

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

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



SEASON OF CREATION
Sunday, September 21, 2025

**10 AM Service of
Holy Communion**



During the *Season of Creation*, we join with Christians around the world to celebrate in prayer and action our Gospel calling to protect the Earth that God entrusted to our care. Prayers, readings, hymns, and liturgies from the global communion and beyond reflect the whole Gospel for the whole world.

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 socio-economic status.

We hope that our young people experience God in our gathering together. Families are welcome to use the Playground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Playground 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

"Little" Prelude & Fugue in F"
Joanne Hench, organ

arr. J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed be the One who creates all things.

The Holy One's love is new every morning.

The Creator be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Creator God, you are known by your loving embrace of the undeserving and those who suffer: Grant us sight of your justice and conviction to love all creatures; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Son of God, Eternal Savior

ELW 655

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal-lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant-ed; free-ly may your ser - vants give.
 hush the storm of strife and pas-sion, bid its cru-el dis - cords cease.
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal-lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 Yours the gold and yours the sil-ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
 By your pa - tient years of toil-ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
 by your pray - ing, by your will-ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 we but stew-ards of your boun-ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea-sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

A PENITENTIAL ORDER FOR CREATION

Because we view our lives in Christ through the forgiveness we receive from God, I invite us to confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and all Creation.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

We have forgotten who we are.

We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos.

We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought only our own security.

We have exploited simply for our own ends.

We have distorted our knowledge.

We have abused our power.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the land is barren.

And the waters are poisoned.

And the air is polluted.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the forests are dying. And the creatures are disappearing. And humans are despairing. We have forgotten who we are.

We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering. We ask for the strength to change. Help us to remember who we are.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

THE PEACE

Peace with yourself. Peace with Creation. Peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

*The assembly exchanges Christ's peace
in word and gesture, saying,*

Peace be with you.

The assembly is seated.

✠ **WORD** ✠

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 8:4-7

Warnings to those who trample on the needy and poor

A reading from Amos:

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷ The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

God of faithful surprises,

you have made known your love and power.

May we daily perceive the joy and wonder of your abiding presence.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 113

¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.

² Let the name of the Lord be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.

³ **From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the Lord be praised.**

⁴ The Lord is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens.

⁵ **Who is like the Lord our God,
who sits enthroned on high,**
⁶ but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?
⁷ **The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,**
⁸ enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.
⁹ **The Lord makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!**

CREATION READING

“Resurrection Is Vegetal”

Dong Hyeon Jeong

Death and decay leads to renewal

I love gardening. Touching the soil, seeing and smelling the plants, and eating the fruits of their love teach me every time to be receptive to the presence of the vegetal life. Moreover, recently I have also learned about the importance of accepting decay or death. As a human being, I am fearful of my own death because, as a Christian, I have one life to live with a clear expiration in sight. And yet, plants teach me that decay/death is not the end. They grow their leaves during spring, blossom their flowers during summer, lay down their leaves during the fall, and accept the slumber during winter. Then they rise again as the spring season awakens...

Losing one's life for the gospel is not a call for meaningless sacrifice or abuse. Rather, it is a reminder to “come and see” (John 1:39) from God's creation that resurrection is vegetal. We live and die in Christ because, like the plants, we believe in Christ's promise of renewed life. This renewed life recognizes the joys and pains of the olden days, the deaths that we have had in the past, while believing that we will see the rays of divine light and the joys of the blessed rain in our lives. In all of these, we are invited once again to let go of all of ourselves so we can be buried and be resurrected in Christ.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! from the
Liturgy for the Family of God

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!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 16:1-13

A shrewd manager: faithful in little, faithful in much; serving God/wealth

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him,

‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Cris Frigm

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Give Thee But Thine Own

ELW 686 (harmony)



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
 3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
 to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
 what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

South Indian

Together we affirm our faith:

**We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.**

**We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world
and who suffers with it.**

**And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.**

We believe in everlasting life in God.

**And we believe in the hope that one day
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our

stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Holy One, empower elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized.

Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones, especially Christine, those on our prayer list, and those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts...(brief silence). We also pray for our homebound members, especially Nancy, Tom, Joyce, and William. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints, especially Matthew the Apostle and all who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

Be seated.

