

*Holy, holy, holy*

ISAIAH 6:3



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)

[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

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 188 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Offerings** Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org) or use the QR Code provided.

**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.

**An AED/Defibrillator** unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

**The Nursery** is accessed through the front right double doors.

The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

**Parents**, please do accompany your child to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.



**Lutheran Church in York, PA - St. Paul's Lutheran...**

[stpaulsyork.org](http://stpaulsyork.org)



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God  
In memory of Julie Schedin's mother, Verda Williams and Steve  
Schedin's mother, Joan Schedin Barresse.*

| STAFF                    |                     |  |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Pastor                   | Rev. Stanley Reep   | <a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>                           |
| Youth Director           | Kelly Moore-Spencer | <a href="mailto:kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a> |
| Organist, Choir Director | Victor Fields       | <a href="mailto:vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>             |
| Children Choirs Director | Juliana Jones       | <a href="mailto:jjones.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">jjones.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>               |
| Bell Choirs Director     | Leah McComas        | <a href="mailto:lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>               |
| Secretary                | Patee Pizzirusso    | <a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>                           |
| Sexton                   | Ted Weikert         | <a href="mailto:tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>               |
| Preschool Director       | Deb Becker          | <a href="mailto:director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com">director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com</a>         |

**Holy Trinity**  
**May 26, 2024**  
**Holy Communion 9:15 AM**  
*Musical Setting #9 Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

**PRELUDE**

*Prelude in E-flat Major*

J. S. Bach

*Stand turning to face the Baptismal Font.*

**CONFESSION**

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**

## HYMN

*Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW 413)*

Unison 1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!

4 Parts 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,

Unaccompanied 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,

Unison 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be,  
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

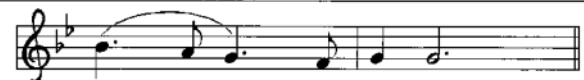
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**RESPONSE**

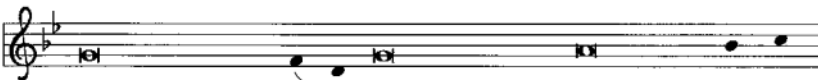


Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

**RESPONSE**

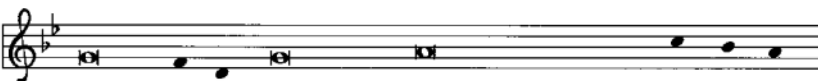


For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**RESPONSE**



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**RESPONSE**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

*Continued on next page...*

# HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n-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



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



A - men, a - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Almighty God our Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, renewing and fulfilling creation by your eternal Spirit, and revealing your glory through our Lord, Jesus Christ: Cleanse us from doubt and fear, and enable us to worship you, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, living and reigning, now and forever.  
**Amen**

*Sit*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### FIRST READING

**Isaiah 6:1-8**

*(back cover)*

### PSALM

**Psalm 29** *sung unaccompanied Cantor/congregation*



- <sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,\*  
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.
- <sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;\***  
**worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**
- <sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;\*  
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.
- <sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;\***  
**the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**
- <sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;\*  
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
- <sup>6</sup> **he makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,\***  
**and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**
- <sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;\*  
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.
- <sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD makes the | oak trees writhe\***  
**and strips the | forests bare.**
- <sup>9</sup> And in the temple | of the LORD\*  
all are | crying, "Glory!"
- <sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;\***  
**the LORD sits enthroned as | king forevermore.**
- <sup>11</sup> The LORD shall give strength | to his people;\*  
the LORD shall give his people the bless- | ing of peace.

### SECOND READING

**Romans 8:12-17**

*(back cover)*

*Stand*

**VERSE**

*Sung by all*



**HOLY GOSPEL**

**John 3:1-17**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*(back cover)*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

Pastor Reep

*Stand*

**NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the  
Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.

*Continued on next page...*



**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.*

Heavenly Father, bless us with gifts of cooperation and graciousness. Increase our hospitality toward others. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Sustain fragile and interconnected ecosystems so that they flourish for generations to come. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Give your blessing of peace to the nations. Shelter all who risk life and livelihood to protect others from violence, conflict, and injustice. On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember those who have lost their lives in war and conflict (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Calm the hearts of all who struggle with shame, regret, or questions of self-worth. Restore wholeness to all who seek hope and healing (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Strengthen bonds between parents, children, and families. We pray especially for adoptive and foster families, multi-generational households, and blended families. Grant gifts of nurture and patience to all caregivers. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died and rest from their labors. As they lived with hope in your gift of eternal life, so strengthen us in faith, that we recognize your eternal presence. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of 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.*

*Sit*

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

*Father, We Praise You*

Alan Bullard

*Stand*  
**OFFERTORY**

Musical score for Offertory, featuring two systems of music. Each system consists of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low; praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost."

