

***Welcome in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!***  
**Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine (LCMS)**

***Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost***  
**Sunday, September 14, 2025 – 9:30 am**

**Divine Service**

**Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Alfonso O. Espinosa, Ph.D.**

**Assistant Pastor: Rev. Dr. Steven P. Mueller, Ph.D.**

**Vicar: Miles Johnson**

**Organist: Gerald Dahlin**

**Choir Director: Mark Howard**

**Administrative Coordinator: Jackie Johnson**

**Office: 10:30 am - 2:30 pm T-F; 949-599-4760**

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**Concordia University Irvine – Spectrum Campus**

**16355 Laguna Canyon Rd**

**Irvine, CA 92618**

**Mission**

*To foster the freedom and love we share in Christ to the community by nurturing faith in Him through tangible expressions of God's grace.*

**Vision**

*To share the Truth and Love of Christ to all ages, cultures, and backgrounds.*

**Service Offerings**

- Sunday Divine Service at 9:30 am
  - Fellowship in Café 10:30 am
  - Adult Bible Study at 11:00 am

**Welcome to Saint Paul's**

We praise and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ as He comes to serve and bless us through His Word and Sacraments. We follow the ancient liturgy which draws from the Word of God to order and guide our worship. Its biblical structure has been used in the Christian Church before any denominations within Christianity existed. Our worship emphasizes order, beauty, and reverence. We also celebrate the Holy Eucharist and receive the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. We are excited about what the Lord is doing at Saint Paul's, and it is our great joy to serve you!

## **This is the Saving Gospel/The Good News:**

God sent His Son Jesus Christ to take your sin upon Himself and Jesus gave to you His perfect righteousness and holiness. In Christ, it is a fact, and it is reality that your sins are forgiven, covered by His blood. And because Christ defeated death, you too – as you trust in Him alone – have eternal life. This is the Good News. It is so powerful because the Holy Spirit works through it to create and sustain faith in our hearts to hold to our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel costs Jesus everything but costs us nothing. It is yours. It is God's GIFT to you. Hold to it and know that you ARE (present tense) saved from sin, death, and the power of the devil; that you are saved TO (present tense) the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation! That's the Christian, a forgiven sinner who lives for God and loves their neighbor. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

## **The Lord's Supper**

The Holy Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, **any who are not yet instructed**, are in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, **are asked first to speak to one of the pastors.**

## **Prayer Before Divine Service**

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

+ In the Name of Jesus +

## Prelude:

Air from Concerto Grosso -- GF Handel

## Greeting

**P** I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant,

**C** for I do not forget your commandments.

- Psalm 119:176

## Confession and Absolution

### *Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

### Entrance Hymn:

**711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us**

*(all stanzas)*

# Kyrie

LSB 168



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



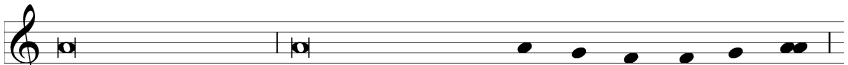
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



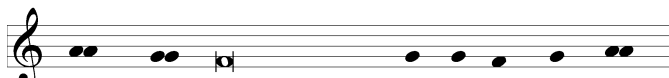
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

### This Is the Feast

LSB 171



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



**C** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



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



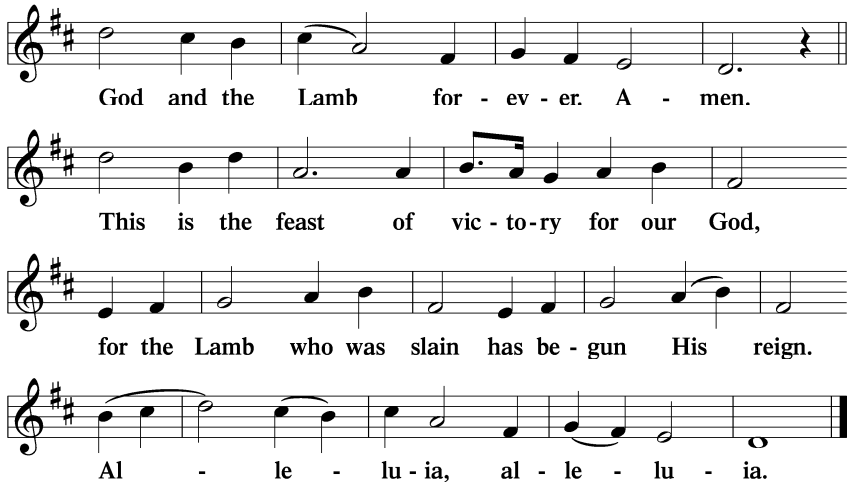
lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

