waste-ful - ness and greed. May we with stead-fast car - ing the pur - pose to ful - fill. May we with hum - ble cour - age be strug - gling hu - man race. O God, with all cre - a - tion, your



des - ti - ny is bare, hun-gry chil - dren feed. o - pen to God's will. fu - ture we em - brace.

we are called to fol - low sus and We are called to fol - low Je sus and We are called to fol - low Je and sus We are called to fol - low Je sus and



let God's jus - tice flow through us. let God's Spir - it flow through us. let God's chang - es flow through us.

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

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound, especially Olive, Heyward, Patricia, Jane, those on our prayer list and those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts... (brief silence) Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide the leaders of this congregation and those of our Maryland partners in ministry, especially Grace Lutheran in Easton and St. Peter's in Ocean City. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in all of us a spirit of collaboration and support for our various ministries. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **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.

+ MEAL +

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

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 records are maintained.

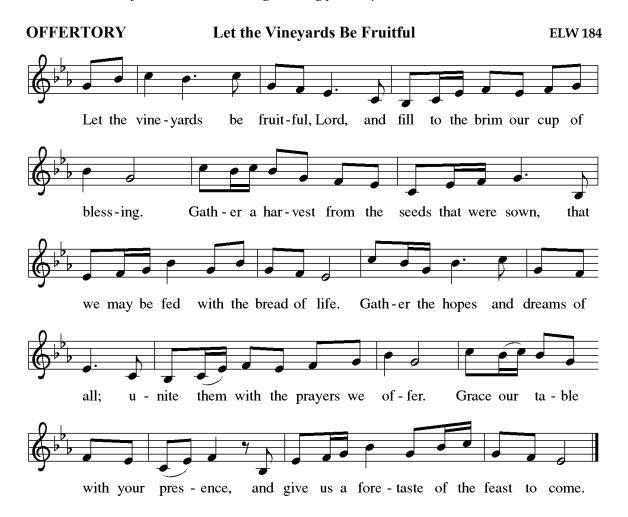
SOLO

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Moncia Small, soprano

arr. Fisher

Please stand, as you are able, and sing as the gifts are presented and the table is set.



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You have blessed us with your goodness; you have given us our selves, our time, and our possessions. May these gifts be used in the care and healing of all that you have made, for the sake of the one who gave himself for us, 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,

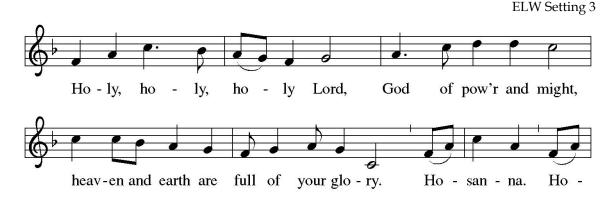
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;

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:







EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child; when the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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 his death, we cry out Amen.

Amen.

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

Amen.

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

Amen.

O God, you are Breath:

send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread:

feed us with yourself.

O God, you are Wine:

warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire:

transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

OR

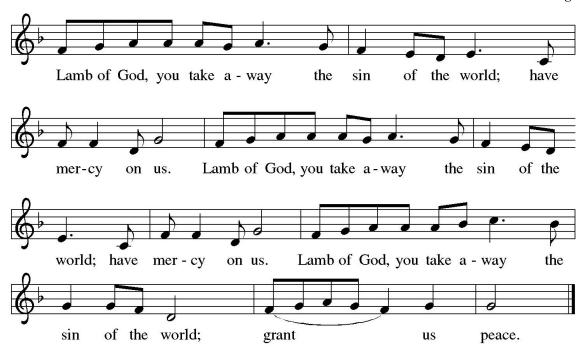
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

ELW Setting 3



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. Those who choose not to commune 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

Let Us Break Bread Together ELW 471 (harmony) Found on p. 16

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart ELW 484

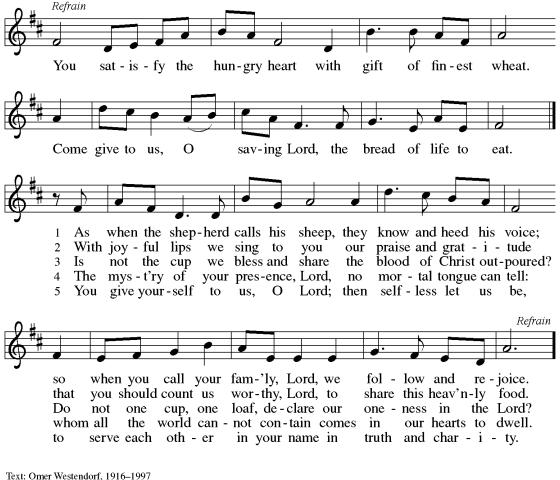
Found on p. 17

Let Us Break Bread Together



Text: African American spiritual Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart Gift of Finest Wheat



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996
Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

After all have communed and returned to their places, remain seated.

BLESSING AND PRAYER

Strengthened by the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and kept in his grace, we pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

+ SENDING +

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

LIFE OF THE CHURCH – ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches.

May you be rooted and grounded in his love.

Amen.

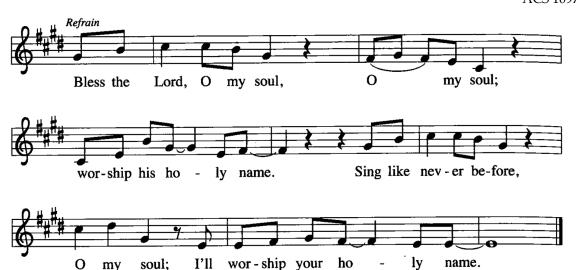
Amen.

