

Here are
my mother
and my
brothers!

MARK 3:34



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

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 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



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
In memory of David Boyer's birthday on June 14th by his wife, Mim
And in Celebration of my Birthday & in memory of my father, Donald
Harman, by Carolyn Kapoun*

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

**Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 9, 2024**

Holy Communion 9:15 AM

Musical Setting #9 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE

Fantaisie on Ye Servants of God

Kevin Daly

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

You Servants of God (ELW 825)

1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
 2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
 3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and

broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
 nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
 loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus his
 pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with

Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
 tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
 an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . O God, the strength of those who hope in you: Be present and hear our prayers; and, because in the weakness of our mortal nature we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, so that in keeping your commandments we may please you in will and deed; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Genesis 3:8-15

(back cover)

PSALM

Psalm 130 *sung unaccompanied Cantor/congregation*



- ¹ **Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD; LORD, | hear my voice;***
let your ears consider well the voice of my | supplication.
- ² If you, LORD, were to note what is | done amiss,*
 O LORD, | who could stand?
- ³ **For there is forgive- | ness with you;***
therefore you | shall be feared.
- ⁴ I wait for the LORD; my soul | waits for him;*
 in his word | is my hope.
- ⁵ **My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen | for the morning,***
more than watchmen | for the morning.
- ⁶ O Israel, wait | for the LORD,*
 for with the LORD | there is mercy;
- ⁷ **with him there is plen- | teous redemption,***
and he shall redeem Israel from | all their sins.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 13—5:1

(back cover)

Stand

VERSE

Sung by all



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 2:23—3:6

(back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark
At the conclusion of the Gospel.
 The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Stand
APOSTLES' 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 in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Loving Father, we give you thanks for renewers of the church in every age (*especially Columba, Aiden, and Bede whom we commemorate today*). Enliven the creativity and persistence of all seeking to bring us to a closer vision of your beloved community. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Heal lands scarred by deforestation, pollution, or infestation. Teach us to cultivate the earth with respect and reverence. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Teach us to listen with curiosity and mercy to your life-giving Word. Grant us the humility to acknowledge our hardness of heart and make us bold in seeking the common good. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Hear the prayers of all who cry out to you from the depths of fear, despair, or hopelessness (*especially*). With haste, rescue victims of trafficking, exploitation, and abuse, and bless organizations and individuals who work on their behalf. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Grant wisdom and clarity to all who are in seasons of discernment and transition: high school graduates preparing for first jobs or new educational journeys, those who are shifting careers, and those who are navigating changes in their relationships. Accompany them with your peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Praise to you for our ancestors in faith who believed, spoke, and lived in you (*especially*). Give us confidence that as Jesus was raised, so we too will be raised, with all the saints, into your everlasting 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

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Organ

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Matt Limbaugh-

Stand

OFFERTORY

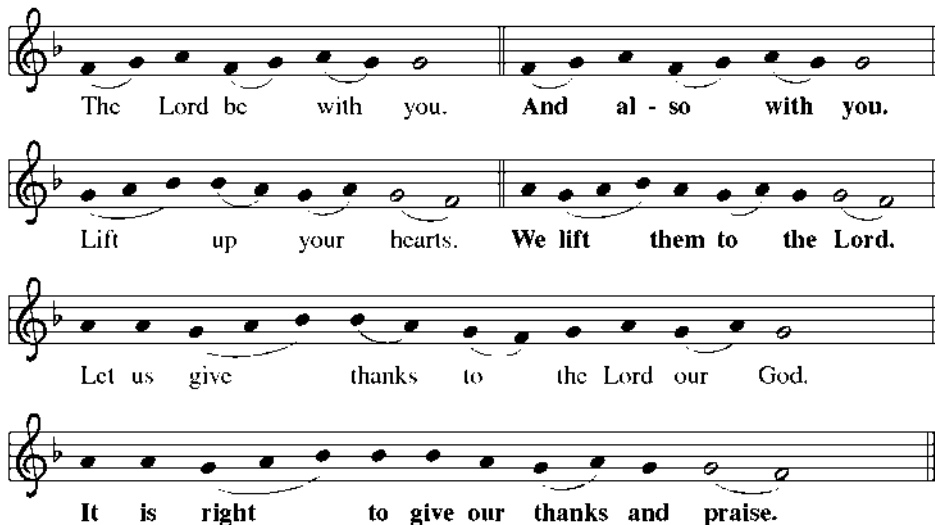
Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

praise him a - bove, ye heav-en-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*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

