

14th Sunday after Pentecost -- Sunday, August 25, 2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church

156 W. Washington Street, Strasburg, Virginia

Mailing address: 193 W. Washington St, Strasburg, VA 22657

540-465-3232 -- stpaulstrasburg@gmail.com

Website: stpaulstrasburgva.com – on Facebook

Pastor Christian Flohr: 406-241-2236; chrisflohr105@gmail.com

Welcome to Worship

*The order of worship is found in the WOV (blue hymnal).
Hymns can be found in the ELW (red hymnal).*

The Playground (upfront) is available for children. All are welcome!

----- Our Services are lived streamed on Facebook -----

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (WOV p. 10)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.

Turn us again to you in whom there is true life.

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven, we are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life, we are shown God's mercy:
we are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

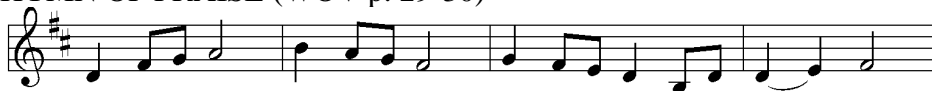
GATHERING *Thy Word* (see insert)

GREETING (WOV p. 28)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE (WOV p. 29-30)



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might- y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



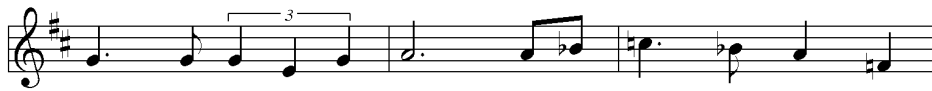
glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer- cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.



☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



I
II For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹ Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

^{2a} And Joshua said to all the people,

¹⁴ “Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 34:15-22 *(read responsively)*

¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and God’s ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶ **The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷ The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸ **The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹ Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the LORD delivers them from everyone.

²⁰ **God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.**

²¹ Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²² **O LORD, you redeem the life^l of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰ Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand

therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 31)



GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶ “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But among you there are some who do not

believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵ And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Chris

SERMON

Pastor Chris

HYMN OF THE DAY *Wonderful Words of Life* (see insert)

BAPTISM (ELW pg. 227)

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Almighty God, we lift before you all who govern this state and nation and those who will be elected to do so in the future. May those who hold power understand that it is a trust from you to be used, not for personal glory or profit, but for the service of the people.

Drive from us cynicism, selfishness, and corruption; grant in your mercy just and honest government and leaders and give us grace to live together in unity and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have completed their baptismal journeys (*especially*). Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The minister and congregation greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

Please be seated.

OFFERING *An offering is given for the mission of the church.*

MUSIC OFFERING *Great is Thy Faithfulness* arr. James Koerts

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life,

you have set this table with your very self and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, the universe is full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, Jesus's death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together* ELW 471

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (WOV p. 40)

☐ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (WOV p. 41)

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life,

we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,

now strengthen us to love the world with your love.

In your name we pray.

Amen

SENDING HYMN *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* ELW 536



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904

Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

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WORSHIP LEADERS:

Pastor: The Reverend Christian Flohr
Organist/Director of Music: Sue Correll
Assisting Minister: Jalen Doman
Ushers: Tammy & Larry Kibler
Table Steward: Brian Doman
Communion Assistant: Linda Williams
Tray: Abby Bright
Steeple Bell Ringer: Andrew Clem

TODAY AT ST PAUL

9:30am Worship Service w/Holy Communion
10:45am *The Chosen*, Season 4 with Pastor Chris / in the Study

INTERCESSION *Please keep the following in your prayers:*

Mark Legge (Mike & Carol Smith): very aggressive prostate cancer
Anne Luxford (Debbie Winkfield)
John Ianuzzi (Debbie Winkfield, cousin): healing
Donna Hines: cancer treatments at UVA
Timothy Ferg (Joan Farrell's son-in-law): hospital for tests
Benji 'Heavy Duty' Putman: cancer treatments
Susan Bennett
Stan Thompson (Howard Paige): needs liver transplant
family of Amos Orndorff (friends): his death
Dorothy Miller: cancer & Clark Miller: recent fall.
Donna Hines (daughter of Earl & Teresa Cutlip): cancer treatment at UVA
All college students starting a new year (list of St Paul's College students on following page)
Benni Goetz (April Diehl's extended family): cancer
Deanna James (April Diehl's extended family): cancer
Praise and thanksgiving for rain!
Darlene Ford & her family (Carol Smith): stage 4/terminal cancer
Wilma Smoot (friends): rehab at Lynne Care, Front Royal, Rm 249
The start of a new school year – teachers, administrators, students, bus drivers, etc.
Roberta Ritenour: arthritis - pain management
Lisa Ritenour: hip-nerve damage -- physical therapy
Roland Palmer (Ida Smith's brother): motorcycle accident - at UVA
Our Country

