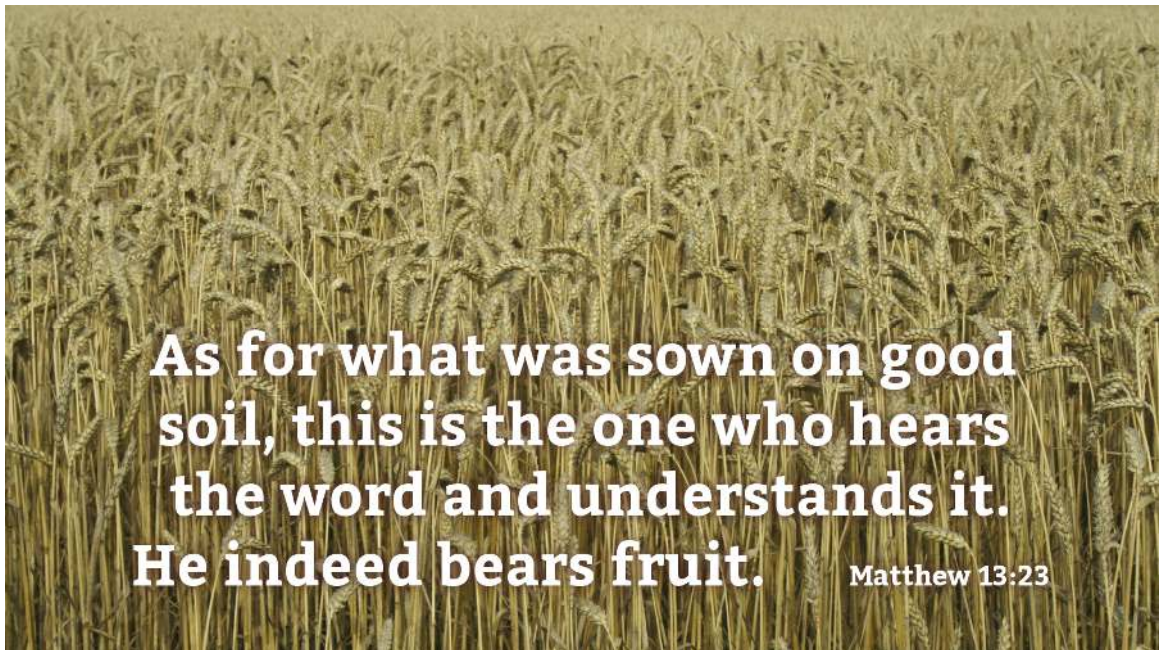


# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School and Kinder Place

(The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod)



**As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit.** Matthew 13:23



210 East Pleasant Street  
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066  
Church Office: 262-567-5001 Website: [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)

Worship Schedule: \*Saturday 5:00 pm \* Sunday 8:00 am Traditional \*  
\* Sunday 10:30 am Contemporary \* Wednesday 6:30 pm Lakeside \*

**St. Paul's Mission Statement: "Reaching, Serving and Growing Disciples"**

July 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Steven Scharnell, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Paul Borgman, Pastor Emeritus  
Jonathon Pickelmann, Principal  
Volume 23

Adam Tanney, Youth Director  
Diane Bleke, Organist/Choir Director  
Christine Flores, Kinder Place Director

Office Hours - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Number 27

WELCOME to everyone, especially our guests.  
Your presence is important to us.

St. Paul's is an evangelical Christian congregation, embracing historic Christian teaching on all doctrines, centered on Jesus Christ. Our desire is to bring the Gospel both to those who are searching for answers to the meaning of life and to those who desire a closer relationship with God. We here at St. Paul's have chosen to align ourselves with the teachings of the Lutheran Reformation, due to the clarity with which these help us to see the true meaning of God's Word. Specifically, St. Paul's is a ministry of the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod, one of America's truly biblical churches!

- **Members and guests:** please fill out an attendance card and place it in the offering plate to indicate your presence today. For Holy Communion, please read our confession and indicate your agreement with our beliefs by checking the box next to the names of those communing.
- Those sharing our beliefs, especially from parishes in fellowship with us, are welcome to receive.
- If you desire Holy Communion but hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, please speak with a Pastor or an Elder.
- Non-communing, baptized children are welcome to come to the table for a blessing.

**Please note:** Half the inner circle of individual glasses in each tray contains water with **one drop** of communion wine for those hesitant to drink larger amounts of wine. Those glasses with wine are rose in color.

