

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 18th, 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 Chuck Richards in Memory of Mom's birthday, and Mom & Dad's Anniversary

The throne Flowers were given by Abby Haake In Honor of her husband, John's birthday

Introduction

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 45:1-7

An earthly ruler as the instrument of God's will

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

Ascribe to the LORD honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Thanksgiving for the church at Thessalonica

Matthew 22:15-22

A teaching on giving to the emperor and to God

The Westminster Strike

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Sonata

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

You Servants of God

ELW 825

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



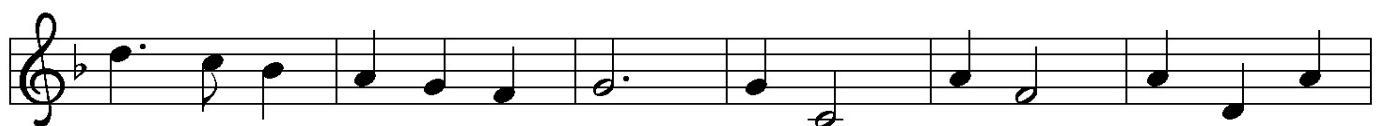
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



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.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]



As - crite to the LORD hon - or and power.

¹ Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;**
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
³ Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,**
more to be feared | than all gods. R
⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.
⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD. R
⁹ Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.
[¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!**
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge
the peo- | ples with equity."

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the ¹ earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that ¹ is
therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com-¹ing, O
LORD,
for you come to ¹judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peoples ¹ with your truth. **R**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of
love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers
and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the
gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and
with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among
you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of
persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you
became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word
of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in
every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak
about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and
how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for
his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from
the coming wrath.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE



GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY Commonwealth Is God’s Commandment **Bulletin Pg 20**

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

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

After each petition the following response is given:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

Sing a New Song

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

arr. Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)

Chancel Choir

Sing a new song, sing to God with a voice of triumph, Make his praises known to all the nations, Sing the honor of his name.

OFFERTORY



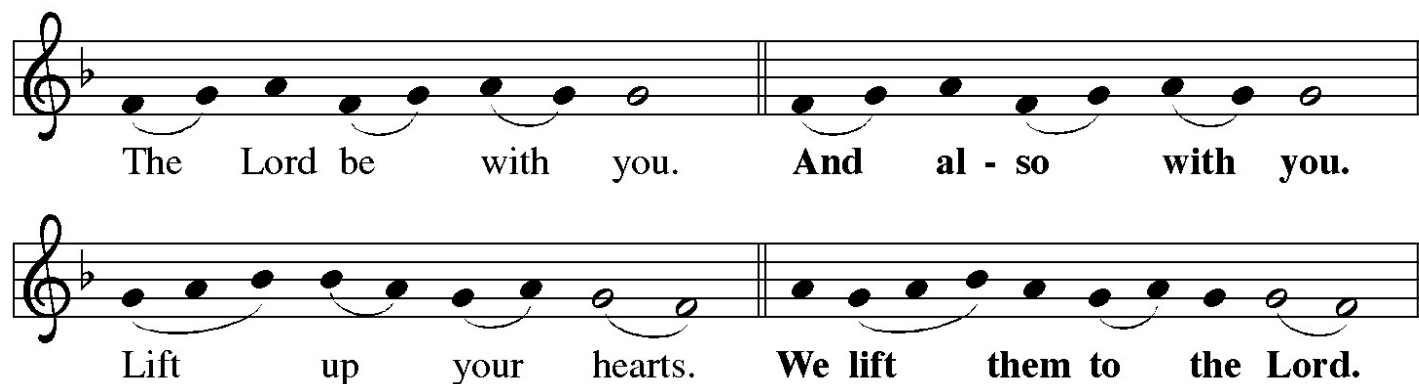
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

