



*In order that the world
might be saved through him*

JOHN 3:17

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 189 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 located 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. The restrooms are independent units. Please remember to latch the door.

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.

We ask parents to accompany their children 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 and
In loving memory of husband George and loving memory of son, Michael
Kemper, by loving wife and mother, Ann Kemper*

STAFF		
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Holy Cross Day
Sunday, September 14, 2025
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Evangelical Lutheran Worship musical setting 3

PRELUDE

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross


D. L. White

Stand


ENTRANCE HYMN

Lift High the Cross (ELW 660)


Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till




all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

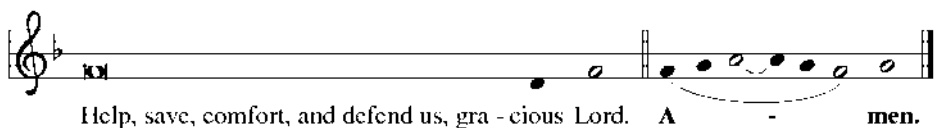
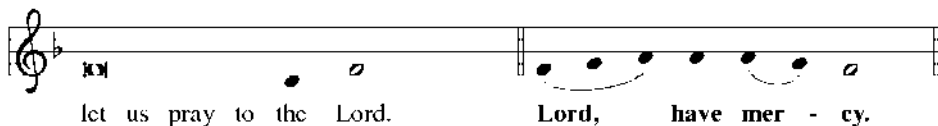
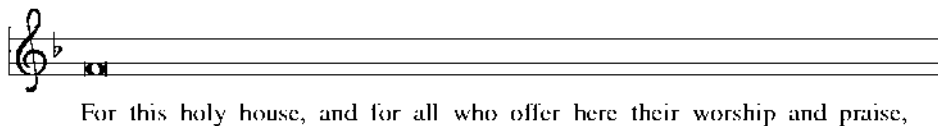
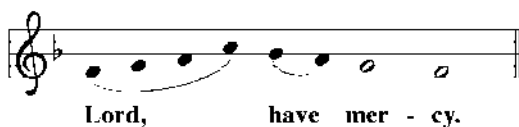
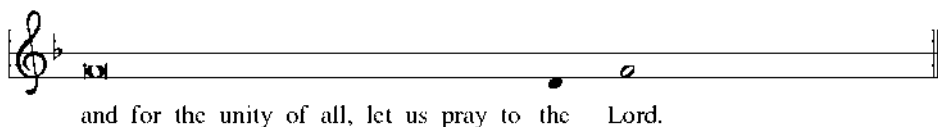
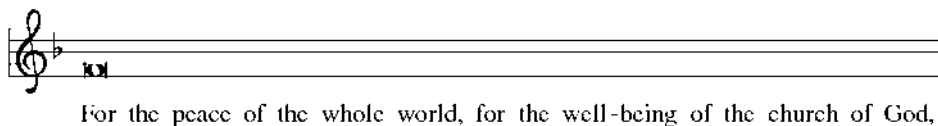
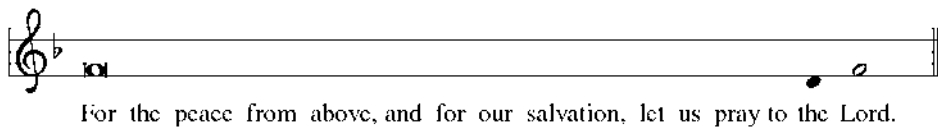


our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

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



HYMN OF PRAISE



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



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



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



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.



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. Grant that we who glory in his death for our salvation may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4b-9

(back cover)

PSALM Psalm 98:1-5

Sung Cantor/Congregation unaccompanied.



- ¹ Sing to the LORD | a new song,*
for he has done | marvelous things.
² **With his right hand and his | holy arm***
has he won for him- | self the victory.
³ The LORD has made | known his victory;*
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight | of the nations.
⁴ **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,***
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.
⁵ Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;*
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

(back cover)

Stand

VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:13-17 *(back cover)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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.

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.

