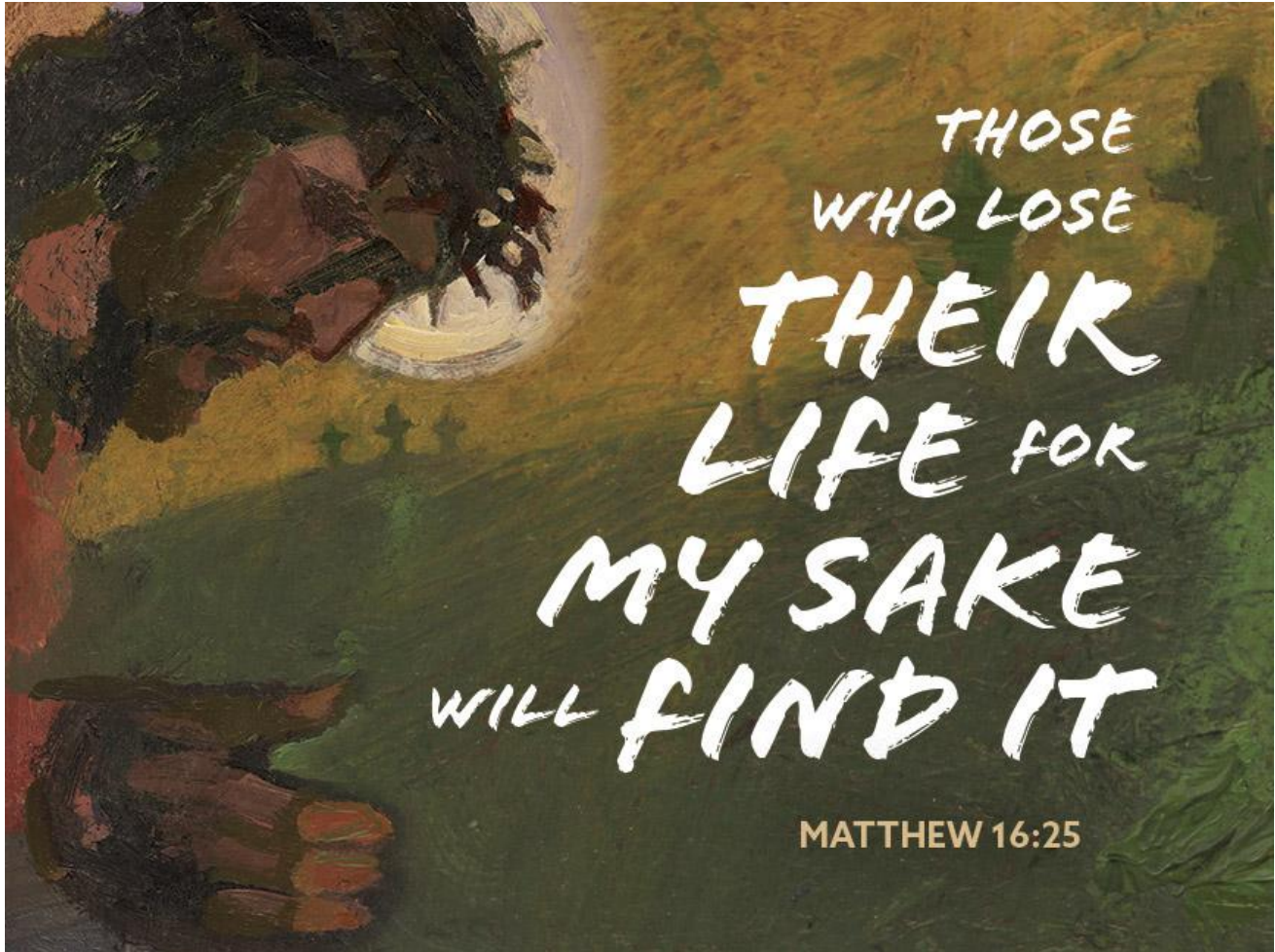


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

August 30th, 2026



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 new 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 today by David Stoner in memory of Cheryl (Maw) Shaw and Paula Kritzer.