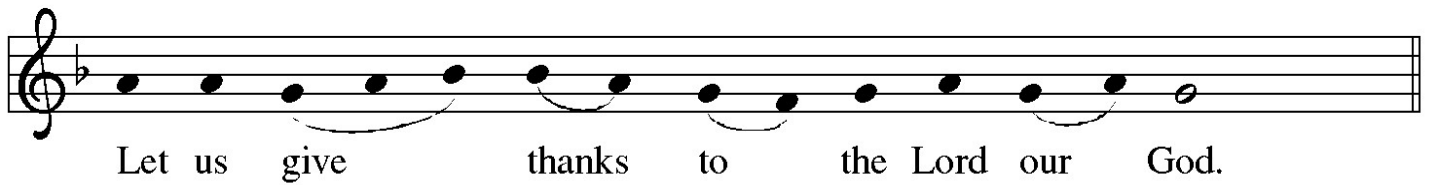
Let us Pray

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.**

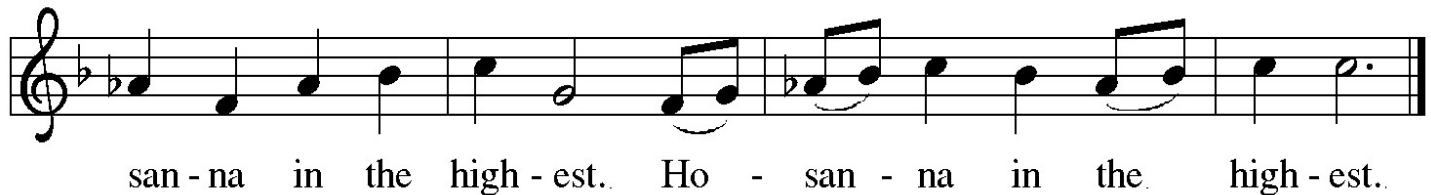
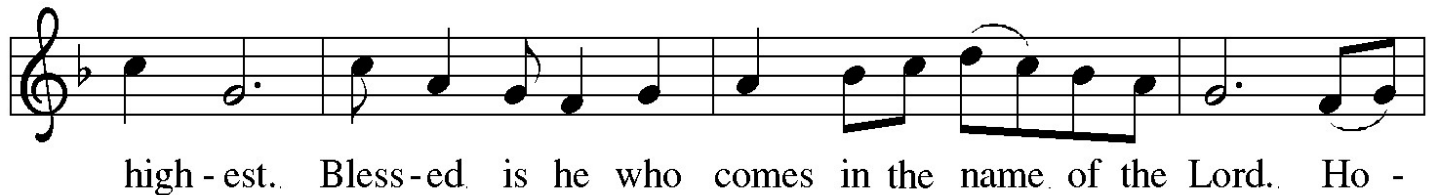
GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



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.

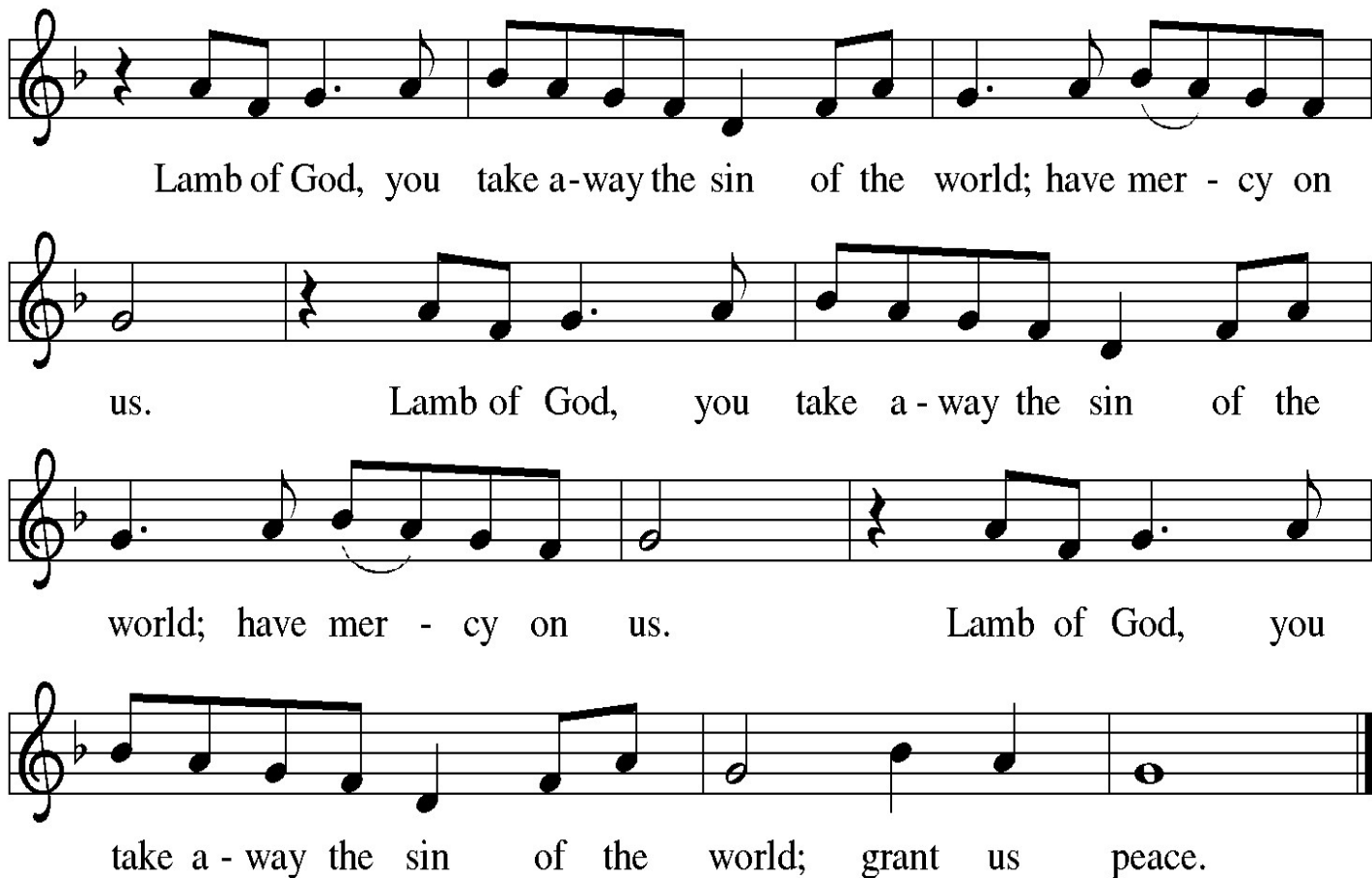
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

