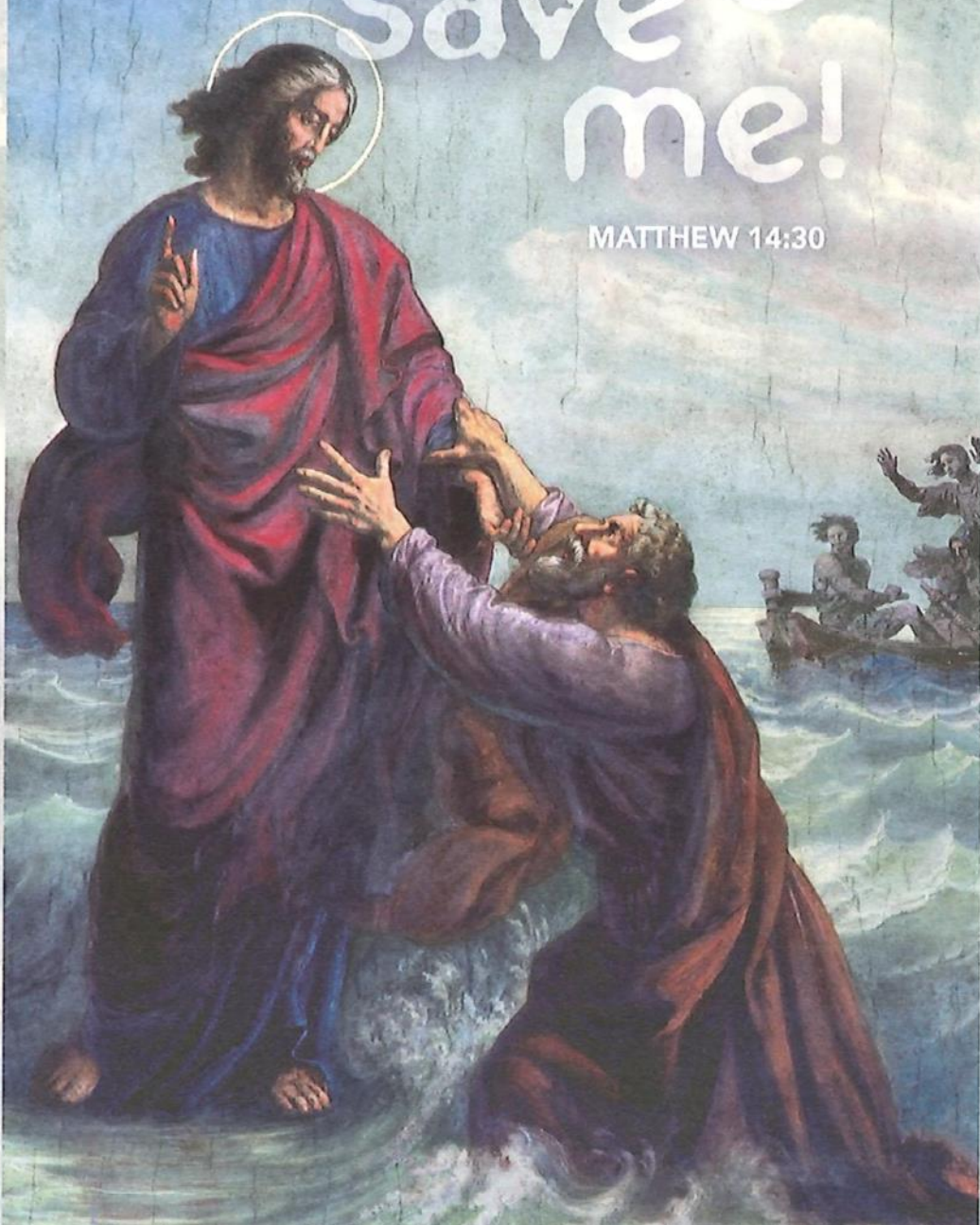


Lord, save me!

MATTHEW 14:30



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulsyork.org

www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Announcements

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 184 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

Thank you for your faithfulness in sending your offering through the mail or by using online options from your financial institution or through the “Donate” now from the church website **stpaulsyork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul’s and our ministry partners.

