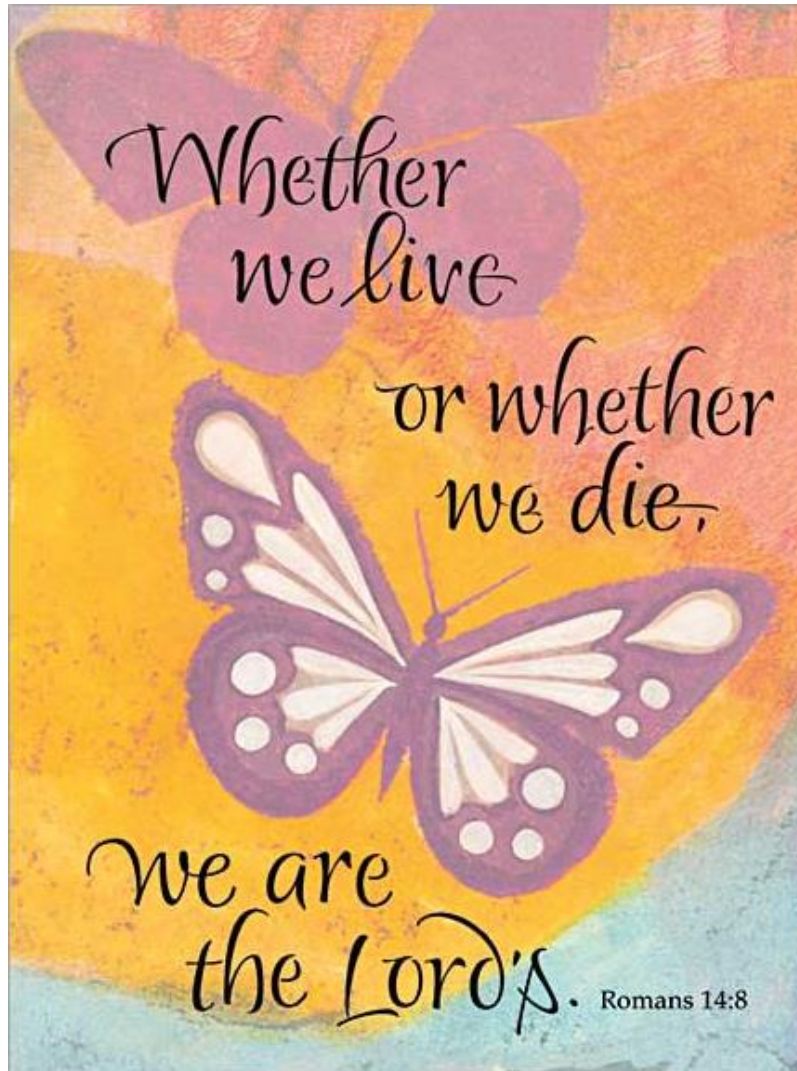


# 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 17, 2023



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
95 W. State St, Coldwater, MI 49036  
[www.stpaulcoldwater.com](http://www.stpaulcoldwater.com) | 517-278-8061  
Facebook: @StPaulColdwater

## Preservice Music

### As We Gather

God's creation is filled with amazing creatures, some of which dedicate their lives to making peoples' lives fuller and better. Since 1942, the Guide Dogs for the Blind association has graduated more than 16,000 person and dog teams from its training programs. The canine guides assist their human teammates each day of their lives together. The guidance they give is expert and dependable. Good guidance in every stage of life is essential! Throughout Scripture, our Lord promises His presence and His divine guidance to sustain and direct His people. Paul summed up that blessed relationship very simply: "So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8). Seeking the Lord's guidance and responding to His promptings brings blessing to our lives!

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*All in attendance in the sanctuary are asked to complete the Connect Card located in the pew rack and they will be collected along with Prayer Cards, during the Sermon Hymn.*

# Announcements

## Call to Worship

♪ Today Your Mercy Calls Us     *LSB 915 v. 1-4*

1     Today Your mercy calls us  
      To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass,  
      Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy  
      Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us  
      And make us clean today.

2     Today Your gate is open,  
      And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome  
      And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten,  
      A present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised,  
      A glorious crown in heav'n.

3     Today our Father calls us;

His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather  
Around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us  
How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered,  
It is our Father's home.

4 O all-embracing Mercy,  
O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You  
When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us,  
To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open,  
One ear will hear our prayer.

**Invocation** *(please 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.

## Opening Sentences

**P** Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

**C** sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

**P** Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds! . . .

**C** All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”

**P** Come and see what God has done:

**C** He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.

**P** Bless our God, O peoples;

**C** let the sound of His praise be heard.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

**C** O most gracious God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We know well that we are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your faithful servants. We have been

**unforgiving and loveless and careless in the stewardship of Your creation. We deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity.**

**Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and guide us into renewed lives that reflect Your goodness and love.**

**P** God is indeed gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. By the command of my Lord Jesus Christ and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

### **Introit**

**P** Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

**C** I have fled to You for refuge!

**P** Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas

for mercy!