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.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34:11–24

<sup>11</sup>“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

<sup>17</sup>“As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. <sup>18</sup>Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? <sup>19</sup>And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

<sup>20</sup>“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

Psalm 119:169–176; antiphon: v. 176



TAW

**P** I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your | servant,\*

for I do not forget your com- | mandments.

Let my cry come before you, | O LORD;\*

give me understanding according | to your word!

**C Let my plea come be- | fore you;\***  
**deliver me according | to your word.**

**P** My lips will | pour forth praise,\*  
for you teach me your | statutes.

**C My tongue will sing | of your word,\***  
**for all your command- | ments are right.**

**P** Let your hand be ready to | help me,\*  
for I have chosen your | precepts.

**C I long for your salvation, | O LORD,\***  
**and your law is | my delight.**

**P** Let my soul live and | praise you,\*  
and let your just decrees | help me.

**C I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your | servant,\***  
**for I do not forget your com- | mandments.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son,**  
**and to the Holy | Spirit,**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,**  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

**P** I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your | servant,\*  
for I do not forget your com- | mandments.

## Epistle

*1 Timothy 1:5–17*

<sup>5</sup>The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. <sup>6</sup>Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, <sup>7</sup>desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

<sup>8</sup>Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, <sup>9</sup>understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, <sup>10</sup>the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else

is contrary to sound doctrine, <sup>11</sup>in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

<sup>12</sup>I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, <sup>13</sup>though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup>To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1-10

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus].

<sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven

over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup>“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

## Children's Message

Hymn of the Day:

**609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive**

(all stanzas)

## Sermon

“May We All Be Weak”

Ezekiel 34:11-24

Proper 19: Forgiveness and Restoration

Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa

The Text: <sup>11</sup>“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, ***I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.*** <sup>12</sup>***As a shepherd seeks out his flock*** when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and ***I will rescue them*** from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>***And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them*** from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. ***And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel,*** by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>***I will feed them with good pasture,*** and ***on the mountain heights*** of Israel shall be their grazing land. ***There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel.*** <sup>15</sup>***I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep,*** and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>***I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak,*** and the fat and

the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. <sup>17</sup>“As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. <sup>18</sup>Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? <sup>19</sup>And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet? <sup>20</sup>“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>***I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey.*** And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>***And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.*** <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

In the Name of Jesus. The prophet and priest Ezekiel was giving God’s Word to the people of God in exile. They were tired and worn out, tempted to lose hope. They were weak. Last Tuesday night, I was in the cancer ER section of City of Hope in Duarte. I saw many people who appeared very weak. One man was hunched over for hours, in inundating pain and discomfort, his body betraying him making him appear helpless. His loved one was rubbing the back of his neck, giving a modicum of comfort.

We are foolish when we forget how close we are to this. Some of us have already been there and may be there now, and the reason we are so susceptible to these things is because we are already decidedly weak. And this is true not only with respect to our fragile bodies, but also in respect to our fragile psyches, and of course our fragile souls.

It is amazing sometimes how our thoughts and inner life can turn on a dime. You can have a good outlook one day, but the next feels like you’ve entered a valley. Even the healthiest among us can experience this and when it happens, we are reminded of how weak we really are.

For myself, besides having my own physical limitations like everyone else, the LORD has granted me the blessing and curse of empathy. It is a blessing so that I might relate more to you as I have the privilege to serve you, but it is somewhat of a curse (or at least *feel* that way), because I can feel the weakness and discouragement other people feel.