✙ 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.*

*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.*

ANTHEM

"Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun"
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Raabe

Text: ELW 557

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

OFFERTORY

O God, My Creator from the
Liturgy for the Family of God

Psalm 51, alt.

Peter S. Klemp

1. O God, my Cre - a - tor, make
(2.) though I have sinned a - gainst
me a clean heart; For - give me, O Lord, to give
you, Lord, I pray, Have mer - cy up - on me with
me a new start. Fill me with your Spir - it and
your love al - way. Re - vive me with joy in sal -
nev - er de - part; Let me live be - side you for -
va - tion, and may Your Spir - it sus - tain me for -
ev - er. 2. Al - er. A - men.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Collect for the Stewardship of Creation

Let us pray. O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature:

Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and remembering the account that we must give one day, grant that we may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer with Creation I

The Creator be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Creator.

Let us give thanks to our loving God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

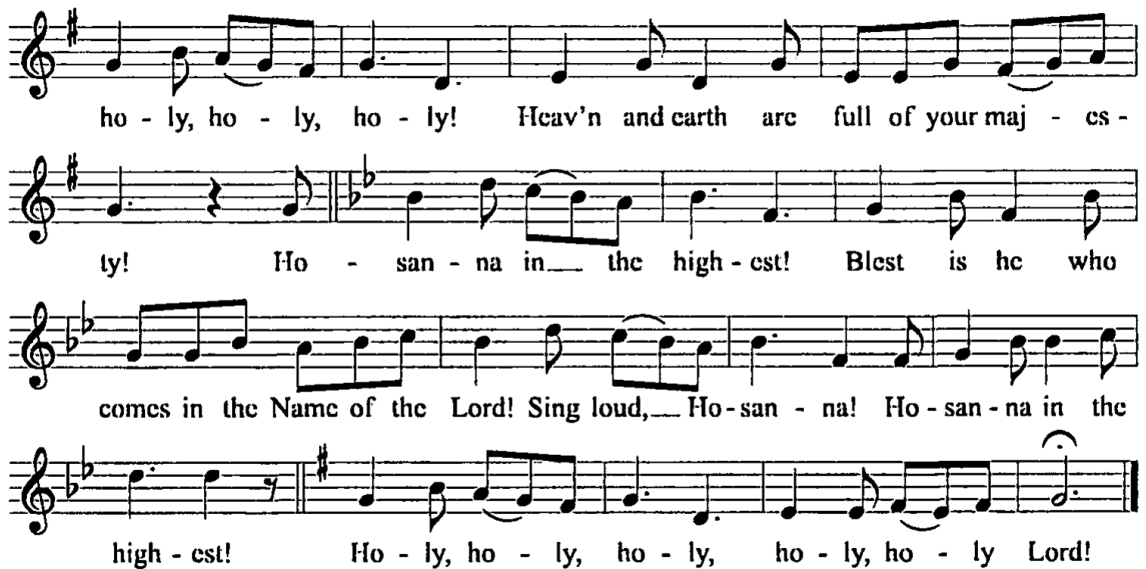
Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you – for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus (Holy) from the
Liturgy for the Family of God
Peter S. Klemp





In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God.

He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said:

“Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator.

He gave it to his friends saying:

“This is my blood of the new covenant,

shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins.

Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me.”

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew. Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter

into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray.

Holy One, our only Home, hallowed be your name. May your day dawn, your will be done, here as in heaven. Feed us today, and forgive us as we forgive each other. Do not forsake us at the test, but deliver us from evil. For the glory, the power, and the mercy are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Creator God, you fed us from the beginning.

Happy are all, called to the Supper of Creation.

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.

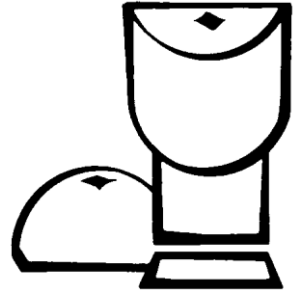
Be seated.

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. 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

Take My Life, That I May Be ELW 685 (harmony)



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

As Saints of Old

ELW 695



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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*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:

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior.
Amen.

