

**John
was a
righteous
and holy man**

MARK 6:20

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.

August 25 at the 9:15 AM liturgy we will rejoice with our mission delegation and hear first hand stories of their journey. The Fellowship Committee is preparing brunch for us. The presentation will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall.



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

stpaulsyork.org

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
Children Choirs Director	Juliana Jones	jjones.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 14, 2024

Holy Communion 9:15 AM

Musical Setting #5 With One Voice

PRELUDE

Meditation on "Blessed Jesus We are Here"

Fey

Stand turning to face the 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.

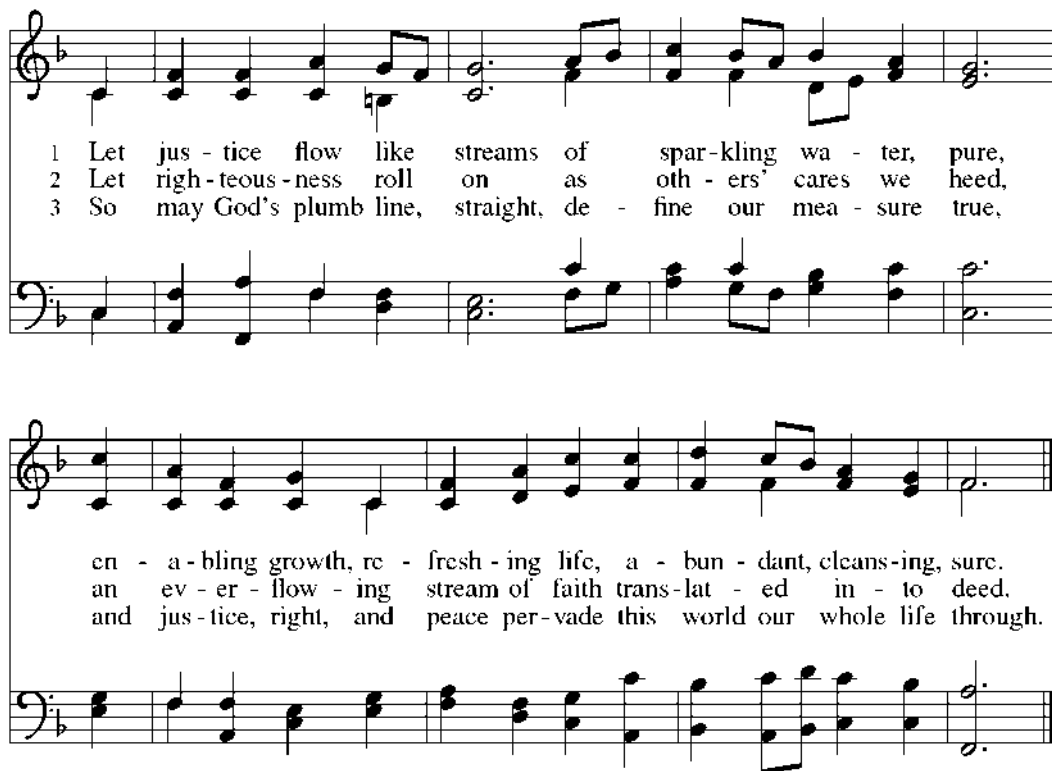
Amen

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

Let Justice Flow Like Streams (WOV 763)



1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

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. . . Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Nancy Bennett

FIRST READING

Amos 7:7

(back cover)

PSALM

Psalm 85: 8-13

sung unaccompanied Cantor/congregation



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

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

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

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

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

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

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

(back cover)

Stand

VERSE

Sung by all



HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 6:14-29

(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.