St Paul's College students:

Alexis Doman: James Madison Univ
Hayden Fravel: Lebanon Valley College
Alex Frenz: Laurel Ridge Comm College
Maggie Miller: Coastal Carolina
Tingleigh Rusher: Marymount Univ
Kenley Smith: Eastern Mennonite Univ
Macy Smith: St Bonaventura Univ

INFORMATION

- The altar flowers are given by Cindy Britton to the glory of God and in honor of St. Paul's musicians and church musicians everywhere who give their talents to enhance worship.
- Nikita Sokolsky receives God's gift of Grace in the sacrament of Holy Baptism today during our worship service.
- Ice Cream Social -- Sunday, Sept. 8, 4pm. * **We still need a few people to supply homemade ice cream for this event. If you can help and have not yet signed the sheet in the narthex please do by NEXT SUN., September 1. Thank you !**

We will enjoy hot dogs plain or with chili, chips, cakes and of course, homemade ice cream! A free-will offering designated for Luke's Backpacks (note change).

Please plan to join us for food and fellowship!

- The Chosen, Season 4: Sundays thru Sept 1. Meet with Pastor Flohr in the Study following the 9:30am worship service.
- Strasburg Compassion Cupboard: Items requested during August: small liquid laundry detergent and canned chicken. A collection box is in the Narthex or you can drop your items at the annex during business hours.
- The September St Paul Courier: Copies are available in the narthex.
- We are in need of donations of Bibles and Christian reading books (new or used) for our Bible/Book box on the Annex back porch. You can put them in the box on the annex back porch, drop them by the annex during office hours or place them in the box under the table in the back of the Sanctuary.
- The Bible and Christian reading box (back porch of the annex): Please donate
- St Paul Ringers and St Paul Singers will resume rehearsals on Wed, Sept 4. (6pm Ringers; 7pm Singers).
- **There are other church events/activities that will resume in September -- See the September newsletter for information!**

**THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO A CELEBRATION DINNER
HONORING GOD'S GEMS (OUR MEMBERS AGE 75 AND OVER)**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 11:00AM

in the Fellowship Hall following the Worship Service

***All our Gems should have received an invitation.*

Please RSVP to the church office by September 2.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! *Some of the information below is new or has changed . . . so take a moment to read over this and look at your September newsletter.*

- *Sunday, Sept 8: God's Work. Our Hands. - "Fill the Pews" Bring items for Luke's Backpacks.*
 - *Sunday, Sept 8: As part of God's Work. Our Hands. there will also be a basket in the back of the sanctuary for monetary donations to ELCA World Hunger in honor of the 50th Anniversary of this Lutheran ministry.*
 - *Sunday, Sept 8, 4pm: Ice Cream Social. Free-will donations will benefit Luke's Backpacks.*
 - *Sunday, Sept 15, 10:45am: God's Gems Celebration honoring our members age 75 and over.*
-

Weekday Religious Education - BIBLE BREAK

Classes resume in September 2024. Currently enrolling grades 2, 3 and 4.

Shenandoah County BIBLE BREAK will hold a Banquet Event

Sept 14, 5-7pm – at the Edinburg Fire Hall

Silent Action, Raffles & Cake Auction

Ticket includes a meal by *Full Plate Catering*.

Single Ticket: \$35 -- Table Sponsor - \$200/8 seats

Reserve your tickets by September 1 !

Go to www.Shencoconcert.com for information and to purchase tickets.

THIS WEEK AT ST PAUL

Tuesday, Aug 27:

9:30am Card making and Crafting / fellowship hall

Wednesday, Aug 28:

Pastor Chris visits the children at the Child Care Center

5:30pm Community Meal / Methodist church

Thurs, Aug 29:

Pastor Chris – Communion visit to The Maynard

Sunday, Sept 1:

Deadline to sign up to provided ice cream (see the **INFORMATION section)*

9:30am Worship Service w/Holy Communion

10:30am The Chosen, season 4 – with Pastor Chris (last of Season 4)

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, Sept 2, Labor Day:

Church office closed

Wednesday, Sept 3:

Pastor Chris visits the children at the Child Care Center

5:30pm Community Meal / St Paul

6pm St Paul Ringers rehearsal

7pm St Paul Singers rehearsal

Thursday, Sept 4:

Bible Studies resume: 11:30 Lunch (bring your lunch); Noon-1pm Bible Study

August 18: Attendance: 64

Offering: \$2,477.00

Year-to-Date: Income: \$148,513

Expenses: \$158,323

Deficit: \$9,810