**C** In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!

**P** Enter not into judgment with Your servant,

**C** for no one living is righteous before You.

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

**P** Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

**C** I have fled to You for refuge!

♪ Praise To The Lord, The Almighty *LSB 790 v. 1*

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear

Now to His temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You are always ready to hear the prayers of Your people. Grant that we may with all boldness and courage bring to You our petitions with the assurance that for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ You will hear them, forgiving our trespasses and granting us Your guidance in this life and every blessing in the life to come. This we ask 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.** *(please be seated)*

## **Genesis 50:15–21**

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter 50.

When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.” So they sent a message to Joseph, saying,



“Your father gave this command before he died, ‘Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Romans 14:1–12**

**A** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 14.

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person

believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead

and of the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual and Verse** *(please stand)*

**P** Fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing!

**C** **Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.**

**P** Alleluia. If you forgive others their trespasses,

**C** **your heavenly Father will also forgive you.**

Alleluia.

**Matthew 18:21–35**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii,

and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

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

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,

**the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation**

**came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of  
the virgin Mary  
and was made man;**

**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according  
to the Scriptures**

**and ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to  
judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

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

**And I believe in one holy Christian and  
apostolic Church,**

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the  
remission of sins,**

**and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✝ of the world to come.**

**Amen.** *(please be seated)*

## **Children's Message**

*Those present may fill out a Prayer card. Our  
volunteers will gather them during the Sermon Hymn,  
to be offered up during the Prayer of the Church.*

♪ **Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive** *LSB 843 v. 1-4*

- 1     “Forgive our sins as we forgive,”  
      You taught us, Lord, to pray;  
      But You alone can grant us grace  
      To live the words we say.
- 2     How can Your pardon reach and bless  
      The unforgiving heart  
      That broods on wrongs and will not let  
      Old bitterness depart?
- 3     In blazing light Your cross reveals  
      The truth we dimly knew:  
      What trivial debts are owed to us,  
      How great our debt to You!
- 4     Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
      And bid resentment cease;  
      Then, bound to all in bonds of love,  
      Our lives will spread Your peace.

**Sermon**

**9:00AM – Offering**

**9:00AM – ♪ Song During Offering**



## We Praise You, O God *LSB 785 v. 1-3*

1 We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;  
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

2 We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless  
You;

Through trial and tempest our guide You  
have been.

When perils o’ertake us, You will not forsake us,  
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

3 With voices united our praises we offer  
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm  
will guide us.

To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

## **Prayer of the Church** *(please stand)*

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in  
Christ Jesus and for all people according to  
their needs.

Heavenly Father, in Your mercy You have forgiven our insurmountable debt of sin, ransoming us with the death of Your Son. Free us from our grudges and unforgiving nature, lest through our lack of mercy we exclude ourselves from Your forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Almighty God, as You kept Joseph from evil and brought good from his suffering in Egypt, deliver us by Your grace so that we may learn patience in trials. Teach us to be slow to judge, quick to forgive, and steadfast in love for You and one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** We praise You, O Lord, for retaining among us Your Holy Word and Sacraments. Continue to raise up faithful stewards of Your mysteries, that repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Christ's name would be proclaimed in our midst and throughout the world. Prepare Your

baptized children to be faithful confessors of the hope that is in them. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Caring Father, visit the homes of Your people. Keep them from all harm and danger, and grant that we would dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** God of power and might, sustain the nations of the earth and lead them in the way of justice and truth. Defend life and liberty, and give us honest and faithful rulers, that our nation may strive toward what is honorable, true and just. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Heavenly Father, according to Your will grant healing to the sick and infirm [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Grant them patience to endure their time of suffering, and crown their days with Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Merciful God, though we come to Your table as servants who owe a debt we cannot pay, Your Son has forgiven it in its entirety. As we receive His very body and blood for our forgiveness, let us be grateful and go out to serve others with the same spirit of forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).*

## **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

*We welcome to the table of the Lord all those who believe and confess alongside this family the teachings*

*of the Lutheran Church. For more on this, refer to the Worship Card, located in each pew rack.*

## **Preface**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have called us as Your people and have shown us Your kindness. Confident of Your love and assured of Your mercy, we come before You, asking that we may receive Your blessings with heartfelt thanksgiving. Pour out upon us the gift of Your Holy Spirit and grant that we receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with

the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

### **Proclamation of Christ**

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

## Pax Domini

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

**C** Amen.

**P** The table is prepared. Welcome to the Lord's  
table.

♪ **Agnus Dei** *DS 1*

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the  
world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace. *(please be seated)*

# Distribution

## 9:00AM - Songs During Distribution

♪ When Peace, Like A River      *LSB 763 v. 1-4*

1    When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;  
      When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;  
      Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
      It is well, it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*    It is well (It is well)  
              with my soul, (with my soul),  
              It is well, it is well with my soul.