**The 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Come to worship.** As the prelude begins, worshippers are encouraged to conclude conversation and quietly prepare to enter into the experience of worship.  
**Pastor:** Steve Scharnell  
**Theme:** *Fruit is Good for You*  
Traditional Worship  
**Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service 4, pg. 203**  
Contemporary Worship  
**Special Order**

## **BIBLE STUDIES**

**A Walk Through the Bible**  
567-5001 Sun. - 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall  
Salvation  
567-8195 Tues. - 7:00 p.m. Muecke's Home

The **radio broadcast** is sponsored by Stan & Louann Kuehl in praise to God for blessings received. St. Paul's 8:00 am church service can be heard Sunday over WTKM (104.9 FM) and worldwide at wtkm.com. The **altar flowers** are sponsored by Barb Krug in praise to God for blessings received.



## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Our summer office hours will be 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, effective June 5<sup>th</sup> - August 25<sup>th</sup>. Please make a note of it.

## REACHING DISCIPLES

### FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEER SIGN UP AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup>-20<sup>TH</sup>

Our Savior's and St. Paul's volunteers will be welcoming families without shelter to stay for food, fellowship and overnight shelter at Our Savior's Lutheran Church from August 13<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Help us welcome guests and live out our faith during these beautiful summer months. **Currently we are at capacity with 4 families in the program-a total of 5 adults (one is 5 months pregnant with a baby girl) and 7 children (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 years-old).** Please sign-up for any of the service opportunities (making food, serving the food, spending some time in the evening with the families, setting up on the 13<sup>th</sup> or taking the stuff down on the 20<sup>th</sup>, or staying overnight) by going to our church website: [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org) or contact Mary Hickenbottom 414-333-3421 or [mary@splco.org](mailto:mary@splco.org). They also need volunteer drivers. *Thank you for your willingness to serve and please continue to pray for these families and for the volunteers that are changing lives in our community!*

## SERVING DISCIPLES

### CONGREGATIONAL DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR MATCH CHALLENGE

At our last Special Voters' Meeting, as part of the 2017/2018 Financial Ministry Plan, a salary reduction of 5% (\$36,825) for the teachers and pastors was presented to the congregation. A generous member came forward with a dollar-for-dollar challenge and has agreed to match (up to \$18,000), which will allow our teachers and pastors to not have to undergo the reduction in salary. Please join us in showing our faculty and pastors how valued and important they are to us. Donations need to be above and beyond weekly offerings and *Free to Serve* commitments. They should be earmarked: *Dollar-for-Dollar Challenge*. To date, we have raised \$1558. Praise be to God!

### FREE TO GOOD HOME...

A congregation member has donated a brand new Medline wheeled walker with brakes. If you are in need of one, or know someone who is, please contact the church office at 262.567.5001.

# GROWING DISCIPLES

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AT WHELAN'S

We will begin our next series, *Living the Chocolate Life* by Deb Burma on August 5<sup>th</sup> and we would like to have people register so we can order books at a discounted price. They can register by emailing Cheryl Tesch at [cheryl.tesch@ymail.com](mailto:cheryl.tesch@ymail.com) or calling [920-285-3628](tel:920-285-3628).

## JOY OF STEWARDSHIP

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2 *Heavenly Father; Help us to remain faithful to the end and be filled with your joy. Amen*

## LAKE COUNTRY THUNDER BASEBALL TRYOUTS

**Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> and Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup>:** Lake Country Lutheran High School will hold open tryouts for their Lake Country Thunder 12U, 13U, and 14U (students entering 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade) baseball teams from 6:00 to 7:45 pm at the baseball diamonds behind the high school at 401 Campus Drive in Hartland. These teams will compete in the late spring and summer of 2018. For each team, a player must be that team's age or under as of May 1, 2018. Interested players need to attend only one of the tryout dates. Rain date is Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:45 pm. Questions may be directed to David Bahr at [dbahr@lakecountryhs.org](mailto:dbahr@lakecountryhs.org).

## LEGION BAND CONCERT

The Oconomowoc American Legion Band will be presenting a concert "Wonderful World of Disney" on Wednesday evening, July 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 - 8:30 PM at the Rhodée Memorial Band Shell, 324 W. Wisconsin Avenue. This event will feature the Junior Legion Band (under the direction of Gail Hoffman,) who will be playing several selections and will also be playing with the Legion Band. The soloists will be: Victoria Lee, vocal and Evan Smith, alto saxophone - the Legion Band Scholarship winner. Some of the selections will be: "Theme from Zorro", "Let It Go" from Frozen", "Selections from Mary Poppins", "A Disneyland Celebration" and several well-known marches.

## LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR

Defending life involves declaring the dangers of using death as a solution. As intimidating and discouraging as it sometimes seems (Matthew 13:4-7), God finds His own greatest joy in the Gospel message. He guarantees that His Word of life in Christ alone will yield abundantly (Isaiah 55:11, Matthew 13:23). *Almighty Father, cultivate Your Word in us unto joy and life. Amen.*

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*  
*The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Fruit is Good for You*  
*July 16-23, 2017*

## **Fruit is Good for You (Pastor Scharnell)**

Christ Jesus opens our ears to hear, our minds to understand and our hearts to believe His Word, lest the evil one come and snatch it away. He transforms our rocky hearts into good soil, which clings to the Gospel and "indeed bears fruit" (Matt. 13:23). He is Himself the firstfruits of all who "have received the Spirit of adoption as sons" (Rom. 8:15). Thus being "led by the Spirit of God," we are not afraid, but we cry out in faith to our Father in heaven (Rom. 8:14-15). For as we suffer with Christ, the beloved Son, so shall we "also be glorified with him" (Rom. 8:17).

## **The Order of Meditation and Prayer**

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

### **Invocation**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Apostles' Creed**

**Christ-Centered Theme:** All Christians are called to be witnesses of the surpassing compassion Jesus shows you by the forgiveness, life and salvation He offers.

**Verse:** 1 Corinthians 1:18—For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**Psalm:** Psalm 16 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule **LSB, p. 304**

	<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tue.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thur.</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Sun.</b>
<b>Daily Psalms</b>								
<b>Morning</b>	67	51	54	65	143	86	122	110
<b>Evening</b>	46, 93	85, 47	28, 99	125, 91	81, 116	9, 19	141, 90	66, 23

**Catechism—The Office of the Keys:** *What is the Office of the Keys? Where is this written? What do you believe according to these words?*

<p><i>What is the Office of the Keys?</i> The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.</p>	1 <sup>st</sup> grade+
<p><i>Where is this written?</i> This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: <b>The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."</b></p>	2 <sup>nd</sup> grade+
<p><i>What do you believe according to these words?</i> I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.</p>	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade+

**The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: *Fruit is Good for You***

Day	Bible Stories for the Family & School	Daily prayer readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sun.	The Fishermen Are Called to Be Fishers of Men—Luke 5:1-11	Judges 16:4-30	Gal. 4:12-31
Mon.	The Feeding of the 5,000—Matt. 14:14-21	1 Sam. 1:1-20	Gal. 5:1-26
Tue.	Jesus Walks on the Water—Matthew 14:22-36	1 Sam. 1:21-2:17	Gal. 6:1-18
Wed.	Out of Man's Heart Proceed Evil Thoughts—Matthew 15:1-20	1 Sam. 2:18-36	Acts 15:22-41
Thur.	A Canaanite Woman Trusts Jesus' Word—Matthew 15:21-31	1 Sam. 3:1-21	Acts 16:1-22
Fri.	The Feeding of the 4,000—Matt. 15:32-39	1 Sam. 4:1-22	Acts 16:23-40

**Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at St. Paul's**

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### **Daily Themes for Prayer**

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

### **In Our Prayers this Week**

**Those sick or hospitalized: MEMBERS** – Duane Olson—kidney cancer; Sue Lindemann; Bob Tetzlaff—hospice; Todd Gartzke; Duane Peterson; Carol Fellin—cancer; Larry Hansen; Bill & Margaret Voss; Ken Groenke; Laura Gruen—brain tumor; Esther Hart; Louise Lang; Marguerite Schneider; Ethan Meyer—brain tumor; Mabel Fredrick; Agnes Thurow; Linda Hansen (Steve's wife); Marian Faltersack; Iris Jahnke—hospice; Rick Ware; Ed Krelwitz; Harry & Dorothy Peterson (Shorehaven); Barb Krug; Crystal Parker

**FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS** – **Those with cancer:** Audrey Nigh; Liz (Barb Allwardt's sister)—ovarian cancer; the sister of a member with breast cancer; Dylan Coughlin—3 year-old with brain tumor; Kevin Kloss (John Tesch's nephew)—Leukemia; Judy (Amy Hackbarth's friend)—lung cancer; Grandpa Dave (family friend of Nagel's)—bladder cancer; Beth Etzel—stage-four pancreatic cancer; co-worker of Michelle Pagenkopf; Mike—cancer in bones; Roy Hyatt—cancer returned; Daina Boppr—breast cancer; Quinn—breast cancer; Dan Rogers (Jon Schmeling's brother-in-law)—bladder cancer; Julie; Joanne Montanegro-Greinke; Michael Graham; Jenny Lemke (friend of the Uttech's); Kayla (7 years-old)—brain cancer; Cheri (Tina Gartzke's friend); Linda F—breast cancer; Jack Anderson; Kim B.—breast cancer; Brian Keller; Jeanie; Karen Peskie (Mike & Cheryl Reiner's sister-in-law)—Lymphoma; Lea Acord (Pat Borgman's friend); Donald—bladder cancer; Jan; Mike Ball; Jessica; Chris Moha—breast cancer; Amy (Heather Gartzke's friend); Pat (Renee Ebert's aunt)—ovarian cancer; Ray Liska; Sue; Jim; Cheri Benz—breast cancer; Cami—healing; Tim—lung cancer; Pastor William Meyer (Don Meyer's brother)—Lymphoma; Dan (stage-four prostate cancer); Crystal Schultz; Joann Romain—kidney cancer; Ron Rafalski—throat cancer; Nancy—breast cancer; Sarah Beine (stage 4 cancer)

**Other:** Sue Wolter (Pat Gartzke's sister); Karen Nicholson; Armin Tessmann—strength in walking; Michael Hamton; Karen Christenson—dementia & stroke; Regina Mills; Dory Schultz; Tina Hahn (BJ Lavota's sister)—heart stent; Phyllis Ecklor (Shirley Dibble's sister); Lois—hospice

Shawn—vascular problems; Jennifer—digestive absorption issues; Ken; Kat’s mom—broken leg; Kristal—lung surgery; Jennifer (Rick & Kathie Ware’s daughter)—pray for complete recovery; Jonathan (Marilyn Marohn’s nephew)—in need of a kidney; Doug—CCL; Megan Bertram; Jane Nordstrom (Lois Wolf’s mom)—continued healing & good test results; Rose (Pastor Krug’s aunt); Kelly Braswell (BJ Lavota’s sister)—MS; Barb Schlomer (Dave’s mom)—severe headaches; Cory—healing; Kathy Kraklau (Susan DeWitz’s mom)—stroke; Brayden Stacey—2 year-old with brain tumor; Ken; Don; Curt G; Ashlin—stage 4 renal failure; Clem—high calcium heart; Ken (Kathie Ware’s twin brother)—congestive heart failure; Bob—prostate problems; Linda—diabetic dementia; Sharon—probiotic/kidney problems; Kelly; Brian Kloskowski—MS; Logyn; Pat—afib; TJ Easley (Dawn Lower’s brother-in-law); Fred (Lynda Rades’s brother); Lynne Kramer (Susie Meyer’s dad); Joel (Tina Gartzke’s nephew); Dwain Kline (Jennifer Truchan’s grandpa)—hospice; Clarence; Pam Leimer (Pat Borgman’s cousin)—stroke; Scott Kleist (Jim & Ann Duggan’s son)—MS; Kelly Kulas; Charles Tuff (Alzheimer’s); Paul Fellin

**Those serving in the military-deployed:** Tucker Stargard; PFC Nicholas Lang; Zach Howard, Theresa; Phil Preston; Captain Chad Kelling; Casey, Phil, Andy & Steve Koth; Luke, Jacob, Brian, Randy, Kyle, Jake, Jeff, Matt, Tom, Brad, Ben, Mike & Rob

**Those serving God as missionaries:** Christie Nelson (China), Ray Wigdal (China), Dennis Denow (Thailand), Bob & Chris Prouty (Australia), Pastor Reinke (Deaf Ministry), Rev. Bud Palmer

**Those in need:** Our Shut-Ins; children of St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital and their families; Mike to come to know Jesus as his Savior; for God’s continued wisdom to direct as how to be faithful stewards in our congregation; Josh, for help with alcoholism; David; those struggling with addiction -Bob, Andy, George, Dan, Dee; Sarah, Keri.

**Anniversary:** Jamie & Jill George—29<sup>th</sup>—July 16<sup>th</sup>

**Birthday:** Jill George—July 19<sup>th</sup>

**Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism**

**Hymn of the Week: “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”**

**LSB 577**

**Looking forward to The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 22/23, 2017**

**Hymns: 576, 798 (809, 728, 652) 525**

***A World of Weeds (Pastor Scharnell)***

The good Seed, which is “the Son of Man,” Jesus Himself (Matt. 13:37), brings forth a harvest of faith and bears good fruits in “the sons of the kingdom” (Matt. 13:38). Whatever is sown apart from His Word is of the devil, who plants the weeds of unbelief and sin, even among the people of God. Thankfully, the Lord is patient and He does not uproot the weeds, lest the plants also be destroyed. He lets “both grow together until the harvest” (Matt. 13:30), while He continues to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins. Thus, He preserves His Church in righteousness. For “the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God” (Rom. 8:19), and in this hope we also wait with patience. Though we do not yet see it, “the Spirit helps us in our weakness” (Rom. 8:26) and, in truth, “the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Rom. 8:18).



