

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

Second Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, June 22, 2025 – 9:30 am

Divine Service

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

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

Organist: Gerald Dahlin

Choir Director: Mark Howard

Administrative Coordinator: Jackie Johnson

Guest Musician: Amanda Fagan

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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 11:00 am
- Wednesday Bible Studies at 10 am and 7:15 pm in our church offices.
 - You may come in person or join us via TEAMS fully interactive.

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 +

Greeting

P Salvation belongs | to the LORD;*

C your blessing be on your | people!

- Psalm 3:8

Prelude

"Holy Spirit"

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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.

Stand

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn: 528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

(all stanzas)

Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You have prepared for those who love You such good things as surpass our understanding. Cast out all sins and evil desires from us, and pour into our hearts Your Holy Spirit to guide us into all blessedness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

¹I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me;

I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me.

I said, "Here am I, here am I,"

to a nation that was not called by my name.

²I spread out my hands all the day

to a rebellious people,

who walk in a way that is not good,

following their own devices;

³a people who provoke me

to my face continually,

sacrificing in gardens

and making offerings on bricks;

⁴who sit in tombs,

and spend the night in secret places;

who eat pig's flesh,

and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels;

⁵who say, "Keep to yourself,

do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."

These are a smoke in my nostrils,

a fire that burns all the day.

⁶Behold, it is written before me:

"I will not keep silent, but I will repay;

I will indeed repay into their bosom

⁷both your iniquities and your fathers' iniquities together,

says the LORD;

because they made offerings on the mountains

and insulted me on the hills,

I will measure into their bosom

payment for their former deeds."

⁸Thus says the LORD:

"As the new wine is found in the cluster,

and they say, 'Do not destroy it,

for there is a blessing in it,'

so I will do for my servants' sake,

and not destroy them all.

⁹I will bring forth offspring from Jacob,

and from Judah possessors of my mountains;

my chosen shall possess it,

and my servants shall dwell there."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 3; antiphon: v. 8



P Salvation belongs | to the LORD;*
your blessing be on your | people!

O LORD, how many | are my foes!*
Many are rising a- | gainst me;

C many are saying | of my soul,*
there is no salvation for | him in God.

P But you, O LORD, are a shield a- | bout me,*
my glory, and the lifter | of my head.

C I cried aloud | to the LORD,*
and he answered me from his | holy hill.

P I lay | down and slept;*
I woke again, for the LORD sus- | tained me.

C I will not be afraid of many thousands of | people*
who have set themselves against me | all around.

P Arise, O LORD!

Save me, O my God!

For you strike all my enemies | on the cheek;*
you break the teeth of the | wicked.

C Salvation belongs | to the LORD;*
your blessing be on your | people!

C **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 Salvation belongs | to the LORD;*
your blessing be on your | people!

Epistle

Galatians 3:23—4:7

²³Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are

all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

¹I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ²but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 8:26-39

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." ²⁹For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) ³⁰Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. ³²Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

³⁴When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ³⁶And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. ³⁷Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

Children's Message

Reception of Members by Transfer

- P** Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.
- P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
- R** *Yes, I do.*
- P** Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?
- R** *Yes, I renounce them.*
- P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?
- R** *Yes, I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*
- P** Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them and confessed in the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?
- R** *I do.*
- P** Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?
- R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P** Do you desire to become a member of this congregation?
- R** *I do.*

P Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?

R *I will, with the help of God.*

P Upon this your confession of faith, I acknowledge publicly that you are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation. Receive the Lord's Supper and participate with us in all the blessings of salvation that our Lord has given to His Church, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Stand

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your son and daughter to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that by Your Word and Spirit they may continue steadfast in the one true faith in the fellowship of this congregation as together we await the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The pastor may extend the right hand of fellowship, greeting each by name. The rite concludes with the following blessing:

P The grace of our † Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

C **Amen.**

The new members return to their places.

Hymn of the Day:

594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

(all stanzas)

Sermon

"Jesus' Words and Signs that Dispel Your Darkness"

(Luke 8:26-39)

Pastor Espinosa

Introduction: Jesus' rhythm of words and signs.

