



St. Paul Lutheran Church

share • care • grow
La Grange, Texas

The Rev. Candis O'Meara, *Pastor*
Pianist: Laura Gillette (5 p.m.)
August 14 & 15, 2021
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



*For my flesh is true food
and my blood is true drink.*

Next weekend's readings:

Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20;
John 6:56-69

LISTEN TO ST. PAUL SERVICES!

Visit our webpage, www.stpaulg.org, and click "**Listen**" to hear our services live on your smart phone or computer! You can also view our bulletin, weekly service video, newsletters and current calendar. Visit our Facebook page to view the service live Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

POB 567 / 110 W. Walnut Street, La Grange, Texas 78945

Rev. Candis O'Meara, Pastor Cell: 979-966-2459 pastorcandis@gmail.com

Caleb Parks, Faith Life Leader Cell: 512-944-7859 stpaulfaithlife@gmail.com

Parish Office: 979-968-5657 Fax: 979-968-6950 Fellowship Hall: 979-968-9603

Office Hours: Monday 1 - 5 p.m.; Tuesday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 1 - 5 p.m.;
Friday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

e-mail: stpaul@cvctx.com

Web Page: www.stpaulg.org

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS027914. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. © 2020 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188, www.hopepublishing.com. Used by permission. Copyright © 2001 - 2020. Sermon4Kids. All rights reserved.

Welcome!

- + Welcome to worship!
- + All are welcome at the table of grace. We believe that Christ is truly present as we share the bread and wine. Those at home are invited to use whatever bread or crackers and wine or juice you have on hand. We believe that Christ is truly present as we share whatever elements we have available.
- + Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after the Sunday morning service for coffee and fellowship.
- + The 9 a.m. service will be on Facebook live & audio streamed on our webpage, www.stpaullg.org. It will also be posted on our Facebook page. You may also listen to last week's service on KBUK 104.9 FM on Sundays at 10 am.

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

(Stand if able)

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.** Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.** Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

Hymn ELW 424 "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" *(back of bulletin)*

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.**

Prayer of the Day

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(Sit)

Children's Word

The children can remain in front of church after the Children's Word. We have clipboards with coloring pages and colors to occupy the children so their parents are able to focus more on worship. There will be an adult watching the kids.

WORD

First Reading Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

¹Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars.

²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.

³She has sent out her servant-girls,
she calls from the highest places in the town,

⁴"You that are simple, turn in here!" To those without sense she says,

⁵"Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

Second Reading Ephesians 5:15-20

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

(Stand if able)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel John 6:51-58

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

(Sit)

Sermon

Rev. Candy O'Meara

(Stand if able)

Hymn ELW 689 "Praise and Thanksgiving" (back of bulletin)

Apostles Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

God of wisdom, enlighten your church. Guide theologians, biblical scholars, authors, and seminary professors as they seek greater knowledge and invite others into deeper understanding. Teach us to ask faithful questions and open our minds to new ideas. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, mend the earth. Cool warming oceans and preserve melting ice caps. Increase our awareness of changing climate patterns and reveal new approaches to the ecological challenges we face. Shield those in the path of hurricanes or tropical storms. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all nations, direct our leaders. Grant them courage to lay aside political grudges and renew their determination to address difficult conflicts. Guide them in the work of reconciliation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, tend to the wounded. Rescue those tormented by mental illness or mired in addiction. Ease the anxiety of those struggling with dementia. Come quickly to help all who are grieving and all those who suffer, we pray for all who are sick, especially we pray for all affected by the resurgence of the COVID virus and for Agnes, Alan, Allison, Anita, Annette, Annie, Barbara, Beth, Pastor Bill, Blaine, Brax, Brooke, Cole, Conway, Denise, Don, Doris, Dudley, Ed, Edna Mae, Edwin, Elva, Emmaus, Enid, Eric, Fay, Frank, Gary, Iris, J.C., Jan, Janis, Jalen, Jean, Jenelle, Jerry, JoAnne, Joy, Juanita, Justin, Kay, Kevin, Larry, Layla, Leon, Lloyd, Louis, Mae Dene, Marc, Marjorie, Megan, Mikenna, Myrtle, Nathan, Nellie, Nick, Oliver, Peggy, Phyllis, Sherise, Sherry, Sheryl, Shirley, Tami, Ted, Tom, and for those we name now in the silence of our hearts. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

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

(Sit)



Offering

Please place your offering in the offering plate in the Narthex as you enter or exit the Sanctuary. Offerings may also be mailed to St. Paul, PO Box 567, La Grange, Texas, 78945; brought to the church office, 427 S Washington St.; You may donate now by scanning the QR Code which will take you will to myEoffering where you can register to give online - you choose the frequency of giving - you may make a one time offering or schedule when you prefer. Thank you for supporting St. Paul!

