



**“If any want to become
my followers, let them
deny themselves and
take up their cross
and follow me.”**

Matthew 16:24, NRSV

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

May this hour be a journey of the heart, a renewal of spirit, a pause in our lives as we worship the Lord our God together. If you are a guest this morning, we extend a special welcome to you and invite you to sign our guest book located in the gathering space outside of the sanctuary, also known as the narthex. Following our worship service, we invite you to share in a time of fellowship over coffee, juice, and snacks in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in learning more about our congregation and becoming a member, please visit with any member of the congregation or Pastor Janis Sloka, III. Thank you for celebrating the love of Jesus Christ with us at St. Paul Lutheran Church!

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME HERE!

We feel strongly that the faith formation of youth—just as any adult’s—develops through experience; because of this, we welcome youth of all ages to participate fully in worship and invite them to serve in a number of roles, such as: ushers, greeters, readers, and musicians. While we expect that children will behave as children—giggles, wiggles, and all—we also understand that sometimes they (and their parents or guardians) need a break; on those occasions, you are welcome to utilize the nursery (unstaffed) located on the north end of the narthex. Additionally, there is a playroom for children and a couch room for older youth on the west end of the Fellowship Hall. You can also find children’s bulletins and crayons on the table as you enter the main church building doors.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

As Lutherans, worship is connected with and central to everything we do—uniting us in celebration, engaging us in thoughtful dialogue, and helping us grow in faith. At the heart of our worship life is the presence of God through the word proclaimed and the sacraments—Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; this is because worship is—first and foremost—fundamentally about what God is doing in the world and in our lives, and then our response to God’s action. In the context of worship, we find our response in the liturgy, which is a way of living God’s story. The liturgical texts that form the prayers we pray, the texts we say, and the songs we sing find their roots in the Bible; for more information see the back of the hymnal, ELW pp. 1154-1159. Furthermore, these liturgical texts invite each and every one of us—not just the pastor or choir or any other worship leader—to use our voices to praise God. Through worship we are shaped to be participants in God’s life in this world.

PLEASE ASK AN USHER FOR...

- Assistance with wheelchair seating • Assisted listening devices • Large print bulletins • Directions to restrooms •

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
September 3, 2023 Pentecost 14
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) – Settings 4 & 10
Holy Communion

+Indicates to stand as you are able.
Congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

WELCOME

+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

+GATHERING SONG

“As the Grains of Wheat” ELW #465

+GREETING

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

+KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

+CANTICLE OF PRAISE Setting 4

Refrain

Assisting minister



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

All



1 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.

Refrain



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



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



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



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

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

The congregation is invited to read the even verses printed in bold.

¹Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

²**Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and mind.**

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.

⁴**I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;**

⁵I hate the company of evildoers,
and will not sit with the wicked.

⁶**I wash my hands in innocence,
and go around your altar, O LORD,**

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

⁸**O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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+GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children's Bible Page 34

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Will You Come and Follow Me?” ELW #798

+APOSTLES' CREED

In holy baptism the triune God adopts us as children and makes us members of the body of Christ, the church. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

+PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes: Merciful God, receive our prayer.

+PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

You are invited to sit down.

OFFERING

Thank you for your time, talents, and treasures. These offerings support the ministry of St. Paul. Your financial offerings may be placed in the plates by the sanctuary doors. You may also visit www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving to set up a one-time gift or regular, electronic giving. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing at St. Paul Lutheran!

ANNOUNCEMENTS - BIRTHDAYS

SPECIAL MUSIC ORGANIST

+THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

+HOLY COMMUNION PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,
for you have brought forth bread from the earth. Blessed are you, O God, for you have created the fruit of the vine. In the beginning you watered the earth that man and woman might have food and drink. You gave your servant Sarah bread to strengthen her family on their journey, and wine to make them glad. You called Moses and his people out of bondage and refreshed them with food in the wilderness. And here at your table you offer us bread and wine for the journey to nourish us as daughters and sons. Blessed is our brother Jesus, Who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, And who is known to us in the breaking of the bread.

+SANCTUS Setting 10



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. **Amen**

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me. **Amen**

+LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

+Invitation to Communion

All people are welcome and called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

Prayer after Communion

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+OUR MISSION

Our mission statement reminds us of our collective calling as St. Paul Lutheran Church in light of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What is the mission we share together?

**Our mission is to GATHER as God's people; to GROW in faith, love, and service;
and to GO into the community and world as disciples of Jesus.**

+BLESSING

The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

+SENDING SONG

"I Come With Joy" ELW #482

+DISMISSAL Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

- **Fellowship:** everyone is invited to fellowship after worship.
- **Fellowship Sign up:** the congregation is invited to sign up for fellowship this fall, in September and October. There is more information on the sign-up sheet, at the narthex table, and on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Thank you for helping with our Sunday morning fellowship.

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Readers:** are needed for September and October. A sign-up sheet and a copy of the readings is on the signup table in the entry.
- **Acolytes:** We need Acolytes to sign up for September and October.