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: We Come To the Hungry Feast ELW 479

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

O God of Every Nation

ELW 713

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

March- Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704)

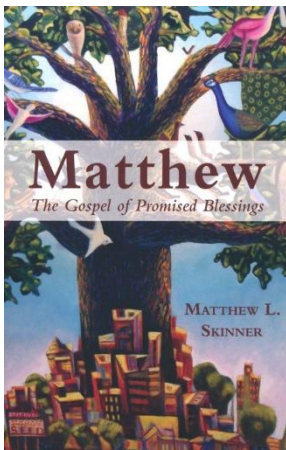
In our prayers today we will remember

Greg Karlin, Maggie Paul, Amy Williams, Riley Hostatler, John, Lorili, Ema, Mason, Jan Hawley, La Shell Williamson, Cindy Lash, Bob & Marlene Rupp, Gary Maurer, Richard Green, Linda Wentling, Rick Theiss, Judy Hall, Karen Daily, Sandra Jelen, Jimmy Southard, Mark Gergley, Pam Neil, Chad Byington.



Let us know you are here.

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



Thursday Morning Bible Study - October 15th @ 10:00 am
Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessings

By: *Matthew L. Skinner*

The Gospel of Matthew portrays Jesus and his message as full of tender compassion and urgent warning. This six-part exploration of an enigmatic Gospel takes readers into the themes, topics, and tensions at the heart of Matthew's story about the life and work of Jesus.

Chapters focus on blessing and comfort, judgment and retribution, the meaning of discipleship, Jesus' vision for the Church and world, conflicts and complaints, and how the Gospel of Matthew speaks to believers today.

Adult Sunday School

The Prophet Jeremiah
...they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water.
(Jeremiah 2:13b)



Adult Sunday School

...they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water.
(Jeremiah 2:13b)

Jeremiah the Prophet

Jeremiah was given an important but very difficult assignment to accomplish - to speak truthfully about the failures of the people of Judah and to remind them of the One in whom they ought to put their trust, the Lord God of all creation. The book is filled with warnings, wisdom, and encouragement for living faithfully today. Please join us as we gather at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays, top floor Parish Hall for Bible study and fellowship. An elevator is available for easy access. (Note, there will be no class on October 4th to make time for an informational meeting regarding the education building.)

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

Join us at 8:30 AM in the choir room to make a joyful noise. All are welcome!



Handbell Choir

The Handbell choir will rehearse 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!

Organ Repair Donations

If you wish to make donations specifically for organ repair, please mark your envelopes as such. If you give electronically, see Dan Farrar for details.