Introduction

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Readings and Psalm

Jeremiah 15:15-21

God fortifies the prophet against opposition

Psalms 26:1-8

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

Romans 12:9-21

Live in harmony

Matthew 16:21-28

The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter

The Westminster Strike

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

The Wanderer
Richard Evert

Herman Beeftink

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

GATHERING HYMN Son of God, Eternal Savior

ELW 655

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.

KYRIE



For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of
the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us
strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

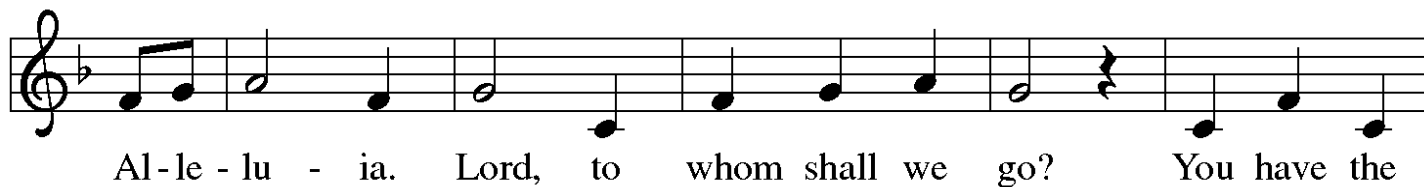
⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE



GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need,
and all of God's creation.

After each petition the following response is given:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in
the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offertory Anthem

Twilight
Mr. Evert, clarinet

Beefink

OFFERTORY

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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,And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

Heaven has come near.
 Come, share in the feast!

COMMUNION SONG

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.

Communion:

Pagina d'album
Mr. Evert clarinet

Michele Mangani

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN:

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

ELW 656

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude Ferland's March- William P. Rowan (b. 1951)

In our prayers today we will remember

Maggie Paul, Amy Williams, Riley Hostatler, John, Lorili, Ema, Mason, Jan Hawley, Lynn Williamson, Cindy Lash, Bob & Marlene Rupp, Gary Maurer, Richard Green, Abbie Deuble, Linda Wentling, Eric & Rick Theiss, Judy Hall, Anna Langenfeld, Karen Daily, Sandra Jelen, Jimmy Southard, Mark Gergley.

Music Notes:

Richard Evert, from Sturgis, MI, plays clarinet and the family of saxophones. He attended the University of Michigan for two years and traveled to Russia with the University Symphonic Band under the Presidents Cultural Exchange Program. Following this, he played in the United States Air Force Band in Washington D.C. Richard has received degrees in Music Education and Clarinet Performance from the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. He worked for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra for 15 years. As a teacher, Richard has taught preschoolers through college students. He has appeared as a soloist with concert bands, jazz bands, polka bands, chamber ensembles as well as in church settings. For the last six years, Richard has traveled the 50 states while RVing full time. He plays in the Canal Fulton Community Band and enjoys reading in his spare time.

Let us know you are here.

Please sign the St. Paul's Friendship Register at the end of your pew.



Adult Sunday School – Sept. 6th

The Prophet Jeremiah
...and the Lord said, "Now I have put my words in your mouth."
(Jeremiah 1:9)



Adult Sunday School

The Prophet Jeremiah
...and the Lord said, "Now I have put my words in your mouth." (Jeremiah 1:9)

Beginning September 6, the Adult Sunday School class will once again meet for fellowship and Bible study after the morning worship service. The focus

for September and the coming months will be a close look at Jeremiah, an Old Testament prophet whose story and that of those who heard his message have much to teach us. Ancient words? Yes. With relevance for us today? Absolutely. Whether you have regularly attended Sunday School or are thinking about making it a regular part of your Sunday morning at St. Paul's, know you will receive a blessing from the study of God's Word. That's a promise.

The group meets in Parish Hall, second floor, after morning worship from approximately 11:30 - 12:10. An elevator is available for easy access.

