

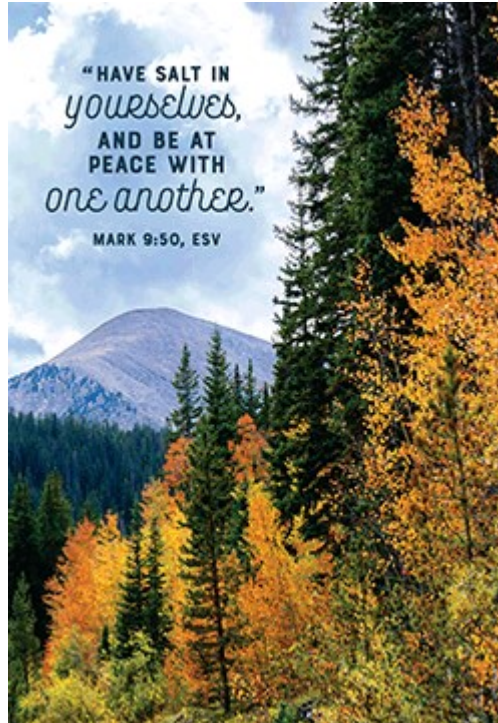


# St. Paul Lutheran Church

share • care • grow  
La Grange, Texas

*Rev. Stan Larson, Interim Pastor*  
*Organist: Sherise Davis*

**Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**  
**September 29, 2024**  
**Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost**



**Next weekend's readings:**

**Genesis 2: 18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1: 1-4, 2: 5-12**

**Mark 10: 2-16**

**LISTEN TO ST. PAUL SERVICES!**

Visit our webpage, [www.stpaulg.org](http://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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## 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](http://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.

Someone who isn't part of Jesus' own circle is casting out demons in Jesus' name, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.

## 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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

### HYMN

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

#771

### 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:** Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **The First Reading: Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 23-29**

*What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?*

<sup>4</sup>The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat!" <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup>but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

<sup>10</sup> Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. <sup>11</sup> So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? <sup>12</sup> Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors’? <sup>13</sup> Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ <sup>14</sup> I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. <sup>15</sup> If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.”

<sup>16</sup> So the Lord said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.”

<sup>24</sup> So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. <sup>25</sup> Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

<sup>26</sup> Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup> And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” <sup>28</sup> And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” <sup>29</sup> But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!”

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

## **Psalm 19: 7-14**

<sup>7</sup> The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup> **The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup> By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> **Who can detect one’s own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup> Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get

dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup> **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,**

**O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

## **Second Reading: James 5: 13-20**

*Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.*

<sup>13</sup> Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup> My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup> you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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. Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Gospel: Mark 9: 38-50**

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.*

<sup>38</sup> John said to [Jesus], “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup> “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup> “For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

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**

*Those who are able, please stand.*

**Hymn**

*Jesus, The Very Thought of You*

#754

**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**

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the people of God in all places. Shape our witness to the good news of Jesus that we joyfully share your transforming love with all whom we encounter. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the healing of the earth. Renew oceans and seas, marshes and estuaries. Uphold the work of conservationists, oceanographers, and all who care for fragile ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for peace and cooperation among local and global communities. Bless the efforts of community organizers, international aid workers, and all those who work for justice and peace around the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are in any need. To all who grieve, bring consolation; to all who are weary or lonely, bring solace. By your grace, make your presence known among all who call to you for healing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for caregivers: doctors and nurses, home health aides and counselors, and those who care for loved ones. Sustain them in their work and help us to build a health care system that supports all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the saints who now rest in your eternal presence. In thanksgiving for their lives of faithful service and witness, we commend them to your loving care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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:** Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**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:** Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

## Blessing

**P:** God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

## Sending Song

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

*#834*

## Dismissal

**P:** Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

**This Weekend: (9/29)**

**9:00 am USHERS:** Donnie Dippel, Tim Knesek,  
Lloyd & Sylvia Jewel, Rhonda Koether

**LECTOR:** Lloyd Jewell

**ALTAR GUILD:** Lisa Moellenberndt

**Fellowship Refreshments:** Cindy Hengst

**FLOWERS:** To the glory of God and in honor of Annette Citzler on her birthday today (9/29) by Atlan and Jeanette Citzler.

**Next Weekend: (10/6)**

**9:00 am USHERS:** Paul Mikula, Linda Morrison,  
Duke Hengst, Glenn Davis

**LECTOR:** Frank Teykl

**ALTAR GUILD:** Faye Bresan

**Fellowship Refreshments:** Family Brunch

**FLOWERS:** Open

**SUNDAY (9/29):** 9:00 am Worship  
10:30: Adult Education

**WEDNESDAY:** 8:30 am Bible Study  
5:00 pm Confirmation  
6:00 pm Bells  
6:30 pm LYO  
7:00 pm Choir  
8:00 pm Praise Band

**SATURDAY:** 6:00 pm Movies Worth  
Watching in Fellowship Hall

**SUNDAY (10/6):** 9:00 am Worship  
10:00 Family Sunday Brunch  
followed lessons/crafts  
10:30 Adult Education

## Youth and Family Programming Events

First Sunday **Family Brunch** begins next Sunday (10/6). A light breakfast will be offered after services for everyone in the fellowship hall. After the brunch, families with their children will meet in the parlor to have family learning activity and crafts with a Christian education theme. These events will continue on the first Sunday of each month.

**Movies Worth Watching** will be Saturday, October 5, 2024, in the Fellowship Hall. The movie *JoJo Rabbit* will be viewed followed by discussion of the movie. If you are so inclined, bring your favorite movie snacks to share.

**Second Saturday Cinema** will be on Saturday, October 13, from 5-7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. A meal will be provided and then a family-friendly movie will be shown for children Pre-K thru 6th grade. And there will be popcorn! The LYO will be assisting with the program. Parents are welcome to join their children or have a Parents Night Out. Registration forms are on the St. Paul Website: [www.stpaulg.org](http://www.stpaulg.org) or on the Facebook page to register your child. Assistance with meal preparation will be needed, watch for opportunities to sign up.

