

Receiving and giving the love and hope of Christ

Weekly Announcements

August 30, 2026



St. Paul's

OCONOMOWOC

splco.org

A member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Worship Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Special services during Advent, Lent & Summer

210 E. Pleasant St., Oconomowoc, WI 53066 | 262-567-5001 | www.splco.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING SOON: "Christ's Kids", Ages 0-3 Bible Study

Starting September 13th, a new baby/toddler group for our St. Paul's family, called Christ's Kids, will meet every Sunday from 9:15-10:15am (during Adult Bible Study). Parents of young children (3 years and under) are welcome to join us in the 4K classroom for fellowship and Bible study. This includes Christ-centered activities, hymns and reading Scripture. Please contact Delaney Heffern at 414-813-0888 or Colette Greve at 414-217-6143 for questions or comments.

Tables for sale

St. Paul's has some banquet tables for sales. They are 8' x 29.5" Lifetime tables. We have 28 of them. They are \$60 apiece. Please contact the office (262-567-5001) if you are interested in purchasing one.

St. Paul's Kid's Zone

Get ready to have some fun at the Kid's Zone Saturday, September 12th, in our parking lot. Volunteer shifts are about two hours long (but you're welcome to sign up for more than one). Set-up shifts start at 8:30am. The Kid's Zone closes at 4pm (cleaned up by 4:30). Scan the QR code or contact the church office to sign-up.

Thank you for participating as we engage our community right where we are!



Around the World Devotions

The weekly **Around the World Devotions** will be available for pick-up every weekend in the racks on the east and west walls as you leave the sanctuary. Thank you for those who provided feedback!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Word ON Wednesday

Are you thinking about becoming a member at St. Paul's **OR** do you want a refresher on what Lutherans believe? Join Pastor Schockman for "Lutheran Basics" at our Wednesday evening Bible class, **Word on Wednesday (W.O.W.)**. Childcare will be provided!

When: Wednesdays, September 9th through December 16th

Where: Room 219 **Time:** 6:30–8:00 pm

Garden Abundance for our Lord's Cupboard Guests

Donations of your surplus garden vegetables will be welcomed by our LC guests when they are ready! Please drop off any of your extra vegetables in the kitchen for our distribution days and mark them for the Lord's Cupboard. Upcoming dates: 8/31, 9/14 and 9/21. Thank you for your prayers for the families that we serve and for our dedicated volunteers.

Sunday School is one of the best hours of the week!

Adventure, creativity, and faith come together every Sunday morning from 9:15-10:15 am. Kids will explore Bible stories, make new friends, and enjoy activities designed to help them understand God's love in exciting ways. Bring your energy, your curiosity, and your smile—we can't wait to see you on Sunday mornings!

Sunday School begins on September, 13th! We're excited to welcome all kids back for a new year of learning and growing in God's Word. Join us at 9:15 am each Sunday as we begin another year of faith, friendship, and fun.



Please scan the QR code to register your child or children for this year of Sunday School! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Amber Butler, Tina Gartzke, or Wendy Petersen.

Small Group Bible Study - *Daniel*

Are you interested in an in-depth, personal, small group Bible study? All are welcome to join a 9-week small group Bible study of the book of Daniel, starting after Labor Day. We will use the CPH LifeLight series, which consists of short, daily lessons that class members do on their own, followed by a weekly group session on Tuesday evenings. If interested, please contact Neil Anderson at neil.anderson@splco.org or the church at office 262-567-5001. Group size will be limited to eight; if more sign up, a second group will be created.

Attention women of St. Paul's!

It's time to get out the party favors because we've got something very special to celebrate. Sister in Service, formerly known as Ladies Aid and various other names, has been serving St. Paul's for 140 years! We'll be starting the celebration at our Sisters in Service's first meeting of the season on Thursday September 3rd at 5:30. ****Remember this meeting is BEFORE Labor Day.**** We invite you to join us to hear all about our plans for this exciting year of celebration. We truly hope to see you on September 3rd, and become part of this momentous occasion!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWML Mission Minute Update

SWD Grant #1 Orphan Grain Train- Wisconsin Branch for \$15,000 has been paid!

