

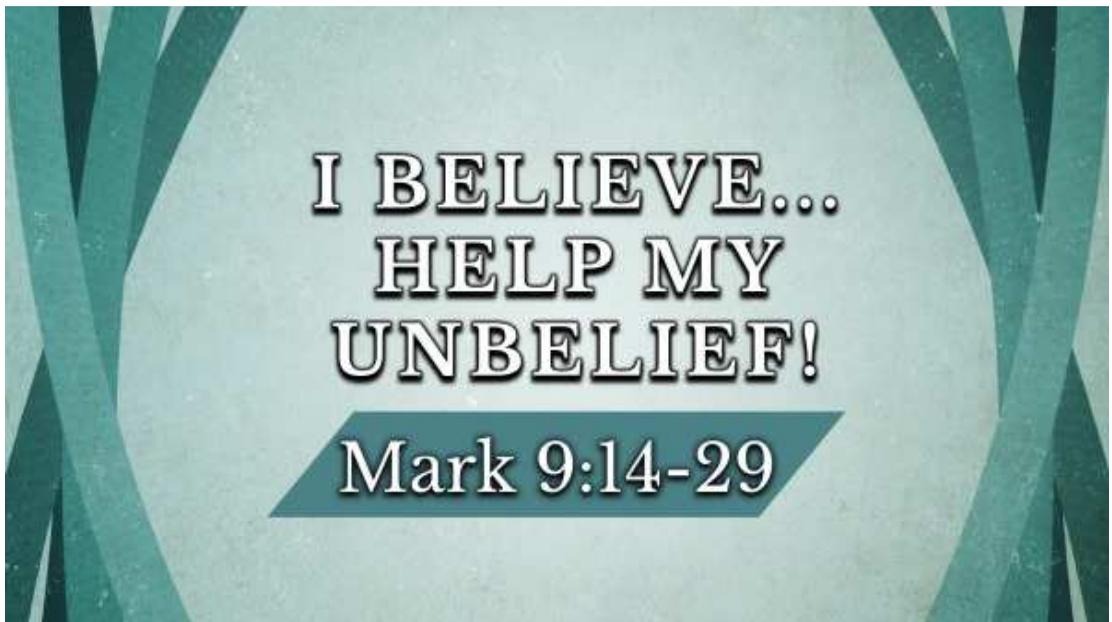


St. Paul's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Receiving and giving the love and hope of Christ



Worship Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm traditional • Sunday: 8:00 am traditional

Sunday: 10:30 am contemporary

Special services during Advent, Lent & Summer

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, School & Early Childhood Center

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
Allison Mackie, Director of Parish Music
Jill George, Principal
Volume 26

Rev. Jason Schockman, Associate Pastor
Christine Flores, ECC Director
Adrianna Lubner, Middle School Youth Director
Number 36

Office Hours: 7:00 am – 3:30 pm

Please fill out an attendance card
and place it in the offering plate.

*As the prelude begins, worshipers are
encouraged to conclude conversation
and quietly prepare for worship.*

GUEST INFORMATION

Welcome! If you are a guest, the following information may help you:

If you have questions, or would like more information about St. Paul's, an usher will be happy to help you.

Please fill out an attendance card, located on the pew in front of you, and place it in the offering plate.

If you have small children, there are activity bags located behind the back pews that might be helpful for your child.

HOLY COMMUNION

Please read our confession found on page 329-330 of the Lutheran Service Book and indicate your agreement with our beliefs by checking the box next to the names of those communing.

Those who share in our confession of faith of the Lord's Supper are welcome to receive.

If you hold a confession differing from this congregation, please speak with a pastor or elder. Non-communing, baptized children are welcome to come to the table for a blessing.

If you are physically unable to come to the table, please let an usher know and the pastor will come to you and give you communion.

Communion Wine

The wine glasses in the center of each tray contain **one drop** of communion wine. The glasses that contain more wine are rose in color.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

THE 16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Pastor: Jason Schockman

Theme: *Cry of Faith: I Believe,
Help My Unbelief*

Traditional Worship

LSB, Divine Service 1, pg. 151

Contemporary Worship

Special Order

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

5:00 pm – 73 **Total: 263**
 8:00 am – 125
 10:30 am – 65

Scan the QR code and give electronically. This is a safe and easy way to offer your gifts to God.



