

An abstract painting featuring several stylized human figures. The figures are composed of various colored areas (pink, blue, yellow, grey) outlined with thick black lines. Each figure has a prominent circular head, some colored red and others yellow. The figures are arranged in a group, with some appearing to be in conversation or interaction. The background is a complex mix of colors and textures, with some areas resembling a grid or architectural structure. The overall style is expressive and modern.

**Do not neglect to
show hospitality
to strangers**

HEBREWS 13:2

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

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YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

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 186 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 (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

Our Communion is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The 9:15 AM liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery.

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

*Wearing a mask while in worship is optional, recommended or required based on the CDC guidelines. Green/Optional, Yellow/Recommended, Red/Required. **The instruction will be posted on the entry doors. Please be sure to bring a mask in the event of required/recommended masking. Disposable masks are available at the entrance to the church nave.***

Offerings:

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

Communion Procedure:

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 10 adults per side).*
- 2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).*
- 3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 4. Take your place along the chancel step. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5. Extend your hands to receive the communion host.*
- 6. Consume the communion host before you leave the chancel edge.*
- 7. Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.*
- 8. Consume the wine before you leave the chancel edge.*
- 9. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 10. Return to your pew using the side aisle.*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, Norma Shue, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 28, 2022
Holy Communion 9:15 AM

Musical setting 6 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE

If You but Trust in God to Guide You

J. Bert Carlson

Stand turning towards the font.

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.

Let us pray. 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

ENTRANCE HYMN

O God beyond All Praising (ELW 880)



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
 its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
 but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
 though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
 for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
 to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
 and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
 and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.


APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**


HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain sung by congregation. Verses sung by Cantor


Refrain




Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace




to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.




1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,




we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.


Refrain




2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:

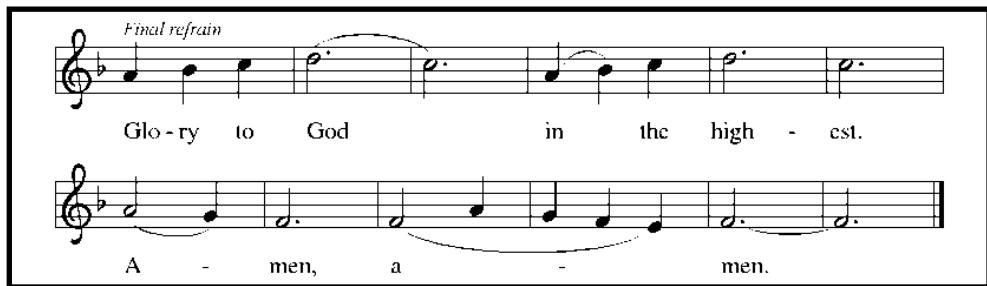


have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

O God, we thank you for your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow his commands; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord . **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Proverbs 25:6-7 (back cover)

PSALM

Psalm 112

Spoken responsively by whole verse.

- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD*
and have great delight in | his commandments!
- ² **Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;***
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches will be | in their house,*
and their righteousness will | last forever.
- ⁴ **Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;***
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.
- ⁵ It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending*
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.
- ⁶ **For they will nev- | er be shaken;***
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.

- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;*
 their heart is right; they put their trust | in the LORD.
- ⁸ **Their heart is established and | will not shrink,***
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.
- ⁹ They have given freely | to the poor,*
 and their righteousness stands fast forever;
 they will hold up their | head with honor.
- ¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine**
away;*
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

(back cover)

Stand

VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 14:1, 7-14

(back cover)

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

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Stan Reep

Stand

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.

Continued on next page...

**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 in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Uphold all deacons, pastors, and bishops who serve and teach your people. Awaken in us a spirit of invitation that reaches outward. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Stir in us reverent awe for the beauty of the natural world, for oceans and lakes, rivers and streams, forests and deserts. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Sustain the efforts of those who pursue justice, equity, and peace. Accompany all immigrants and refugees as they seek peaceful places in which to live. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Be present with those who live in isolation or fear, especially those who are incarcerated or detained. Comfort all who are sick or grieving (*especially Michael Martin, Gary Van Natten, Erin Bastian, Harry Harman, Kathryn Rose Wicker, Peggy Jacobs, Carl Jacobs, Katie Guyer, Eddie Turner, Gloria Kendrick, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, Courtney Snell*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Prepare children, teachers, and youth ministry directors for a new year of learning especially we pray for Deb Becker, Allison Lehr, and Kelly Moore-Spencer. Embolden our witness to invite others to the table. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving for all the saints who confessed your name (*especially Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, and Moses the Black, Ethiopian Church father*), we give thanks. Make us cling to the promise of your Son, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

OFFERTORY

As the pastor prepares the altar the people sing.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

WORDS: *Doxology*, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510-1561), *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

OLD 100th
L.M.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

And also with you.