Orphan Grain Train is located in Norfolk, NE with 26 branches around the US. It is an RSO of the LCMS and began when a Lutheran pastor returned from a mission trip to Latvia and Russia and partnered with a worldwide transportation company to ship grain to Eastern Europe. Since 1992 they have delivered more than 60.3 million fortified rice meals and 5,356 shipments of humanitarian aid, including medical supplies, and the quilts we make to people in several states and 74 countries on 5 continents. It is a volunteer organization in cooperation with Lutheran Hour Ministries and LCMS World Mission.

LWML meets **Tuesday, September 1st**, in Room 219. Bring your Mites! Come join us as we plan another year of Serving the Lord with Gladness!

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT INFORMATION

St. Paul's Youth Group

Students are invited to dive into God's Word, grow in faith, have fun with friends, and serve others through awesome servant events.



New faces & returning friends—ALL are welcome!



Stay connected:

Follow us on Instagram & Facebook-St. Paul's Oconomowoc Youth Group



Want email updates? Email splyouth.group@splco.org with "ADD ME TO THE EMAIL BLAST."

See you at Youth Group!



September

- September 12 Kids' Zone @ Fall Fest 8:00am-4:00pm
- September 13 High School Youth Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm
- September 20 MS & HS Youth Group Kick-Off 12:00pm - 2:00pm
- September 27 Middle School Youth Group 5:30pm - 7:00pm
High School Youth Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Young Adults

St. Paul's Young Adults (SPLCO YA)

We provide opportunities at St. Paul's for young adults (18 - 30) to be together in community and build one another up.

Upcoming SPLCO YA Events

- 09/20 | Reformation Tap Society | 4pm @ Brewery

Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost: *Sometimes Punching Back is Stupid*

August 30 – September 6, 2026

Sometimes Punching Back is Stupid

Jesus entrusted His apostles with the truth of His mission. He told them it was necessary for Him to die and then rise again. Peter didn't care for that teaching, and Jesus rebuked his unbelief. (See Mt 16.21-28) Ultimately, Peter lived in repentance. So, too, with the Jeremiah, who struggled with the spiritual and physical weight of his prophetic calling, but he confessed, ". . . Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts."

(Jeremiah 15:16, ESV) May that be so with us! For Christ calls us to "take up our cross daily and follow Him," (Mt 16.24) and sometimes that can mean "not repaying evil for evil." Sometimes we have to discern when it is time to loudly speak the truth in love, and sometimes it is better not to "avenge ourselves." Sometimes, in our carrying of the cross, it is not so much a matter of "right and wrong" but what is best for all. (See Rm 12.9-21)

Order 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: Christ received our punishment and calls us to live in His forgiveness and love.

Verse: Romans 1:16a I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

Psalm: Psalm 26 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule **LSB, p. 304**

How Firm a Foundation

Story/Topic	The Fall into Sin Cain & Abel
Primary Scripture	Genesis 3; 4:1-16
Catechism by Heart: Verse	Deuteronomy 6:6–7: And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
Catechism by Heart: Section	What is the Third Commandment? Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.
	What is the Fourth Commandment? Honor your father and your mother. <i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost: *Sometimes Punching Back is Stupid*

Day	Bible Stories for Families with Young Children	Readings for Adults & Older Children	
Sun.	The Temptation of Jesus: Matt 4, Mark 1, Luke 4	Psalm 67, 46, 93	Mt 16.21-28
Mon.	Jesus Calls Disciples: John 1	Psalm 51, 85, 47	Heb 13.1-25
Tue.	Jesus Changes Water into Wine: John 2	Psalm 54, 28, 99	Jas 1.1-27
Wed.	Jesus Clears the Temple: John 2	Psalm 65, 125, 91	Jas 2.1-26
Thur.	Jesus Teaches Nicodemus: John 3	Psalm 143, 81, 116	Jas 3.1-18
Fri.	Jesus and the Samaritan Woman: John 4	Psalm 86, 6, 19	Jas 4.1-17
Sat.	Sunday's Gospel Reading: Matthew 18.1-20	Psalm 122, 141, 91	Jas 5.1-20