Upcoming

- **Story Bibles:** will be presented to preschoolers and new children next Sunday, the 10th.
- **Circle Wednesday:** is meeting at 9:30 a.m., at the Malt Shoppe for breakfast, Bible Study, and short meeting. All women are welcome to join us. We will each pay for our own breakfast.
- **Offering plates:** *2 Corinthians 9:7* “*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, for God loves a cheerful giver.*” The Stewardship Committee has decided through prayer and discernment that we will start passing the offering plates again next Sunday, September 10. This will take place during the offering time in worship. We will also provide children with the opportunity to participate. They can come forward with their offerings to be put in a manger by the altar. Thank you for your call to “Gather, Grow and Go!”
- **Evening Circle:** starting the first Wednesday in October at 7:00 p.m. This is for all women that would like to be a part of a St. Paul Circle that meets in the evening instead of the morning. Fellowship, Bible Study, and a little bit of business, takes place at a Circle meeting. All women are welcome.
- **Sunday School:** starts next Sunday, September 10th at 11:00 a.m.
- **Spaghetti Lunch:** next Sunday, September 10th after worship. This is a free will lunch that the youth sponsor to raise money (\$1000), for a classroom, for a year, in our Companion Synod, the Central African Republic (C.A.R.). Please join us!

- **Sunday School Teachers:** thank you to all that have volunteered for the fall Sundays. We appreciate your commitment to our Sunday School youth. Thanks!
- **Breakfast Club:** starts Wednesday, September 13th at 7:30AM at Four Seasons.
- **Sonshine Friends:** starts Wednesday, September 13th at 3 p.m.
- **Sonshine Choir:** starts Wednesday, September 13th at 4:30 p.m.
- **Confirmation Classes:** start Wednesday, September 13th.

Outreach

- **Help Hawaii:** Robert Zieman would like to invite you to join him in helping our brothers and sisters in Hawaii. Today will be the last Sunday that we collect donations in a box in the narthex. You can write checks to St. Paul and then we will send all donations to the Western ND Synod, where all monies will go to the Hawaii Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

General

- **Office Hours:** *new hours begin Monday, September 11th 9a.m.-3p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 9a.m.-12 noon Fridays.*
- **Newsletter for September/October:** was mailed and emailed this past week. There are extras on the table in the church entry way, and extra September calendars.
- **Copier Paper:** we are running low on 8 ½" X 14" copier paper for bulletins, if anyone would like to donate paper. Thank you!
- **Update our Living Wall:** People are encouraged to send, bring to the office or email, updated pictures to the church to put up on the Living Wall.
- **Live Facebook:** each week at St. Paul's. The 4 Ministers are also on FB and Instagram each week.
- **Get your St. Paul Gear!** Spread our mission with custom shirts! Check them out in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to buy any of the shirts we have in stock.

You invited to visit www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving to set up a one-time gift or regular, electronic giving.

Thank you for being a part of what God is doing at St. Paul!



In Our Prayers...

Gary Mikkelson, Linda Kolden, Vi Maki, Ernie Hinderer, Kristi Devitt, Hayden Ogilvie, Clarence Behles, Stuart Bennett, Mona Reinisch, Heidi Smith, Lorinda Johnson, Doug Steinmetz, Jeff Wretling, Alton Krebsbach. Family of Gladys Vanderwerff

Birthdays Wishes This Week To:

Suzanne Fred	September 03
Bonnie Stone	September 03
Wayne Sayler	September 04
Pamela Kolden	September 06
Richard Lehnherr	September 07
Boyd Anderson	September 08



Today, Today, Sunday, September 3

9:45 a.m.	Worship
10:45 a.m.	Fellowship

Mon. Office closed for Labor Day

<i>Tues.</i> 10:00 -1:00 p.m.	Office Hours
10:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study

<i>Wed.</i> 10:00 -1:00 p.m.	Office Hours
9:30 a.m.	Circle meets at Malt Shoppe

<i>Thurs.</i> 10:00 -1:00 p.m.	Office Hours
10:00 a.m.	Community Bible Study at The Meadows

Next, Sunday, September 10

9:45 a.m.	Worship – Story Bibles to preschoolers & new children
11:00 a.m.	Sunday School 1 st Day
	Spaghetti Lunch for C.A.R. w/1 st Responders
11:15 a.m.	Choir Practice



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH + ELCA

P.O. Box 726 – Garrison, ND 58540
stpaul@restel.com
Church Office: 701-463-2019
Sunday Worship – 9:45 a.m.

www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com
pastorsloka@gmail.com
Pastor's Cell: 701-861-9915
Sunday School – 11:00 a.m.

SERVING IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH

<i>Ministers</i>	The People of St. Paul Lutheran
<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. Janis Sloka, III
<i>Faith Formation Director</i>	Holly Klemisch
<i>Church Council President</i>	Keith Thelen
<i>Treasurer</i>	Holly Klemisch
<i>Financial & Church Secretary</i>	Loree Jeffers
<i>Custodian</i>	Pam Kolden
<i>Missionaries</i>	Anne & Willie Langdji; Katie Narum Miyamoto
<i>Sweet Sounds Coordinator</i>	Loree Jeffers
<i>Choir Director</i>	Lisa Haugen
<i>Musician</i>	Sundi Lagge
<i>Reader</i>	Marian Lehnherr
<i>Ushers</i>	Clair Eslinger & Jan Norenberg
<i>Greeters</i>	Eunice Opozda & Val Hartman
<i>Acolytes</i>	Rylan & Hudson Klemisch
<i>Door Attendant</i>	Wade Kolden
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	Ann Reinholt & Kathy Baer
<i>Communion Setup & Cleanup</i>	Margie Nelson
<i>Fellowship Hosts</i>	Marian Lehnherr & Loree Jeffers
<i>Technology</i>	Mike Youngs

MISSION STATEMENT

As we share the gospel of Jesus Christ, our mission is to **GATHER** as God's people; to **GROW** in faith, love and service; and to **GO** into the community and world as disciples of Jesus.