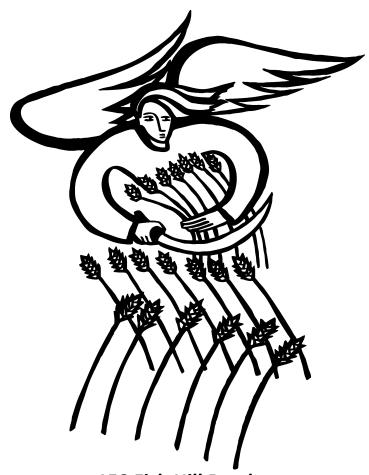
## St. Paul Lutheran Church "Let's Make a Difference Together"



158 Fish Hill Road PO Box 196

Tannersville, Pennsylvania 18372

Telephone: (570) 629-1992

Fax: (570) 629-2038

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org

Parish Administrator's Email: parishadmin@stpaultannersvillepa.org

Worship Services: Sunday at 9:00 A.M.

Holy Communion:  $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$  &  $\mathbf{3}^{\text{rd}}$  Sundays of each month & Festivals

Christian Education: Sunday's at 10:15 A.M. Air Conditioned & Handicapped Accessible

#### Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Grounded in faith and growing in grace, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and deed in our local community and throughout the world.



Are you visiting St. Paul? Are you interested in membership or just looking to see if St. Paul is a good fit for you and/or your family?? Please call (570-629-1992) or stop by our office during regular business hours (Mon – Thurs 9:00am – 1:00pm) and speak to our Parish Administrator, Leanna Wickline, who will be happy to guide you through

the membership process and help you find information on all of the great programs at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

**SILENT MEDITATION...** Please note – the silent meditation is a part of the morning worship service. This is a time for individual reflection; a time for communicating with God, as well as a time of preparation for the service of worship. We encourage you to use it in a meaningful way.

Please respect the prayerful atmosphere of this holy place. We ask that you turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

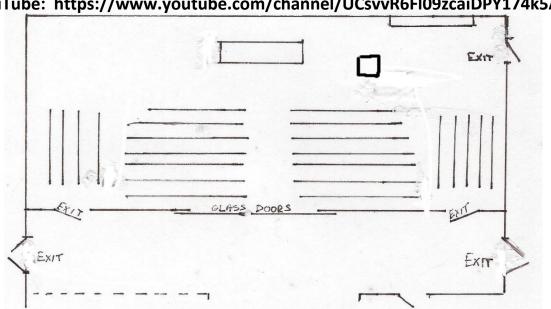
Pastor: Reverend Rashion "Woody" Santiago Parish Administrator: Mrs. Leanna D. Wickline Choir Director/Organist: Mr. Robert Jones

#### **2023 Council Members**

Grant Allen, Dawn Bartron, Bill Below, Chris Kinsley Sr., Nicole Kresge, Carl Reindl, Deb Storman, Beth Werkheiser, Leanna Wickline

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org

Facebook: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/stpaultannersvillepa">www.facebook.com/stpaultannersvillepa</a>
YouTube: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsvvR6Fl09zcaiDPY174k5A">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsvvR6Fl09zcaiDPY174k5A</a>



# Worship Service Eighth Sunday After Pentecost Sunday, July 23, 2023

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

\*Please stand, if able.

Words in bold print denote congregational response.

#### **Chimes**

#### **Announcements**

#### **Prelude**

#### \*Confession

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Aman**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Silence is kept for reflection.

To you, O God,

all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

#### \*Absolution

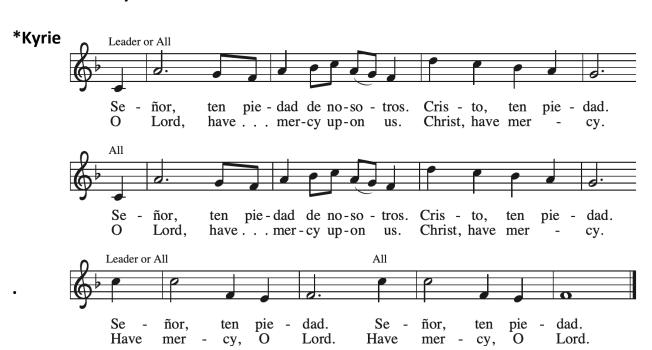
Amen.