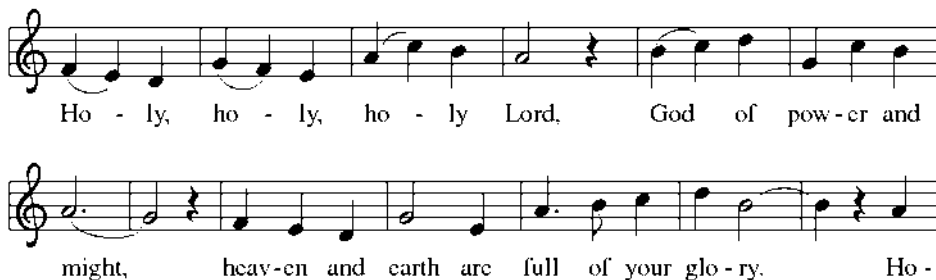
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, 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:

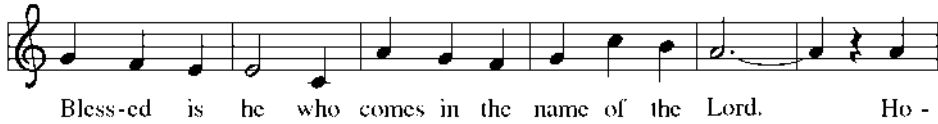
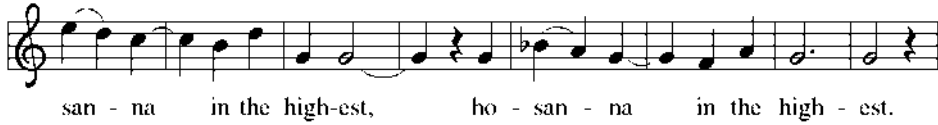
SANCTUS *Sung by all.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

Continued on next page...



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.

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**

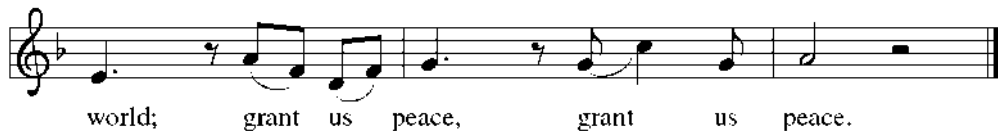
FRACTION RITE

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

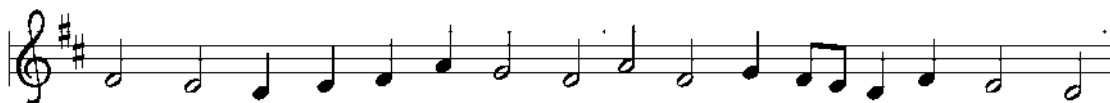
COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

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 *Now We Join in Celebration (ELW 462)*



- 1 Now we join in cel - c - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion.
- 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
- 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren.



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us,
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' - n - ly glad - ness,
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

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. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, 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.

PRAYERS FOR THE MISSION DELEGATION TO TANZANIA

A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly. The mission delegation gathers in the chancel

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we send Pastor Reep along with sisters and brothers from our congregation and Pastor Schlegel to our synod companions in the Konde Diocese in Tanzania, and in particular, the sisters and brothers in the Mpuguso and Lyunga parishes.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you.

We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us.

Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others, and especially of those fellow believers in other parts of the world.

Equip us in the mission to build up the body of Christ and give us open hearts to receive your grace and love from our brothers and sisters in the faith. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bless Pastor Reep and this mission delegation as they go out from here to labor in the Konde Diocese.

Prosper the work of their hands.

Bless those who receive them and the fruits of their labor,

and may they receive blessing in return.

May the gifts they use and share be signs of your love to all people.

Bless their travel and by your mercy, return them to us safely.

Amen.