THIS WEEKEND

| | 5:00 PM | 8:00 AM | 10:30 AM |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Music Leaders | Allison Mackie | Allison Mackie | Praise Team |
| Acolyte | Bobby Edwards | Ava Weaver | TBD |
| Altar Guild | Marena Linke | Ann Weaver | Jamie Stache |
| Camera | N/A | Jacob Eifert | N/A |
| Elders | Jim Juneau | Bruce Bain | Erik Benes |
| Greeters | TBD | Ralph & Donna Andrus (church) Gary Pribnow (school) | Kim Tuff |
| OBS Studio | N/A | Rachelle Eifert | N/A |
| Power Point | N/A | N/A | Leah Johnson |
| Radio | N/A | Cheryl Tesch | N/A |
| Ushers | Wilbur Pieper's Team | TBD | Erik Benes |

Radio Broadcast & Altar Flowers: Judy Mueller in loving memory of her husband, Bert, and their 50th wedding anniversary, which would have been on September 11th

Our 8:00 am Worship Service is broadcast live on WTKM 104.9 and at available at www.splco.org.

Families with small children: There are activity bags located in the back of the church that might be helpful for your child.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Live Stream volunteers needed

We are looking for people to help run the live stream on Sunday mornings at 8:00 am. No experience is necessary. We will train you on the live stream software, OBS Studio, and the cameras. The time commitment is minimal, only once every four to five weeks. If you are interested, please get in touch with Amy Hackbarth at amy@splco.org or 262-567-5001.

Adult choir has begun!

This group is open to anyone over confirmation age who loves to sing and can behave for one hour a week. Rehearsals are every Wednesday at 7:30. We usually sing about two times a month at the 8:00 service as well as at other festival services. If you have any questions, please email or call Allison Mackie at allison.mackie@splco.org or 262-567-5001 ext. 214.

St. Paul's Early Childhood Center is looking for CHILDCARE WORKERS

We are looking for candidates who are fun-loving, caring, energetic, dependable, good communicators and flexible. Applicant must be 18 years-old or older and be able to pass a background check. Full and part time positions open, Contact Christine Flores for more information (262-567-5001 or stpaulsecc@splco.org).

College Care Package Ministry

For those of you interested in receiving or having a College Care Package sent to your college student, please e-mail or text me with the students name and mailing address at school. This is a great opportunity for us to reach out to our college students during the school year and let them know we care. Please email Tracy Bain at bbain123@gmail.com or text at 262-409-6843.

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. -Phil 2:4

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

Even Christian lips can dishonor God and endanger neighbors (James 3:9). When we permit assisted suicide or promote abortion, we cause more destruction than forest fires (James 3:5). But words also serve the Lord's gracious purposes. Gospel promises have delivered us. Even our sinful tongues can become instruments of His miracles. When we proclaim how God treasures every human life, He changes hearts and saves lives more than any laws or elections.

Organ and/or piano to a good home

Gwen Nicholson is looking to donate a Lowry organ that has two manuals, foot pedals and a bench. She is also looking to donate a Baldwin Spinet piano and bench. Both are in very good condition. If you are interested in either the organ or piano, you may contact Gwen at 262-567-5995 or on her cell at 414-573-8365.

St. Paul's Lutheran School ~ Christ in All Things

We are excited to welcome 16 new families with 28 new students to our 4K-8 school family. We are also blessed with 33 legacy students whose parents, and sometimes grandparents, attended St. Paul's. That kind of tradition is what makes St. Paul's special.

On Saturday, September 11, our 8th graders will be leaving for South Dakota. In its 16th year, this trip is something that students look forward to throughout their time at St. Paul's. The kids will be camping in Badlands National Park and Custer State Park with lots of hiking, swimming at Evan's Plunge and visiting Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Monument. They will also tour the Akta Lakota Museum, shop at Wall Drug, and look for bison and donkeys on the Wildlife Loop in Custer.