Adult Choir Rehearsals Sunday Mornings at 8:30 am All are welcome!

New for Fall 2026!

Our adult rehearsals are moving from Wednesday evenings to Sunday mornings.

Beginning September 13th, join us at 8:30 AM in the choir room to make a joyful noise.



Snip-N-Stitch is Back

You're invited to join Snip-N-Stitch each Wednesday from 9:00 -11:00am. We are always looking for volunteers to help us make quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Trace squares on material
- Cutout squares
- Sew squares together
- Making backs by sewing material together and sewing the hems after being pinned

(Sewing squares together and making backs can be done at home.)

We have 2 sewing machines available in our cupboards in the Dining Room as well as lots of material. We use the tack and tie method to sew the quilts together. You can be a part of this meaningful ministry. No experience is needed, just a willingness to help others.





Pepperoni Rolls

God's Kitchen Angels are back in action and are starting off the season with pepperoni rolls. Pepperoni rolls will be available to purchase on September 27th following worship. *There are no preorders*, so this is a first come, first serve opportunity.
Cost: 6 rolls for \$10

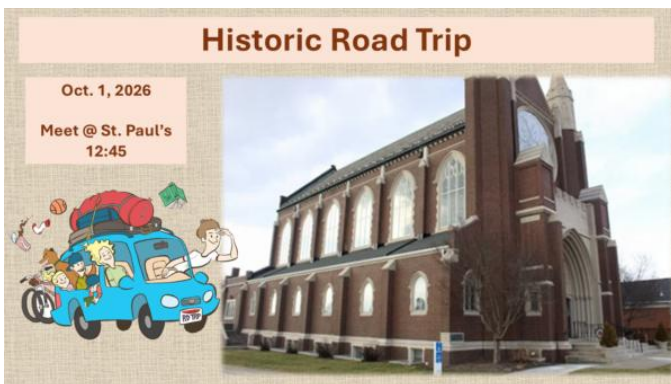
Alzheimer's Association

The Welfare and Social Action Committee will be hosting a speaker from the Alzheimer's Association. This event is open to everyone. Please encourage any friends that you think may benefit from this lecture.



When: September 21, 2026
Where: St. Paul's Parish Hall
Time: 1:00 PM
Topic: Supporting Independence

Historic Road Trip October 1st @ 12:45



Robert Toland Wright designed many of the beautiful windows at St Paul's. He also designed beautiful windows for Grace Lutheran Church in Wadsworth. Peg Gibbs has contacted them, and they have invited us to come tour their church and learn about the windows.

On October 1st at 12:45 pm, we will begin our tour at St. Paul's learning about the windows

Wright designed for our church and then carpool to Grace Lutheran in Wadsworth to learn the history of their windows.

On the way home we will stop at Dragonfly Winery in Canal Fulton for a drink of wine, beer or soft drinks. You can also order appetizers, flat breads or sandwiches. Let us know you are coming by calling or texting Sue Reid at 330-323-6688

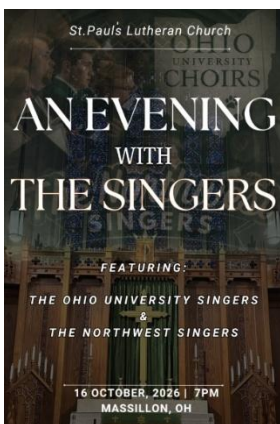
Note: Friendship Circle will be participating in this trip in lieu of their October meeting.

September 20th at 3:00 PM
The 9/11 Commemorative Community Choir
Kicks off our Cathedral Concert Series

The 9/11 Commemorative Community Choir is a volunteer regional choral group in Northeastern Ohio that performs annual "Lest We Forget" memorial concerts. Directed by John Hayward and Stephen Popa and accompanied by Jimmy Oakley, the choir honors the victims of the 2001 attacks and subsequent losses with sacred, classical, and patriotic music.