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

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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 – Ben Mueller; Sheri Fleischfresser; Ronna Pagenkopf; Andy Helwig; George Menden; Roger Fisher; Art Schuck; John Wickersham; Joyce Anderson; Ian McMillan; Joanne Kullman; Carol Fellin—cancer care; Jim Braatz; Ruth Polcha; Nancy Wolter; Don Meyer—cancer; Ann Duggan; Jim Duggan; Sally Eubanks; Dick Allen; Truman Seifert—acute myeloid leukemia; Carolyn Nagel—lung cancer; Karen Meyer—hospice; Stan Kuehl; Marian Faltersack; Michael Stollenwerk; Marilyn Runyard; Linda Leidel; Lucille Campbell—cancer treatment

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS – Those with cancer: Rick (Tim Krause's dad)—lung cancer; Dave Hansen—lung cancer; Birdy—5 year-old with neuroblastoma; Gina—brain cancer; Paige (Bill Merten's daughter); Dan (Bill Merten's brother); Sandi Oechsner (Tricia Burlage's mom)—stage 4 lung cancer; Lisa (nee Rhodde) Liarokis—breast cancer; Bob Duchow (Dorothy's son); Sue Malone (Dan & Brenda Maynard's friend)—brain cancer; Janice Mulvaney Krueger—lung cancer; Della—Diana Radtke's sister; Dana; Curt Duchow (Dorothy's son)—mantle cell lymphoma; Rhonda—breast cancer; JoyAnn; Dan Faltersack—COPD; Jeff—stage four colon cancer; Missy (Sheila Ram's niece)—breast cancer; Dawn—lung cancer; Jim (Jackie Meyer's dad)

Other: Kathleen O'Donnell (Pastor's mom); Scott Kleist; Connie Roth—stroke; Priti—spinal surgery; Consuelo W. (friend of Bill & Kathy Granzin); Laurie—mental and physical health issues; Dean Wilcox (Tina Gartzke's brother); Dorothy—Alzheimer's; Paul Fellin

Those serving in the military-deployed: Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Greu; Madelynn Matthews—Air Force; Trevor Thiel—Alaska (Fort JBER); Joe; 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 and family; Daniel & Marie Lowitz (Dominican Republic); Dennis Denow (Thailand), Bob & Chris Prouty (Australia), Pastor Reinke (Deaf Ministry), Rev. Bud Palmer; Rev. Ted Krey, Deaconess Tirzah Krey in the Dominican Republic; all seminary students in the Dominican Republic, and all other pastors and missionaries in Latin America

Those in need: Our Shut-Ins; the family of Roger Weaver (Warren's father) who passed away; Ghazal Amin's parents; Sam—a young man struggling to make good choices; those struggling with addiction; Jennifer; Brian; David

Thanksgiving: Heidi Lindemann (John & Sue's daughter-in-law)

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

Hymn of the Week: *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

LSB 845

Looking forward to the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

Hymns: 686, 579 (709, 622, 848) 797

Toward Reconciliation and Hope, Not Anger and Clamor (Pastor O'Donnell)

Pastors, as called and ordained servants of the Word, have the sacred responsibility to teach God's Word truthfully, for God desires all to repent and be saved. Failure of duty is iniquity. (See Ezek 33.7-9; 1 Tim 2.4; Mt 18.15-20; Ps 32.1-7) For example, most Americans have some repenting to do regarding our attitude toward governing authorities, for—whether we like them or not—God says honor and subjection is due. (See Rom 13.1-10) May God grant us this repentance, and wisdom to act justly, for The LORD so rejoices in repentance and faith in Christ (See Mt 18.1-14) that Christ calls upon all Christians participate in the ministry of reconciliation, (2 Cor 5.18) living in forgiveness, and putting away anger and clamor and slander. (Eph 4.31-32)



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DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

**PRESENTED BY: APRIL DE VALKENAERE,
FORTRESS FORENSIC ACCOUNTING**

TIME: 6:00 - 7:30 PM

LOCATION: 210 E PLEASANT ST., OCONOMOWOC

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Parents, Guardians,
Students & Church Families



Use this QR code to
register or online
with [this link](#)



Registration is required so we
can plan seating and food.



REFORMATION TAP SOCIETY

Theology and conversation
with a bit of hops.