O God, we pray for the church. Where it is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Protect the most vulnerable within every nation, tribe, and land. Use government agencies religious institutions, and local customs to provide food, clothing, and shelter. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. (*We pray especially for . . .*) In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Empower ministry that serves and builds up local communities (*ministries may be named*). Nurture our partnerships with other community organizations (*organizations may be named*). In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you (*especially*). In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and 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

Adagio "St Anne"

Manz

Stand

OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we
of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,
Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you,

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

DIALOGUE*Spoken by Pastor and congregation*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

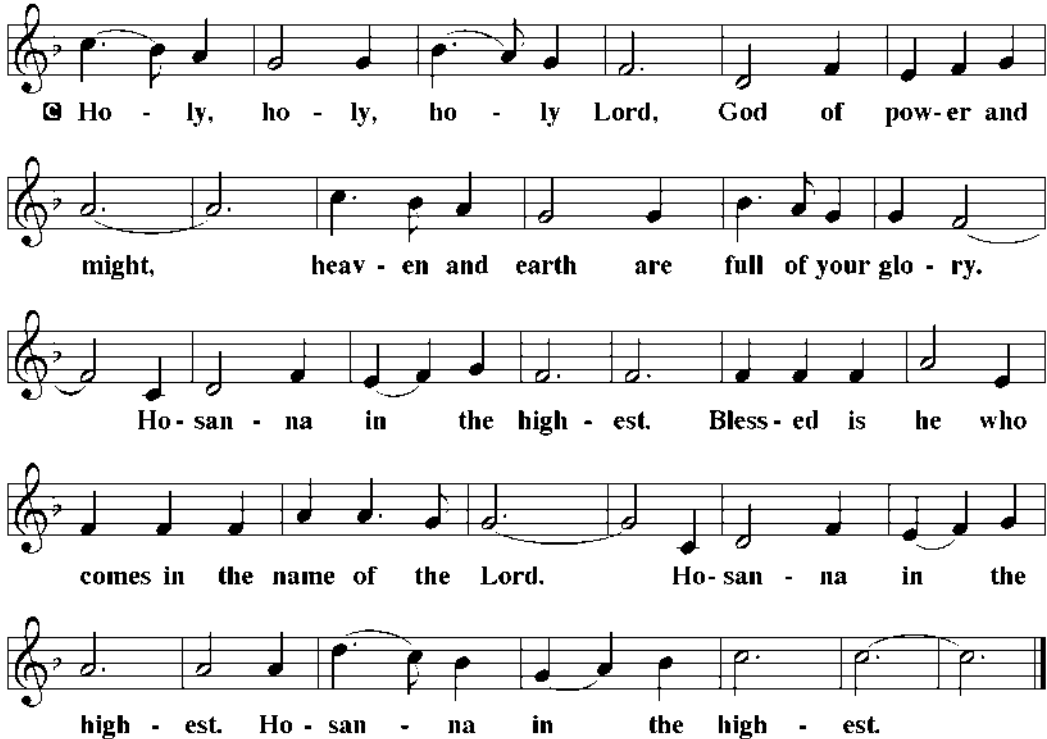
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.**PREFACE** *The preface appropriate to the day is said.*

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 - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 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.*



☪ 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

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 *We come to the Hungry Feast (WOV 766)*



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,

To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay

not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

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. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

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

HYMN *Be Thou My Vision (WOV 776) next page*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