Most importantly, they will spend time together in God's Word as they explore how *Christ is in All Things*—Colossians 1:17. Please pray for the safety of our students and chaperones.

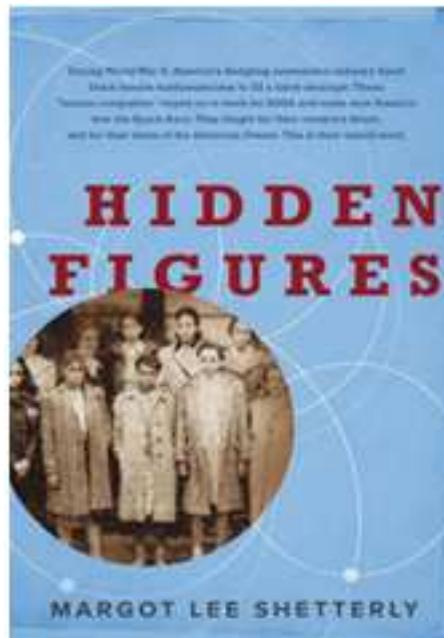


Mission Statement: Helping God's children grow to be energetic servant leaders for HIM through love, respect, and a commitment to excellence.

Hidden Figures

The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women
Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race

Author: Margot Lee Shetterly



Please be aware there are multiple versions of this book. You should have one that looks like one of the photos

Where: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Oconomowoc

When: Tuesdays from 3:15-4:15pm

Please come join us!

Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The 16th Sunday after Pentecost: *Cry of Faith: I Believe, Help My Unbelief*

September 12 – 19, 2021

Cry of Faith: I Believe, Help My Unbelief

Those who teach the Word of God “will be judged with greater strictness” (James 3:1) because it is by the Word that saving faith is obtained, whereas false doctrine always threatens to destroy Christian faith and life. The tongue “boasts of great things,” whether for good or evil (James 3:5). In fallen man, “it is a restless evil, full of deadly poison” (James 3:8). It is Christ who opens His ear to the voice of His Father, so that, with “the tongue of those who are taught,” He is able to sustain the weary “with a word” (Is. 50:4–5). Entrusting Himself to His Father, even to death, He is not put to shame but is vindicated in His resurrection (Is. 50:6–9). By His faith and faithfulness, He casts out the “mute and deaf spirit” from us (Mark 9:25). He has compassion on us and helps us, so that we may cry out “I believe, help my unbelief” It is by Christ who is in all things that we are not destroyed by doubt but cleansed from every evil and raised up from death to life (Mark 9:22–27).

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

Verse: Romans 5:8 God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Psalm: Psalm 124 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule **LSB**, p. 304

| | Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thur. | Fri. | Sat. | Sun. |
|--------------|----------|--------|----------|---------|--------|---------|----------|---------|
| Daily Psalms | | | | | | | | |
| Morning | 103 | 5 | 42 | 89:1-18 | 97 | 51 | 104 | 19 |
| Evening | 117, 139 | 84, 29 | 102, 133 | 1, 33 | 16, 62 | 142, 65 | 118, 111 | 81, 113 |

The Catechism: Ten Commandments—Seventh and Eighth Commandments

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <p><i>What is the Seventh Commandment?</i> You shall not steal.</p> | Preschool + |
| <p><i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way; but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.</p> | 1 st Grade + |
| <p><i>What is the Eighth Commandment?</i> You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.</p> | Preschool + |
| <p><i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.</p> | 2 nd Grade + |

The 16th Sunday after Pentecost: *Cry of Faith: I Believe, Help My Unbelief*

| Day | Bible Stories for the Family & School | Daily prayer readings from LSB, p. 299 | |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------|
| Sun. | Seek First the Kingdom of God & His Righteousness—Mt. 6:24-34 | 2 Chron. 31:1-21 | Phil 4:1-23 |
| Mon. | The Ark Is Brought to Jerusalem— 2 Samuel 6:1-19 | 2 Chron. 32:1-22 | Col. 1:1-23 |
| Tue. | God's Covenant with David—2 Samuel 7:1-17 | 2 Chron. 33:1-25 | Col. 1:24-2:7 |
| Wed. | David's Thanksgiving to God— 2 Samuel 7:18-29 | 2 Chron. 34:1-4, 8-11, 14-33 | Col. 2:8-23 |
| Thur. | David Shows Kindness to Mephibosheth— 2 Samuel 9:1-13 | 2 Chron. 35:1-7, 16-25 | Col. 3:1-25 |
| Fri. | David and Bathsheba—2 Samuel 11:1-17, 22-25 | 2 Chron. 36:1-23 | Col. 4:1-18 |