Reformation Tap Society talks are casual and thoughtful adult conversations about important things. Under the theme, "Rooted in Christ," the 2026-2027 Reformation Tap Society season aims to help participants know Christ and grow in His teaching. Though we welcome adults of any age, topics and language are aimed at those 18-35. Our speakers understand that RTS is a public event, so the conversations are not raw, but our speakers are encouraged to practice candor geared towards younger adults. Parents of children under high school age should collaborate on a babysitter, then come and enjoy the beverages, food, and conversation. RTS is an opportunity to hear perspectives not regularly heard in popular culture. All are welcome.

RTS is held on the 3rd Sundays, September through May. We gather at 5pm, have a "beer talk" from the brewmaster at about 5:25, and at about 5:30 our speaker takes the mic. The speaker will present on a topic of interest, then take questions until 6:15 or so. (BTW, you're welcome even if you're not a beer fan. Other beverages are available.).

September 20, 2026

Christ for Broken People: Fiction and Evangelism

Speaker: Lance O'Donnell

5-7p.m.

BrewFinity Brewery

N58W38900 Industrial Rd. Suite D

Oconomowoc, WI 53066

www.brewfinitybrewing.com

**First time guests
get a free
beer or soda on us!**

WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY August 31	Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru	Parking Lot	5:30 pm
TUESDAY September 1	LWML	Room 219	6:00 pm
THURSDAY September 3	Sisters in Service Praise Team Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall Church	5:30 pm 6:30 pm
SATURDAY September 5	Women of Joy Divine Worship	Whelan's Church	8:00 am 5:00 pm
SUNDAY September 6	Divine Worship Blood Pressure Screening Life Application Bible Study Divine Worship	Church Office Fellowship Hall Church	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am

BIBLE STUDIES

Life Application Bible Study

Sunday: 9:15 am – Fellowship Hall
The Book of Romans

Sunday School

Sunday: 9:15 am - Gym
SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES ON 9/13
Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15am

Women of Joy

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

Journeymen

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

NEXT WEEKEND

	5:00 PM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Readings	Ezek 33.7-9	Rom 13.1-10	Matt 18.1-20
Altar Guild	Michelle Wilson	Jackie Meyer	Karen Gotthardt
Elders	Arno Kirchenwitz	Dave Meyer	Tom Showen
Greeters	Carole Schmeda Elaine Schmeda	Bruce & Mary Bojko Duane & Sharon Peterson	Pam Tanner Wyatt Tanner
Live-Stream	N/A	Edwards	N/A
Radio	N/A	Tom Krenzke	N/A
Ushering Team	Dan Friedrich	Dave Meyer	Tom Showen

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Pastor: Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

Theme: *Toward Reconciliation and Hope, Not Anger and Clamor*

5pm & 8am Worship

LSB, Divine Service, Setting 1, pg. 151

10:30am Worship

Special Order

5

PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 74:1-2, 19, 20-23

Have respect to Your cove- / nant, O Lord;*
 oh, do not let the oppressed re- / turn ashamed!
 Arise, O God, plead / Your own cause;*
 do not forget the voice of Your / enemies.
 O God, why have You cast us off for- / ever?*

Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your / pasture?
 Remember Your congre- / gation,*
 which You have pur- / chased of old,
 The tribe of Your inheritance, which You / have redeemed—*
 this Mount Zion where / You have dwelt.
 Do not forget the life of Your poor / forever.*
 Let the poor and needy / praise Your name.

6

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 119:103

"How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

7

READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity, and as we do obtain that which You promise, make us to love that which You command; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

9

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
O God, Thou Faithful God

TLH 395, LSB 696

Johann Heermann



1. O God, Thou faithful God,
 Thou Fountain ever flowing,
 Who good and perfect gifts
 In mercy art bestowing,
 Give me a healthy frame,
 And may I have within
 A conscience free from blame,
 A soul unhurt by sin!

2. Grant Thou me strength to do
 With ready heart and willing
 Whate'er Thou shalt command,
 My calling here fulfilling;
 To do it when I ought,
 With all my might, and bless
 The work I thus have wrought,
 For Thou must give success.