BLESSING

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

HYMN

Go My Children with My Blessing (ELW 543)



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Gordon Young

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Comm. As-sist	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild
6/9	9:15 AM	Tonya Cave	Larry Becker	Connie Reed	Larry Becker and Tonya Cave	Ann Anstadt, Jill Streibig	Team 2E: Ron Riese, Kathy Monk, Ken Hinkle, Alex Bastian	Set up: Larry & Janet Moore Clean up : Ann Anstadt, Jill Streibig

This Week at St. Paul's

Sunday, June 9

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist– Live-Stream
Send off reception for
Tanzania Mission Group
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Monday, June 10

7:00 PM Finance Committee—ZOOM

Tuesday, June 11

9:15 AM Fellowship Mtg
9:30 AM Food Pantry Clients
:530 PM Nurturing Faithful Families–
Simple Supper and Fellowship for all

Sunday, June 16

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

Announcements and Up-dates for the week of June 9, 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



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. A few Sundays remain available.

Preschool Playdate

Who: Current and prospective preschool students ages 2-4
When: Thursday June 13th, 9:30-11:00 AM
Where: St Paul's Lutheran Church Playground,
25 West Springettsbury Avenue, York, PA 17403



RSVP by Monday, June 10th to: presch.stpaulsyork@comcast.net with the total number of participants if you are planning to join us!
Current preschool members are encouraged to bring a friend, who may be a prospective preschool student!

Parents must accompany and care for their child for the duration of the playdate.

Please bring sunscreen and a light snack/drink for your child if you wish!

In the event of inclement weather, we will utilize the preschool rooms.

Please contact the preschool if you have any questions!

Phone: 717-854-1996 or Email: presch.stpaulsyork@comcast.net

Thank you! We are looking forward to a fun morning of gathering!

Election of Synod Bishop, June 2025

We thank our lay voting members; Sammy Barnes, Kelly Moore-Spencer and Jill Striebig for attending the Synod Assembly last weekend and for representing St. Paul's congregation. Next year we elect a new Bishop. Be part of the conversation that will give shape and future vision for the election of Bishop to the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Please attend the first listening session hosted by Zion Lutheran Church, Brandywine Rd, Sunday June 23, 2024 at 2:00 PM.

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.

Food Pantry News—We need **PEANUT BUTTER!** 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.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Spanish Translator is needed to sit with the people at the registration table to help translate. During the summer is might be a high school or college student studying Spanish, Spanish teachers, or others with Spanish knowledge.

Driver: We are looking for a person to pick-up eggs 6 times a year from Hill-N- Dale Farms and delivery them to St. Paul's pantry. We are grateful to this company for donating 180 dozen eggs each month. The address is 2862 Daron Road, Spring Grove. They would fit into a small SUV with the seat down. Lifting is not a requirement! Call the church office to volunteer.

Gardeners: Each summer busy gardeners from the Unitarian Universalist Church of York (UUCY) work hard to provide St. Paul's Food Pantry shoppers with fresh produce. This summer UUCY will have weekday and weekend volunteer opportunities—perfect for individuals and families—helping to grow and harvest food donations for distribution on Tuesday mornings. Some chores may include shoveling compost, planting seeds and seedlings, pulling weeds, and other hands-on needs. Harvesting usually happens Monday evenings and early Tuesday mornings. Please send an email of your interest and availability to karenwishart21@gmail.com and we will look forward to providing up to date information concerning workdays. Check with Patty Snyder or Teresa Rohrbaugh with questions.

Proper 5 B, 2024 Genesis 3: 8-15 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Mark 3:20-35

“You’re insane” said a colleague to me last weekend at the synod assembly. Insane for taking a group of 24 to a continent and a country to which you have never visited and to a people whose language you do not speak. “You are insane!”

Some define insanity as “doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results.” And yet I have never taken a delegation of 24 or even 12, the seemingly more sane number of traveling companions modeled by our Lord, on a mission trip. The closest thing that I can think of from my past experience has been traveling to a National Youth Gathering. But the numbers were not this great. And Miss Kelly had made all of the arrangements and sorted out all of the contingency plans. So perhaps my colleague is right! I am insane!

In the card game Apples to Apples, one person draws a card and the rest of the players place down one of their cards, one that they think most accurately relates to the first card played or one that they think will get the most laughs. So pretend for a moment that I drew and turned over the card which reads “Things that are insane.” What card would you play? What is “insane” to you?