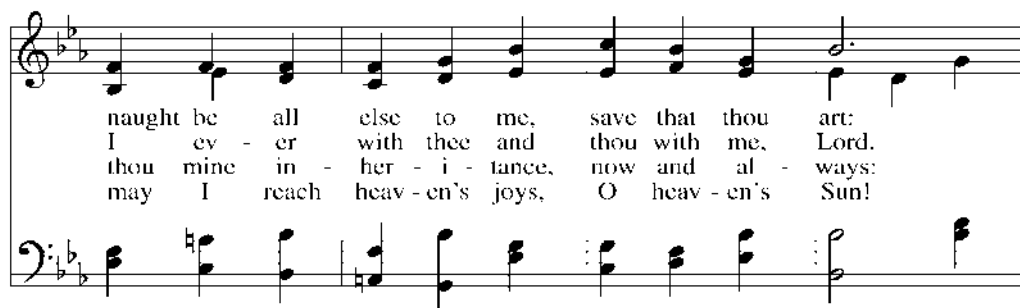
O God Our Help in Ages Past

Cherwien

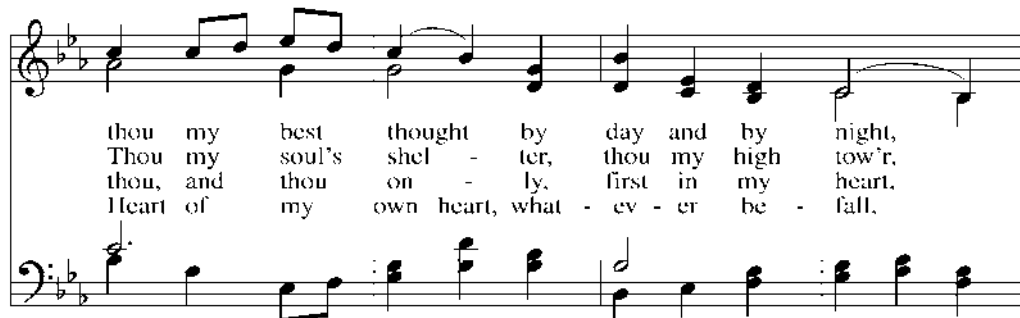
Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart.
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light,
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r,
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art,
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.



Today we give thanks for the talent of Christine Kates as she supplies the music for today's service while Victor Fields is on vacation.

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Comm. Assist	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild
7/14	9:15 AM	Tonya Cave	Harrison Palmer	Earline Jones	Sandy Dickensheets	Sheridan & Jamie Palmer	Team 1L: Dave Kopp, Carol Woodbury, Darren Smith	Early: Ron & Norma Riese Late: Tonya Cave, Sandy Dickensheets



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
By George and Janet Fitch*

St. Paul's Book Club will meet on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 in the Good Shepherd Room at church during the summer months.

Upcoming dates are: August 14 – Rose Under Fire by Elizabeth Wein .



Summer Fellowship after the service is provided by our church committees with assistance by the Fellowship Committee.

Today's Fellowship is being brought to you by the Preschool.

Thank you to all the Committees for their delicious giving!

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 Tuesday evenings **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.

This Week at St. Paul's

Sunday, July 14

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist—Live-Stream
10:30 AM Second Sunday Sandwiches
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Monday, July 15

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, July 16

9:30 AM Pantry
5:30 PM Nurturing Faithful Families—
Simple Supper and Fellowship for all

Sunday, July 21

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist—Live-Stream
10:30 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Backpack filling—Christ Hall
4:30 PM Tanzania Mission Delegation Mtg—
Christ Hall
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Christ Hall

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Manager of Food: We are looking for a third person to share responsibility for keeping inventory, ordering and overseeing delivery of food. The work will take about 4 hours each week during the month that the person is in charge. For more information please contact Patty Snyder or the church office.

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.

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, watering of plants, 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.

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.

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.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

The NATO summit in Washington DC fueled headlines this week. The headlines were punctuated with fears, especially fears among the Nordic-Baltic Eight; Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. They voice fears about the on-going aggression of Russia on Ukraine, fears about new aggression focused on them, fears about the up-coming US elections, and fears about loyalty among member states.

Fears fueled the headlines because fears continue to sell newspapers, keep people scrolling on social media platforms and perpetuate one group being pitted against another. It happens on the international, national, local, congregational, and familial fronts! Fear brings disequilibrium. Disequilibrium creates opportunity for chaos. And chaos remains the biblical realm of the devil, Satan and all of his empty promises.

Fears punctuate the Old Testament and Gospel readings this morning. The scripture texts are fueled with fears. Amaziah fears Amos, religious leaders fear Jesus' disciples, King Herod fears John the Baptist, add to these at the end of Jesus' earthly ministry the Roman governor Pilate fears Jesus.