Around the Word Devotions + August 30-September 5, 2026

"Believing Love of All Others"

1

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:

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

2

SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the
 dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at
 the right hand of God, the Father
 Almighty. From thence He will come to
 judge the living and the dead.

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

3

PRAY THE 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.

4

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. I thank You, my
 heavenly Father, through Jesus
 Christ, Your dear Son, that You
 have kept me this night from all
 harm and danger; and I pray that
 You would keep me this day also
 from sin and every evil, that all my
 doings and life may please You.
 For into Your hands I commend
 myself, my body and soul, and all
 things. Let Your holy angel be with
 me, that the evil foe may have no
 power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank you, my
 heavenly Father, through Jesus
 Christ, Your dear Son, that You
 have graciously kept me this day;
 and I pray that You would forgive
 me all my sins where I have done
 wrong, and graciously keep me this
 night. For into Your hands, I
 commend myself, my body and
 soul, and all things. Let Your holy
 angel be with me, that the evil foe
 may have no power over me. Amen.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of August 30-September 5, 2026

THEME OF THE WEEK: Believing Love of All Others

We must not be deceived. God still works in his creation through His Preached Word. He speaks a word that kills. He speaks a word that makes alive. That is how He has always worked. Throughout this week of devotion we will hear God speak to His people. He will tell His people clearly the way things are. And, we will see how those people received God's preached word. It is our hope that we might respond the way St. David responded in Psalm 119.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:23-37: Faith and Love

The scandal of the parable is that one "outside" the Law, a Samaritan, is holier than those "inside" the Law, priest and Levite. The law will not make us righteous. Indeed, St. Paul is vindicated when he says, "the law INCREASES the trespass." Romans 7:9. The Priest and the Levite are the visible expression of St. Paul's, that is the Holy Spirit's, preaching. It is only faith in the Promise of God, which does not discriminate along ethnic lines, that saves. This saving faith ignites love for God and neighbor. The Law kills. Its ministry is death. Therefore, none are saved by it as the parable makes clear. The Samaritan is saved, and the neighbor helped by faith and love. *Lord, lead me by Your Word to increased Faith and Love. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:97-104 (MEM)

The Law of God is the most salutary doctrine in all life. But it cannot help humans obtain saving righteousness. After faith, though, as St David is expressing, the Law of God is profitable for making us wise and instructing us in what is good, right and true. First, we must have Faith. Then we can come to love and delight in the law of God for its benefits to our daily lives. This is why St. David loves the Word of God. First it gives the promise of salvation by Faith. Then, because the Lord is superabundantly good in His gifts, He pours out wisdom, integrity, discernment, and understanding upon our heart and minds. *Lord, help me to first seek Your kingdom and then enjoy all that is added to me. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 3:15-22: The Law & Promises

The Law of God adds nothing to our salvation, but it is still a good thing. This is truly an amazing section of Scripture inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Law is like a good babysitter. But, when the child grows and is matured, the babysitter is no longer needed. So it is with Christ and His Church. Christ is the promised offspring of Abraham. Now the Law no longer applies to those in Christ, as the Holy Spirit instructs. This, of course, makes many nervous. What of the Law!? It is sent away like a babysitter. Put to rest because we who are baptized have put on Christ and are clothed with Him, not the Law. *O Lord, by grace You have saved me and clothed me in Christ. Keep me by Your Spirit in Him. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 18:1-5: The Law Shows God's Care

In a conversation with a gay man I was asked, "Why all the rules? Why does God care about what I do with my body?" I said, "Would you want a boring religion and a boring god that cares so little?" The fact that God has rules for creation and His kingdom reveal His tender fatherly heart. He wants His creation, and His children, well taken care of. As Moses and St. Paul teach, these rules, while good, do not create faith. They only make things worse for us. They do this by driving to near despair before God lifts us up with the precious promises of the Gospel. *Lord, first grant me faith by Your Preached Word, then help me trust Your good gifts for all my life. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:20-28: Christ Came to Lay Down His Life