There are lots of things that are insane. We are heading out on a mission trip tomorrow in the wee hours of the morning (2:00AM), that’s insane. The currency exchange rate dollars to Tanzanian Shillings, 2,615 shillings to the dollar, that’s insane. The political climate in our nation, that’s insane. Schools removing swing sets from their play grounds for fear that students will get injured, that’s insane. Having a son who is a high school junior, college tuition, that’s insane. Of course insane can take on an altogether different meaning when I think of triple chocolate fudge brownies! Now those are insane!

I suppose we might even modify our speech at times to say something like “she was beside herself.” That is a nicer thing to say than “she is insane” or “she is out of her mind.” But the more derogatory, the less nice thing, more accurately gets to what is going on in the gospel reading today. The religious authorities call Jesus insane. He isn’t doing things the way that they have always been done. He is coming at problems and difficulties bringing an altogether different approach to seeing the world. Perhaps it is because he is seeking the world, seeking the lost and vulnerable, seeking the neglected and lonely and isolated. He is seeking out those who are hungering for daily bread and those who are hungering for the bread of life. He is seeking you.

Jesus most recently has called the twelve disciples to come and follow him. I am certain that among the 12 there were many who had colleagues telling them straight out that they were insane! “*You are giving up your fishing career to follow an itinerant preacher who is friends with that John the Baptist fellow out on the banks of the Jordan River?* You are insane!

Magnifying the insanity, Jesus speaks to the crowd and to the religious community using parables. Parables that say things like; *look but not perceive, listen but not understand, the measure you give will be the measure you get plus some more, those who have nothing even what they have will be taken away, seeds scattered and growing, grain at the harvest time, and a mustard seed providing large branches so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.*

The label placed on Jesus, the insanity label, has to do with doing the will of God. *“Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother”* says Jesus. He says this to those who call him insane, those who want to divide his followers, and those who are appalled that he forgives sins in the name of God. Insanity will follow Jesus even to the cross where upon he gives himself, his very life to forgive sin, restore relationship, and provide a way forward for all who are lost, vulnerable, neglected, lonely, isolated, or hungry. He gives himself for you.

We are very early in this season of Pentecost, only three weeks in. And yet we hear of God’s insane love for us. You and I are recipients of God’s insane love poured out and spoken in Baptism’s Word and water and in Communion’s bread and wine.

In the Old Testament reading from Genesis we encounter God walking in the garden. Adam and Eve are not trusting God’s word and in their doubting, in their listening to another, they try and hide from God. They try and hide from the creator of the heavens and earth. That is a bit insane, trying to hide from God. But God’s insane love for them is manifest in God’s desire for reconciliation, in the desire to put things right. God provides clothing as protection for Adam and Eve as they go out into the earth to tend and care; to sweat and toil, to live and learn and grow more deeply in their trust of the one who promises life. God is making a way forward for Adam and Eve precisely when they lack trust, when they doubt, and as they listen to another becoming disobedient. That is I suppose an example from the Bible of God’s insane love for humanity.

For most of us, most of the time life consists with the struggle to do our own will. We wrestle with what we want to do, what is good for us, what is right for us, what keeps us within the circle of our comfort. We like to play the card that keeps us in the game. This morning we are called to focus on doing the will of God. We are called to play a card that may not make us laugh or get the most votes or even win, we are called to do God’s will. Doing the will of God is not easy. Doing the will of God places you on the front line of criticism. Doing the will of God may take you to lands that you do not know, to be with people who speak a different language, and to trust in ways that are outside of your circle of comfort. Doing the will of God can label you as insane.

But doing God’s will unites us as family; sisters and brothers with Christ. Belonging in the family of Christ calls us to be united, not divided. It is insane to think that a family fighting against itself will survive. Jesus proclaims this to all who will listen to his parable preaching. He proclaims this to those who are blind to their own self-serving ways and blind to the forgiveness that God bestows providing reconciliation and restoring relationships. This is all possible with God made known through Christ’s suffering, death, resurrection and ascension. Because the Spirit of the living God is poured out, we are sisters and brothers in Christ; we pray for God’s kingdom to come and for God’s will to be done. We pray this trusting that what we do is pleasing to God and is kingdom work. Bystanders and religious leaders, family members, coworkers and friends may very well call it insane. Jesus calls it doing God’s will. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 3:8-15

[Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

Psalm 130**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1**

Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight

momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

⁵¹For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

GOSPEL: Mark 3:20-35

[Jesus] went home; and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—³⁰for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." ³³And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17; Mark 4:26-34.

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