- A. He taught and worked miracles/signs to back up His words.
Implication: Listen to Him!
- B. He continues to work this way: words and signs, words and signs, words and signs
 - 1) It is a principle in human relationships
 - 2) It is even more importantly about your life in your Savior Jesus
 - a) We need His Word/His words
 - b) We need His Signs/His powerful deeds

Part I: The Word/The Teaching from Luke 8:

The Parable of the Sower

4 And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, 5 "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. 6 And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. 8 And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Jesus' words taught the parable:

11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. 13 And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. 14 And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. 15 As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

- A. The reason for great alarm: "then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved." (v 12)

- B. Furthermore, the devil works in concert with "testing" in v. 13 and "choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life" (v. 14)

Part II: The Underestimated Threat: The Devil, the Demons, and the Demoniacs

- A. We must avoid the extremes: we do not obsess, ***but neither do we ignore.***
- B. The Small Catechism and the Lord's Prayer [open your hymnals to pages 324-325: The Sixth and Seventh Petitions of The Lord's Prayer]

Part III: The first necessary protection is to hear the Word/learn His words:

Luke 8:8b: **As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."**

Luke 8:15: **As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.**

Luke 8:18: **Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.**

Luke 8:21: **But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."**

- A. See the theme? HEAR, but this is a HEARING that brings UNDERSTANDING. Thus, we say, "Hear, Read, Mark, Learn, and Inwardly Digest"
- B. The aspiration of the Christian is to love the Word of Christ and truly Learn the Word of Christ, to carry it with you and to live according to it.
- C. SOMETHING ALWAYS is learned and fills our minds. For the baptized into Jesus: it is to be primarily His Word. Eph 6:17: **"take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."**

Part IV: But will this really "work"? Yes, consider the signs:

- A. Luke 8:22-25: Jesus Calms a Storm: vs. 25: **He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"**
- B. Luke 8:26-39: Jesus Heals a Man with a Demon

1. We are attacked by demons (the possibilities: temptation, oppression, and possession).

2. See the conditions: a) Vs. 26: country of the Gerasenes = Gentile, Pagan, Wasteland without the Word (sound familiar?); b) Vs. 27: being "among the tombs" meant two things: 1. Isolation; 2. Consumed by "Death"

- C. So, Jesus backs up His Word with a Sign: He has power over the Devil, the Demons, and the Demoniacs
- D. Therefore, He has power to heal you, help you, and deliver you.
- E. Therefore, He has power to back up His Word/words.
- F. Therefore, He has power to equip you to stand against the demonic that stands against you.
- G. How does it play out?
 - 1. By giving you ears to hear, to listen, and a mind and heart to inculcate His Word/words.
 - 2. By delivering you from the wasteland.
 - 3. By countering your isolation: it's called the Church.
 - 4. By countering the culture of death, with life.
 - 5. What are the signs? A) Your neighbor; B) Your good works; C) Your prayers; D) Your witness; E) The Supper; F) Your Baptism; G) Your confession...YOUR words that ring HIS words...these are powerful, let us live in them!

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For peace in the world, for peace in the Church, for peace in the home and for peace in our lives, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For the Church of the Augsburg Confession throughout the world, for the faithfulness of all churches to the truth of God's Word, and for the proclamation of the Gospel to all people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For Christian homes, that God would keep them safe from discord and evil intention, give faithfulness to husbands and wives, preserve love and respect between parents and children, and make them havens from fear and doubt, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the nations and those who govern them, for our own country and leaders, for our cities and communities, for good laws and faithful citizens, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the sick and those who suffer, for the grieving in their loss, and for the dying in their last days on earth, [*especially* _____,] let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who commune this day, that we would faithfully eat Christ's true body and drink His blood, given as new wine beyond all destruction, and so receive the blessing therein, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For thankful hearts at all of God's gifts and for the grace of giving, that we may return to Him the tithes and offerings He is due, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Dear Father, You know the condition of our souls, that we frequently wander into sins, vice and danger. Hear our prayers for the sake of Christ, who defeated legions of demons so that we might receive adoption as sons; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"



Sing ho - san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C **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 † 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 † 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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

G 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymns:

625 Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

(all stanzas)

636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

(stanza. 1-5)

770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

(all stanzas)

643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

(all stanzas)

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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 Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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 Amen.

Postlude:

Recessional -- Frank Asper

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Today:

“Journey Through the Parables” Will Meet Today

Our *Journey Through the Parables* study group will meet today to study Parable #25, “Banquet for the Poor.” Please join us after the service and a brief fellowship (around 11 a.m.) for Bible study and an opportunity to deepen your knowledge of the Scriptures.

This week:

Wednesday Bible Study is on Summer Hiatus!

Thank you to everyone who joined us this season as we wrapped up our study through the Book of Hebrews! It's been a blessing to learn and grow together in God's Word.

Our Wednesday Bible Studies are now officially on break for the summer. Stay tuned for details on when we'll resume this fall—we can't wait to dive back into Scripture with you then!