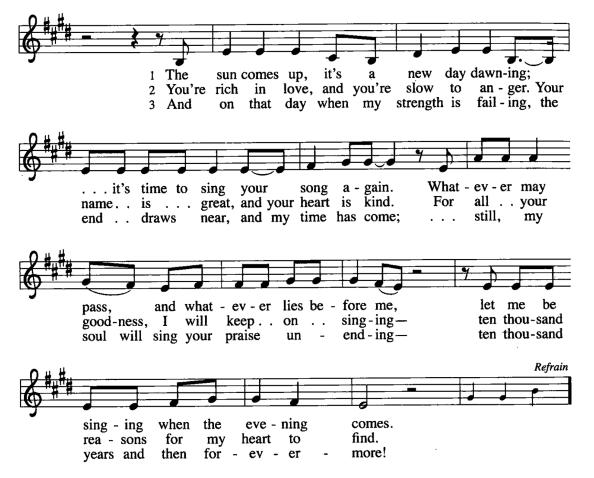
Almighty God, Father, \pm Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Bless the Lord, O My Soul ACS 1097





Text: Matt Redman, b. 1974, and Jonas Myrin, b. 1982 Music: Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin

TEN THOUSAND REASONS

Text and music © 2011 Thankyou Music / Atlas Mountain Songs / worshiptogether.com Songs / sixsteps Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Welcome the stranger.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Great Day"

Hailstork

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Victoria Kenyon

Lector: Lorraine Fett

Bread Provider: Heidi Burch Altar Guild: Janet Mease Flower Guild: Janet Mease



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



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CONNECTIONS WITH CREATION

Jesus states boldly, "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!" (Luke 12:49). Listeners might note that fire has already come to the earth; wildfire season grows longer and more intense as our climate continues to change. Metaphorical fires are also raging; divisions much like Jesus describes are something many people in our pews face. So, what is the good news in a reading so blunt and descriptive? How do we interpret the present time while clinging to the resurrection promise? Our psalmist knows the good news well: God rules the earth, even when its foundations shake (82:5), and God hears our pleas for rescue of the weak and needy.

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 17, 2025

LECTIONARY 20/PROPER 15 (YEAR C)

The candles that grace our worship seem like gentle lights, but fire is a powerful and purging force. Ancient peoples used fire to purify molten ore and burn away the dross. In this day's worship, God's word comes among us like raging fire, consuming what is false and leaving behind pure gold.

PRESIDING AND PREACHING TODAY

We welcome the Reverend Doctor Melissa Lemons, Minister of Community Engagement at Unity Church in Wilmington, this morning while Pastor Cris is on vacation.

OUR MUSICIANS TODAY

We welcome Moncia Small, lyric soprano, as our musical guest this morning. We thank Joanne Hench for substituting while Mike Bareham is on sabbatical.

PASTOR CRIS ON VACATION

Pastor Cris is on vacation **through Tuesday**, **August 19**. If there is an urgent pastoral need, please contact the church office and you will receive contact information for Pastor Tara Magoon.

MONTH-LONG SABBATICAL

Mike continues his month-long sabbatical. He is excited to be able to work more on setting his children's music into printable notation in hopes of having it published in the near future. Mike will return in September, ready for our musical opportunities.

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.

THANK YOU LUNCHEON

The school board and staff invite you to a special luncheon in appreciation for all the effort to bring St. Paul's Lutheran School back to life, **August 27** from **11:30am** – **1pm** in our Fellowship Hall. No need to bring anything but yourself and an empty belly!

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

ADULT FORUM

Historian and veteran Gary Kulik (and husband of Pastor Barbara Melosh), will speak about his recent book, *Conscientious Objectors at War: The Vietnam War's Forgotten Medics*, Texas Tech University Press, 2025. Kulik will offer a brief history of "non-combatant" conscientious objection and explain his own decision, rooted in Roman Catholic social teaching, to so serve. Class starts at 8:30 AM on September 7th, in the Blue Room.

NEEDS SURVEY

As we think about our upcoming priorities in ministries, we'd like to have your feedback on what you are concerned about. Please complete the very short survey at https://bit.ly/StPaulsCommunityNeeds or click on the QR code. There's a lot happening in our world, and we don't expect you to have solutions, but we'd like to see where the two surveys intersect. How do we use the gifts we have in the congregation to meet the needs of our community?





Join us as we kick off an exciting new school year!
Come meet our staff, tour the classrooms, and learn more about what's ahead for your child at St. Paul's.

- **✓** INFO SESSION
- **✓** MEET & GREET
- V QEA
- ✓ LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
- BRING THE KIDS!

📅 Date: Friday, August 22nd

- N Time: 5:30 PM 6:30 PM
 - 1 Location: 701 South College Ave, Newark, DE

Come with your questions and excitement—we can't wait to welcome you and your family!





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 Cris Frigm Pastor 302-368-0064 ext. 104 pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Jerilynn Hinrichs
Office Administrator
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Church Council

Anne Sullivan, *President*Greg Johnson, *Vice President*Heidi Burch, *Secretary*Mary Collins, *Treasurer*Kristine Cassar, Phillip Gerecke,
Winnie Hull, Ian Kenyon, Susie Olson

St. Paul's Online Prayer MinistrySend prayer requests to:
prayonstspauls@gmail.com

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Director for Music and Worship
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Nalini Janaki Business Administrator 302-368-0064 ext. 102 business@stpaulsnewarkde.org

Dr. Rae Watts
Early Education Director
St. Paul's Lutheran School
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stpaulschool701@outlook.com

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

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

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