In the Old Testament reading Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, fears Amos the prophet. God's people have not been living according to the law of the Lord. You know what that means right? God's people have not been observing the weekly Sabbath, they have permitted festivals to become optional, and perhaps greater than the official religious observances, they have stopped living daily life as God's people; showing kindness, being compassionate, charging fair prices in the market place, living the 10 commandments. And to sum it up pretty quickly, they have stopped being a blessing to others. King Jeroboam has led the people astray. Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, knows that the king will not like what Amos has to say. They are not measuring up. No one likes to be told that they are not measuring up. In this case Amaziah knows that the King is going to be outraged at the Word of the Lord spoken by Amos.

In the community of the gospel writer Mark, it is the religious leadership in the community who fears the disciples. The disciples go out 2 by 2 and are, to their own surprise, successful living into the mission to which Jesus has sent them. They cast out demons, heal the sick and preach the Word. They are doing similar things to what Jesus is doing. Now there are more of them. Their success permitted fears to be heightened by the religious leadership.

King Herod fears John. John opens the gospel announcing repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He is seen as a prophet on the edge. This one who wore camel's hair and ate wild locusts is now incarcerated and sits in one of King Herod's prison cells. Herod fears him. Herod fears John because John is a righteous man. Herod fears John because John points out the immorality into which he engages. Herod fears John because John knows that he is utilizing his civic power improperly.

John sits in a cell while Herod and his guests celebrate at a birthday party that is careening out of control. It is out of control because once again the King's immoral desires and actions lead to an outlandish promise. John's fate now rests in the hands of a ruler who can be manipulated by others. *"When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will*

give it.” And he solemnly swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” The girl went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” her mother replied, “The head of John the baptizer.” Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” Herod fears John.

Later on, toward the end of Jesus’ earthly ministry we encounter Pilate. Pilate fears Jesus. Jesus, whose message was one of peace, ends up in the presence of a ruler who is easily manipulated by others. Like Herod, Pilate, reluctantly agrees to an execution he would not have chosen himself. He is swayed by the screaming mob “crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate sends Jesus off to be crucified outside of Jerusalem. Jesus dies for the sin of the World, for your sin and mine. Jesus gives himself fully for us, saving us from the fearful worry that so easily does us in.

Fear is in the air. Sometimes it is palpable. I fear lots of things;

the results of medical tests,

that I won’t live to see my youngest child graduate from college.

I fear tripping over our cat; she perpetually gets under my feet!

I fear skin cancer in the summer and I fear falling and breaking bones on winter’s ice.

I fear other things too,

like the societal drift from God,

decisions made by the ELCA

Congregants who scarcely participate in worship,

prayer that has all but evaporated in the home.

And you, you have fears too. Some we may share, but many are different I am sure.

This text creeps into the middle of our summer worship. It creeps into the middle of the gospel account of Mark and marks a turning point, a transition as Jesus’ ministry moves into full swing. Fear is a terrible thing. That is why messengers of God consistently proclaim “Fear not” “Don’t be afraid.” And yet in our human condition fear remains.

The NATO Nordic Baltic Eight fear their aggressive eastern neighbor; they fear the results of the up-coming US elections and fear the lack of loyalty among member states. Amaziah, the priest at Bethel, fears the prophetic word of the Lord proclaimed by Amos. The religious community fears the disciples. Herod fears John. Pilate fears Jesus.

Our fears need not manipulate us, or lead us to reluctant decisions. Christ Jesus was feared by those who could not control him, who did not understand him, who could not grasp the love that he embodied.

This morning there is a celebration, a feast, a holy meal to which you are invited. At this banquet we are not granted anything we wish as participants, but rather what is needed for life; forgiveness and the reconciliation that comes from it. Such a lavish gift cannot be controlled, completely understood, or fully comprehended. Jesus gives himself for you. Reversing fears and granting life and salvation, it is what the world craves, hope. Amen.

FIRST READING: Amos 7:7-15

This is what [the Lord God] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam
with the sword."

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'"

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

Psalm 85:8-13

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching], for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.

Cover: *John the Baptist* from Crosiers stained glass. Copyright © Crosiers. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Crosiers in Onamia, Minnesota.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-R