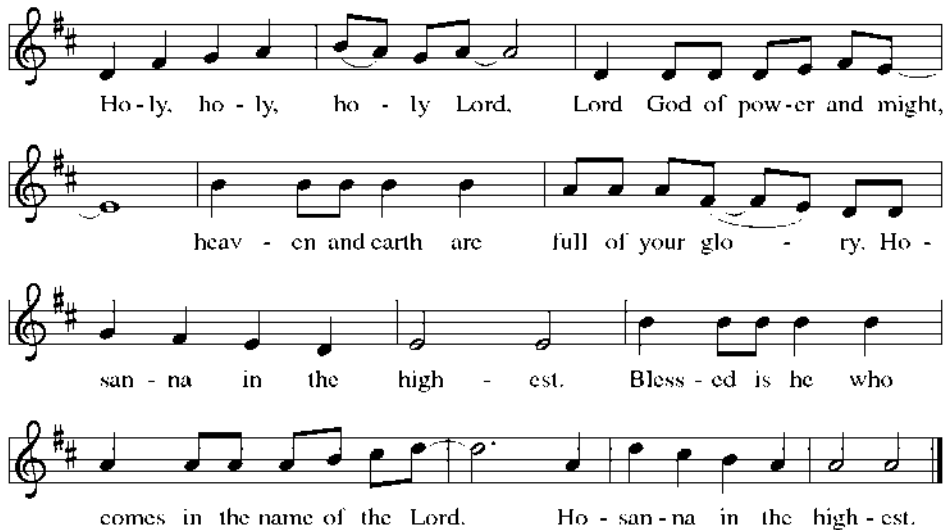
We lift them to the Lord.

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



THANKSGIVING

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 glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen**
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

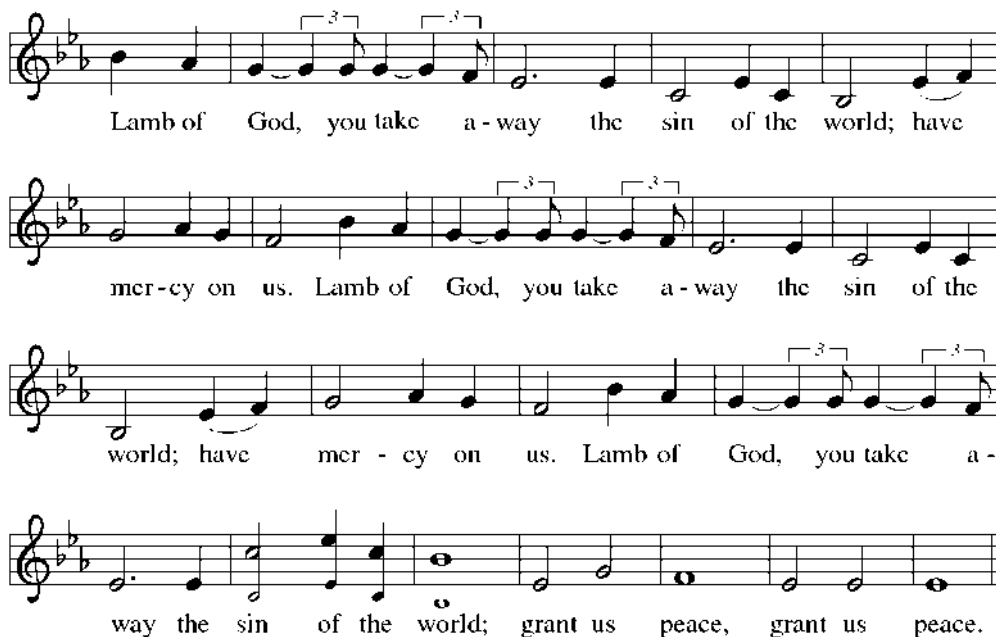
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

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 *sung by all*



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.