Recently, I have shared my dear wife's most recent battle. She is strong and, in many ways, stronger than I am, but she is also (like us), and it is very hard for me to see her on her down days. My soul enters her mood, and I can feel down myself. And of course, I wouldn't have it any other way. I *want* to know how she is feeling, and I *want* to feel with her, even when it is not what we would normally want. All the while, I am reminded of our great weakness. And this dynamic is not only with my wife, but with all I am called to serve. And I am blessed to know others who share *my* weakness, so that we are led to a most fascinating juxtaposition: amid feeling each other's weaknesses, we are encouraged that we are not alone. It doesn't seem logical: weakness increasing can generate increasing comfort.

Saint Paul writes at 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians chapter 1: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. <sup>5</sup>For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. <sup>6</sup>If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. <sup>7</sup>Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort."

That is, what the Holy Spirit teaches us who are baptized into Christ that to not only *know* our weakness, but to see it so that we do not try to run away from it or pretend it isn't there, is to put ourselves in a position (by the grace of God) to be all the more apt to give it to God. To run to the LORD. To cry out to the LORD. To extend to the LORD as an offering of faith in Him, our weakness. But, in sin, and prideful sin, we often go the other way, because no one in accord with their sinful nature wants to admit their weakness.

The reality of our weakness makes us uncomfortable. We don't like being this way. It can make us feel embarrassed and self-conscious. It makes us feel needy and unable to fend for ourselves. It makes us feel like we need others. It robs us of our natural tendency to want to be self-sufficient. We prefer to live in the illusion and self-deception that we can do it on our own.

Little children don't have this problem, and they are praised by Jesus. The LORD tells us that we must be like them. They don't have a problem admitting their weakness and they do not hesitate to take it to Mom or Dad.

They want their loving parents to see what they see so that they might be embraced to be soothed in their weakness. This is wisdom. This is transparency. This is honesty. This is health. God has given us arms not just for us to help ourselves, but especially to help others.

I am currently serving one of our families with a member whose mother is in hospice. I go to visit her mom to give her Holy Communion. Often, I'm blessed to see them holding hands during the administration of the Sacrament. I witness comfort and joy. I witness not only the LORD coming for Communion with Him for His people, but I witness His people embracing and rejoicing in communion with each other. There aren't many better things to witness in this world than that.

But again, sinfully we resist ever unveiling this kind of weakness, so God did Israel a favor. They had reached the point back in the promised land when all the wheels were coming off the cart almost immediately upon entering this land flowing with milk and honey. Already in Judges, the malady of the people is recorded, "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (Judges 17:6 and 21:25) That's tempting, because if one is their own monitor, then one will be more apt to try to hide one's great need for God. And of course, where there is less perceived need, there is less perceived weakness. The more autonomy we claim, the more we imagine we are self-sufficient and strong.

So again, God did Israel a favor in great love and in great mercy. He permitted Judah to be overcome in 587/586 B.C and they went into exile in Babylon. No longer could they even begin to pretend they were strong. Now the exact opposite was painfully evident: they were terribly weak indeed.

And when we know we are weak, there are forces that try to keep us from seeing how God would help us. In the spiritual battle, darkness in the world and the demonic agents of Satan try to attack us so that when we see our weakness we might become convinced that it is unbearable. But God says through the apostle, "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:13) Even when we are weak, God enables us to endure and we all know why, because like little children and like otherwise lost sheep, our Savior and our Shepherd comes. So that on account of Him, when we are weak, then we are strong. (2<sup>nd</sup>

Corinthians 12:10) Then, when Christ comes to the us who are weary and heavy laden, we can say with Joel, “Let the weak say, ‘I am a warrior.’” (Joel 3:10)

This is the picture in Ezekiel, the exiled weaklings were not abandoned by God in their weakness but were rather in the position to truly welcome His salvation, knowing how much they truly needed Him to rescue. The timing was perfect, because not only did they realize their own sense of ineptitude and abandonment, but they were subject to the ramifications of false religion which produced false shepherds who did not minister to the people’s weakness but instead exploited it. This is why Ezekiel is also condemning the false shepherds, the unfaithful shepherds who through their false lives and their evil and unrighteous ways were polluting the hope and faith of the people of God. They were muddying up the water of the sheep and they were shoving around the weak sheep for their ungodly gain.

