



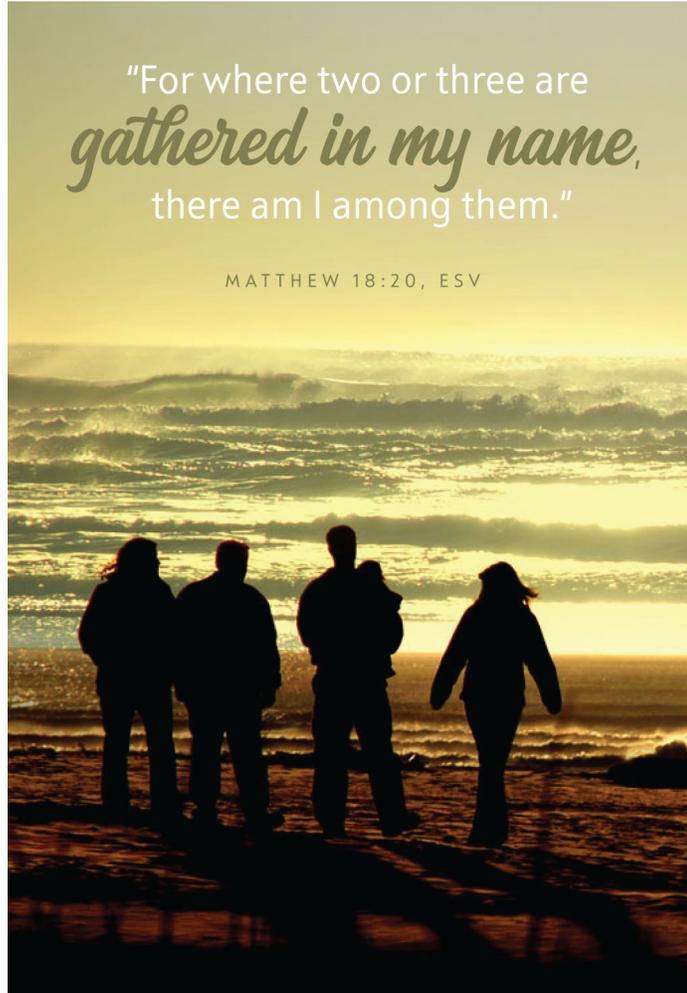
# St. Paul Lutheran Church

share • care • grow  
La Grange, Texas

The Rev. Candis O'Meara, Pastor  
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
September 6, 2020

"For where two or three are  
*gathered in my name,*  
there am I among them."

MATTHEW 18:20, ESV



Next weekend's readings:  
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

### LISTEN TO ST. PAUL SERVICES!

Visit our webpage, [www.stpaulg.org](http://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

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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](mailto:stpaul@cvctx.com)

Web Page: [www.stpaulg.org](http://www.stpaulg.org)

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## Welcome!

- + Welcome to FB live worship!
- + Offerings may be mailed to P O Box 567, LG; placed in the mail slot in the office door, or as always, you may give online. Thank you for supporting the ministries at St Paul!
- + We will celebrate Holy Communion this morning. You 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.
- + The 9 a.m. service will be on Facebook live and livestreamed on our webpage, [www.stpaullg.org](http://www.stpaullg.org). It will also be posted on our webpage and on our Facebook page after the service. You may also listen to last week's service on KBUK 104.9 FM on Sundays at 10 am.

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

## GATHERING

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**  
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world,

### Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Children's Word by Caleb Parks

## WORD

### Reading: Romans 13:8-14

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

## Holy Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

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

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

## Sermon

**Rev. Candis O'Meara**

## Hymn of the Day ELW 781 “Children of the Heavenly Father” vs. 1, 2, 4

Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.  
Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

## 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

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community, especially the LG Ministerial Alliance. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. We pray also for the ministries of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Collique, Peru. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. We continue to pray for those endangered by wildfires and those recovering from Hurricane Laura. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially for all affected by the COVID virus and for the families of Wyatt Stewart-Skelton; Albert, Allen, Annie, Barbara, Beth, Pastor Bill, Bonnie, Brooke, Calvin, Chantel, Clarence, David, Diane, Don, Donald, Doris, Ed, Edna Mae, Edwin, Elva, Emmaus, Enid, Gaby, Glenn, J.C., Jamie, Jenelle, Jerry, Juanita, Kay, Kaycee, Leon, Linda, Lisa, London, Marjatta, Mark, Megan, Mel, Milroy, Oliver, Richard, Rose, Sarah, Shelby, Sherry, Tami, \_\_\_\_\_ and for those we name now in the silence of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Offering

### Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.**

### 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.

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. **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.**

*(At this time, eat the Bread, drink the juice)*

### Communion Blessing

#### Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

## SENDING

### Blessing

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

### Sending Song ELW 661 "I Love to Tell The Story" vs. 1 & 3

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

*Refrain*      I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God. And we will!**

**WE WELCOMED** Wes Joseph Hengst, son of Cody and Lauren (Guenther) Hengst, into our baptized membership August 30. Wes' sponsors are Haley Guentert and Hunter Hengst.

**UPDATE:** Annie Hackebeil @ St. David's Rehab

**ALL PRAYER CONCERNS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS** must be given to the church office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday to be included in the weekend's bulletin.

**OFFERINGS** can be mailed to St. Paul, PO Box 567, La Grange, Texas, 78945 or brought to the church office, 427 S Washington St. A new "drop box" was installed recently in the office door. It does not have a slot - you have to open a little door to drop your offering in! You may also donate online by going to our home page ([www.stpaulg.org](http://www.stpaulg.org)) and clicking "Donate Now." You will be directed to MyEofferings 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.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:** We are at the office during the week, but are limiting office traffic to keep us all safe. If you must come in, please call us and let us know when to expect you. Masks are required, any correspondence can be put in the drawer in the office door. Thank you!

### **Lutheran World Relief School Kits**

St. Paul Lutheran Church Ladies are accepting donations for school kits! You may donate by giving \$7 (or any amount you choose) and marking it "School kits". The ladies will purchase the school supplies and assemble the kits.

***Thank you for helping give children the opportunity to attend school!***

### **ST. PAUL IN-PERSON SERVICES RESUME NEXT WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2020**

Saturday @ 5 p.m.

Sunday @ 9 a.m.

At their monthly meeting on August 25, Council voted to return to in-person services at St. Paul beginning Saturday, September 12 @ 5 p.m. and Sunday, September 13 @ 9 a.m. We will practice social distancing at services and everyone will be required to wear a face covering.

E N B R E A D F L R E D H O P  
 A S F A Y I O P A S S O V E R  
 D O O R V E E U I V B V Y L Q  
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 G D M E H M Z I X T Z A L B R  
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MALE	BREAD	ISRAEL	AARON	PLAGUE
FAMILY	MOSES	LAMB	JUDGMENT	DOOR
EGYPT	BLOOD	PASSOVER	LAMBS	MEAT