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

Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

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 – Brent Raben; Drew Esveldt—recovering from car accident; Bruce Bojko—lymphoma; Michael Stollenwerk; Louise Stenson; Marilyn Runyard; Richard Schultz; Jeannette Leonhardt; Vernon Schilling—cancer; Marcus Pankow—cancer; Linda Leidel—continued healing; George Nagel—Shorehaven; Bernice Jorgenson—cancer; David Mueller (Froedtert)—healing; Wilbur Pieper; Barb Pieper; Carolyn Pankow—Shorehaven; Peggy Lauber—liver and bone cancer; Laura Gruen; Lucille Campbell—cancer treatment; Mary Buss—cancer; Timothy John Bratz—cancer; Bill Voss; Mabel Fredrick; Crystal Parker

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS – Those with cancer: Jim (Jackie Meyer's dad); Dr. Judith Ames Whitenack (Pauline Bemis's cousin)—inoperable brain tumor; Claudia (Jenny Laabs' sister); Gary Ketchum (friend of Dina Tanner); Craig; Wendi Lombardo—breast cancer; Jowana Elswick—leukemia; Jill Filut; Sarah; Jan Shackleton (Pauline Bemis's friend); Jim (Laura Grubba's brother-in-law); Phyllis; Mike; Judy—cancer returned; Elizabeth—breast cancer; Kayla—thyroid cancer; Mary O'Connell—breast cancer; Kelly Bratz (Bob's daughter-in-law)—breast cancer; Linda Hansen; Fran Meyer (Chris Hesse's aunt)—Multiple Myeloma; Erin (Mileager)—Rayborn—Hodgkins Lymphoma; Mary Sprague—breast cancer; Sandy—kidney cancer; Debra Thurow (Dona's daughter); Kathy Berkgigler (Pat Borgman's cousin)—breast cancer; Ron Rafalski—throat cancer; Nancy—breast cancer

Other: Dina Tanner – recovering from mild stroke and heart attack; Paul; Marge Wertz (COVID complications); Matt Schowengerdt; Ed Reisdorf (Jim & Ann Duggan’s friend); George & Janemarie Hillier (Jim & Ann Duggan’s friends); Liz Peronto (Barb Allwardt’s sister); Brenda Hoeft (Donna Fortmann’s daughter)–heart transplant; Bev Mai (broken neck); Jennifer (Diana Radtke’s niece)–healing from aneurysm; Ken Nash; John Hildebrandt; Fred Storm (Lynda Rades’s brother); Fred Storm (Lynda Rades’s father); Yvonne (Sheila Rams’ sister)–stroke; Merita Dinnauer; Sue Jansen; Armin Tessmann– strength in walking, right arm and hand; Doug–CCL; Barb (Dave Schlomer’s mom)–severe headaches; Scott Kleist (Jim & Ann Duggan’s son)–MS; Paul Fellin

Those serving in the military-deployed: Matthew Juneau; Sam Duggan; Justin Michener; Zach Howard, Theresa; Phil Preston; Casey, Phil, Andy & Steve Koth; Luke, Jacob, Brian, Randy, Kyle, Jake, Jeff, Matt, Brad, Ben, Mike & Rob

Those serving God as missionaries: Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump & family; Dennis Denow (Thailand), Bob & Chris Prouty (Australia), Pastor Reinke (Deaf Ministry), Rev. Bud Palmer