And the LORD said, “No more!” The time was right. His people were ready to receive His salvation.

This is what we must learn. When we enter tough times and feel our weakness (and we must understand that we are all weak even when we don’t detect it or think we are), then we start to go to weird places in our minds. “What is wrong with me?” “What did I do wrong?” “Why the curse?” “What am I being punished for?” These are the questions the false shepherds like to perpetuate. Manipulative counselors, pastors, attorneys, and other professionals practice evil when they allow people to wallow in their desperation and fear so that they never have hope and healing. True helpers and shepherds lead people out of their hopelessness.

But when God sees our weakness – and this is what encourages us to know that there is always a salutary purpose for our suffering – then we know that His hearts desire is that having finally garnered our attention, we may see His help for perhaps the first time in our lives so that we may finally and truly know Him as our Savior.

The imagery in Ezekiel is rich. First, see how the LORD utterly replaces the evil shepherds with Himself *the* Shepherd so that we can pray with the Psalmist: “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want,” or “I shall not be lacking,” or “there is nothing I will lack.” “I will not be left in my weakness, but He will grant a provision, a care, and a love that will make me strong

through Himself. He says, “I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out...I will rescue them...I will gather them!” And He uses this fantastic imagery in our reading for today from Ezekiel 34:

Verse 13: “And I will feed them on the **mountains** of Israel.”

Verse 14: “I will feed them with good pasture, and on the **mountain** heights.”

Verse 14 again: “There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the **mountains** of Israel.”

Three times, our salvation is described as our being lifted up and taken up to the mountains. Psalm 121 says, “I lift up my eyes to the **MOUNTAINS** (NIV, NASB, and CSB). From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.”

What fantastic imagery. When you are feeling weak and tired and you look up to that mountain that must be climbed, talk about becoming deflated, but what happens to us as the children of God? We have a shepherd, and He is the one who not only leads us, but whenever needs be, He will pick us up and put us on His shoulders and carry us. He becomes our strength. He more than compensates for our weakness. And this is what He wants each of us to learn. Not only is it not a shameful thing to see your weakness, but it is the gift of the Holy Spirit to offer it to God. Cast your weakness to Him. Give it to Him. He wants to take it and in exchange, give you, His strength.

All of this is absolutely guaranteed through the last part of our text from Ezekeil. God said, “And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall fee them and be their shepherd.” This is an amazing Scripture because King David had lived and died long before Ezekiel prophesied. Who was he referring to? He was referring to the One in King David’s royal line who would in accord with God’s covenant inherit the eternal throne of David. He would become THE King David, the One who conquered death. The warrior King who gives His strength to His weak Christians to make them strong warriors.

And notice what our King David Jesus does: He feeds His sheep. We are led back to Psalm 23 in the imagery: He leads us to green pastures, to still waters, to good grazing land, and to magnificent breath-taking mountains. He feeds you and makes you strong in Himself as if to place you on His

mountain to stand alongside Him to bask in His marvelous light. You are fed this way right here and right now. He feeds You right here. He gives Himself to you. His Communion, His Sacrament, His strength, His medicine, His healing, His joining You when He took Your weakness and gave you His strength. This Christ is yours. This King is yours, so that you are fed and nourished, so that instead of being marked by weakness, you are now filled with over-flowing strength that is saving faith, your cup overflows. This feeding is so efficacious that even your death has been overcome by His life. Behold, Christian, the weak – all of us – may now declare that in Christ, we are strong.