# **St. Paul's Fellowship Coffee Hour**



**July 16!**

**Hosted by the  
New Member Sponsor Committee**

Time: 9:15 am to 10:25 am

**Stay after the 8am Service!**

**Come a little early for the 10:30 Service!**

**Where:** St. Paul's school lobby & hallway **or** outside by the lobby doors on sunny days

Welcome new members & visitors!

Enjoy the fellowship of our church members!

Coffee, milk, juice, water and sweet treats will be served

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to be directed to St. Paul's online giving webpage.



For the most current information on St. Paul's happenings, please visit our website at [splco.org](http://splco.org).

UPCOMING EVENTS: July 17<sup>th</sup>–23<sup>th</sup>  
ADVANCE THE MISSION

REACHING, SERVING & GROWING DISCIPLES

MONDAY July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Lord's Cupboard Meal	Fellowship Hall	5:30 pm
TUESDAY July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Praise Team Practice	Church	7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Lakeside Worship	Backyard	6:30 pm
THURSDAY July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Praise Team Practice	Church	7:00 pm
SATURDAY July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Journeymen Traditional Worship AA Meeting	Maxim's Church Fellowship Hall	7:30 am 5:00 pm 8:30 pm
SUNDAY July 23 <sup>th</sup>	Traditional Worship Adult Bible Study Contemporary Worship	Church Fellowship Hall Church	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am

**Wednesday Summer Worship Services**

Lakeside Summer Worship (in our backyard) will run through August 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Bring your lawn chairs! Sermons will be from the prior Sunday. (If there is inclement weather, services will be moved into the sanctuary.)

# ATTENDANCE

July 8/9/12

**Church Attendance:**

5:00 pm—69

8:00 am—121

10:30 am—155

Wednesday Lakeside—22

367 Total; 23 visitors; 344 members

**ST. PAUL'S JUNE/JULY EPISTLE IS  
NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE  
AT SPLCO.ORG.**

**FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN**

We rejoice to have families with small children participating in our worship services. There are baskets available with items that might be helpful for your children behind the back pews.

**THIS WEEKEND**

**5:00 PM**

**8:00 AM**

**10:30 AM**

<b>Music Leaders</b>	Diane Bleke	Diane Bleke	Look2Him
<b>Special Music</b>	Bobbie Scheuer	Bobbie Scheuer	
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBD	TBD	Hannah Tuff
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jean Fisher	Leslyn Mueller	Cheryl Oelsner
<b>Elders</b>	Wilbur Pieper	Bruce Bain	Scott Kalien
<b>Greeters</b>	John & Margie Hertneky	Chuck & Jenny Laabs (church) Jim & Marlene Steinberg (school)	Al & Kathy Mueller
<b>Lectors</b>	Amy Hackbarth	Gary Ketchum	
<b>Power Point</b>	N/A	N/A	Cheryl Oelsner
<b>Radio</b>	N/A	Steve Hansen	N/A
<b>Ushers</b>	Wilbur Pieper	Gary Flanagan	Scott Kalien

**NEXT WEEK**

**5:00 PM**

**8:00 AM**

**10:30 AM**

<b>Readings</b>	Isaiah 44:6-8	Romans 8:18-27	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
<b>Acolytes</b>	Levi Benes	Megan Frosch	TBD
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Margie Hertneky	Wendy Tesch	Barb Star
<b>Elders</b>	Arno Kirchenwitz	Mike Tesch	John Melvin
<b>Greeters</b>	John Melvin	Karen Meyer (church) Ralph & Donna Andrus (school)	Tom & Denise Showen
<b>Lectors</b>	Russ Meyer	Jim Steinberg	
<b>Power Point</b>	N/A	N/A	Jamie Stache
<b>Radio</b>	N/A	Jim Juneau	N/A
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Bratz	Todd Leonhardt	John Melvin

# THE 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## **Isaiah 55:10-13**

*Pew Bible pg. 782*

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

## **Romans 8:12-17**

*Pew Bible pg. 1201*

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

## **St. Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

*Pew Bible pg. 1039*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."

...  
"Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

July 15/16, 2017