Those in need: Our Shut-Ins; the family of Arliss Reiner (Mike’s mom), who passed away; the family of Bernice Jorgenson, who passed away; the family of Bentley Balfanz (great-grandson of Sheila Rams & Darlene Adams), who passed away; SPLS 8th graders and chaperones as they spend the week in South Dakota; a couple struggling in their marriage; all healthcare workers; Jennifer; Brian; David

Birthday: Bill Scheuer – 83rd – September 12th

Wedding: Lillian George & Scotty Adamczyk – September 18th

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

Hymn of the Week: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB 849

Looking forward to the 17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021

Hymns: 901, 851 (845, 690, 652) 842

Our Father Cares for His Children with the Gospel of His Son (Pastor Schockman)

The sinful heart is filled with “bitter jealousy and selfish ambition” (James 3:14), which causes hostility, quarrels and conflicts, even among those who are fellow members of the Body of Christ. This should not be so! Rather, God “opposes the proud” with His Law, in order to humble them unto repentance; He “gives grace to the humble,” in order to exalt them by His Gospel of forgiveness (James 4:6–10). This true “wisdom from above” is found in the gentleness, mercy and peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself and sacrificed Himself for the salvation of sinners (James 3:17). He was “like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter,” committing Himself to God, His Father, “who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind” (Jer. 11:19–20). Therefore, “after three days,” His Father exalted Him by raising Him from the dead (Mark 9:31). In Holy Baptism, He takes disciples of all ages into His arms like little children. In receiving Him through repentance and faith in His forgiveness of sins, they receive from His Father a share in the glory of His cross and resurrection (Mark 9:36–37).

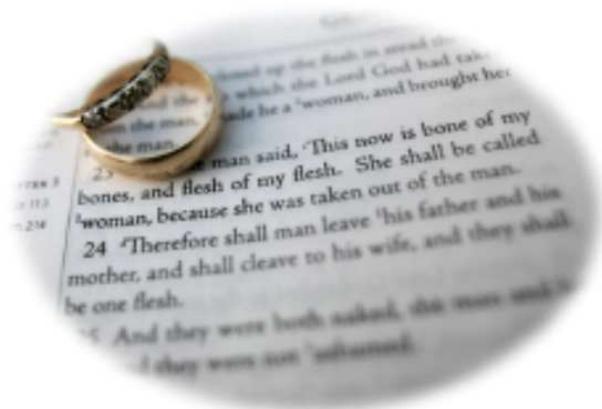
Marriage Retreat

November 12th -14th 2021

The Osthoff Resort
Elkhart Lake, WI

For Better or
For Worse:

Hope in Marriage



REGISTRATION

Please include payment with your registration form. Make checks payable to *St. Paul's Lutheran Church*.

Names: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Package includes 2 night deluxe accommodations, breakfast both days and Saturday dinner buffet.

Early registration *before* September 17th is \$350. Registration *after* September 17th is \$375.00. **Final registration is due by October 11th.**

*Financial assistance may be available to couples, contact Pastor O'Donnell for more information.



Reformation Tap Society

Craft Beer * Friendly Conversation * Serious Theology

Held at **BrewFinity Brewery**

N58 W39800 Industrial Rd., Suite D
Oconomowoc

What can be better than having a drink with friends, eating delicious food, and talking about things that are truly important?

September 19

5:00–7:00 pm

**“Why Your Funeral Matters:
Death, Burial, and Resurrection”**

Presenter: Doug Stowe



Kitchen will be open to
order food off the menu

ATTENTION ST PAUL'S CONGREGATION

Funds have become available for repairs to the narthex exterior wall, church entrance doors and the stained-glass windows above the entrance doors. We are moving forward with the repairs starting the week after Labor Day.