In the meantime, we encourage you to check out the great events we have coming up this summer:

• **Saint Paul's Family Day Camp:** July 21st –25th

Saint Paul's Family Day Camp will be held this summer at Irvine Park. If you are interested in volunteering or attending, please talk to Jackie or Miles Johnson.

• **Higher Things Conference:** July 29th –August 1st

The mission of Higher Things is to make the gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults. Saint Paul's will be taking a group of young adults to the conference at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI. For more information, please talk to Pastor Espinosa.

• **Women's Retreat:** August 9th

Saint Paul's first women's retreat will be held as a daytime event in Dana Point. The topic Pastor Espinosa will be preaching on is, "The Power of Confession" Confession of Sin, Faith, and Praise. Please talk to Pastor Espinosa or Laura Miller if you would like to attend or get more information.

• **Men's Retreat:** September 26th- 28th

Saint Paul's men's retreat will be held at the same "Campus by the Sea" on Catalina Island that it was last year. The topic Pastor Espinosa will be preaching on is, "The Power of Confession" Confession of Sin, Faith, and Praise. Please talk to Pastor Espinosa if you would like to attend or get more information.

Chosen Bible Study

Group #1 will be meeting at the Kuntz family's home on **Saturday, June 28th** at 6pm. Saint Paul's now has two *The Chosen* Bible Study groups that meet once per month. If you are interested in the next meeting, please speak to Pastor.

General Announcements

Guess What? Pastor Espinosa's New Book Is Here!

We're thrilled to share some exciting news—Pastor Espinosa's latest book, *Contending for Christ Through the Creed: Apologetics for Loving Answers on the Christian Faith*, has just been released!

It's now available in paperback, and Kindle the publisher's site: <https://wipfandstock.com/9798385244485/contending-for-christ-through-the-creed>

The hardback edition is available on Amazon: [Contending for Christ Through the Creed: Apologetics for Loving Answers on the Christian Faith: Espinosa, Alfonso, Siemon-Netto, Uwe: 9798385244461: Amazon.com: Books](#)

But here's the fun part: **we'll soon have discounted paperback copies right here at Saint Paul's**, and by picking one up, you can help support our high school youth group as they prepare to travel to the Higher Things Conference in Michigan this July!

For **a donation of any amount**, Pastor Espinosa will personally sign your copy in classic black ink. For larger donations (price point TBD), he'll autograph your book in **gold ink**—because why not make it fancy?

So whether you grab a copy for yourself, a neighbor, or tuck one aside as a gift, it's a great way to dig deeper into the faith *and* lift up our youth at the same time.

Keep an eye out—details about our special Signing Day are coming soon!

Pastor Espinosa will also be featured in Issues, etc. Throughout the week discussing the book, check it out here: [Home - Issues, Etc.](#)

Saint Paul's Family Bible Camp

July 21–25 | Irvine Regional Park | Party Pavilion D

We're excited to invite you to **Saint Paul's Family Bible Camp**, formerly known as Vacation Bible School (VBS)! This special week will take place **July 21–25** at **Irvine Regional Park**, near the Irvine Park Railroad at **Party Pavilion D** (1 Irvine Park Rd, Orange, CA 92869).

Pastor Espinosa shares:

“Saint Paul's Family Bible Camp is a chance for us to come together as a family of God. We will be on a journey of faith in Jesus and His teaching on the great ‘I Am’ statements of St. John's Gospel. This is a chance for all of us to be together with the little children to sing and pray, break bread and play, take in the puppets, and praise the Lord. All ages are encouraged to come so that our children can see what it means to be a church in Christ.”

Whether you're bringing your family to participate or looking for a meaningful way to serve as a volunteer, **we would love for you to be part of it!**

To receive updates or express interest in volunteering, please contact **Jackie Johnson 714-421-8389** or email **office@stpaulsirvine.org** (or reply to this announcement if shared electronically). More details coming soon — stay tuned!

Author Spotlight

We are blessed to have Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto in our congregation. He is an accomplished and gifted scholar and author. Consider ordering one of his books and ask for his autograph! We are blessed to have Uwe and Karin as members of our church family!