Sustaining God, guide your church. Give us patience in our journey, and protect us from division and doubt. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Creator God, renew the earth. Heal our planet from the venom of greed and exploitation, and direct us to respect all life as a gift from you. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God of wisdom, grant discernment to those in authority. Thwart the plans of the proud, bring low the mighty, and uphold those who work for peace. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God of grace, alleviate suffering. Comfort the sick and the grieving (*especially*). Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Good Shepherd, guide your flock. Protect us from the world's lies and lead us in the way of truth. Strengthen us in our faith and inspire us to serve others. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Merciful God, you receive into your loving embrace those who have died. Giving thanks for them, may we find comfort in the cross and live in the hope of resurrection. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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

8:00 AM Organ

Hymns of the Cross

Phillip Keveren

10:30 AM Chancel Choir

The Royal Banners Forward Go

Horatio Parker

Stand

OFFERTORY

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow (ELW 884)

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

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

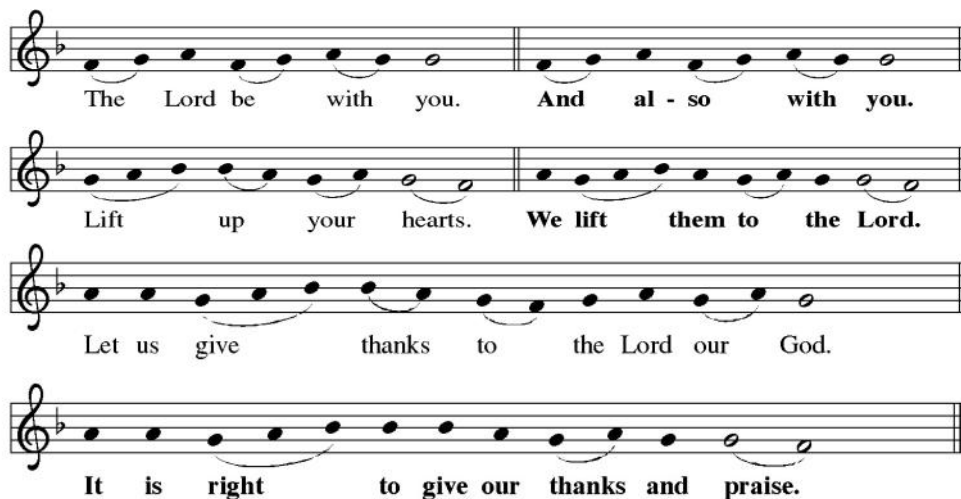
OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

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.

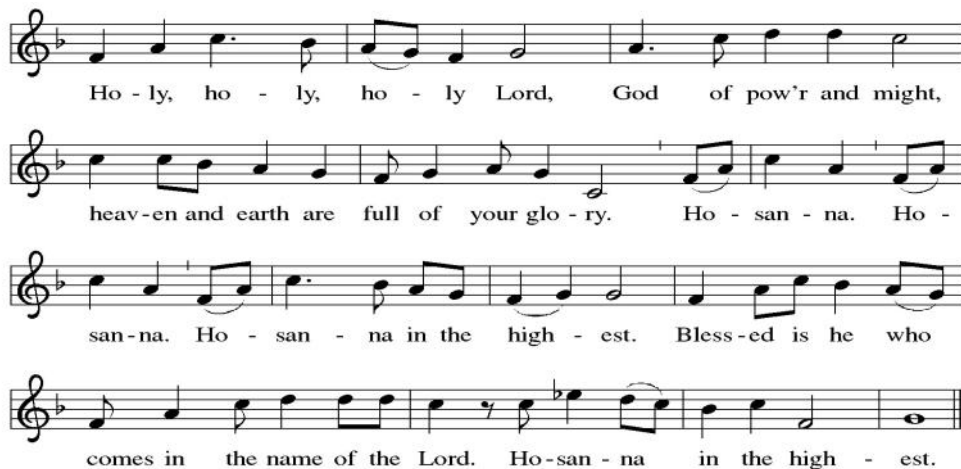
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. 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.