✙ SENDING ✙

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

LIFE OF THE CHURCH – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

BENEDICTION

Let us join with the Earth and each other – to bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air, to protect the animals, to treasure the trees, to gaze at the stars, to cherish the human community, to heal the Earth, to remember the children. Let us go forth to put our words into action. And the blessing of the Creator God, ✙ the Risen Son, and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you that you might be a blessing to others today and always.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Founded on Faith

ACS 1048

Found on p. 18

DISMISSAL

Let us bless our God and all Creation.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Little" Prelude & Fugue in C"
Joanne Hench, organ

arr. J. S. Bach



Founded on Faith



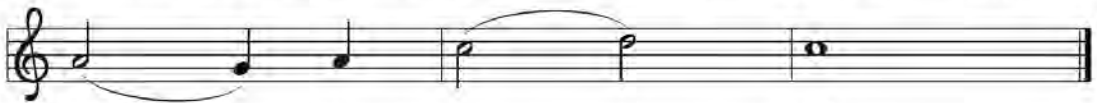
1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
 2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
 3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
 4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
 5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
 Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
 Em - pow'ed to serve with gifts, both great and small,
 we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
 we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
 Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
 we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
 a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church,
 Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul D. Weber, b. 1949

Music: FOUNDED ON FAITH, Paul D. Weber

Text and music © 2017 Paul D. Weber, admin: Augsburg Fortress



The flowers in the chancel are given
 to the glory and praise of God by Karen Simonelli
 in celebration of her son Thomas' birthday, and
 in honor of their fortieth wedding anniversary
 by Brenda and Dwight Baxter.



ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Jeanine Heath
Lector: Barb Rhodes
Bread Provider: Sherry Mench
Altar Guild:
Flower Guild: Janet Mease

Today's "creation author," The Reverend Doctor Dong Hyeon Jeong is a pastor and professor of New Testament Interpretation at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, where he utilizes such critical interpretive lenses such as postcolonialism, gender and sexuality, socio-economic, race and ethnicity, ableism, and posthumanism/eco-justice. The son of Korean missionaries in the Philippines, Jeong is an ordained elder in the Philippine Central Conference, Manila Episcopal Area, Southwest Philippines Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

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Season of Creation resources from a *Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes*

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Liturgy for the Family of God written by Peter S. Klemp

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*Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ;
strive side by side for the faith of the gospel.*

Philippians 1:27

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

LECTIONARY 25/PROPER 20 (YEAR C)

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing – we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

ADULT FORUM

From Old Swedes to the Methodists: Historic Churches of Delaware

Delaware boasts six congregations that are over 300 years old! Many of them began as Anglican and are now Episcopal churches. Join us next Sunday morning as we continue our series on the Historic Churches of Delaware starting at 8:30 AM in the Blue Room.

OLDER, WISER, LUTHERANS

Join the OWLS for another fun fall outing aboard Chesapeake Water Tour's Cider & Donut Cruise on Saturday, October 4. Enjoy scenic views of the C&D Canal and Upper Chesapeake Bay on this 90-minute cruise, while savoring complimentary apple cider donuts and warm apple cider from the one and only Milburn Orchards. Treat yourself to seasonal drink specials, including Apple Cider Mimosas, Caramel Apple Crushes, and other fall-inspired beverages. After the cruise, we'll gather at Schaeffer's Restaurant on the north side of the canal for dinner. The cost of the cruise is \$43 (including Maryland tax), and as usual, dinner will be on your own. The departure time for the cruise is 2:00 PM. If you wish to join us, please reserve your seat with Bill Saylor (302-378-8946/ 302-354-3363/bsaylor2@verizon.net). **The deadline for reservations is today, Sunday, September 21.** Payment (cash, check, Venmo or Zelle) is due at the time of reservation.

MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

Today we commemorate Matthew (or Levi) who was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.

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.

September 24	"Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker" by Jennifer Chiavernini
October 23	"House Rules" by Jodi Picoult

BREWING THEOLOGY

Join us at 7 PM on Wednesday, September 24, at the Delaware Saengerbund at 49 Salem Church Road, in Newark. Our topic will be the role of women in the Bible. Please RSVP to lgrund923@gmail.com.

