



“Whoever
welcomes
one of these
little children
in my name
welcomes me...”

Mark 9:37

**Sunday, September 22, 2024
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

The September Children's offering will go to World Hunger.

Prelude

"How Beautiful"

Twila Paris

Welcome/Announcements

GATHER

Confession and Forgiveness

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

All: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

All: 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.

P: 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.

All: Amen.

1701 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081

815-625-3069

Church email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

www.stpaulsterling.com

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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mer - cy.

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

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 mer - cy.

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

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - men, a - men.

Hymn of Praise

“Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children”

with Sunday school children

Verse 1

Praise Him praise Him
All ye little children
God is love God is love
Praise Him praise Him
All ye little children
God is love God is love

Verse 2

Love Him love Him
All ye little children
God is love God is love
Love Him love Him
All ye little children
God is love God is love

Verse 3

Thank Him thank Him
All ye little children
God is love God is love
Thank Him thank Him
All ye little children
God is love God is love

Verse 4

Serve Him serve Him
All ye little children
God is love God is love
Serve Him serve Him
All ye little children
God is love God is love

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

All: O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 9th chapter

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

ELW #781



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil-dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Quilt & Kit Blessing*

Leader: God, you call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Send forth your Spirit today as we call upon you to bless our work and make it holy. Help these quilts and kits, our offerings of hope, travel across the furthest distances to reach our most weary neighbors and surround them with your grace and peace.

All: Jesus, Open our hearts to love our neighbors.

L: God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the items collected for the kits. May their presence be a sign of your faithful promise, may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing.

All: Jesus, Open our hearts to love our neighbors.

L: God, we give thanks for all those who have taken part in creating these quilts and kits. May you guide us to greater empathy for our neighbors in

crisis, for the mothers that struggle to feed their hungry children, for the fearful, the anxious, the isolated. May these quilts and kits provide comfort and relief to those who are downtrodden around the world.

All: Jesus, Open our hearts to love our neighbors.

L: God, be with those who will receive these gifts — neighbors we have never met, neighbors who are far away, neighbors who, like us, long for your grace and mercy. May the work crafted from our humble hands serve as a beacon of light and hope to those who are desolate and hopeless and fill them with the peace that is only found in you.

All: Jesus, Open our hearts to love our neighbors.

L: We thank you for this ministry of service, for the opportunity to comfort those in their darkest hours, to remind our neighbors in Christ of your loving presence. Bring us ever closer to your heart and our neighbors in need throughout the world. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the one who is our hope.

All: AMEN.

L: Emboldened by God's eternal and unconditional love for all people, let us go and do likewise, and share our blessings with neighbors near and far, in the name of the Father, the Son +, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

* from LWR Mission Quilt Resources

Prayers of Intercession

P: 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.

Each petition ends with these words:

P: Hear us, O God,

All: your mercy is great.

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

"Make Me a Servant"

Willard

"Here I Am"

Bowater

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.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

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.

“Sweet Hour of Prayer” Walford/Bradbury

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

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.

All: Amen

Blessing

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

All: Amen.

Sending Song

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

ELW #765

1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,
whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:
be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Sonantina”

Clementi

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Bev Julien, Phyllis Jacobson, Lee Eilers, JoAnn Garcia, Barb Lenn, Lori Dewey, Shirley Graftaas, Betty Steinke, Michael Harting, Larry Wahler, JoDell Cruz, Sandy Julifs, Lila Edeus, 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 Lee Sandrock. Lee passed away on September 8. Lee is Valerie Petty's father.

May God's presence bring you comfort and peace.

Worship Assistants:

Presider: Pastor Mark Luepke

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters – Bev Graunke. *Volunteer Needed*

Ushers – Donna Kendall, Keith Peugh

Reader – Keith Peugh

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Musicians:

Maureen Marrantino

Julie Woessner

Next week – September 29

Presider: Pastor Frank Lay

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – David Carrillo

Acolytes – *Volunteer Needed*

Greeters – Audrey Cox, Cathy Cox

Ushers – Mel Johnson, Nancy Beck

Reader – Vicki Sauter

Sound – Braydn Arians

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer needed*