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

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

O Christ the Same (ELW 760)



1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es,
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing



our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide,
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main,



e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,



un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
the marks of love, in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:



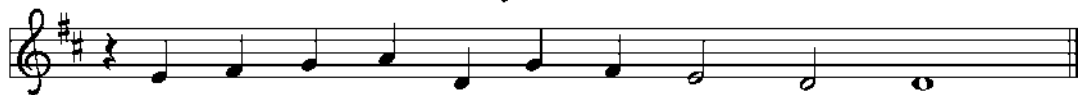
O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en,
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,



who spread the skies, and set the stars a - blaze,
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing pow'r,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,



O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en,
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,



we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. 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**

BLESSING

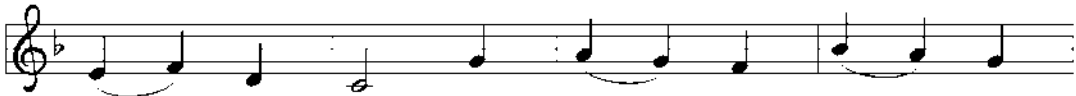
Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen**

HYMN

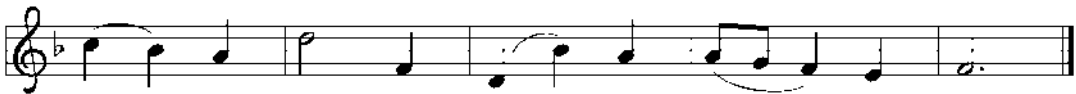
The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve (ELW 551)



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
joy like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim, God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
share a dream and help the blind to see.
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

David Cherwien

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*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
in honor of Christian, Aiden and Emma as the start their new school year
by Sammy and Kirsten Barnes*



Flowers This Week

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up
8/28	9:15 AM	Jennifer Ports	Ken Hinkle	Allison Lehr	Jennifer Ports	Ann & Axel Ulrich	Jeff Riese , John Monk, Dave Kopp, Sandy Dickensheets	Larry & Janet Moore

This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mon—Thurs

Sunday, August 28

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist
 10:15 AM Fellowship—Good Shepherd Rm
 6:00 PM Pot Luck Supper—Christ Hall
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm
 7:00 PM Evening Prayer on the Lawn

Monday, August 29

7:00 PM Mutual Ministry

Tuesday, August 30

9:30 AM Pantry

Sunday, September 4

Worship Schedule Change

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, September 5 LABOR DAY



Food Pantry—August

Items needed: Beans, corn, juice, jelly, macaroni, Rice (1 or 2 lb bags), dehydrated potatoes, powdered milk, canned tuna, tomato sauce and soup. We also need paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags.

Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, or Janet and Larry Moore. . Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

News and Updates:

Vespers on the South Lawn – weather permitting this evening, we will hold the 7:00 PM liturgy outside. Please bring a lawn chair with you. The liturgy is preceded with a pot luck supper in Christ Hall at 6:00 PM.

Labor Day Weekend – we return to Sunday liturgies at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM. Please do make worship part of your weekend plans.

God's Work Our Hands – provides an opportunity to participate in a mission project. Sunday September 11 from 9:15- 10:15 AM we will be assembling health kits for Lutheran World Relief. This event is for all ages and will be held outdoors on the South Lawn.

Bibles – will be presented to children and youth who are entering Kindergarten, Fourth Grade and Seventh Grade during the liturgy on Sunday September 18.

Confirmation ministry – will be held on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM with the first session on the Lord's Prayer beginning on September 18.

Food Pantry Workers – will be recognized in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of St. Paul's Food Pantry ministry on Sunday September 25.

Red colored clip boards – will circulate through the congregation identifying positions of leadership needed to fully staff our Sunday morning services. Please do add your name and check off areas where you are willing to service.

Harvest Dinner and Auction – tickets are available for purchase through the Church office. Tickets for the October 8th event are \$100 and all proceeds benefit the Food Pantry at St. Paul's.

Grateful appreciation is extended – to members of the Fellowship Committee for serving as hosts for the summer coffee hours and to those who generously provided the delicious variety of food. We raise our voices in thanksgiving for this tremendous time of fellowship. Thank you!

Sunday school classes - for all ages begin on September 18th at 9:15 AM. Primary, Confirmation and High School students meet on the upper level. An adult class will be held in Christ Hall on the main level.

Seating charts are always a challenge, especially for special occasions like weddings. Putting the right people together can make for a successful event. And of course putting the wrong people together can derail the desired goal. Through years of invitations to weddings, I have a pretty good idea how this sort of thing works. Often it seems that I am seated at the table with either the family religious fanatic or the troubling out of town relative. The perceived notion, I suppose, is that who better to defuse the philosophical beliefs of the family religious zealot or the perplexing attitudes of the cracked uncle visiting from out of state than the pastor! Sometimes I imagine the seating at a wedding to be determined by a quick game of musical chairs. Imagine what fun the band members would have watching the guests scramble for the best seats or at least a place at a table with a friend!