Self-promotion and self-care have become a niche market for American pop-psychological consumers. While the individual person has a place in the economy of God's salvation, here Christ points His disciples away from hierarchical personal ambition. The suffering and death of Christ as an act of service toward his neighbors is the pinnacle. The disciples learn they will, likewise, not be spared from this "cup." The Lord does not save us from suffering and death, but through suffering and death. His own. And we, as His disciples, will also share in that suffering and death. For the Lord kills and makes alive and our futures and hopes are with Him and no other. *O Lord, when the night of suffering and death come for me, draw me up. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 1:5-17: Death to Life

St. Paul reveals that he was dead and heading to hell. But God in His generosity and mercy saved St. Paul. We, too, are partakers of God's uncanny grace. Perhaps our conversions were less poetic, or dramatic, than St Paul's. But this matters little. Only Christ matters. Here is the power and beauty of God in Christ Jesus, that He takes sinners of young and old, drama or bore, and makes them His own and gives them a new destiny. I need nothing of a grand testimony in the heavenly realm for Christ has given me His testimony and life. *O God, keep me from believing my salvation is less grand than others, for it rests upon You alone. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 84: Increasing Wisdom among Immense Folly

There is little better than receiving the good gifts of God in the Church and serving the house of the Lord. Our world and culture are awash with meaninglessness and void of virtue. Yet, faith increases the desire for what is good. I have little aspiration for my life, and the life of my family, other than we might enjoy cleaning the toilets at our church and taking out the trash that smells of old diapers. We need Christ and His Word of Life. We do not need the places of Glory. We only need to be under the table with crumbs, or at the door, or with a mop bucket and trash bag. That place, like all the places, is the best place in the kingdom. *Lord, help me to love Your kingdom made manifest on Earth in my congregation. Amen.*

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email aroundtheworddevotions@gmail.com. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's author is Rev. Samuel G. Beltz. He is the Pastor of St. John Ev. Lutheran of Oskaloosa, Iowa. He is married to Cassie (pronounced Casey). They have five children; Charlotte, Lincoln, Abram, Silas, and Claire. Pastor Beltz enjoys hunting, fishing, smoking delicious meats, and teaching everyone to do the same.

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ST. PAUL'S STAFF

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

Rev. Jason Schockman, Associate Pastor
Christine Flores, ECC Director

Office Hours: 7:00 am – 3:30 pm (Monday-Friday)

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Old Testament: Jeremiah 15:15-21

O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance take me not away;
know that for your sake I bear reproach.
Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.
I did not sit in the company of revelers,
nor did I rejoice;
I sat alone, because your hand was upon me,
for you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Will you be to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail?
Therefore thus says the Lord:
"If you return, I will restore you,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall be as my mouth.
They shall turn to you,
but you shall not turn to them.
And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
declares the Lord.
I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

Epistle: Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful

in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

August 30, 2026

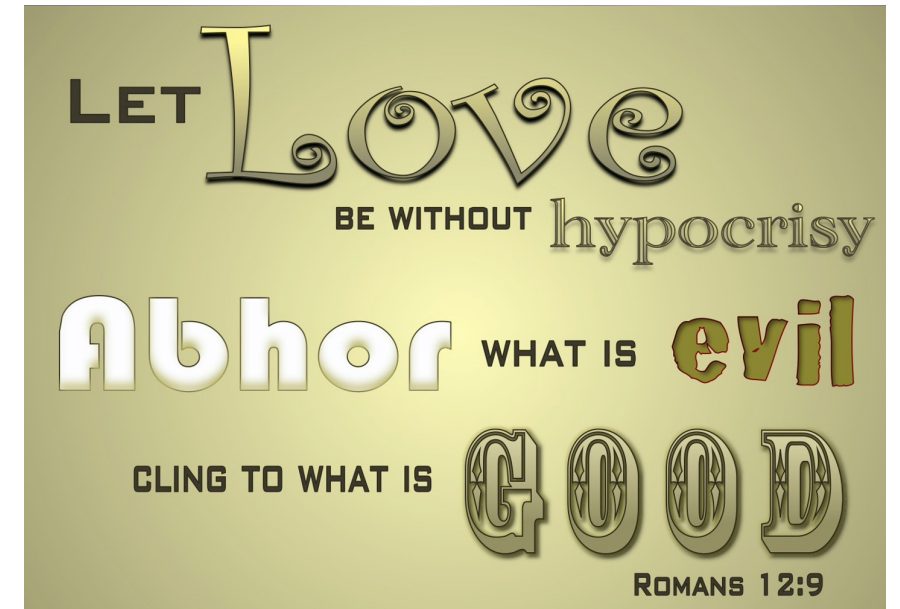


St. Paul's

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

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Special services during Advent, Lent & Summer

210 E. Pleasant St., Oconomowoc, WI 53066

262-567-5001

www.splco.org

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

- + 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! We’re delighted that you’ve joined us for worship.

