

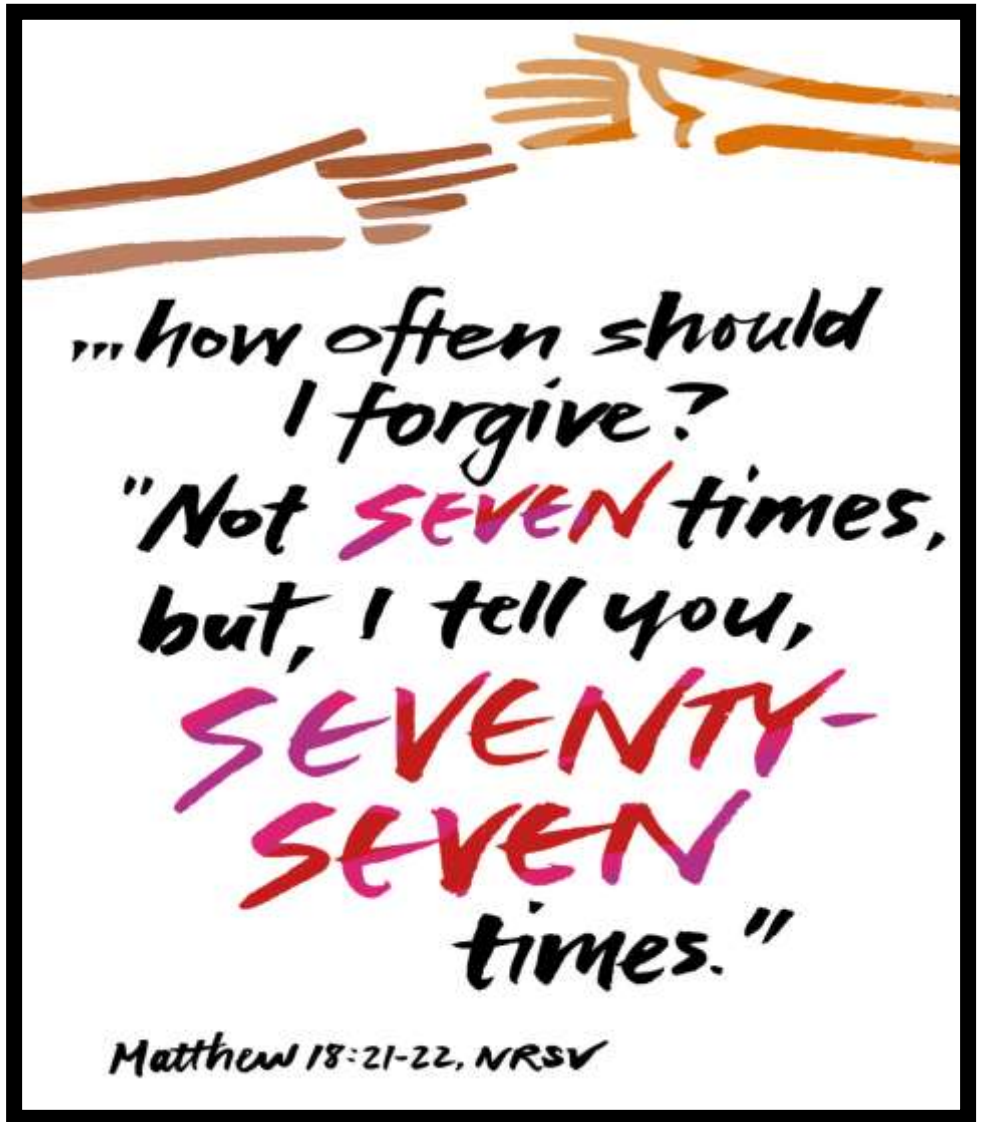
Stories & Songs with Brian Spahr
on Sept. 24th at 1 p.m. at Immanuel.
(501 8th Ave., Rock Falls, IL)

All are welcome! A free will offering
will be received to support Brian's ministry.



DON'T
YOU
CARE
THAT
WE
ARE
DROWNING?
(AND OTHER UNEXPECTED PRAYERS)

BRIAN SPAHR



...how often should
I forgive?
"Not **SEVEN** times,
but, I tell you,
**SEVENTY-
SEVEN**
times."