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives us a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of  $\oplus$  Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

#### \*Greeting

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.



#### \*Hymn of Praise





#### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always

**And also with you.** (*Please share a sign of peace with one another from your seat.*)

#### \*Prayer of the Day (Lector)

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### Amen.

#### First Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19

God's deeds of forgiveness and gift of hope indicate that God's faithful people must also show kindness. No other god cares for all people.

<sup>13</sup>For neither is there any god besides you, whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly; <sup>16</sup>For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. <sup>17</sup>For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. <sup>18</sup>Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose. <sup>19</sup>Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 86:11-17

- <sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, Lord, and I will live by your truth. Give me an undivided mind to fear your name.
- <sup>12</sup> I will praise you with all my heart, Lord my God, and will honor your name forever.
- <sup>13</sup> For your faithful love for me is great, and you rescue my life from the depths of Sheol.
- <sup>14</sup> God, arrogant people have attacked me; a gang of ruthless men intends to kill me. They do not let you guide them.

<sup>15</sup> But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth.

## <sup>16</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me. Give your strength to your servant; save the son of your female servant.

<sup>17</sup> Show me a sign of your goodness; my enemies will see and be put to shame because you, Lord, have helped and comforted me.

#### **Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25**

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers and sisters, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, <sup>13</sup> because if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live <sup>14</sup> For all those led by God's Spirit are God's sons. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "'Abba', Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, <sup>17</sup> and if children, also heirs — heirs of God and coheirs with Christ — if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

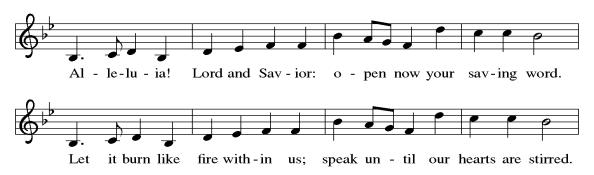
<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility — not willingly, but because of him who subjected it — in the hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage to decay into the glorious freedom of God's children. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. <sup>23</sup> Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits — we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> Now in this hope we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> Now if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience.

The word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel. (Lector)

#### \*Gospel Acclamation





#### \*Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>24</sup> He presented another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while people were sleeping, his enemy came, sowed weeds among the wheat, and left. 26 When the plants sprouted and produced grain, then the weeds also appeared. <sup>27</sup> The landowner's servants came to him and said, 'Master, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Then where did the weeds come from?'

<sup>28</sup> " 'An enemy did this,' he told them.

"'So, do you want us to go and pull them up?' the servants asked him.

<sup>29</sup> "'No,' he said. 'When you pull up the weeds, you might also uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest. At harvest time I'll tell the reapers: Gather the weeds first and tie them in bundles to burn them, but collect the wheat in my barn.'"

<sup>36</sup> Then he left the crowds and went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

<sup>37</sup> He replied, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup> the field is the world; and the good seed — these are the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. <sup>40</sup> Therefore, just as the weeds are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will gather from his kingdom all who cause sin and those guilty of lawlessness. <sup>42</sup> They will throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom. Let anyone who has ears listen.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

\*Hymn of the Day

"Come, Ye Thankful People Come"

**ELW# 693** 

I believe in God, 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

<sup>\*</sup>The Apostles Creed

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 the People (Lector)

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction. Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed, so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

At this time, you are welcome to share your joys and concerns, either out loud or silently. *Pause.* Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

#### Amen.

#### **Offering Prayer**

God of field and forest, sea and sky,

you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### \*The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

#### \*Blessing

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed 

→ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

"My Life Flows on in Endless Song"

**ELW # 763** 



#### \*Charge to the People

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

#### **Postlude**

#### "The worship ends. . .the service begins."

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### Prayers have been requested for the following brothers and sisters in Christ who have concerns needing God's help...