(Stand if able)

Offering Song *(Saturday only)*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Offering Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

MEAL

The 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **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.

Communion Instructions

We will remain in the pews for communion. We receive the bread and wine/juice together as one community gathered.

If you did not receive a prepackaged communion kit before entering the Sanctuary, ask one of the ushers for one. Pastor will give verbal instructions to lead us.

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song ELW 851 "When in Our Music God is Glorified"

(back of bulletin)

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

National Domestic Abuse Hotline number (1-800-799-7233)

AMEN DONATIONS

The second Sunday of each month, we emphasize AMEN donations. We collected 76 pounds of groceries last weekend! Monetary donations to the AMEN Food Pantry are always welcome (mark your envelope AMEN), as well as food donations in the AMEN cart.

SUNDAY: 9:00 AM Praise Worship w/ Children's
Sunday School

10:00 AM Adult Sunday School

TUES-SAT: 9 AM - 3 PM Second Chance

TUESDAY: 8:00 AM Quilters

WEDNESDAY: 8:30 AM Community Bible Study

SATURDAY: 5:00 PM Worship

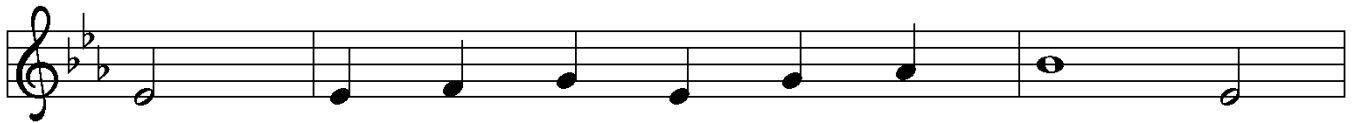
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Adult Sunday School

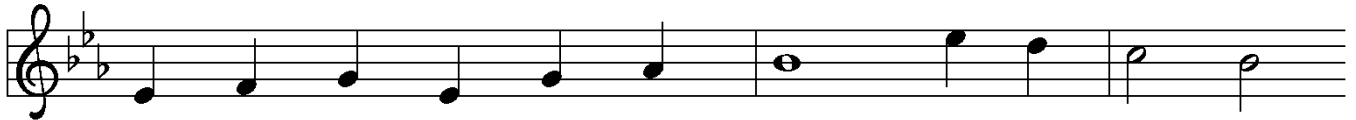
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School resumes today! After communion children 6th grade and below will gather with Caleb in the back of the Sanctuary to go to the Friendship Room for Sunday School. Parents can pick their children up about 10:30 a.m.

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright
 2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more
 3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye
 4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su -



ser - a - phs, cher - u - bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain:
 glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es:
 pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia!
 per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia!



"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,
 "Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyr's
 Al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the



pow'rs, arch - an - gels, vir - tues, an - gel choirs:
 Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord:
 strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the song:
 Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One:



"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858–1945

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Praise and Thanksgiving



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

When in Our Music God Is Glorified



1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o -
2 How oft, in mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di -
3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, in faith and
4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night when ut - most
5 Let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise; let all re -



ra - tion leaves no room for pride, it is as
men - sion in the world of sound, as wor - ship
love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, borne wit - ness
e - vil strove a - gainst the light? Then let us
joice who have a voice to raise; and may God



though the whole cre - a - tion cried:
moved us to a more pro - found
to the truth in ev - 'ry tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!
sing, for whom he won the fight:
give us faith to sing al - ways:

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

Text © 1972 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

5 p.m. USHER & ALTAR GUILD: Janet Coronado

9 a.m. USHERS: Daniel & Shelly Pietsch; **ALTAR GUILD:** Janet Coronado

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jeanette and Atlan Citzler for their 49th wedding anniversary on August 19.

CONGRATULATIONS to Aaron and Lorin (Williams) East on the birth of their son, Tucker Wayne, who was born August 9, 2021. His grandparents are Karl & Ceri Williams and his proud great-grandmother is Marianne Williams!

LYO STOCKHOLDER DINNER was cancelled. An email was sent to all the stockholders. If you did not receive it, please let the office know. Another email will be sent with a link to a video highlighting the LYO trip to Georgia.

TACKY TUESDAY: Tacking of Lutheran World Relief quilts will be Tuesday, August 17 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You are invited to pin, iron and tack quilts and have fellowship. All are welcome.

UPDATED COVID PROTOCOLS: After prayerful consideration and consultation with local experts, the Council has made the decision to require everyone (regardless of vaccination status) to resume wearing masks while indoors at St. Paul. We have also decided to remain in the pews during communion and not pass the offering plate.

This decision was not an easy one, but a necessary one. We continue to monitor the situation and will discuss more at our August 24 Council meeting.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE is Wednesday, August 25, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the KC Hall. Sign up online at www.weareblood.org and use Group Code A315.