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV

Sunday, September 17, 2023
9:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Children's Offering

Throughout September we will be receiving a special Children's Offering to support "Celebrating Families" being led by LSSI! Celebrating Families is a successful, evidence-based 16-week curriculum that addresses the needs of children and parents in families that have serious problems with alcohol and other drugs. Each session begins with a family meal, followed by family members breaking into age groups for developmentally appropriate activities led by the group facilitators. At the end of each session, all family members re-connect in activities to learn how to apply these new skills and interact in healthy ways. Celebrating Families empowers by teaching healthy living skills like anger management, communication, healthy living and nutrition, and problem/goal setting. **Your donations will help make this life changing program possible! Thanks in advance for your generous giving!**

1701 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081

815-625-3069

Pastor Makayla Dahleen

Pastor Email: pastormakayla@stpaulsterling.com

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www.stpaulsterling.com

Prelude

"Bless the Lord (10,000 Reasons)"

Carol Tornquist

When the prelude music begins, we invite you into a time of silent reflection to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Welcome/Announcements

GATHERING

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

P: 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.

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

All: Amen.

“Kyrie”


Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
hun-gry and the poor; that
friends and fam-i-ly; for
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray,

All: Loving Lord, your forgiveness flows like a fountain. Open us up to pour out forgiveness upon others and ourselves, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Background of the Joseph Story.

Jacob had 13 children. He favored Joseph and gave him a coat of many colors. Joseph could also interpret dreams. His brothers were jealous of him and sold him into slavery. He ended up in Egypt. After much trial and tribulation his ability to interpret dreams put him in good graces with Pharaoh and he became Pharaoh's right hand man in handling a famine. Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy grain. Joseph came up with a scheme to frame his brothers in retaliation for what they did to him, but he changes his mind and begins the road to forgiveness. Now Jacob is dead and the brothers want to make sure they really are on a forgiveness journey with Joseph.

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation



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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-22

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”

²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

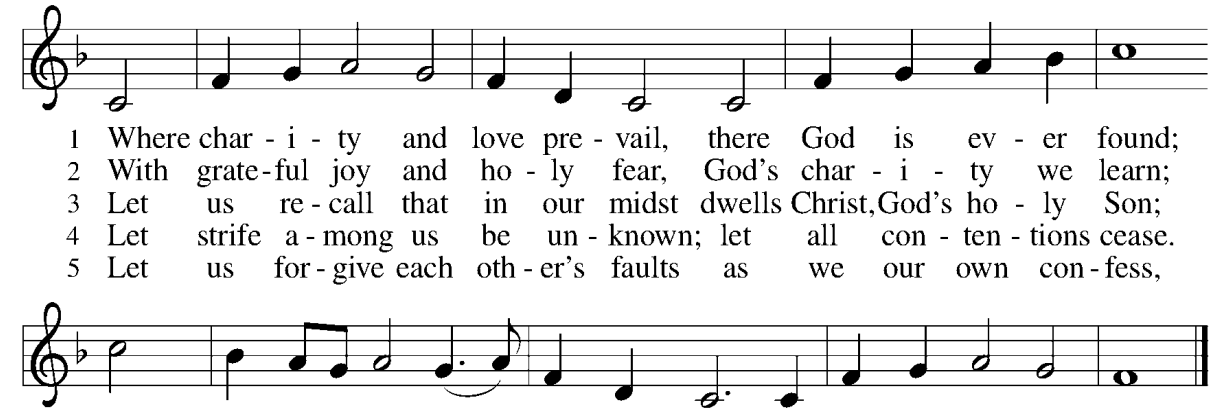
Children’s Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

ELW #349



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God’s char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God’s ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er’s faults as we our own con - fess,

brought here to - geth - er by Christ’s love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God’s the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842
Text © 1960 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Quilt Blessing

Leaders: God of grace

All: we dedicate to you the gift of these Quilts. May your Spirit go with these gifts to communities where poverty and disaster persist.

Leader: God of mercy

All: we praise you for the hands that crafted these Quilts. Through the abilities you have given this community we offer these gifts to bring comfort and hope in lives marked by need and uncertainty.

Leader: God of abundance

All: we give you thanks for all that you have given us to care for as stewards of your creation. In each stitch of these Quilts we see your promise. May your ever present love console hearts that hunger for comfort.

Leader: We send around the world with Godspeed these gifts of grace, mercy and abundance in the name of the Creator, † Redeemer, and Holy Spirit.

All: AMEN!