Pumpkin Roll Pic Up Date

October 25th following worship



Trick or Treat

Youth and Parish Ed Committee will be hosting Trick or Treat again on Sunday, October 25th, from 3 to 5pm (Massillon City's Trick or Treat Time).

If you can donate a bag of candy by **October 18th**, it would be much appreciated. We kindly ask that you donate candy safe for small children.

Candy can be dropped off in the office.



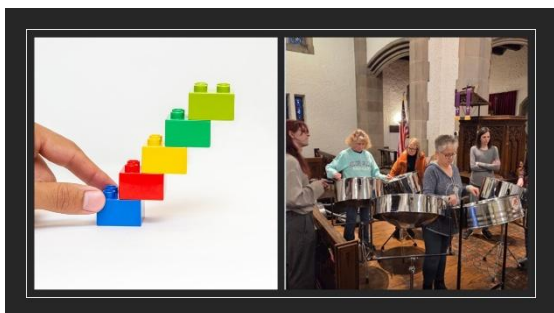
Church Directory

The Church Directory is now available on request. A printed copy will cost \$2.25 An electronic copy (PDF) will be free of charge

You can request either or both formats by contacting the church office:

330.832.7409 or officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org

No copies will be issued to non-members.



St. Paul's Steelband

Join us for weekly classes at **6pm**. The focus is on learning. If you've never walked near a steel drum, and want to learn, we have something for you! Please join us on any Wednesday!

Community Social Media Pages

Facebook & Instagram, Search "*Massillon Area Churches*"

Facebook, Search "*St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon*"

Or "*Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's*"



We have a concert tonight!
Sunday, October 18th at 4 PM

The Canton Symphony Orchestra
Woodwind Quintet

Jenny Robinson, *flute*
Cyn Warren, *oboe*
Matt Rosen, *clarinet*
Lisa Fink, *French horn*
Todd Jelen, *bassoon*



Be sure to arrive early as today's pre-concert music is provided by Gabriella Kowalski, pianist, and violinist in the Canton Youth Symphony Advanced Ensemble. Gabriela is a homeschooled 10th grader who studies piano with Dr. Maira Lillestadt and violin with Cornel Zotta. She is very passionate about music and is studying piano pedagogy this year with plans to begin teaching students of her own this winter. Gabriela hopes to attend a strong conservatory program where she can further her musicianship.



**Scan the QR code to join our Cathedral
Concert Series email list!**

For more concert series information, visit our website:

<https://stpaulsmassillon.org/concert-series>

**CONCERTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO
ALL. YOUR FREEWILL OFFERING IS
GREATLY APPRECIATED.**



**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.

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

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

October 18th, 2026

Paying Taxes to Caesar

Matthew 22:15-22

Word Search Puzzle

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



Christmas Food Baskets

Welfare and Social Committee will collect nonperishable food and miscellaneous items for our Community Meal families for Christmas. The items will be distributed at our Community Meal on Friday, December 11th.

We will begin collecting in October. Please place your donations in the box located at the side entrance of the church. Thank you for your generosity!



If you have questions, please contact Barb Palmer at 330.244.1602.

- Oct. 18th – Tea and coffee
- Oct. 28th – Peanut butter and jelly
- Nov. 1st – Canned soups and pork & beans
- Nov. 8th – Cereal and mixes (cake, brownies, muffins)
- Nov. 15th – Canned fruits & vegetables
- Nov. 22nd – Spaghetti sauce, pasta, instant potatoes
- Nov. 29th – Paper products (paper towels, toilet paper)
- Dec. 6th – Bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrush

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Assisting Minister	Karl Kalk
Lector	Patty Long
Greeters	Marilyn Norton
Communion Assistants	Lynda Klein & David Stoner
Sacristan	Mary Ann Poling
Ushers	Jack & Marsha Fortune John Lieberman
Acolytes	Scott Larson, Thomas Haake
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

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GATHERING HYMN	You Servants of God	ELW 825
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HYMN OF THE DAY Commonwealth Is God's Commandment **Bulletin Pg. 20**

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Communion:	We Come To the Hungry Feast	ELW 479
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SENDING HYMN	O God of Every Nation	ELW 713
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Commonwealth Is God's Commandment



- 1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
- 2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
- 3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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You Servants of God



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

We Come to the Hungry Feast



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever

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O God of Every Nation



1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,
2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease
4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,



re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,



where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
when hope and cour - age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and love shall reign,



in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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