When Jesus noticed how folks were choosing the prime seats at a local event, he began to tell a parable. It's a parable after all; it's not a manual for party etiquette. And in the telling of the story Jesus highlights a few things for us to ponder. How is it that we select seats? With whom do we wish to be seated? Why is it that we lean chairs against tables and figure out how to reserve seats at fellowship events, congregation dinners, and church suppers? Mostly our desire is to sit with people we know, people we like, people with whom we share similar interests, or in some situations people with whom we are biologically related! Who really does want to sit with the religious zealot or the crazed uncle? Just how will this parable of Jesus be heard among us? Will the parable Jesus told that day when people were jockeying for seats of honor inform us, open us, allow us to depart from our old ways of interaction to new ones shared in the parable Jesus tells?

The gospel of Luke records mealtimes. Lots of meals are mentioned. Today's gospel reading is one of many recorded. They include a variety of hosts and guests; Pharisees, women, disciples, Samaritans, Apostles, and yes even friends.

Story #1 - A Pharisee invites Jesus to dinner – woman, sinner, alabaster jar of ointment, enters and pours the ointment on his feet and dries them with her hair. Accusation - “If he was a prophet He would have known what kind of woman she was.”

Story #2- The disciples, after a long day of ministry training along the lake where the crowds had reached over 5,000, suggested to Jesus, “Send them away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside, to lodge and get provisions.” Jesus said “You give them something to eat.” “We have only five loaves and two fish” bemoaned the disciples. Jesus collect the minuscule lunch, gathered, blessed broke and distributed the bread and fish. Twelve baskets of broken pieces were left over after 5,000 ate and were filled.

Story #3 - A Samaritan found a man beaten by robbers and left for dead along the road. The Samaritan bandaged him, took him to the inn, paid the innkeeper “Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.” Feed him.

Story #4 - Another Pharisee invites Jesus to dinner. Jesus went in and took his place at the table. He did not wash before dinner. The Pharisee commented on his lack of ritual washing. Jesus responded “Now you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. Fools! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? So

give for alms those things that are within; and see, everything will be clean for you.” He went on saying “you tithe mint and rue and herbs of all kinds, and neglect justice and the love of God; it is these you ought to have practiced!”

Story #5 - When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”

Story #6 - Walking long from Jerusalem to Emmaus, the risen Lord walked with Cleopas and his friend but they did not know that it was Jesus. As it was evening they urged their friend to stay with them. So he did. When they were at table he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

A seventh meal time story in the gospel of Luke is of course the one before us this morning. With it comes the question; who should we, ought we, invite? The easy response – stop giving banquets! This would certainly cut down on the work of the Fellowship Committee, and would end all the time and effort of planning and preparing benefit dinners like the one coming up in early October for the Food Pantry. I rather doubt that is the response Jesus is after from those who engage with the parable. He knows us after all. He knows that we need to eat, are going to eat, are going to throw parties, banquets, elaborate dinners, simple suppers, luncheons, picnics, and frequent inns featuring the delicacies of talented, creative, chefs.

What do we make of these mealtime stories?

Story #1; *Woman with jar of ointment* - don’t judge.

Story #2; *Feeding of the 5,000* - stop talking about how little we have and start sharing generously.

Story #3; *The helpful Samaritan* - the least likely is often doing the work of God.

Story #4; *Washing up before dinner* - don’t neglect the justice of God.

Story #5; *Upper Room Meal* - Jesus eagerly wants us to be in relationship with him.

Story #6; *Emmaus Walk* - remember the moment when your eyes were opened and you caught a glimpse of the risen Lord. It is what will keep you going.

Story #7; *Places of honor and guest lists* - Invite, invite, invite,- poor, crippled, lame, and blind; we are not talking only economically poor, there are plenty of financially rich people who are spiritually poor and there are people crippled with all sorts of things and situations, lame isn’t limited to mobility, and blind isn’t limited to sight.

The blessing of course is ours for the taking; whenever it is that we feed and care for those who cannot repay us. Oh how much richer our lives will be. How transforming such actions are. Think of it; the one who picked up the tab for all of us on Calvary’s Cross, didn’t scrutinize the list, but gave his life freely for all; Pharisees, women, disciples, Samaritans, sinners, Apostles, friends, the religious family zealot, the crazed uncle, you, me. Jesus prepares a banquet for us this morning. Invites each of us to take a higher seat, “join me” he says. The Planning, preparation, menu, table setting, seating configuration, decoration, and the host himself, Jesus, gives us everything in this meal. Amen.

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence

or stand in the place of the great;
⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
 than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

or Sirach 10:12-18 [not printed]

Psalm 112

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that

is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."