Ushers are needed. New guidelines are in place. Please contact the church secretary if you can serve. (New procedures were emailed to those who historically served and are also in the August *Our Church* newsletter)

Cottage Meeting hosts are anticipating your call! We are down to the last two meetings. Plan to attend today.

We continue to experience a surge in families needing assistance through the Food Pantry. We can use some additional volunteers. We are seeking folks who are not in the “at risk” category for COVID-19. Simply notify Larry or Janet Moore if you can help on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning. **Our most critical need is with help on Tuesday mornings.**

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul’s. Please thank Deacon Ellen Doughty, Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Tim Yakim for their service.

Thank you to Victor Fields for the use of his sound system for the outdoor service.

STAFF

Pastor

Youth Director

Organist, Choir Director

Bookkeeper

Secretary

Sexton

Preschool Director

Reverend Stanley Reep prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net

Kelly Moore-Spencer kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net

Victor Fields vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net

Dale Zeiger dzeiger.stpaulsyork@comcast.net

Patee Pizzirusso st.paulsyork@comcast.net

Ted Weikert st.paulsyork@comcast.net

Deb Becker director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

Face masks are required both inside and outside. If you do not have a mask you may use one of the pre-packaged masks located at the entrances or at the usher stations. (If a face mask was provided upon arrival, kindly deposit it in the specially marked basket at the exterior doors or at the usher stations as you leave so that it can be properly washed and prepared for use again.)

Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.

Please take your service bulletin with you or dispose of it properly. Please don't place it back into a basket.

Offerings:

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave or at the usher stations outdoors prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

While in the Nave or on the lawn:

You may sit together as a family. Outside worshippers should place their lawn chairs using social distancing. Inside worshippers should sit in designated pews only (green card 10:30 AM. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.

Communion Procedure:

For the outside service: *Communion positions are designated with a chalk cross marked on the sidewalks on Springettsbury Ave. and surrounding the lawn. Wearing your face mask., proceed to the closest sidewalk and take your place at a Communion position.*

For inside services: *Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side of the nave communes first followed by the font side.*

Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.

Your entire household may gather at one of the five positions marked by the green cross.

For all to receive the sacrament:

- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Please do not reach out to take it from the minister.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew/seat by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*

In our prayers we remember...

Dana Soder, Margie Martin, David List, Sandy Shellenberger, Brian McKenna, Gene Shue, Abbie Gayle Guyton, Amanda, Jim Young, Penny Bailey, Eddie Turner, Sr., Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey, the family and loved ones of Lois Boll. *Please keep all medical personnel and those in the military and in mission work in your daily prayers.*

Tenth Sunday of Pentecost

August 9, 2020

8:00 & 10:30 AM

During the time of COVID -19

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

10:30 AM PRELUDE

Go Down Moses/Wade in the Water

Larry Shackley

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

All **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

Women **We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

Men **Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:**

Women **You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

Men **You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.**

Women **For you alone are the Holy One,**

Men **You alone are the Lord,**

All **You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. . **O God, your ears are open always to the prayers of your servants. Open our hearts and minds to you, that we may live in harmony with your will and receive the gifts of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Sit

READING 1 Kings 19:9-18 (on back page)

At the conclusion of the reading

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 85 8-13 8:00 am Spoken responsively by half verse
10:30 am Sung by the Cantor, Sarah Throckmorton, to a setting by Mark Mummert

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying,*
**for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their | hearts to him.**

⁹ Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰ Mercy and truth have | met together;*
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹ Truth shall spring up | from the earth,*
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

¹² The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,*
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness shall | go before him,*
and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

Stand

ALLELUIA

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

GOSPEL **Matthew 14:22-33** *(on back page)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

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

Sit

SERMON

Pastor McKee

Stand

APOSTLE'S CREED

We confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 whole people of God and for all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Lord, God, we pray for the church throughout the world. Give courage in the midst of storms, so that we see and hear you calling: "Take heart, it is I: do not be afraid." Make us follow where you lead. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations and their leaders. In you, steadfast love and faithfulness meet, and righteousness and peace kiss. May nations in conflict know the peace that is the fruit of justice, and the justice that is the path to peace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need. Everyone who calls upon your name will be saved. Accompany all who are lonely, crying out in anguish, or are frustrated in their search for an affordable place to live. We pray for all who suffer this day. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for our congregation. You have gathered us here and we thank you for this gift. We pray for those who are new to this community, for students and teachers preparing for a new school year, and for those struggling with unexpected hardship. Supply us generously with your grace for our life together. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give you thanks, O God, for saints from all times and places, and for the saints in our lives and in our community whom you have gathered to yourself. Especially we remember Lois Boll. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you,
O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our 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.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
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 death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.
Pour out your Holy Spirit,
that by this Holy Communion we may know
the unity we share with all your people
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray;
**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