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 upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray in confidence in the words our Savior gave us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

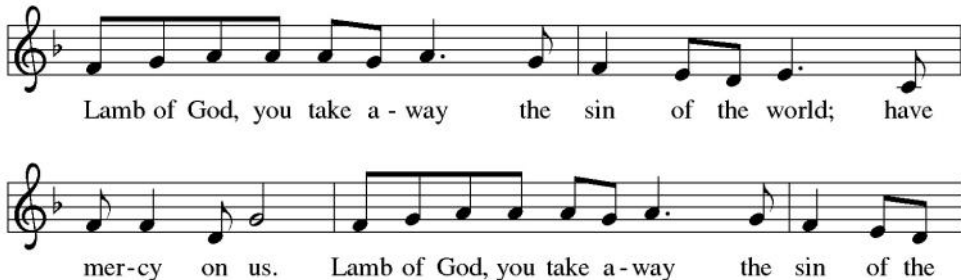
FRACTION RITE

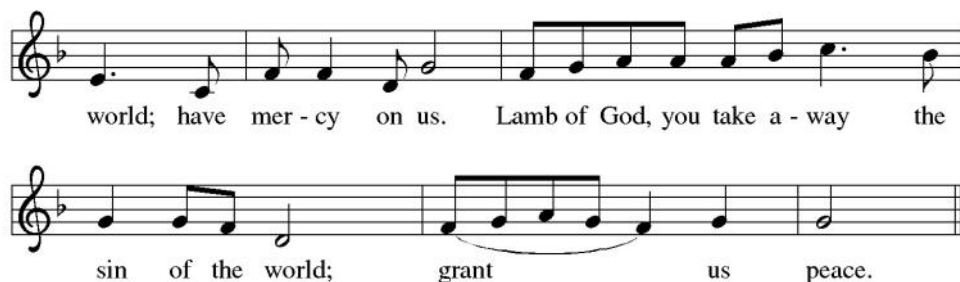
When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

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





Sit
COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL
 Our Communion 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 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory (ELW 324)*



1	In	the	cross	of	Christ	I	glo - ry,	tow'r - ing
2	When	the	woes	of	life	o'er -	take me,	hopes de -
3	When	the	sun	of	bliss	is	beam - ing	light and
4	Bane	and	bles -	ing,	pain	and	plea - sure,	by the



o'er	the	wrecks	of	time.	All	the	light	of
ceive,	and	fears	an -	noy,	nev -	er	shall	the
love	up -	on	my	way,	from	the	cross	the
cross	are	sanc -	ti -	fied;	peace	is	there	that



sa -	cred	sto -	ry	gath -	ers	round	its	head	sub -
cross	for -	sake	me;	lo,	it	glows	with	peace	and
ra -	dian	ce	stream -	ing	adds	more	lus -	ter	to
knows	no	mea -	sure,	joys	that	through	all	time	a -

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. God our Father, as your Son offered Himself on the altar of the Holy Cross, so has He offered His Body and Blood to us in this Blessed Sacrament. May we be strengthened in this covenant so that we may look to join with Him in the Great Feast to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

BLESSING

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

HYMN

Go to the World (ACS 991)

1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sit

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross

Ronald Arnatt

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ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAMILY APPOINTMENT SETTING

1. Go to the Universal Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com)
2. Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled “photography appointment scheduling login”
3. Enter your church code [pa1207](#)
4. Enter your church password [photos](#)
5. Click on the Enter button
6. Click on the desired photography date
7. Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired photography appointment time
8. Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk)
9. Click on the Schedule Appointment button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family’s name
10. If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10)
11. Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family’s photography appointment
12. Contact your church’s online scheduling administrator to change or cancel your photography appointment
13. If for some reason you cannot be photographed on November 3rd or 4th please let the church office know so that we can arrange for another option. Thank you.

This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open Mon–Thurs 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Friday 8:00—11:30 AM

Sunday, September 14 –Pantry Volunteers Recognition

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all
 9:15 AM New Members Class
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
 11:45 AM Second Sunday Sandwiches
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Monday, September 15 Newsletter Deadline

6:30 PM Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 16

9:30 AM Pantry
 6:00 PM CREATE Preschool thru Grade 6

Wednesday, September 17

10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor
 10:30 AM Hymns & Prayers—Nave
 11:30 AM Senior Luncheon—Christ Hall

Thursday, September 18

10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor
 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, September 21—St. Matthew

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all
 9:15 AM New Members Class
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
 6:00 PM Youth Group—Youth Room
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Altar Guild
9/14	8:00 AM	Kathy Monk	Harrison Palmer	Ann Ulrich	Bastian Family, Cliff & Janene	Team 3E: Norma Shue, Cliff Beck, Sheridan Palmer	Pat Scarborough, Kathleen Lemke
	10:30 AM	Aaron Jacobs	Jaclyn Kinkella	Carolyn Kapoun	Jim & Nancy Bennett, Mike & Carrie Ober-	Team 3L: Dan Garber, Joe Guarriello, Larry Becker	Ann Anstadt, Jill Striebig

Fall Worship times are at 8:00 & 10:30 AM.

