



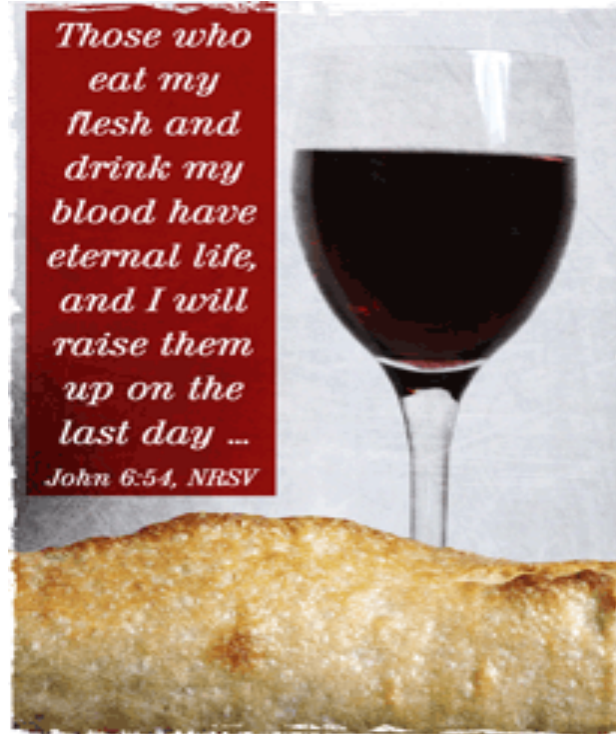
St. Paul Lutheran Church

share • care • grow
La Grange, Texas

The Rev. Stan Larson, Interim Pastor
Organist: Cindy Pundt

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
August 18, 2024

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Next weekend's readings:

Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18, Psalm 34: 15-22; Ephesians 6: 10-20

John 6: 56-69

LISTEN TO ST. PAUL SERVICES!

Visit our webpage, www.stpaulg.org, and click "**Listen**" to hear our services live on your smart phone or computer! You can also view our bulletin, weekly service video, newsletters and current calendar. Visit our Facebook page to

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. Stan Larson, Interim Pastor

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Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.; 2 - 5 p.m.

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Welcome!

- + Welcome to worship! All are welcome at the table of grace. We believe that Christ is truly present as we share the bread and wine. Those at home are invited to participate with appropriate elements.
- + The 9 a.m. service will be on Facebook live & audio streamed on our webpage, www.stpaullg.org. It will also be posted on our Facebook page. You may listen to last week's service on KBUK 104.9 FM on Sundays at 10 am.
- + Everyone is invited for coffee and snacks in the Fellowship Hall following Sunday morning's service.

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

GATHER

Prelude

Announcements

Those who are able, please stand.

Confession and Forgiveness

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider, help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

HYMN

Greeting

P: 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 *page 138*

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Canticle of Praise *pages 139-140*

A: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

The First Reading: Proverbs 9: 1-6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

- ¹ Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
- ² She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
- ³ She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
- ⁴ "You that are simple, turn in here!"
To those without sense she says,
- ⁵ "Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
- ⁶ Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks **be to God**.

Psalm 34: 9-14

- ⁹ Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.
- ¹⁰ **The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**
- ¹¹ Come, children, and listen to me;
I will teach you reverence for the LORD.
- ¹² **Who among you takes pleasure in life
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**
- ¹³ Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from lying words.
- ¹⁴ **Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 15-20

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Those who are able, please stand.

Gospel Acclamation *ELW 142*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

Gospel: John 6: 51-58

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹ "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The congregation may be seated.

Children's Word

Pastor Stan Larson

Sermon

Pastor Stan Larson

Blessing of the Backpacks

Those who are able, please stand.

Hymn

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation. We pray especially for local hay, corn and cotton production. Protect and conserve the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has set her table. May this congregation be a welcome table to all who seek the refuge of God. Break down walls and barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our companion synods—the Lutheran Churches of Central African Republic and Peru. May we with them continue to spread the gospel and the love of God. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Congregation shares the peace and may then be seated.

Offering *The offering plates will be passed.*

Those who are able, please stand.

Offering Song *ELW 181*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

P: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving *ELW 144*

P: 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.**

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

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.

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

The congregation may be seated.

Agnus Dei *page 146*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Communion

All are welcome to the Lord's table. We will be communing by intinction. You will be given a wafer, then proceed to dip the wafer in the offered wine or white grape juice before ingesting the dipped wafer. If you are physically unable to come forward for communion, please tell an usher and communion will be brought to you.

Those who are able, please stand.

Prayer after Communion

P: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✝ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

This Weekend: (8/18)

9:00 am USHERS: Atlan Citzler, Don Koether,
David & Patti Ehler, Bradley Loehr
LECTOR: David Ehler
ALTAR GUILD: Ginger Muesse
Fellowship Refreshments: Open
FLOWERS: In Memory of Guy and Elsie Tiemann

Next Weekend: (8/25)

9:00 am USHERS: Glenn Eilert, George Eilert,
Katie Anders, Gary Anders
LECTOR: Praise Band
ALTAR GUILD: Sharon Elias
Fellowship Refreshments: Open
FLOWERS: In celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary
on 8/24/24 by Ronnie and Bonnie Schielack

<p>SUNDAY (8/18): 9:00 am Worship Blessing of the Backpacks during Service 10:30: Adult Education</p> <p>TUESDAY: 8:30 am Tacky Tuesday 6:00 pm Church Council</p> <p>WEDNESDAY: 7:00 pm Praise Band</p> <p>FRIDAY: 12:00 pm Deadline for SEPTEMBER Newsletter</p> <p>SUNDAY (8/25): 9:00 am Worship Children's Ministry Meeting after Service 10:30 Adult Education</p>
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Welcome back Pastor Stan! We are excited to hear about your trip to Peru.

Reminder—Tacky Tuesday will meet on Tuesday, August 20, at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please join to help pin hems, cut batting, and tie knots for Lutheran World Relief Quilts. There is a potluck lunch at 11:30 am with time to visit around the table. All are invited.

Reminder—Church Council will meet Tuesday, August 20 at 6:00 pm in the Friendship Room.

Reminder—St. Paul LYO will meet on Wednesday, August 21 a 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Reminder—Deadline for the **September 2024** Newsletter is Friday, August 23 at 12:00 pm. All articles and information need to be submitted to the Church Office. Any information received after that is not guaranteed to be printed in the newsletter. You may email to: stpaul@cvctx.com or call 968-5657.

Reminder—meeting on Sunday, August 25, in the parlor for Children's Ministry concerning programs for the education of the youth of St. Paul. All are welcome as we continue discussions for this ministry.