FRACTION *The bread is broken. A brief silence is kept.*

AGNUS DEI

Pastor Lamb of God
Men Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Women Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
All Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace. Amen

Sit The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, almighty God that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

HYMN *Eternal Father, Strong to Save (LBW 467) Stanza 1 (back pages)*

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**
Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

10:30 AM POSTLUDE *Adagio from Symphony 5* Charles-Marie Widor

The Pastor will be at the Springettsbury Ave. entrance.

Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave. Feel free to gather outside for conversation.

Please take your service bulletin with you or dispose of it properly. Please don't place it back in the basket

If you were provided with a mask on arrival, kindly place it in the marked container at the exterior door. It will be laundered and returned for a future time.



This week's flowers are given to the Glory of God by Jeff & Tami Fulton, and by Ron & Nancy Sturges in memory of their parents.

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Cottage Meetings are finishing up!

Please call today!

Cottage meetings have served our congregation well over the past several years. We really do need you to make a contact so that adequate preparations can be made. We purposely planned that these gatherings could take place out of doors so you may need to pack a lawn chair. Your host family will be delighted to respond to your questions about maneuvering in their lawn or home. A special word of thanks and appreciation is extended to our hosts who graciously agreed to open their homes for our gatherings this summer.



August 9 @ 7:00 p.m., Sheridan & Jamie Palmer, 40 Dressage Ct., York – 717-451-3415

August 23 @ 7:00 p.m., Dan & Kathryn Garber, 3533 Cimmeron Rd., York – 508-873-8173

Thank You for Your Consistent Giving—During this time of pandemic we cannot thank you enough for your generous, consistent gifts to the church. Without them we would need to radically rethink our daily operation. Knowing that this is the month in which we transition from our construction loan to a traditional mortgage, the future lender has been keeping abreast of our financial commitment to the ministry undertaken by St. Paul's. To that end we are grateful that we do not need to seek out a new lender, or worse yet, scramble to show our financial capability. Because you have consistently given throughout these months of physical distancing we are able to continue to carry out the plans outlined and set forth at the annual meeting held last November. Thank you for financial giving to the work and witness carried out through St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We also extend our appreciation to the ongoing work of our Finance Committee.

Food Pantry—August

Items needed: Canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned meats, mashed potato mix, rice, pasta side dish and peanut butter. We are in need of volunteers for the summer. Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".



Boy Scout Troop 19 is taking orders for the sale of popcorn and/or nuts in the upcoming months of August and September. We will not be selling in-person this year. Our order will be placed in mid-October and will be available on November 14. If interested in helping out our troop and their program, please call Nancy Banta @ 717 848 6627 for more information. Thanks so much.

At five fifteen on Tuesday morning it was as dark and rainy as it was at midnight when the kitty cat wanted to be fed. After turning off the alarm clock, pulling the covers over my head, and staying tucked in bed, seemed like a totally fine option.

At that point in the morning

it seemed like a better option than getting up and going for a walk in the pouring rain.

It seemed like a better option than getting showered and arriving at work early to get a jump on the day.

It seemed like a better option than a nine o'clock staff meeting where issues of church life loomed amidst a pandemic.

It seemed like a better option than just about everything else against the backdrop of COVID-19 and the toll it is taking on human life, health, and spiritual wellbeing.

Pulling the covers over my head and staying in bed, well it might have been an option except that my complaining about the rainy dark morning, not wanting to trudge through the rain to get exercise, not wanting to deal with church life amidst a global pandemic or the challenges it places before us for; preschool opening, music making, youth activities, office administration, building maintenance, and weekly food distribution kept running through my mind. Oh, and the cat still wanted to be fed. The meows were as audible as the rain pelting the bedroom window. Why the thought of retirement even ran through my mind. It would seem better than out right quitting or relinquishing my responsibilities, or giving up because the tasks seem to be too great. But staying in bed with the covers over my head feeling sorry for myself will not do.