New Members Class continues through September 28.

Wednesday Bible Study at 10:30 AM in Christ Hall has resumed.

Tuesday night Bible Study 6-7 PM begins September 23.

Music and Create , Age 3 through Grade 6, Tuesday evenings beginning September 16th 6pm through 7:15pm

Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays at 6:30 & 7:30 PM.

If you have sponsored altar flowers please remember to give the church secretary the sentiment you want printed in the bulletin by the Tuesday before the flower date.

Senior Luncheon

Wednesday 17 September 2025

The fall senior luncheon will be held in Christ Hall on Wednesday 17 September at 11:30 AM. The luncheon will be preceded with hymns and prayers and a look at the readings assigned for St. Matthew at 10:30 AM in the church nave. Pastor Reep will lead the hymns, study and prayers. Please contact the church office to reserve your place at the table.



Springettsbury Door Installation Monday, September 22 thru Wednesday, September 24. We will post how best to enter the building the week prior to the installation. Watch the Sunday, September 21 bulletin for details.

It is time for a new church photo directory. Our dates for photography are November 3 & 4. We need volunteers to help with the process. Please contact Pastor Reep this week if you can help. Directions for online registration are included in this service bulletin.



Food Pantry Needs: 2 pound bags of Rice, Pinto Beans in cans, Peanut Butter. Monetary donations can be placed in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".

Music and Create
Age 3 through Grade 6
Tuesday evenings beginning September 16th
6pm through 7:15pm



Welcome back to Music and Create! We are looking forward to this opportunity for our families with young children to engage in music and art while also having the opportunity to connect with other families. The program is designed for children ages 3 through grade 6. We split the children into two age groups, age 3 through grade 1 and grade 2 through grade 6.

On Tuesday, September 16th we will spend our time as one big group (we will also likely be done around 7pm that night). Mrs. Jones and Miss Kelly will lead the children in 'fun getting to know you' activities for everyone who comes and participates.

Holy Cross Day 2025

Numbers 21:4b-9

1 Corinthians 1:18-24 John 3:13-17

The “Gospel in a nutshell.” That is how Martin Luther referred to John 3:16 text. *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.* In the 16th century people were concerned about their future. Luther wanted them to know that Christ Jesus provides all that is necessary to have eternal life. That brought comfort to the masses.

Right now, there are people more concerned about everyday life than eternal life. The continuing increase of gun violence in our streets, schools, and public assemblies is heart breaking. It is fear inducing. Needless fatalities continue to occur. We are far from the will and desire of God.

For those of us who pray “*Your will be done*” in the Lord’s Prayer, it seems that we are completely outnumbered by people who deliberately select their own will over the desire of God, who loves the world, those who believe and follow God’s only Son, as well as those who believe in the plethora of idols embraced by residents of the richest nation in the world. Christians are not immune from the plethora of idols. Christians are called to take up cross and follow Jesus. If there was a religious medication “Following Jesus” available from the pharmacy there would be a disclaimer on the bottle: Following Jesus does not include acts of aggression, hateful speech, belittling, sexual exploitation, or other similar occurrences.” Acts of aggression, hateful speech, belittling, sexual exploitation, and other similar occurrences happen with such regularity in our society that we have grown numb.

God’s love for you and me and the world finds its center in Christ Jesus and the cross that he takes up, making a way forward, not just for us but for all people. People we like and people we do not like. People with whom we agree and people with whom we disagree. People who look like us and people who look different from us. People who speak the same language and people who speak a different language. God is at work making a way forward for all people.

Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. Cover of darkness can protect identity. He is a leader in the religious community. He has questions about what is going on. He wants to know about following. Jesus tells Nicodemus about being born from above, being born again, being born of the Spirit, leaving him (Nicodemus) to ask, “how can this be?” As a follower of Jesus, I ask the same question. Not directed to the Lord Jesus and the pouring out of his Spirit and his opening up a future for all humanity, but about the world in which I live. The world in which you live. The world that God loves, loves so much that *he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.* The “Gospel in a nutshell.”

How can this be? It can be this way because following Jesus is not only a singular act by each of us as an individual. It is not just me and Jesus. Following Jesus has corporate implications, responsibilities, and relationships. The Faith community is critically important in our life together. That is why St. Paul writes to the early church at Corinth. He writes to them to support them in their following in the way of the cross. He identifies that Christ is both power and wisdom. God’s power made known in Jesus is unlike the power of the world, brut force, political leaders instilling fear with self-serving agendas. God’s wisdom made known in Jesus looks foolish to those who are out for themselves. Why would anyone want to follow Jesus? It is challenging work, to give up control, to trust in one who loves even the most unlovable among us.

There are members of the congregation doing signs of this demanding work. People who volunteer with regularity. They are among us today, giving up control, acting in love toward people who are difficult to love. They extend God's loving embrace on behalf of the entire faith community. A visible place demonstrating this occurs on Tuesday morning during the food pantry distribution day. Volunteers give of their time to work, to act in love, and to extend God's will, providing daily bread, not just for us, but to our neighbors as well. This is an extension of Jesus feeding the multitude and Jesus feeding his disciples with the bread of life.

Twenty-five years ago, our Tuesday distribution provided help for 651 families in a calendar year (54 a month). Imagine, that was for the entire year. Twenty years ago, the food pantry helped 1,021 families (85 a month). Fifteen years ago, the number swelled to 1,551 families (130 a month). Ten years ago, things had stabilized. We witnessed the smallest five-year increase in families served through the weekly distribution. That number was 1,638 families (137 a month) or an increase of only eighty-seven households over a five-year interval. We based our renovations and improvements to our infrastructure on that five-year modest increase. We thought that as a community, as a state and as a nation, that we were turning a corner on hunger needs in our community. Then in 2020 the congregation and pantry volunteers met a tumultuous increase in families needing help. That year, the year of the pandemic, 2,720 families (227 a month) came to St. Paul's seeking help to make ends meet. That was a 1,100-household increase. From 2020 to 2025, our current year of operation, the number of households ballooned to 3,614 (301 a month). The numbers are not moving in a desirable direction.

Statistics do not preach very well. Numbers do not really tell the story of St. Paul's congregation extending the loving embrace of Christ Jesus feeding the hungry. In one afternoon, Jesus' miracle of feeding 5,000 people, came to fruition. Miracles are important because they reveal something of God's desire and longing. Thousands upon thousands have been fed. Neighbors in need receive food to sustain them for another day, or week, or month. Eternal life may not be what people are seeking. The ministry may look foolish as we extend the love of Christ to our neighbors. Neighbors who are likable and neighbors who are not. Neighbors with whom we agree and with whom we disagree. Neighbors who look like us and who look different from us. Neighbors who speak the same language and who speak a different language. And all the while God is at work making a way forward. God is at work through his only Son, not condemning, *"but desiring that the world might be saved through him."*

Saved from hunger, from fear, from acts of aggression, from hateful speech, from belittling, from sexual exploitation, from self-serving political leaders, from needless fatality. God's desire and will are made known to us through Christ Jesus. Jesus suffers death on a cross at the hands of sinful humans. As we come to receive Holy Communion, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus are given for the forgiveness of our sins, for all the earthly idols we embrace. Jesus forgives us so that we have a future that is eternal. Where hope abounds, love increases, and where tomorrows are welcomed not dreaded. Jesus is a flowing source of life for all who believe. "How can this be" asked Nicodemus. Because God loves the world, God loves you and me, and desires that those who act contrary to love made known in Jesus will come into the light of the cross that illumines all things. Amen.

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Psalm 98:1-4

or Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38 [not printed]

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I
will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

GOSPEL: John 3:13-17

[Jesus said:] “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“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.

¹⁷“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: Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13.

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