- 1. Week after Labor Day:** The stained-glass windows over the doors will be removed and taken to Oakbrook Esser Studios for analysis and repair of any damage. (Repairing stained glass is a 21 day process) Glass area will be filled with plywood during construction.
- 2. Second week after Labor Day:** The inside door trim on one of the side doors will be removed. This is necessary to duplicate the original trim work profile and load into a CAD design wood milling machine.
- 3. The last week in September:** The doors will be removed, and temporary doors will be installed. According to both the builder and millwork specialist, the existing doors are in excellent shape. It is recommended to repair and reuse them. (To build new doors to replace the existing doors was estimated at \$2,000 each, or \$8,000 total.) The process for each of the existing doors is as follows:
 - a. Remove the doors and install temporary doors.
 - b. Remove all hardware.
 - c. Remove remaining door jamb trim for CAD duplication.
 - d. Fill and sand all holes in doors with epoxy wood and wood filler.
 - e. Seal coat all doors on all (6) sides.
 - f. Paint doors on all (6) sides.
 - g. Prepare doors for new hardware (panic push bars on (3) of (4) doors.
 - h. Install bar locking system on 4th door (center door).
- 4. First week of October** Beres Builders will start to tear down the Narthex interior wall. They will:
 - a. Remove the plaster and prep the wall.
 - b. Add a thermal and moisture barrier
 - c. Add a 2 x 4 stud interior wall from floor to ceiling.
 - d. Insulate and drywall interior wall.
 - e. Install new door jambs and door trim.
 - f. Install new door threshold and weather stripping.
 - g. Install doors, hardware, and new locksets.
 - h. Make sure everything works.
 - i. Install stained glass and trim.
 - j. Our heating contractor will then re-install the existing hydronic heaters in the two corners of the narthex.

This project is expected to be complete the 1st or 2nd week in November. Thank you to all who have contributed to this important project. And thank you all for your patience and cooperation during this period of inconvenience.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MONDAY September 13 | Lord's Lambs Giveaway | Fellowship Hall | 6:00 pm |
| TUESDAY September 14 | CUW Book Club Operations Committee Meeting Board of Elders Meeting | Library Room 201 Room 219 | 3:15 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm |
| WEDNESDAY September 15 | Adult Choir Practice | Balcony | 7:30 pm |
| THURSDAY September 16 | Praise Team Practice | Church | 7:00 pm |
| FRIDAY September 17 | Lillian George & Scotty Adamczyk Rehearsal | Church | 6:00 pm |
| SATURDAY September 18 | Women of Joy Bible Study Lillian George & Scotty Adamczyk Wedding Traditional Worship AA Meeting | Whelan's Church Church Fellowship Hall | 8:00 am 1:00 pm 5:00 pm 8:30 pm |
| SUNDAY September 19 | Traditional Worship Coffee Fellowship Hour Sunday School Confirmation Class Adult Bible Study Contemporary Worship Reformation Tap Society High School Youth Scavenger Hunt | Church Lobby/Outside Various Rooms Room 219 Fellowship Hall Church Brewfinity Outdoors | 8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm |

BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday Adult Bible Study

Sunday: 9:15 am - Fellowship Hall

262-567-5001

Women of Joy

Saturday (1st & 3rd) - 8:00 am

Whelan's

Journeymen

Saturday (2nd & 4th) - 7:30 am

Maxim's

The September Epistle is online at www.splco.org

NEXT WEEKEND

5:00 PM

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

| | 5:00 PM | 8:00 AM | 10:30 AM |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Readings | Jer. 11:18-20 | James 3:13-4:10 | Mark 9:30-37 |
| Acolytes | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| Altar Guild | Wendy Tesch | Marcie Nelson | Sarah Neff |
| Camera | N/A | Alyssa Dinnauer | N/A |
| Elders | Chuck Laabs | Matt Dinnauer | John Melvin |
| Greeters | Mark & Sue Baganz | Jim & Judy Braatz (church) Jim & Marlene Steinberg (school) | Karen Meyer |
| OBS Studio | N/A | Cheryl Tesch | N/A |
| PowerPoint | N/A | N/A | Leah Johnson |
| Radio | N/A | Tom Krenzke | N/A |
| Ushers | Dan Friedrich | Mike Papa | John Melvin |

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

THE 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Pastor: Jason Schockman

Title: *Our Father Cares for His Children
with the Gospel of His Son*

Traditional Worship

LSB, Divine Service 1, pg. 151

Contemporary Worship

Special Order

THE 16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isaiah 50:4-10

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Mark 9:14-29

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to [Jesus] and greeted him. And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."