*Stand*

## **Nicene Creed**

**☩ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,**

**who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That we would be guarded against self-righteousness that sees no need to hear of Christ and His redemption; that we would be preserved in His Word and grace; and that we would always be about the proclamation of repentance and the forgiveness of sins for the sake of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For pastors, that God would bless them in shepherding His people whom He has gathered, and in seeking those who have wandered away, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the households of this congregation, that all may live in love that issues from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all entrusted with public office in our land, that they would know wisdom and courage to serve our nation according to God's holy will, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** That the shepherd of God's sheep, Christ Jesus, would seek the lost, bring back the stray, bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, having mercy [especially upon \_\_\_\_\_ and] upon all who look to Him for deliverance, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those Christ feeds today with His own holy body and blood, that we would be guarded from impenitence and resistance to God's promises and receive forgiveness, life and salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the fellowship of all the saints, that by this holy communion, we would be given grace to sustain us through the changes and chances of this mortal life, and be kept to that day when Christ shall call us unto Himself and we shall know Him face to face in the marriage supper of the Lamb that knows no end, let us pray to the Lord:

**G Lord, have mercy.**

**P** We entrust all these petitions to Your care, loving Father, confident in Your great mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is worshiped together with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G Amen.**

*Sit*

**Offering**

Intermezzo IV -- Hermann Schroeder

*Stand*

**Offertory**

LSB 176



**G** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

## +Dismissal of Online Participants and Blessing+

*1 Corinthians 11:23-29 instructs pastors since they are stewards of the mysteries (1st Corinthians 4:1) to serve only those who share in a common confession. If you are still learning about our confession and not yet confirmed, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest. Pastor would love to meet with you to prepare you to receive the Holy Sacrament.*

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface


LSB 177



**P** The Lord be with you.




**C** And al-so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and

archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 178



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**G** **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.**

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

LSB 180

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**G** **Amen.**

## Agnus Dei

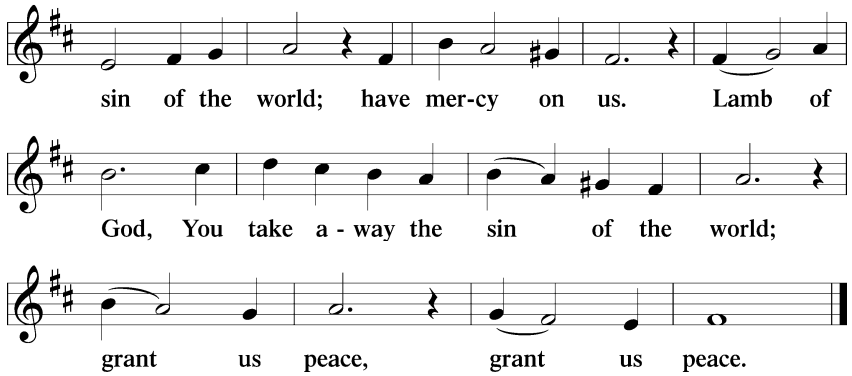
LSB 180



**G** 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.

*Sit*

**Distribution**

**Distribution Hymns:**

**566 By Grace I'm Saved**

*(all stanzas)*

**710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want**

*(all stanzas)*

**718 Jesus, Lead Thou On**

*(all stanzas)*

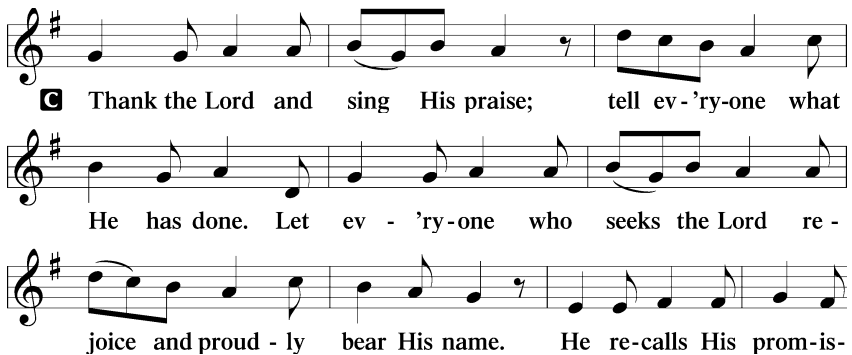
**740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb**