* "adapted from LWR Mission Quilt Resources"

Prayers of Intercession

P: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Each petition ends with these words:

P: Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you!

P: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

MEAL

Offering

"Variations on 'I've Got the Joy'"

Susan Greene

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray,

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

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

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one, by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**All: 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.**

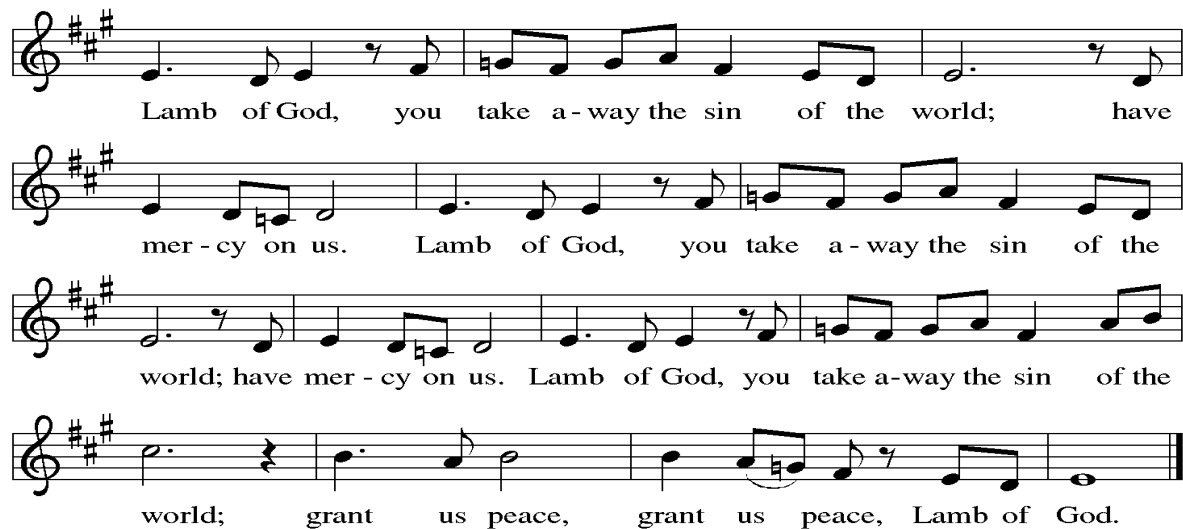
Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the banquet for all is now ready.

Communion


Communion Music

"Lamb of God"



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, Lamb of God.

"If We Live, We Live to the Lord"



If we live, we live to the Lord. If we
die, we die to the Lord. So then, wheth-er we live or
wheth-er we die, we are the Lord's.

Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, based on Romans 14:8, Psalm 103
Music: IF WE LIVE, Rolf Vegdahl
Music © 2009, 2016 Augsburg Fortress

Prayer after Communion

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

All: Amen.

P: Let us pray

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

All: Amen

Sending Song

“See My Hands and Feet”



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it
3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth's
4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and
peo - ple, first and last. Know with - in each act of
wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.
kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.
tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

Refrain



“See my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. “Be my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, “live as



ones I died to save.”

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CIVILITY, Gregg DeMey, b. 1972

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Music © 2008 Re:Create Music, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Don Hustad

Sunday School Rally day with stations and activities for kids of all ages and cook out following worship this morning.

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Linda Newlyn, MacKenzie Gorman, Kathy Whitlock, Cheryl Gorman, Shirley Graftaas, Julia Scott, Marilyn Verbout, Bob Cornelsen, Larry Wahler, JoDell Cruz, Harold & Sandy Julifs, Jim Brotheridge, Lila Edeus, Lori Dewey, and Berta Beyer.

Placing our confidence in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of our loved ones, we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Francis Verbout. Francis passed away on Tuesday, September 12. A private family service will be held at a later date.

May God's presence bring you comfort and peace.

Worship Assistants:

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Jim Gorman

Acolytes – Bartel family

Greeters – Bartel family

Ushers – Dan Dir, John Renner

Reader – Greg Zeigler

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Musicians:

Julie Woessner

Dawn Zeigler

Next week – September 24

Opener/Head Usher – Stacey Avelar

Acolytes – Avelar family

Greeters – Janie Billings, Karen Wright

Ushers – Keith Peugh, Jim Gorman

Reader – Keith Peugh

Sound – Jim Gorman

Closer – Jen Pillars

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*

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