HOLY HIKE

Please join us for our Holy Hike after worship next Sunday, September 28. We will be meeting at White Clay Creek Preserve, Lot 2, Northeast of 404 Sharpless Road, Landenburg, PA. This is a four-mile wooded, flat trail.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

Thinking of You: Have you noticed recently that a friend in our congregation hasn't been in church for a while? If so, please take a moment to send them a card to let them know you care. Cards and addresses are located on the table in the back of the narthex.

Prayer Squares: Do you know someone who could use a hug, comfort or love? Take a pocket prayer square from the basket in the rear of the narthex and deliver this reminder that God loves them and so do you!

Vital Signs

August 2025 Avg. Sunday Attendance		YTD Average Sunday Attendance		
70		84		
	Aug 2025 Activity	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Over/Under +(-) YTD
TOTAL INCOME	27,753.93	246,746.80	255,528.00	(8,781.20)
TOTAL EXPENSES	35,214.04	260,826.47	254,952.00	5,874.47
DIFFERENCE	(7,460.11)	(14,079.67)		

For pledges that are fulfilled at the beginning of our Fiscal Year, the received income is evenly distributed into the operating budget over the course of the year. The above figures reflect the YTD portion of that income.

Fiscal YTD giving statements will be forwarded shortly from the church office.

STEP UP TO THE PLATE

Thanks to everyone who made it to the “ballpark” and grabbed their “tickets” (pledge cards)! While enjoying hot dogs, peanuts, and Cracker Jacks, Stewardship talked about the 2026 pledge campaign and our plan to “Step Up To The Plate” with a goal of \$345,000, a 5% increase expected to come from both increased pledges and new ones. We’re also hoping to raise an additional \$15,000 for the Building Maintenance and Charitable Works Endowment funds, so get your “ticket” from the communications table in the narthex and help us hit a home run!

SAENGERBUND ERNTEDANKFEST

The congregation is cordially invited to attend the Delaware Saengerbund’s Erntedankfest, a service of thanksgiving, on Sunday, October 5 at 3:00 PM. Pastor Cris will preside, and Mike will accompany the service, along with the Saengerbund choir. The Johannes Brass will also provide special music.

HOPE LUTHERAN ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

Hope Lutheran is holding their annual Fall Festival on Saturday, September 27, from 10 AM to 3 PM at 230 Christiana Road in New Castle. Please join them for children's crafts, a petting zoo, build your own scarecrow, and fun for the whole family. The event includes a pumpkin patch, fall flowers, a silent auction, and food will be available. They are looking for additional vendors, crafters, and donations valued at \$20 or more for the auction. Please contact Joan G. at 302-563-6141 or Jesrn0925@aol.com.

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY FUNDRAISER

LCM is holding a fundraiser on Saturday, November 1, at Grace Lutheran Church in Hockessin. Please join for free food and other festivities. Donations are needed for a basket raffle or silent auction item. They welcome hand-crafted items, baked goods, and event tickets as well as creative baskets. For consistency, please keep the value of each basket near \$50 - \$60 and list the items in the basket on a small tag. Please provide completed baskets and items by Wednesday, October 22 unless they are baked goods. Baked items may be brought fresh to the church during the hour prior to the event. Please contact chaplain@lcmde.org for any questions or to arrange pick up for donations.

COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Jesus commends the steward for taking an interest in the future. He foresees his future and provides for it. Now, it seems that for many Christians, the chief concern has been to get to heaven after death. Too often a preoccupation for that aspect of the future creates an indifference to human values while on earth. But the future about which we are to think does not begin at some distant time after the resurrection of the dead. It begins now. It is the task of the church in every age to look at present practices and policies and to ask, "How will these affect tomorrow and the next day?" If the consequences are grim, then it is the task of the church to call for reassessment and reversal—or to use the biblical word, repentance. When we are baptized, when we receive the eucharist, the future comes into our midst, and we are summoned to care about it earnestly, to protect it fervently.

—Laurence Hull Stookey, in *Homilies for the Christian People*, 522-524



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

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

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



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Church Council

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Greg Johnson, *Vice President*

Heidi Burch, *Secretary*

Mary Collins, *Treasurer*

Kristine Cassar, Phillip Gerecke,

Winnie Hull, Ian Kenyon, Susie Olson

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Dr. Rae Watts

Early Education Director

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 201

stpaulschool701@outlook.com

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

prayonstpauls@gmail.com

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

the church office at office@stpaulsnewarkde.org

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