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
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

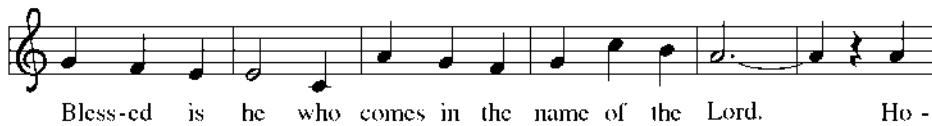
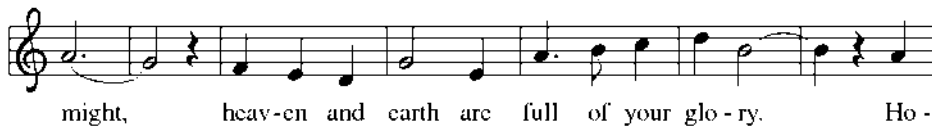
**DIALOGUE**      *Sung by Pastor and congregation*

Musical score for Dialogue, featuring four systems of music. Each system consists of a single treble staff. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise."

**PREFACE**    *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

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, almighty and everliving God. You have revealed your glory as the glory also of your Son and of the Holy Spirit: three persons, equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your everlasting glory. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS**            *Sung by all.*



**THANKSGIVING**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:  
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:  
the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

*Continued on next page...*

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.  
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us.

And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

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 RITE**

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

**AGNUS DEI**

***Sung by all.***

***Sit***

**COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL**

Holy Communion at St. Paul's Church is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

*Procedure for receiving Communion:*

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle.*
- 2. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 3. Take your place along the chancel step.*
- 4. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 6. Return to your pew using the side aisle.*



**COMMUNION HYMN** *The God of Abraham Praise (ELW 831) Vs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 8*



- 1 The God of A - br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
- 2 The God of A - br'ham praise! At your su - preme com - mand
- 3 The God of A - br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace
- 4 Your prom-ise you have sworn; I on your oath de - pend.



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—  
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.  
 shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.  
 I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.



“I Am the One I Am”—by earth and heav'n con - fessed;  
 I all on earth for - sake—its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—  
 You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!  
 I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,



I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.  
 and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.  
 And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.  
 and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

- 8 The whole triumphant host  
 give thanks to God on high.  
 “Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!”  
 they ever cry.  
 Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine!  
 I join the heav'nly lays:  
 to you be glory, might divine,  
 and endless praise!

**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

Let us pray. Eternal Lord and God, we worship you in the Holy Trinity and the Undivided Unity. Grant that the sacrament we have received may bring us salvation and keep us faithful to the light of your truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## BLESSING

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

## HYMN

***Come, Join the Dance of Trinity (ELW 412)***

1 Come, join the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—  
2 Come, see the face of Trin - i - ty, new - born in Beth - le - hem;  
3 Come, speak a - loud of Trin - i - ty, as wind and tongues of flame  
4 With - in the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,

the in - ter-weav-ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.  
 then blood-ied by a crown of thorns out - side Je - ru - sa - lem.  
 set peo - ple free at Pen - te - cost to tell the Sav - ior's name.  
 we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.

The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,  
The dance of Trin - i - ty is meant for hu - man flesh and bone;  
We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;  
Let voic - es rise and in - ter-weave, by love and hope set free,

but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with-in their dance.  
when fear con-fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone.  
go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!  
to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

*Fugue in E-flat Major*

# J. S. Bach

**Announcements and Up-dates for the week of May 26, 2024**

**The Benevolence Committee** continues to receive applications for funding ministry projects for 2024 and 2025. Please request an application from the church office.

**We continue to collect clothing** in support of Union Lutheran Church, W. Market Street, with their clothing closet. There is a collection bin in the Good Shepherd Room. If you have a large number of items to donate you can take them directly to Union Lutheran Church, simply call them for details.



**Children’s sermons** are a way of communicating the faith and sharing the good news of God’s love in Christ Jesus. We are seeking volunteers to provide a children’s sermon during the summer months. A clip board with the dates and Bible texts is located on the table in the Good Shepherd Room. Simply sign up for a Sunday that fits your schedule. Thank you!

**Food Pantry News**—We need **canned soup, fruit, canned tuna!** Please put your donations in the shopping cart in the Good Shepherd Room. We are always in need of paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”. Volunteers are also needed for a variety of tasks. Contact Patty Snyder, Ken Hinkle Teresa Rohrbaugh or the church office (717-843-8155) to volunteer.