*(all stanzas)*

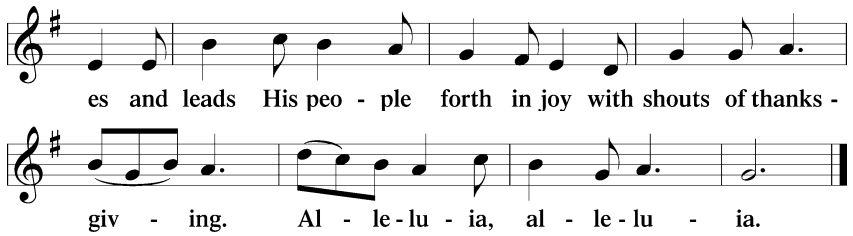
*Stand*

**Thank the Lord**

*LSB 181*



Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
 He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -  
 joyce and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-



es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

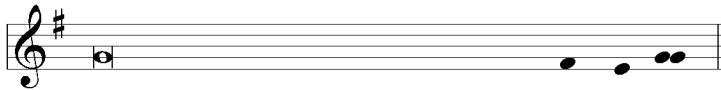
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Benediction

LSB 183



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



**C** A - men.

## Postlude:

Tocatta -- Théodore Dubois

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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## Today:

### Bible Study Meets Today!

After Divine Service and a brief time of fellowship, Pastor Espinosa will lead us back into Bible study. We'll continue with *Chapter 2: On Identity and the Culture* from his book *Contending for Christ Through the Creed: Apologetics for Loving Answers on the Christian Faith*.  
Come be encouraged and equipped as we grow together in God's Word!

## This Week:

### Memorial Service for Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto

With hope in the resurrection, we share that our brother in Christ, **Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto**, has been called home to heaven.

Services will be held on **Saturday, September 20, 2025**:

- **11:00 am – Graveside Memorial** at *El Toro Memorial Park*
- **12:15 pm – Memorial Service** at *Mission Lutheran Church, Laguna Niguel (Reception to follow at Mission Lutheran)*

We give thanks to God for Dr. Siemon-Netto's faithful service to the Kingdom and the lasting impact of his ministry.

### ☀️ Join the Journey—Daily Bible Devotionals with Pastor Al! ☀️

It's 2025, and **Pastor Espinosa hasn't missed a single day** of walking through Scripture with us!

Whether you've been following along or just jumping in, you're invited to be part of this powerful, daily connection to God's Word.

#### 📖 Need a boost of faith each day?

👉 Catch daily devotionals on:

- **Facebook** – @AlfonsoEspinosa
- **TikTok** – @alfonsoespinosa356
- **Instagram** – @alfonsoespinosa88

#### 📧 Prefer devotionals by email?

Just send a quick note to **office@saintpaulsirvine.com** and we'll get you added to the list!

Let's keep growing—together in Christ—one day, one verse at a time.

## General Announcements

### Walk for Hope – Join the Saint Paul’s Team!

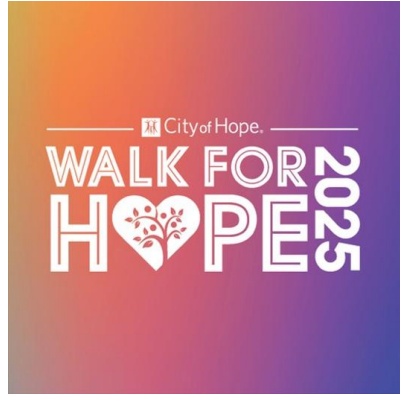
Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church of Irvine is walking in the **City of Hope Walk for Hope** on **Sunday, November 2, 2025**. 🕒 Site Opens: 7:00 AM |

🚶 Walk Begins: 9:30 AM

**City of Hope Orange County |  
1000 Fivepoint,  
Irvine, CA 92618**

Our team goal is **\$10,000**, and as of September 10 we’ve already raised **\$3,315** with **4** walkers signed up!

We walk because cancer has touched our congregation — with three members currently receiving care at City of Hope and many others impacted in the past. Every step and every gift fuels research, compassionate care, and hope for the future.



### ***Scan here to donate or join our team!***

#### **How you can help:**



🙏 **Pray** – Keep our team, loved ones, and City of Hope in your prayers.

💰 **Donate** – Give online, by check using the donation form, or through Thrivent Charitable!

👟 **Join the Walk** – Lace up and walk with us in Irvine.

