

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

September 6th, 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 Jennifer & Craig Maurer in memory of Donna Geist Maurer.

Introduction

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Readings and Psalm

Ezekiel 33:7-11

The prophet's responsibility to warn the people

Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (*Ps. 119:35*)

Romans 13:8-14

Live honorably as in the day

Matthew 18:15-20

Reconciliation in the community of faith

The Westminster Strike

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder- James M. Black/arr. David Winkler
Chris Hall, trumpet

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

Earth and All Stars

ELW 731

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.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



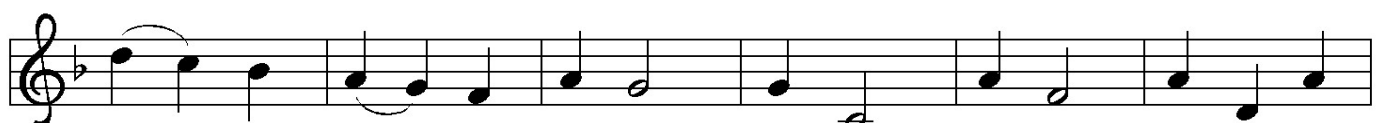
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE



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: Matthew 18:15-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY God, When Human Bonds Are Broken ELW 603

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

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

After each petition the following response is given:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

arr. James Curnow

Mr. Hall, trumpet

OFFERTORY



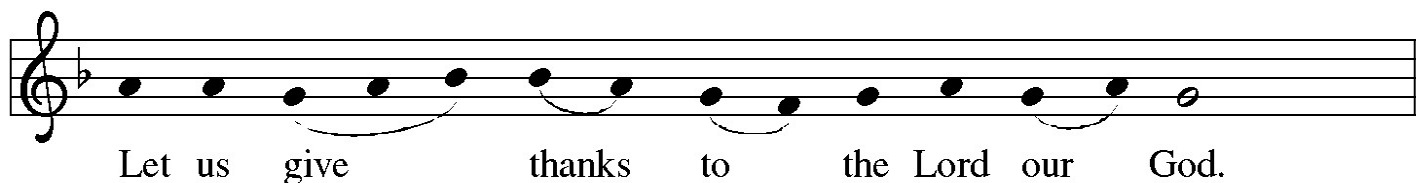
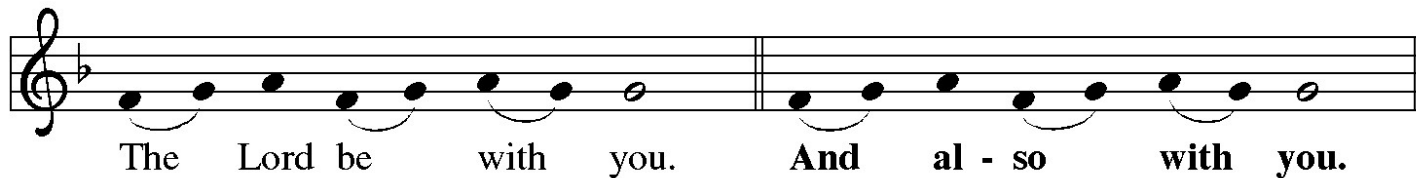
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us Pray

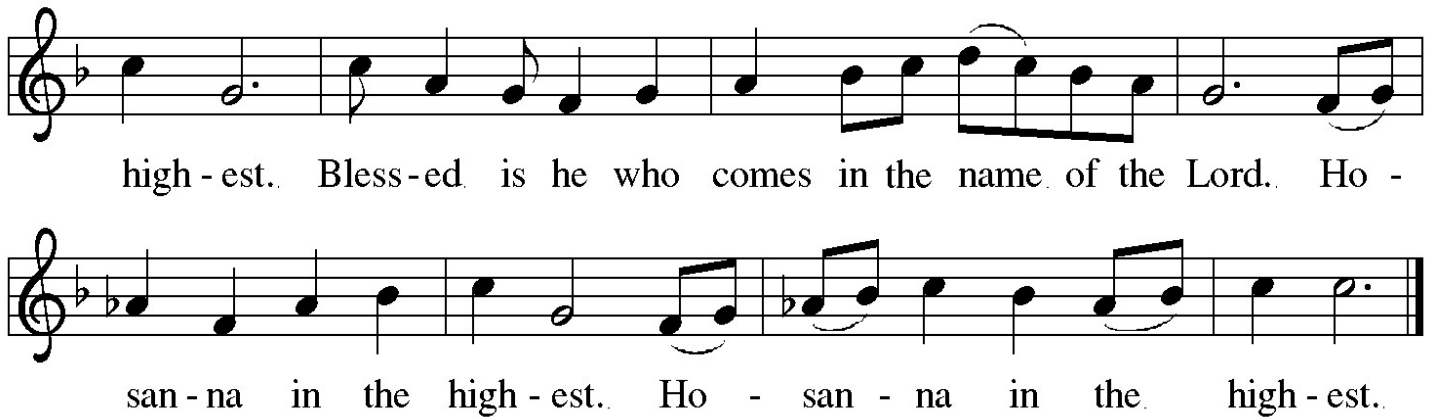
God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:





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

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

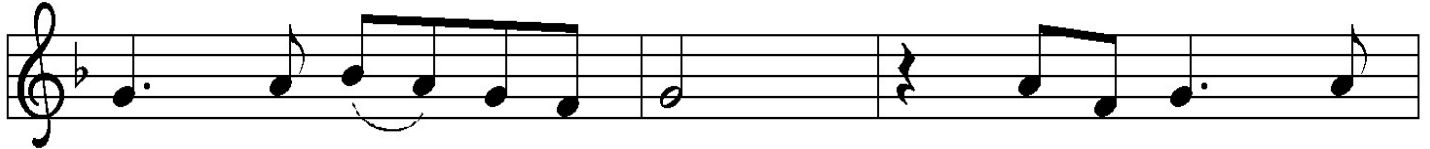
COMMUNION SONG



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.

Communion: So Fades the Lovely Blooming Flower- George Shearing

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Faith Begins By Letting Go

Bulletin pg.19

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude How Can I Keep From Singing- arr. Stephen DeCesare
Mr. Hall, trumpet

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, Jack
Norton.

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.



Handbell Choir



The Handbell choir will rehearse 9/23, 9/30, and 10/7 in preparation to ring on October 11 in worship. Also mark your calendars for rehearsals on 11/11, 11/18, and 12/2 in preparation to ring on December 6 in worship AND for the Candlelight Walk. We meet at 6 pm. All are welcome, but please, please let Abby know if you plan to ring so she can prepare music for you!

Steelband Rehearsal-Break for September

St. Paul's Steelband will be taking a break in September. Plans are to start back up in October with weekly classes. For now, lessons are by appointment and trial lessons are free!

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting has been called for **September 13, 2026** immediately following worship. A proposal for organ repair will be brought before the congregation for approval. Please plan to stay for this brief but important meeting.



Community Meal & Clothing Closet

Second Friday of every month.
Our Community Meal and Clothing Closet are open.

All are welcome!

Are you hungry and in need of a hot meal? **Come to our Community Meal!!!** It is **FREE** to all who are in need.

Our **Clothing Closet** is open during the Community Meal. We have gently used clothing for all ages and all needs: from dress clothes, to school, and work and it is **FREE!**

If you would like to volunteer, please call/email the church office.
330.832.7409 officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org

Education Building Informational Sessions

On **September 20th** and **October 4th**, question and answer sessions will be held **after church** to discuss the future of the Education Building.

There are 4 proposals as to the future of this building and important decisions need to be made. As some proposals involve heating and cooling issues, decisions must be made very soon.



The meetings will explain these proposals, discuss the costs of each, and give you an opportunity to ask questions and express your views. A written survey will also be distributed so that you can express your wishes. Please mark one of these dates on your calendar.

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.



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

Spring Hill Historic Home
and Underground Railroad
Site

Announcing the 21st Annual Underground Railroad Experience, coming **Sept. 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Learn about Massillon's African American and Underground Railroad history and celebrate African cultural heritage with song, dance, storytelling, art, and food.



Scan for Tickets

The Underground Railroad Experience at Spring Hill

by **Spring Hill Historic Home**
 72 followers • 74 events • 5y hosting • 1.3k total attendees [Follow](#)

Spring Hill Historic Home · Massillon, OH
 Saturday, September 19 • 10 AM - 4 PM

\$10 - \$15
 Sat, Sep 19 • 10 AM



Pepperoni Rolls

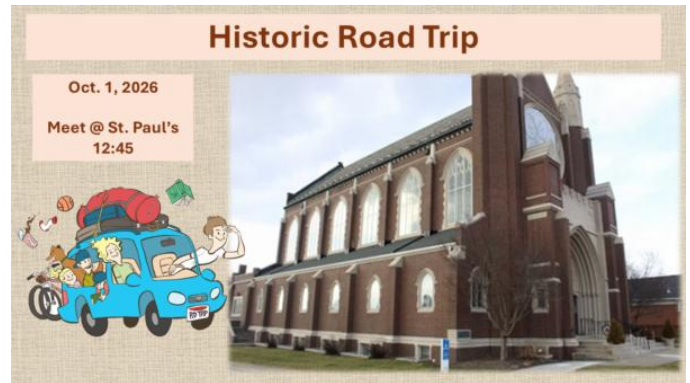
God's Kitchen Angels are back in action and are starting off the season with pepperoni rolls. Pepperoni rolls will be available to purchase on **September 27th** following worship.