If you have questions, or would like more information about St. Paul’s, a greeter, elder, or pastor 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.

We welcome young children to the service. Try sitting closer to the front by a side aisle. The worship service is simulcast downstairs in our Fellowship Hall for your convenience.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord’s Supper is not a private meal, but a body-and-soul communion with Christ and His body, the Church. In keeping with the Lord’s instruction (cf. 1 Corinthians 11.17-34) and with the common historical practice of the church, St. Paul’s welcomes only those who are in full confessional agreement to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. If you hold a confession differing from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or are not yet confirmed in our confession of faith, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing (Please indicate by folding your hands over your heart.). If you are physically unable to come forward, please let an usher know and the pastor will come to you and give you communion. Those communing should mark this on the attendance card. If you have questions, our pastors will be pleased to speak with you.

Distribution and Communion Wine

Please place open hands out to receive the Body of Christ and also to indicate whether you are receiving the Blood of Christ from the common cup or the individual cup. The wine glasses in the center of each tray contain **one drop** of communion wine. The glasses that contain more wine are dark in color.

LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE

5:00 pm – 68

Wed – 37

8:00 am – 275

Total: 485

10:30 am – 105

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



THOSE SERVING THIS WEEKEND

	5pm	8am	10:30am
Liturgist	Ps. Schockman	Ps. Schockman	Ps. Schockman
Preacher	Ps. O’Donnell	Ps. O’Donnell	Ps. O’Donnell
Musicians	Allison DeWitt	Allison DeWitt	Praise Team
Altar Guild	Bernita Krenzke	Ingrid Kowieski	Barb Star
Elders	Jim Juneau	Chuck Laabs	John Nelson
Greeters	Duke & Debbie Maynard	Dona Thurow Judy Mueller Chris & Pam Kroupa	Gary & Leah Johnson
Live Stream	N/A	Granzin	N/A
Radio	N/A	Jim Juneau	N/A
Ushering Team	Joel Tesch	Gary Flanagan	Mike Neff

Radio Broadcast: Sponsored by Audrey Martens in loving memory of Gertrude Picha

ST. PAUL’S MEDIA

- + Radio: *LIVE* Sunday at 8am on WTKM (104.9 FM)
- + YouTube: *LIVE* Sundays at 8am (stpaulsev.lutheranchurch7279)
- + Web: Anytime at www.splco.org or YouTube

DIVINE SERVICE

Lutheran Service Book
Setting 1, pg. 151

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Sermon Outline:

Sometimes Punching Back is Stupid

by Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 17)
30 August, A.D. 2026
Ps 26; Jer 15.15-21; Rom 12.9-21; Mt 16.21-28

Pre-Service Catechesis (One Building. One Narrative)

See also, LSB, 321

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

Introduction

Q: Upon what does every call to holy living rest?
(See Rom 12.1)

I. Jesus is the Mercy of God

Q: Why did Jesus react so strongly to Peter denying Jesus His cross? (See Mt 16.21-28; Jn 3.16; Heb 12.1-2)

Q: Though Christ is victorious, what is the reality of our time? (See Acts 14.22)

II. Holy Life: Take Up Your Cross

A. The Cross and the Typical Wise Response

Q: What is part of the “cross” that Christians bear? (See Mt 16.24; Rom 12.14, 17-18)

CCT: Christ received _____ punishment and calls us to live in _____ forgiveness and love.

Q: Most of the time, what is Christian’s wisest response to evil?

B. Example from the Life of the Church

Q: Summarize the example of “repaying no one evil for evil.”

Conclusion

Is there a situation in your life where you are tempted to “punch back”? Reflecting on Rom 12.17-18, is it wise to do so? (If you’re not sure, we’ll talk about this more next week.)