2    Though Satan should buffet, though trials  
      should come,  
      Let this blest assurance control,  
      That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate  
      And hath shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

3    He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
      My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
      Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.  
      Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

*Refrain*



4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,

The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;

Even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

♪ Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer *LSB 918*

1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield;

Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.

♪ Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus *LSB 685 v. 1-4*

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
Follow His example pure,  
Through a world that would deceive us  
And to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in His footsteps treading,  
Pilgrims here, our home above,  
Full of faith and hope and love,  
Let us do the Father's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide;  
I shall follow where You guide.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus

And with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
Where He is, there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter,  
We shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy  
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share Your woe;  
Help me there Your joy to know.

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.  
Since by death He conquered death,  
He will free us from destruction,  
Give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion  
That would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in  
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here with You I die,  
There to live with You on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.  
He has risen from the dead

That to life we may awaken.

Jesus, You are now our head.

We are Your own living members;

Where You live, there we shall be

In Your presence constantly,

Living there with You forever.

Jesus, let me faithful be,

Life eternal grant to me.

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

Grant, O Lord, that this Sacrament that we have now received strengthen us in faith, faith demonstrated in loving service to one another and marked by forgiveness and care. As we have shared in the hospitality of Your Table, enable us to live each day as Your people who are given to hospitality, charity, and service in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

## 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.

♪ O Jesus, Blessed Lord, To Thee *LSB 632 v. 1-2*

1 O Jesus, blessèd Lord, to Thee  
My heartfelt thanks forever be,  
Who hast so lovingly bestowed  
On me Thy body and Thy blood.

2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:  
What wealth is come to me this day!  
My Savior dwells within my heart:  
How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

## Dismissal

**P** Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

✠ ✠ ✠

**SERVING in the LORD'S HOUSE**

**Pastor** Rev. Aaron B. Chittick

**Admin. Assist.** Laura  
Oswood

**Organist** Kay  
Kaepf

**Treasurer** Donna  
Hobday

**Altar** Jacque  
**Guild** Osborn

**Interpreter for** Mary Smith  
**the Deaf**

**Banners** Lisa Huff

**Today - Sept 17**

**Next Sunday - Sept 24**

**Acolyte** Lorelai C

Madeline G

**Assistant** Rick Taden

Chris Donbrock

**Ushers** Larry Parks  
Paul Meyer

Sara Mobley  
Ron Patch

**Reader** Rick Taden

Donna Hines

**Sound** Aaron Garn

Chayse Moore

**Candles** Daniel Tucker  
Liz Tucker

-

**Counters** Jacque Osborn  
Liz Donbrock

Kelsey Sobeski  
Kira Grant

**Cookies**

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

*Cancer patients:* Scott Brandenberg; Sue Davenport; Debbie; Rob Eickmann; Ethel; Nancy Gregory; Janet; Kim; Kathleen Klumpp; Bill Livingston; Liz; Monica; Noah; Ruben Pineda; Patrick Reardon.

*Family & Friends:* Cathy Harari; Lisa Heffelfinger; Debbie Jenner; Elfriede Kuemmerle; Patricia; Doreen Robinson; Bill Tunison; Zoe.

*Shut-ins:* MaryAnn Morrill; Mary Osbon; Bea Richardson.

*Those in military service:* Lance Bonkoske; Jeffrey Kaepf; Tristan Karl; Joe Meyer; Logan Ostrander; Ryan Schlueter; Heath Taner; Chelsea Terrones; Arie Vincegerra.

**OFFERINGS** September 10 (Includes Direct Payments): General Fund-\$4,975; Youth-\$60; Chicken Dinner-\$600; Narthex Fund-\$135; Memorials for Myrt Ruse-Obed-\$630 (100 for endowment, 30 for narthex); Total-\$6,400.

**ATTENDANCE** September 10 Worship: 9am-76, 11:30am-12; Sunday School: Kids-17, Adults-19.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday School for All Ages** Join us at 10:30am.

Check the bulletin board to find the class for you.

**Chicken Dinner Tickets** are available between worship services in the Narthex and from the church office during the week. \$15 Dinner to go on October 1.

**Beginnings Care for Life Banquet** See Bev Beier if you're interested.

**October Newsletter** deadline is Monday, September 24 @ 8:30am. Please email, call, or leave a note with your announcement/event info.

### **THIS WEEK at ST. PAUL**

Sunday 9/17    9:00am Worship  
                    10:30am Sunday School for All Ages  
                    11:30am Worship

Monday 9/18    7:00pm Council Meeting

Saturday 9/23    9:00am Men's Bible Study

Sunday 9/24    9:00am Worship  
                    10:30am Sunday School for All Ages  
                    11:30am Worship