Join us on October 16th, 2026 at 7PM
An Evening with the Singers



The University Singers are the Ohio University School of Music's flagship mixed choral ensemble, made up of many of the university's most talented and dedicated singers.

The Northwest Singers are an advanced, auditioned mixed voice ensemble based out of Northwest High School in Canal Fulton, OH, located just minutes away from Massillon. Made up of 10th to 12th-grade students, this premiere choral group focuses on rigorous vocal training, curricular performances, and community mentorship.

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

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"*

An Evening in Amish Country for Dinner & Sail On- Beach Boys Tribute Concert at the Amish Country Theatre Wed., Oct. 21, 2026

Join us as we **meet at church at 4:00 pm** and carpool to Farmstead Restaurant in Berlin for an Amish buffet dinner with pie for dessert.

Following dinner, we will see the 7:00 pm Beach Boys Tribute Concert. This show has come highly recommended!

The cost for Dinner and the show is \$70 per person.

The deadline for reservations is October 1. Please call Sue Reid at 330-323-6688 for reservations. Payment can be delivered to the church office or given to Sue.

If you would like to enhance your evening with a wine tasting, you can meet at the church at 2:00 pm to carpool to Han's Place to sample Swiss Heritage wines and met up with our party at 5:00 pm at Farmstead Restaurant.

Feel free to invite a friend to enjoy this evening with us!!

A big thanks to Loren Veigel for planning this event!



My Church
by Pushpay



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.

Connect the Dots

Connect the dots in ABC order to complete the picture.



Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."
Matthew 16:24 (NIV)

Children's Activity Bulletins

Crayons and Children's Activity Bulletins are available at the side entrance. These are a fun way to spread today's Gospel to our younger ones.

Children's Activity Bulletin

August 30th, 2026

Take Up Your Cross

Matthew 16:21-28

Word Search Puzzle

X	M	V	Q	X	O	V	J	W	J	O	U	Z	E	X
Q	Z	P	E	P	F	Y	A	B	W	M	P	R	X	W
E	F	V	A	L	F	O	R	F	E	I	T	O	I	J
T	A	F	E	C	F	I	N	N	B	I	W	L	M	U
S	R	S	U	E	L	F	Q	M	Z	D	L	M	W	V
Q	I	P	E	C	X	G	S	I	V	D	S	T	R	P
P	R	V	Q	U	R	C	F	L	M	L	U	P	E	F
R	I	Y	F	Y	E	O	H	S	T	D	O	L	L	L
G	E	Q	N	O	Z	V	S	A	F	A	O	S	L	Z

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Assisting Minister	Karl Kalk
Lector	Larry & Kim Oberlin
Greeters	Brady & Morgan Rupp
Communion Assistants	Shane Jackson & David Stoner
Sacristan	Kathryn Myers
Ushers	Sue Ambrosic, Becky Johnson Patty Long, Sue Reid
Acolytes	Scott Larson, Thomas Haake
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

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GATHERING HYMN Son of God, Eternal Savior ELW 655
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HYMN OF THE DAY Will You Come and Follow Me ELW 798
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SENDING HYMN: Blest Be the Tie That Binds ELW 656
Public Domain

Son of God, Eternal Savior

ELW 655



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

ELW 798



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
pray'r in you and you in me?"
mean in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

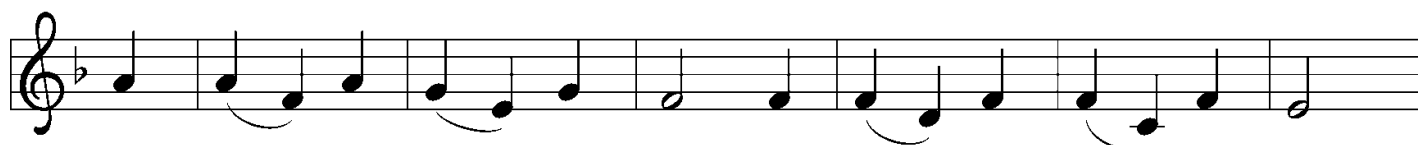
Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.