That is the situation in which we encounter the prophet Elijah in the reading from First Kings. Elijah wants to quit, he wants to relinquish his prophetic office and the responsibilities that came with it. In Bible times people didn't retire, so that option, that thought wasn't available to Elijah. The situation was all rather bleak that day on Mount Horeb. Elijah, man of fire, was a burned out prophet. He sees all too well the implications of Queen Jezebel's threats against his life. He has witnessed her aggression against his fellow prophets, her outright disdain for Israel and her God. Elijah is so stressed out that he is contemplating death. He can only see the darkest, bleakest side of the current situation. And in the midst of such a time God is insistent that he continues as prophet. What Elijah needs to get him out of his complaining, his feeling sorry for himself, his thoughts that he alone is the only one left on the planet who has remained faithful to God, what he needs is a new mission! Nothing stops the complaining like being overwhelmed by a new assignment.

Venturing out on a new assignment takes courage. Venturing out on a new assignment takes trust. Venturing out on a new assignment takes creativity. Venturing out on a new assignment takes commitment.

So if you are finding yourself complaining take heed, you might well benefit from a new assignment. But complaining is so much easier than pulling the covers off of your head, confronting the issues at hand, saying farewell to the crap that has attached itself like barnacles and regaining a sense of purpose based on God's mission, God's desire, God's hope for you, the one

called out in Baptism's word and water to be part of a community of faith.

These weeks of cottage meetings have been overwhelmingly positive. They have identified new adventures for us. They have clarified and sharpened the focus of our mission. Yes, we have had our share of complaining too, which only highlights the fact that we are in need of a new assignment, God's new commissioning, God's purpose being made known through our corporate life together. We each have our personal likes and dislikes. As people of God it is our corporate life that is at stake. What is next for us as the people of God at St. Paul's Lutheran Church? Responding to such a question leads us to identify what is "over" what is "past" what is "done" and what is "next". What new assignment is the Lord God calling us to do, to be a part of, as Christ Jesus leads us in mission? Of course if you don't want to be led in mission, you most likely will find yourself alone, feeling sorry for yourself, thinking that you alone are the only one that cares about the church, or the food pantry, or the preschool, or the music ministry, or the religious education of our children or our mission partners in Africa or the... you can fill in the blank.

The Lord God asks "what are you doing here, Elijah?" What are you doing in a cave with covers over your head?

Elijah answers "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

It seemed like a better option to pull the covers over his head.

It seemed like a better option to feel sorry for himself.

It seemed like a better option to; retreat, relinquish, retire the mission.

But God insists that Elijah continue.

The Lord God tells him; go, anoint Hazael as king over Aram; anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; anoint Elisha who shall take your place, and know that there remain seven thousand (that's bible language for a whole bunch of people) who have not bowed down to or kissed the foreign god Baal. Elijah you are not alone. There are seven thousand who remain faithful and for whom the future, the new assignment, the "next" is longed for.

This morning know that you are not alone. Know that the Lord God is calling you into mission, seeking you and your skills and gifts to be used for the up building of his kingdom. The Lord God is making a way for you, for me, for us to move into a future that may well seem to be odd, scary, unknown, and certainly different. But quitting, relinquishing, retiring from baptismal life is not an option. God insisted that day at Mount Horeb that Elijah continues. God insists that we continue to focus on and live into the mission.

Our mission "to teach the world that God is love" is carried out as we extend the embrace of God's love made known to us in Christ Jesus. Such love comes graciously to us through his suffering and death on the cross and through his glorious resurrection on Easter morning. So we venture out in courage, we venture out trusting God's guidance, we venture out utilizing our creativity, we venture out committed to the Lord's call.

The kitty cat was happy I got up and replenished the food in her dish. I am happy for baptism's call out of darkness and into the glorious light of Christ. A call from which retreat, relinquish or retirement are not options given God's insistence that we, like Elijah, "get up and go." Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

At [Horeb, the mount of God,] [Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Psalms 85:8-13**SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15**

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to

bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say?

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28.

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Tracks 1 and 2
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