**This Week at St. Paul’s**

Church office open Tues–Thurs 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, May 26 Trinity Sunday**

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist– Live-Stream  
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

**Monday, May 27 Memorial Day Office Closed**

**Tuesday, May 28**

9:30 AM Food Pantry Clients  
6:00 PM Property Comm.—In-house

**Wednesday May 29**

10:30 AM LBible Study—Christ Hall

**Sunday, June 2 Trinity Sunday**

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist– Live-Stream  
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

***Serving the Lord with Gladness***

| DATE | TIME    | Assisting Minister | Crucifer    | Lector     | Comm. Assist                   | Greeters          | Ushers   | Altar Guild  |
|------|---------|--------------------|-------------|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| 5/26 | 9:15 AM | Harold Sargeant    | Larry Moore | Kathy Monk | Harold Sargeant or Larry Moore | John & Kathy Monk | Team 1L: Dave Kopp, Carol Woodbury, Darren Smith | Early: Larry & Janet Moore<br>Late: Ann Anstadt, Jill Streibig |

## **Nurturing Faithful Families—Summer 2024—Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 PM**

The Christian education committee is preparing for a summer of intergenerational fellowship, learning and fun. On 10 Tuesday evenings from, June 11 through August 13, we will gather to nurture faithful stewardship families. A simple supper will be served at 5:30 PM followed by some music and songs. At 6:15 PM the evening's theme will be presented. At 6:30 PM time for reflection and to participate in an activity specific to the theme will be provided. 7:00 PM there will be some time for recreation. At 7:15 PM we will have a summary of the evening and the closing prayer. We will need people to help with leading, music, set-up, cooking and serving, and clean up. Mark your calendar now. The first 9 sessions will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Enter through the Springettsbury Ave. Entrance. Gather in Christ Hall for the meal and for the session. The last session on Tuesday August 13 is a picnic at Kain Park. Everyone is invited to come and join in nurturing faithful stewardship families! For additional information and to volunteer to help with these summer sessions please contact; Johanna Paterson, Christian Education Chairperson; Miss Kelly, Youth Director; or Pastor Reep.

## **Mpuguso Mission Trip Send Off—9:15 AM, Sunday, June 9, 2024**

One year ago an article identifying planning for a mission trip was included in the June/July issue of *Our Church*. Now it is time for the group to take their leave, make the journey, engage with our sisters and brothers at Mpuguso Lutheran Church, renew acquaintances and create new friendships. The group of travelers from St. Paul's is diverse. At the end of the June 9, 9:15 AM liturgy there will be a special blessing and send off for the mission delegation. Please be present. And do continue to pray for those traveling to Tanzania; that they will remain healthy and strong, pray for our sister congregation as they work to complete their church building and continue to make disciples through Holy Baptism, and pray for peace in the world. On Sunday August 25 plans are being made for a Sunday to celebrate the trip, a safe return, and to hear firsthand account from those who made the journey.

## **Nina and Phillip Friedman Scholarship**

Active members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church who will be attending York College of Pennsylvania for the fall 2024 academic year should make their request known to Pastor Reep. He will recommend you for the Friedman Scholarship administered by York College of Pennsylvania. Pastor Reep will notify the Office of Financial Aid with the names of St. Paul's members seeking financial aid from this scholarship.

The Nina and Phillip Friedman Memorial Scholarship, designed for students attending York College of Pennsylvania, was established in 1984. The scholarship was funded through the generosity of Friedman's estate. Their relationship with St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Temple Beth Israel gave access to the scholarship for members and children from the two congregations. Additionally, recommendations by the President of the College may also be included. The scholarship is not need based. Numerous members of St. Paul's have benefitted from the Friedman Scholarship and bridge a wide area of study.

**Trinity Sunday, B 2024 Isaiah 6:1-8**

**Romans 8:12-17**

**St. John 3:1-17**

It is perhaps the first person singular that strikes me most this morning with the Biblical text. Isaiah says *"I saw the Lord"* and the lone man Nicodemus comes seeking Jesus. Most of the time we are focusing on the plural reality of our life together in Christ; the "we," the "ours," the "you," and the collective nature of our baptismal life. But this morning it is the *"I saw the Lord"* that grabbed my attention.

Personal encounters with God are not always greeted with awe, reverence, or devotion. In the history of Christendom more often than not individuals who recorded encounters with the divine were often dismissed from the main stream of thought and teaching. Sometimes the writings of such individuals were banned or destroyed. More recently however such writings have found a place in the theological spectrum of the Church's teaching or at least an appreciation for their contribution to the faithful life. St. Teresa, St. Margaret Mary, St. Catherine, St. Francis have all managed to find their way into a more respectable place in these modern times.

It is a bit odd that the church has been so critical, held such personal encounters with God at arm's length, seeking proof before embracing a sister or brother telling of an encounter with the Almighty. This is especially unusual when; the biblical witness has plenty of examples of people encountering God and the church embraces a theological framework of God working through humankind.

Abram saw the Lord. When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him to establish a covenant with him. Abram fell on his face.