**Donate Online or Join the Team:**

<https://ourhope.cityofhope.org/team/766721>

#### **Thrivent Charitable Instructions:**

- **Login** to your Thrivent Charitable account.
- **Select** Recommend Grant.
- **Search Available Grantees:** City of Hope in California
- **Select:** City of Hope, 1500 Duarte Rd Duarte, CA 91010; Tax ID: 95-3435919

- **Change Grant Purpose** to “Run/Walk or similar fundraiser”
- **Type in Give fundraising credit to:** “Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church of Irvine team” *(Optional: You can also add the name of an individual you want to give to who is one the team)*

*“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.  
The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to  
man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music.”*

– Martin Luther

### ***Upcoming Special Music at St. Paul’s***

**Date:** **Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025 – 9:30 am**

**Featuring:** St. Paul’s Choir, Directed by Mark Howard  
*Music by John Eggert, Walter Pelz, John Rutter*  
Jerry Dahlin, Organ  
Rachel Okonski, Flute  
Jacob Thornblad, Violin

**Date:** **Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025 – 9:30 am** (Reformation Sunday)

**Featuring:** St. Paul’s Choir, Directed by Mark Howard  
*Music by Michael Burkhardt, Paul Christiansen,  
Ralph Vaughan Williams*  
Jerry Dahlin, Organ  
Bruce Benne, Handbells

**Date:** **Wednesday, Dec. 24 – 7:00 pm** (Christmas Eve)

**Featuring:** St. Paul’s Choir, Directed by Mark Howard  
*Music by Jeffrey Van, Alfred Fedak, Gustav Holst,  
John Rutter*  
Jerry Dahlin, Organ  
Rachel Okonski, Flute

***Don’t miss these special worship services!***

Interested in singing in the choir?  
Contact Mark Howard 714.423.6460  
markahoward@sbcglobal.net

**The Bulletin Board**

**Life Quote: September 14** “If we expect to be the one to change hearts by sowing seeds of judgment rather than love, we are changing the mission we have been sent to fulfill. Please use your Gospel-motivated voice For Life in love and may God bless your efforts!” *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**Weekly Stewardship Message:** September 14 – Proper 19

**Luke 15:2** – “**And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, ‘This man receives sinners and eats with them.’**” Thanks be to God: Jesus receives us sinners! What the Pharisees can’t understand, we praise with all our being. We give thanks for the grace of God, and we live by that grace. The more of it we receive, the more we will want to conform ourselves to the image of our generous and gracious Lord. Knowing the Lord and trusting Him come first, and the desire to imitate Him can’t help but follow.

### Circle of Friends

The most effective way for a church to grow in the Kingdom of God is to be faithful in the Word and Sacrament of Christ and to truly love people. One way to do that is to allow us to pray for those you know who need Christ and/or a church home. Please submit the names of family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others to us through our ministry called Circle of Friends.

Thank you! Pastor Espinosa.

*For those we care about to come to saving faith and have a church home. Have a friend who needs prayer or would like a meeting with pastor? Use this QR code to let us know!*



### Worship Attendance for Members & Guests

Scan the QR code or use the iPads at the Welcome Table to sign in. **Guests**, please sign the guestbook at the entrance.

**Offerings:** Collected during the worship service. All contributions are voluntary.





## Requesting Announcements

To request an announcement for the congregation or community, submit your request via the QR code or this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/Hsgrm6zAup>. Choose where you want it published: bulletin, email, website, livestream, etc.

## Upcoming Choir Schedule

*- for the rest of 2025*



- **Sunday, Sept. 14:** rehearsal at **8:30am** in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Sept. 21:** rehearsal at **8:30am** in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Sept. 28:** rehearsal at **8:30am**, sing for service at **9:30**.
- **Sunday, Oct. 12:** rehearsal at **8:30am** in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Oct. 19:** rehearsal at **8:30am** in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Oct. 26:** rehearsal at **8:30am**, sing for service at **9:30**.
- **Sunday, Dec. 14:** rehearsal at **8:30am** in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, Dec. 21:** rehearsal at **8:30am** in the cafe area.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 24:** rehearsal at **6:00pm**, sing for service at **7:00pm**.