– Pastor Espinosa

Books:

- *Siemon-Netto, Uwe (1990). [The Acquittal of God: a theology for Vietnam veterans](#). New York: [Pilgrim Press](#). ISBN 0-8298-0833-7.*

- *The Fabricated Luther: the rise and fall of the Shirer myth.* St. Louis: [Concordia Publishing House](#), 1995; [ISBN 0-570-04800-1](#).
- *Luther als Wegbereiter Hitlers? Zur Geschichte eines Vorurteils.* Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlagshaus, 1993; [ISBN 3-579-02203-2](#).
- *One incarnate truth: Christianity's answer to spiritual chaos.* [Concordia Publishing House](#), 2002; [ISBN 0758602774](#).
- *Duc: A reporter's love for the wounded people of Vietnam.* [Amazon](#), 2013; [ISBN 978-1482692808](#) and [ISBN 1482692805](#).
- *On the brink: the myth of German anti-Americanism.* Washington, D.C.: [Ethics and Public Policy Center](#), 1982; [ISBN 0-89633-056-7](#).
- *Duc, der Deutsche. Mein Vietnam, Warum die Falschen siegten.* Basel: Brunnen-Verlag. 2014; [ISBN 978-3-7655-2024-2](#).
- — (2015). *Triumph of the absurd: a reporter's love for the abandoned people of Vietnam.* [ISBN 978-1-945500-00-8](#).
- *Griewatsch. Der Lümmel aus dem Leipziger Luftschuttkeller.* Basel: fontis, 2015; [ISBN 978-3-03848-038-9](#).
- *Luther. Lehrmeister des Widerstandes,* Basel: fontis, 2016. [ISBN 978-3-03848-092-1](#).
- *Luther manipulé. Contre le mythe du réformateur, "fourrier de Hitler".* Paris: Indes Savantes, 2017; [ISBN 978-2-84654-456-6](#)
- *Urchin at War. The tale of a Leipzig rascal and his Lutheran granny under bombs in Nazi Germany.* Irvine: 2021; [ISBN 978-1-94896-958-1](#)

WE WANT YOU!

Summer Men's Chorus



Every man of the congregation is invited!

If you **sing** hymns in church, **sing** in the shower, **sing** along with the radio in the car, we invite you to **sing** with us.

Schedule:

- **Sunday, July 6:** rehearsal at **8:30am** in the cafe area.
- **Sunday, July 13:** pre-service rehearsal at **8:30am** in the sanctuary.
- **Sunday, July 13:** sing for service at **9:30am**.

The sheet music and recordings are on the church website. Please take a look/listen and learn the two songs as much as you can. If you're not sure what part to sing, try them all and see what is comfortable for you. We'll figure it out at rehearsal. See you there!

Mark Howard, Choir Director (markahoward@sbcglobal.net)

St. Paul Lutheran Church Offerings Report Month and Year-to-Date May 2025

	Actual	Budgeted	YTD	Budgeted
General Offerings	\$ 18,999	\$ 22,300	\$ 97,811	\$ 117,100
Other Offerings	\$ 122	\$ 137	\$ 553	\$ 686
Total Reg Offerings	\$ 19,121	\$ 22,437	\$ 98,364	\$ 117,786
Other Offerings(not budgeted)				
Building Fund	\$ 342		\$ 1,026	
Classical Study	\$ -		\$ 8,650	

The Bulletin Board

Life Quote: June 22 “Let your life be so focused on the grace of God in Christ that your eyes are open to the people He is bringing into your life even now, ‘the least of these my brothers.’ Do not worry about whether the world considers them influencers or nobodies. Be attentive to those in your sphere of influence as Christ Himself is attentive to you. Concerned citizens? Sure! It is important. But being concerned disciples of Jesus for others is what ultimately lasts.” *Dr. Gregory Seltz, PhD, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Stewardship Message: June 22 – Proper 7

Luke 8:37 – “Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So He got into the boat and returned.” The Gerasenes are upset with Jesus because His ministry led to the loss of their pig herd $\frac{3}{4}$ their wealth. They want Jesus to go away before He does any more damage to their bottom line. Their priorities are clear. What about our priorities? Is the work and ministry of Jesus worthy of our support and the sacrifice of some of our wealth?

Volunteers Needed!

We are seeking volunteers for **Ushers, Altar Guild, Welcome Table, Transportation Services, and Visiting Shut-Ins**. If interested, please contact **Mark Kuntz**. We also need help with **Livestream, Family Sunday School, Quilting & Fellowship Team**. Please reach out to **office@saintpaulsirvine.com** if you can assist.

Thank you for serving our congregation!

Words of Evangelism: Ch. 7 – Kindness, Gentleness, and Respect

Welcome from your Evangelism Committee. When we share our faith with others, we need to be patient, kind, and gentle with them. This is really nothing other than practicing the Golden Rule or the second table of the Commandments which we should be doing at all times anyway.

Many of you may remember the Golden Rule taught in school during your youth. Treat others how you want to be treated. If you remember this from the public school system, then you may not know that the Golden Rule originates from God’s Word. Concerning the Golden Rule, Christ said this, “Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them.” Christ described the Golden Rule as “the Law

and the Prophets.” (Mt 7:12) It is a summary of the second table of the Ten Commandments, commandments four through ten.