Jacob saw the Lord. Jacob received God's blessing after wrestling with him all night he called that place Peniel.

Moses saw the Lord. While tending the flock of Jethro, God appeared to him in the flaming bush that was not consumed. He took off his sandals because he was on holy ground.

Job saw the Lord. His eye sees the Lord; he repents in dust and ashes.

Isaiah saw the Lord. High and lofty with Seraphs all around. Isaiah confessed his sinfulness. And his sin was blotted out with a hot coal from the Lord's altar.

Ezekiel saw the Lord. The splendor was all around, and he too fell on his face.

Nicodemus saw the Lord. He came to Jesus by night. Acknowledging the works of God revealed in Jesus.

Saul saw the Lord. On the Damascus Road. He was temporarily blinded and then changed his name to Paul. Stopped persecuting and started believing.

Stephen saw the Lord. Before his martyrdom he saw the Lord when he lifted his eyes heavenward.

So I ask when is it that you have seen the Lord? When is it that you encountered the Lord? Did you take off your shoes? Did you fall to the ground? Did you cover your face? Were your sins blotted out? Did you mark the time and place with a name or object like those just named from our family tree?

On this Trinity Sunday we are eight weeks past Easter morning. The Easter season is comprised of resurrection appearances of the Lord to his followers. His followers were eye witnesses, they saw the Lord! They encountered him. He talked with them and ate with them and was with them during difficult days. He told them to stick together and wait and pray. He poured forth his Spirit and sent them out. In the early Christian community as the



gospel message is being proclaimed and shared through the work of Jesus' followers, Peter in the Book of Acts quotes David. He is recorded as saying "*I saw the Lord always before me*" and with the Lord always before him his "*heart was glad*."

Isaiah's heart may or may not have been glad. He was willing to say "*here am I send me*." The encounter with the Lord moved him in such a way that even acknowledging his sinfulness, his servanthood was desirable. "Send me" he boldly proclaims. And the Lord sends him as a prophet to the peoples. He was sent to people who had all but forgotten God's law, commands, sacrifice and worship. The Lord God used Isaiah to point them to God and God's future for them. God was leading them.

Today we recognize that we are a community of faith, brothers and sisters, according to the Romans text. Not always are we eager to respond to the call of God to go to the peoples. And in our baptismal life together something tells me, that like David, throughout our lives we haven't always been a people "*seeing the Lord always before us*." The saints and martyrs of old persisted and persevered because with the Lord always before them their hearts were glad. A gladdened heart isn't one that is always jovial or happy. Those things are fleeting. A gladden heart as the Psalmist writes of it is like "*when grain and wine and oil increase*." Less worried about the essentials and better able to focus on the Lord's leading.

The Lord is leading us. A delegation is preparing for departure two weeks out on a mission trip to Tanzania. The Benevolence Committee reviewed requests in support of future action to make God's love known through a variety of ways. The Stewardship Committee is preparing for September cottage meetings focusing on our life together "Joyful Givers Sharing Abundantly" to deepen and extend St. Paul's ministry. Pantry volunteers accompany those with food insecurity filling shopping bags for them with items needed to sustain life. The Property Committee continues moving forward with plans for a canopy to provide protection from the elements for pantry shoppers whose hearts are sure to be gladdened when they no longer have to wait in the rain or stand in the blazing sun. Preschool concluded another academic year with a staff that provided support and encouragement for a student body with a broadening range of needs. These successes lead children in their development. And all this within the framework of God's loving embrace made known through Christ Jesus.

The work and the witness of the congregation grasps something of God's vision for the future, a vision which trusts the promises of God and acknowledges God's leading through the Spirit of his Son, Jesus. We are being led, all of us beloved of God, receiving God's forgiveness and mercy and offering our prayer, praise and thanksgiving as we trust God's future. And in the midst of such activity, God reveals himself to us in words and water, bread and wine. God announces to us that our guilt has departed and our sins are blotted out. With such grace we are, free to go, free to live, and free to serve.

Trinity Sunday is about the collective, plural, corporate nature of life together in God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is about the Lord's leading, God's desire, initiative, and persistence at loving the world, even when the world is often blind to the Lord's creativity, forgiveness, and selfless love. We are like Isaiah, acknowledging our sinfulness but ready and willing to serve, "Here am I send me." Not knowing where the Lord will lead us but knowing and trusting that the Lord is preparing a way, allowing for a gladdened heart, and the opportunity to live life proclaiming God's love for all. His word is the Word that gladdens the heart, your heart and mine. With saints and martyrs in ages past we stand in the presence of the Lord. Serving, proclaiming, and gladdening the hearts of others with God's message of hope and salvation. It is a message of love. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

**Psalms 29****SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17**

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

**GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23—3:6.

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