There are no preorders, so this is a first come, first serve opportunity.

Cost: 6 rolls for \$10

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.

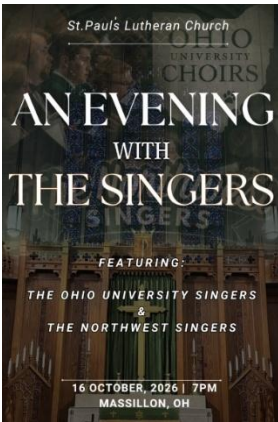
Assisted Hearing Devices Available

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

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.

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.

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"

Coloring Page



"If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him -- work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you've made a friend."
Matthew 18:15 (NIV)



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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

Sept. 6th, 2026

Building Bridges

Matthew 18:15-20

Word Search Puzzle

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



Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Assisting Minister	Veronica Kreemer
Lector	Eric Myers Family
Greeters	Sue Ambrosic
Communion Assistants	Sue Reid & Kathryn Myers
Sacristan	Kathryn Myers
Ushers	Mark Waltz, Russ Poling Phil Halco, & Tracie Schmolt
Acolytes	Scott Larson, Thomas Haake
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

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GATHERING HYMN Earth and All Stars ELW 731
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HYMN OF THE DAY God, When Human Bonds Are Broken ELW 603
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SENDING HYMN Faith Begins By Letting Go **Bulletin pg.20**
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Faith Begins By Letting Go

Bulletin pg. 20



- 1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
- 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live
- 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

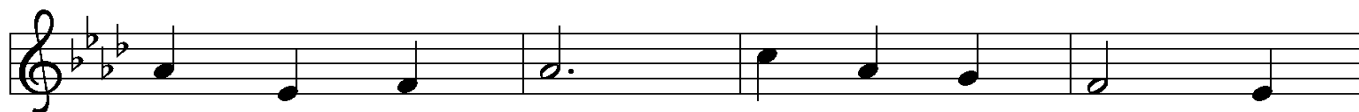
Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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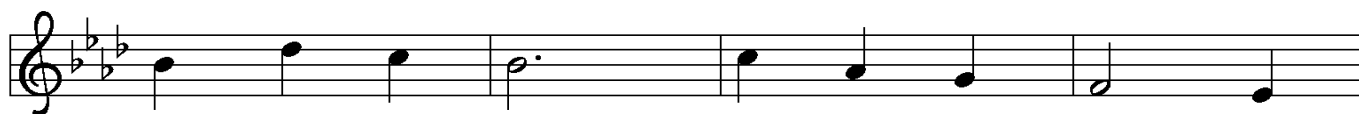
Earth and All Stars!



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!
 4 Class-rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!
 5 Knowl-edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



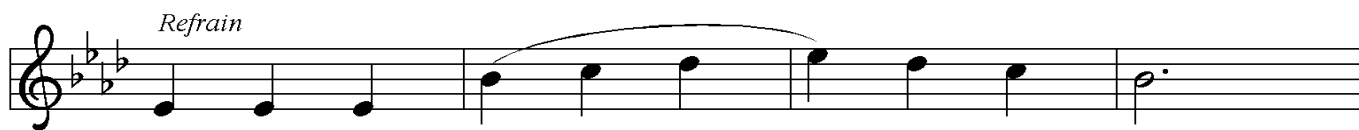
Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!
 Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



Refrain
 God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

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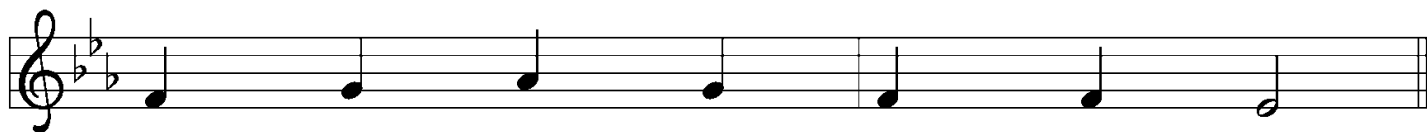
God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
 2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our
 3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we
 4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful
 5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
 world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing
 seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;
 in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:
 be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.
 all the fail - ures we con - fess.
 set us free and grant us peace.
 make us stron - ger, give us faith.
 God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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