Sr. Msgt. William F. Allen; Specialist William "Blake" Allen; Sr. Master Sargent William F. Allen; Tom Altemose; Mark Anthony; Evelyn Arroyo; Daniel Bartron; Dillon Berenti; Major Matthew Blessing; Captain Katy Blessings; David Brong; Judi Carman; Elaine Cornelus; the family of Chris Finnerty at his passing; Jamie Fisher; Todd & Anna Geil; LilliAnna Daniels; Renee Depuy; Doris Drury; John Drury; Louis Genset; the family of Chris Haley Jr.; Charlie Hemple; T. J. Imhof; Carol Jones; lan Juica; Robbie Kinsley; Nikolaos Kotretsos; Eleanor Kreuger; Esther Laurito; David Leith; James Meckes; Steven Moore; Ada Morales; Nelson Morales; Donna Myers; Dr. Kenny Pearson; Annabelle Peechatka; Anna Rivera; Jean Ross; Gina Santiago; Rafael Santiago; Claudette Segear; Frank Schambra; Shirley Singer; Samuel Smith, Jr.; Greg Theadford; Jim Tomedi; Brenda Van Why; Scott Wickline; Jacob Wilson; John Woodling; for the people of Ukraine; for all who are traveling; for all of those struggling with addictions; the members of the Armed Forces of the United States; for the families and victims of the mass shootings, for all those around the world and here at home suffering from the coronavirus pandemic.

Have your prayers been answered? Or do you still need God's help? Please let us know. Thank you to everyone who prays with us for those in need.



Thank you to all who have helped to support St. Paul's Strunk Food Pantry! Your commitment to help is a true blessing to those who are struggling to feed their families. The pantry is always in need of basic food supplies, and we need your continued support to keep this program going strong. Items of particular need are peanut butter, cereal, pasta/spaghetti, pasta sauce, mac & cheese, soup, canned veggies (potatoes, peas, green beans, corn, carrots, kidney beans), canned fruit,

and tuna.

#### **Grocery Tapes**

If you shop at Kinsley's Shoprite or Weis markets we get a percentage of your purchase. Just bring your receipts in and put them in the box on the table in the Narthex. In order for us to receive credit, the receipts must include the date and store number. Please don't tear off the bottom of the receipts.

#### **August Sermon Series**

Pastor is doing a sermon series during the month of August titled "Gotta Have Faith".

August 6<sup>th</sup> "Faith for the Ages"

August 13th "Living in Hope"

August 20th "Faith for the Whole Body"

#### **Youth Video Game Night**

The next Youth Video Game Night is Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00pm. All interested youth may attend, and are welcome to bring their Nintendo Switch with them.

#### St Paul Tee-shirts

St Paul Tee-shirts are available to purchase, in sizes from medium to 3XL. The price is \$10.00. Personalized with St Paul Lutheran Church, Tannersville on the back the colorful front says "Faith, Hope & Love 1 Corinthians 13".

#### **Inside Out Church**

Inside Out Church is held at 6:30pm on Wednesday, in Spies Hall. We join together with a meal and a deep dive into the scriptures. This is an opportunity to grow your faith and increase your knowledge and understanding of God's Word and the Bible.

#### **Help Wanted**

With Leanna leaving the end of August, we are looking for a new Parish Administrator. In the meantime, we are looking for people to help with some of the tasks. Please see Bill Below and/or Leanna Wickline for more information. Do you know anyone looking for part-time work with computer skills and a passion for ministry support?

		Worship	Assistant	Schedule		
	Acolyte	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assistants	Counters	Altar Guild
	Barbara					Beth
7/16/2023	Allen	Linda Below	Tim Grover	Dawn Bartron	Barbara Allen	Werkheiser
				Leanna		Leanna
		Deb Storman		Wickline	Deb Storman	Wickline
	Linda	Beth			Beth	
7/23/2023	Below	Werkheiser	Joan Rinker		Werkheiser	
		Linda Below			Donna Warner	
			Jim			
7/30/2023	Eli Kresge	Donna Warner	Werkheiser		Barbara Allen	
		Charlie Hempel			Deb Storman	

If you are unable to serve at your scheduled time, please contact the office.

#### **Next Week's Readings:**

1 Kings 3:5-12 Solomon's prayer for wisdom

Psalm 119:129-136 When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding.

Romans 8:26-39 Nothing can separate us from God's love

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 Parables of the reign of heaven