Elsewhere in Scripture, Jesus was asked what the most important Commandments are. Jesus replied that the first great Commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind. (Mk 12:30) He went on to describe a second great Commandment. Jesus said, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mk 12:31) Lest we think that somehow the Golden Rule or the second great Commandment does not apply to non-believers or non-Christians, we are told “to have mercy on those who doubt.” (Jude 22) At all times in our daily lives when interacting with other people, we would do well to remember the second great Commandment.

In our weakness, we know that sometimes we fail to live by this great Commandment. Without knowing it, we lose patience and in a moment of anger, harsh words come out of our lips. If we associate with someone long enough, we will eventually slip up. But, if we slip up too often, we know this will not spell good for our relationship with that person. John Gottmann, an American psychologist, proposes a magic ratio regarding these interactions. He says that we must have five good interactions for every negative interaction if we want to build and sustain healthy relationships with others.

In order to be successful at sharing the Gospel, we will have to build relationships with others. If we do not build and sustain those relationships, we may never get the opportunity to share the Gospel. People will be unlikely to want to associate with us altogether if we are rude, impatient, and condescending. Peter tells us about sharing the Word, “Honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” (1 Pt 3:15) Remembering the Golden Rule can help us tell the Gospel to others with gentleness and respect.

Lord God, we confess that we are imperfect and that we sometimes act poorly towards others. In our weakness, Lord, we become defensive, angry, and full of contempt. Forgive us, o Lord, when we act this way. Be with us, o God, and widen our hearts so that we may treat others with patience, kindness, gentleness, and respect. O Lord, help us, especially remain vigilant at acting out your second great Commandment when sharing your Gospel with others. In Jesus’ name we ask it. Amen.

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.

Daily Bible Devotionals – 2025

Join Pastor Espinosa in reading through the Holy Bible in 2025!

Follow along daily on:

- ✦ **Facebook:** @AlfonsoEspinosa
- ✦ **TikTok:** @alfonsoespinosa356
- ✦ **Instagram:** @alfonsoespinosa88

Let's rejoice as God strengthens our faith through His Word!

Want devotionals sent to your inbox? Please email office@saintpaulsirvine.com to be added to the list.

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 <i>Please send mail through the LCMS directly.</i>	Dominican Republic
Erin Mackenzie Email: erin.mackenzie@lcms.org	Latin America & Caribbean
Britt Odemba Email: britt.odemba@lcms.org	Kenya
Rev. Dr. Tom Park	Taiwan

Email: tom.park@lcms.org

Missionary Friends

(Non-Financial Support)

Missionary	Role	Location
Tirzah Krey Email: tirzah.krey@lcms.org	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

Mark Kuntz – Presiding Elder ~ **Renee Mott** – Fellowship Director ~ **Bradley Hustad** – Evangelism Director

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

Saint Paul’s Elders

Mark Kuntz (Presiding Elder) ~ **Bruce Dannemeyer** ~ **Bryan Kilduff** ~ **John Church** ~ **Jon Steele** ~ **Karl Blanke**

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

SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Altar Team</u>	<u>Ushers/Greeter</u>	<u>Elders on Duty</u>	<u>Entrance Area</u>	<u>Livestream</u>
<i>Service Team Chairs</i>	<i>Mei Kuntz</i>	<i>Mark Kuntz</i>	<i>Mark Kuntz</i>	<i>Kiu Geisler</i>	<i>Jon Steele</i>
4th Sunday 6/22/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Paul and Samuel Hines	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
5th Sunday 6/29/2025	Mei Kuntz	Mark Kuntz Miles Johnson	Mike Padilla, Mark Kuntz	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
1st Sunday 7/6/2025	Nina Mueller Myra Taylor	Barney Wright, Al Ibrahim	Alex Padilla, Bruce Dannemeyer	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.
2nd Sunday 7/13/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla, Mark Kuntz	Cindy Kilduff	Jim J.
3rd Sunday 7/20/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

4 th Sunday 6/22/2025	Gary & Daisy Minter, Liana Padilla
5 th Sunday 06/29/2025	Liana Padilla, Johnson's
1 st Sunday 7/6/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard
2 nd Sunday 7/13/2025	Espinosa's, Ann Marie Hines
3 rd Sunday 7/20/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer

If you are a volunteer and believe this schedule does not accurately reflect your assigned service days or would like to update an announcement, please email Jackie at office@saintpaulsirvine.com.