

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

June 29nd, 2025



WELCOME

To our **Church Family**

We're Glad You're Here.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag. For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

You are welcome at the table!

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward. Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

Altar Flowers

The **Altar Flowers** were given this week by Leslie & Dick Longworth in honor of Lillian's 13th birthday.

The **Throne Flowers** were given Kathryn Myers in memory of Jim Myers.

Introduction

This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 65:1-9

The prophet sent to a rebellious people.

Psalm 22:19-28

In the midst of the assembly I will praise you. (Ps. 22:22)

Galatians 3:23-29

In baptism, clothed with Christ; no longer Jew or Greek.

Luke 8:26-39

Jesus casts out demons possessing a man of the Gerasenes.

In our prayers today we will remember

Darlene Lewis, Cindy Nash, Michael Jordan, Jack Norton, Paul Daily, Rick Thesis, Stephanie Brooks, Jerry Sturtz, Judy Hall, Richard Green, Tina Cotopolis, Izabella Edwards, Randy Balder, Jessica Cascera, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, and Jessie Shaffer.

4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Prayer of the Day

Let us Pray

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.”

¹⁹ So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. ²⁰ He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” Then Elijah said to him, “Go back again; for what have I done to you?” ²¹ He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You

shall love your neighbor as yourself.”¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

***Gospel Lesson Matthew 15:21-28**

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 9:51-62

The Gospel according to Luke, the 9th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord

⁵¹ When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³ but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” ⁵⁹ To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” ⁶² Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

The Gospel of our Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Mark Kreemer

Hymn

“I Love to Tell the Story”

ELW 661

1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

Refrain

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story:

how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word. Refrain

3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. Refrain

Prayer

Let us give thanks to God:
For the gift of music, for harmonies which magnify your name,
and for songs that glorify you.

We lift our songs of praise to you, Lord God.

For musicians, who through voice and instrument lift high our
praise and proclaim your word with beauty and power.

We lift our songs of praise to you, Lord God.

For joining our voices with the saints and angels of all times and
places, for the delight of worshiping you, and for the gifts of
grace which you freely bestow upon us.

We lift our songs of praise to you, Lord God.

For those who advocate for the “least of these,” for caregivers
who provide compassion, and for all those who struggle with
brokenness, loss, or ill health. Silently or aloud, we now name
those for whom we ask a special measure of your grace . . . Take
heed, Lord God, of our bidding and grant what we need.

We lift our songs of praise to you, Lord God.

You are the Lord of all, the giver of life and salvation, and the hope of all who trust in you. We praise and honor you, in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

Be Still My Soul Jean Sibelius (1865-1957), arr. Cindy Berry

Stand as the offering is brought forward

***“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” ELW 742**

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?

Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

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.

Invitation to Communion

The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.

Communion Hymn "Blessed Assurance" ELW 638

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
 Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
 born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. Refrain

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. Refrain

Additional Communion Music

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

William Moore (1790-1850),
Arr. Cindy Berry

Benediction

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Sending Hymn “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”
What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

ELW 774

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Leaning, leaning, (Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,)
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, (leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,)
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Fireworks on July 3rd

We are gathering at dusk on the west side of the sanctuary to watch the fireworks on the 3rd. Snacks and water will be provided. Bring chairs or a blanket and join us!

Assisted Hearing Devices Available

Four assisted listening devices are available at the sound system table in the back of the sanctuary at the beginning of worship. Please see Jim Johnson or John Stanko if you need assistance with these devices.



You can also use your smartphone to access the system. Go to your app store and download the **WaveCAST** app. Then connect to the sanctuary Wi-Fi: **Network:** sound media **Password:** Sound127

Capital Campaign Report

Remaining Phase One Projects	\$396,278
Funds raised	\$397,148
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Remaining funds to be raised	\$ 0,000

Adult Sunday School Class

Summer Break

Beginning June 8, the adult Sunday School class and the Thursday Morning Bible Study will take some time away from meeting and will reconvene with another series of lessons on September 8. God's blessings to you for a delightful summer.

Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the “My Church” by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.

Then click on the St Paul's logo—that's it.



Community Social Media Pages

Facebook & Instagram, Search “*Massillon Lutheran Churches*”

Facebook

*“St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon”
or “Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's”*

School Supplies Needed:

Elementary K-3

Crayola Crayons, 24pack
Crayola Markers
Elmer's Glue Bottle & Glue Sticks
Pencils #2
Large Pink Erasers
Fiskar Scissors – Rounded Tip

Folders with 2 pockets and prongs
Spiral Notebook (wide ruled)
Composition Notebooks (wide ruled)
Ruler
Colored Pencils
Pencil Sharpener

Intermediate 4-6

#2 yellow, wooden pencils
Scissors
Crayons, 24 pack
Eraser (Pink)
Elmer's Glue & Glue Sticks

Colored Pencils
Plastic folders with pockets and prongs
Composition Notebooks
Notebook Paper
Spiral Notebook

Jr. High 7-8

2 pencils
Pens
Highlighters
Colored Pencils
Elmer glue stick

Scissors
Composition Notebooks
Ruler
Plastic folders with pockets and prongs
Notebook Paper

High School 9-12

#2 pencils
Box of Markers
Notebook Paper (College Ruled)
2-Pocket Folders

Single Subject Spiral Notebooks
Box of Colored Pencils
Composition Notebooks
Ruler

Please return items to the church by July 27th.

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Accompanist	Carol Butler
Assisting Minister	Scott Larson
Lector	Marcia Wright
Greeter	Sue Ambrosic
Communion Assistants	Tracie Schmolt & Greg Klein
Sacristan	Sue Ambrosic
Ushers	Eric & Carla Myers, Shane Jackson, Mark Waltz
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

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Asking Everything

What does it mean to be a disciple? Today's texts answer this question in various ways.

Elisha was given the burdensome mantle of Elijah. Up until this point he'd simply been a student of the great prophet. Then, without much warning, Elijah passed the leadership responsibility onto him and transitioned dramatically from this life into the next. Because it was an immense responsibility, Elisha asked his master for a double portion of his spirit and was given it. God generously provided for Elisha so that he could faithfully continue Elijah's work.

Paul spells out the mission before us. Last week, he pointed out the power we've been given through our baptism. Now he explains that with the Spirit of God within, our lives should be different. He contrasts the work of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. We are called to use our freedom in Christ for good, so that God can transform our lives and empower us for ministry.

In the gospel, Jesus faces more resistance from those he's called. People conjure up all sorts of excuses why they can't start right away, but Jesus will have none of it. He's calling and he wants a straight answer now. You're in or you're out. He makes it clear that answering his call and living the life of discipleship requires no less than *everything*.

These passages are difficult. They show how much God is demanding of those who wish to follow. Those called are asked to give everything. No wonder there is resistance. Yet, they also remind us that the Spirit will support our work and, in turn, give us everything to enable us to answer the call.