The sheet music and rehearsal recordings will be accessible on the church website (*Ministries-Choir*) so you can get familiar with the music.

*Please plan your schedule to make yourself available to rehearse and sing.*

***All are invited to sing in the choir! We need everyone!***

Contact Mark Howard, Choir Director, if you have any questions.  
(714) 423-6460 / [markahoward@sbcglobal.net](mailto:markahoward@sbcglobal.net)

## Opportunities to Volunteer & Serve

We're always looking for ways to share our gifts and serve both our congregation and the wider community. Volunteering is a wonderful way to get involved—and for students, it can also be a great way to fulfill required service hours.

If you are interested in volunteering with any of our current opportunities—or if you have new ideas for how we can serve together—please contact the church office at [office@saintpaulsirvine.com](mailto:office@saintpaulsirvine.com).

## Please Pray for our Missionaries, Council Members & Elders

### Missionaries Supported by Saint Paul's

*(Financial gifts given annually to the national synod)*

Missionary	Location
Rev. Daniel & Kathy Conrad	Dominican Republic

<i>Please send mail through the LCMS directly.</i>	
Erin Mackenzie Email: <a href="mailto:erin.mackenzie@lcms.org">erin.mackenzie@lcms.org</a>	Latin America & Caribbean
Britt Odemba Email: <a href="mailto:britt.odemba@lcms.org">britt.odemba@lcms.org</a>	Kenya
Rev. Dr. Tom Park Email: <a href="mailto:tom.park@lcms.org">tom.park@lcms.org</a>	Taiwan

### **Missionary Friends**

*(Non-Financial Support)*

Missionary	Role	Location
Tirzah Krey Email: <a href="mailto:tirzah.krey@lcms.org">tirzah.krey@lcms.org</a>	Regional Human Care Coordinator	Latin America & Caribbean

**If you are interested in mailing a letter or giving a donation directly to our missionaries, please send mail directly to the LCMS with the specific Missionaries name in the attention line:**

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
*ATTN: (enter missionaries name here)*  
 P.O. Box 66861  
 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

**Local Evangelism Support: Rev. Mark Jasa** – Saint Paul’s supports our local evangelist.

### **Saint Paul’s Parish Council Members**

**Debbie Dannemeyer** – President ~ **Matt Bures** – Recording Secretary ~ **Ken Mott** – Treasurer

**Laura Miller** – Financial Secretary ~ **Jon Rutherford** – Trustee Director ~ **Ali Frank** – Stewardship Director

**Mike Padilla** – Presiding Elder ~ **Renee Mott** – Fellowship Director ~ **Bradley Hustad** – Evangelism Director

**Jacob Thornblad** – Education Director ~ **Miles & Jackie Johnson** – Youth Directors

### **Saint Paul’s Elders**

**Mike Padilla** (Presiding Elder) ~ **Bruce Dannemeyer** ~ **Bryan Kilduff** ~

**John Church** ~ **Jon Steele** ~ **Karl Blanke** ~ **Mark Kuntz**

**Steve Fischer** ~ **Ricky Cuenca** ~ **Alex Padilla** ~ **Michael Lange**

## **SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Altar Team</b>	<b>Ushers/Greeter</b>	<b>Elders on Duty</b>	<b>Welcome Table</b>	<b>Livestream</b>
<i>Service Team Chairs</i>	<i>Shared Role</i>	<i>Mike Padilla</i>	<i>Mike Padilla</i>	<i>Kiu Geisler</i>	<i>Jon Steele</i>
2nd Sunday 9/14/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla, Mike Lange	Cindy Kilduff	Jim J.
3rd Sunday 9/21/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank, Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff, Mark Kuntz	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele
4th Sunday 9/28/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Paul and Samuel Hines	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
1st Sunday 10/5/2025	Nina Mueller	Barney Wright, Al Ibrahim	Alex Padilla, Bruce Dannemeyer	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.

## **FELLOWSHIP ROTATION**

2nd Sunday 9/14/2025	Renee Mott, Ann Ashmon
3rd Sunday 9/21/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4th Sunday 9/28/2025	Hines Family, Daisy Minter
1st Sunday 10/5/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard