

THIS Weekend:

5:00 pm USHERS: James & Sharon Elias
LECTOR: Sharon Elias
ALTAR GUILD: JoLene & Gerald Hughes
9:00 am USHERS: JoLene & Gerald Hughes
LECTOR: Praise Band
ALTAR GUILD: JoLene & Gerald Hughes
FLOWERS : In Memory of Marjorie Hackemack given with gratitude for her service to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

NEXT weekend: 9/24 & 9/25

5:00 pm USHERS: Richard & Danette Coufal
LECTOR: Chloe Coufal
ALTAR GUILD: Jackie Skelton
9:00 am USHERS: Frank & Sandra Tekyl
LECTOR: Hannah Bellue
ALTAR GUILD: Ginger Friemel
FLOWERS: Atlan Citzler Jr.

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm Worship
SUNDAY: 9:00 am Worship
10:30 am Sunday School
MONDAY: 6:30pm Fishers of Men
TUESDAY: 8:30 am Tacky Tuesday
6:00 pm Church Council
WEDNESDAY: 8:30 am Community Bible Study
6:00 pm Hand Bells
7:00 pm Choir
8:00 pm Praise Band
6:30pm LYO meets in Fellowship Hall
THURSDAY : NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SATURDAY : 5:00 pm Worship
SUNDAY: 9:00 am Worship
10:30 am Sunday School

Thank you for signing the attendance pad in the hymnal rack and putting the sheet in the offering plate. WELCOME VISITORS! We ask that you put your name, address, phone number and email in the red Visitor’s book in the Narthex. You are invited to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and fellowship after Sunday services.

VOLUNTEERS—there will be a need for assistance to assemble the LWR School Kits. If you are interested to volunteer with this project please call Carolyn Bennetsen at 979-966-8104.

TACKY TUESDAY—this Tuesday 9/20 starting at 8:30. All are welcome and fellowship is enjoyed by all. This week there will be a Salad Luncheon and all are invited to bring a salad to share for the potluck meal around 11:45.

SECOND CHANCE— a reminder that September 20-26 is St. Paul’s week to “work” Second Chance. Hours are 9 am to 3 pm Tuesday thru Saturday and Monday at 8am. Volunteers are always welcome!

MESSENGER— if you have information, meeting notice, etc. you would like included in the newsletter the deadline is **Thursday 9/22 at 4pm**. Please call or email the church office before then to have your news in the October Messenger.



St. Paul
Lutheran Church
share • care • grow
La Grange, Texas

The Rev. William J. Sappenfield, *Interim Pastor*
Organist: Jean McHenry - Saturday
Organist: Sherise Davis - Sunday
Saturday & Sunday
September 17 & 18, 2022
15th Sunday after Pentecost



Next weekend’s readings:
Amos 6: 1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16: 19-31

LISTEN TO ST. PAUL SERVICES!

Visit our webpage, www.stpaul.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 view the service live Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

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.stpaulg.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.

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

GATHER

Prelude

Announcements

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

P: 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**

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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

We Give Thee but Thine Own

#686

Communion

All are welcome to the Lord's table. White grape juice is in the center of the tray of cups. If you are physically unable to come forward for communion, please tell an usher and communion will be brought to you. You may also remain in your pew and use a prepackaged kit.

Prayer after Communion

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Praise Band

Dismissal

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

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. William J. Sappenfield, Interim Pastor

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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

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.**

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: God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The First Reading: Amos 8: 4-7

Warning to those who trample on the needy and poor

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

Psalm: Psalm 113

1 Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.

**2 Let the name of the Lord be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.**

3 From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the Lord be praised.

**4 The Lord is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens.**

5 Who is like the Lord our God,
who sits enthroned on high,

**6 but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?**

The Sharing of the Peace

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

Offering

The offering plates will be passed.

Offertory ELW 186

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Offering Prayer

A: Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. **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,

Prayers of Intercession

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

A brief silence

God our Savior, keep your church in faith and truth. Inspire our proclamation of the good news of your love. May we show your goodness in all that we do. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Divine creator, make us mindful of our home. Guide us to care for the earth and all who live here as we share your abundance. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Ruler of the nations, you direct those in authority. Give leaders wisdom and compassion so that all may live in peace. Inspire public servants to follow the example of courageous leaders, we especially remember Dag Hammarskjöld. Call places of war to your peace. We remember Ukraine, Nepal, and other places in conflict. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Helper of the needy, you lift up those who are oppressed. Breathe justice into our world. Sustain food ministries, clothing banks, and emergency shelters. Give healing and strength to those who are ill, Mannie, Janet, and those we name aloud or silently. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustainer and giver of life, you bless this congregation with abundance. Instruct us in the proper and faithful use of wealth and resources, that we share generously. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of glory, you gather your saints around your throne. Keep us thankful for the witness of those who have gone before us, and bring us with them to the heavenly feast that has no end. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

7 The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

**8 enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.**

9 The Lord makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

The Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2: 1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God
and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

6 who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. 7 For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

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

The Gospel: Luke 16: 1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

1 Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. 2 So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' 3 Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' 5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' 7 Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' 8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

10 "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. 11 If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 13 No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

Children's Word

Sermon

Hymn: *Let Justice Flow Like Streams* #717

P: 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