

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 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Old Testament: Isaiah 55:6-9

"Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion
on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Epistle: Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in

one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

September 20, 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 – 70

Total: 393

8:00 am – 195

10:30 am – 128

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. O’Donnell	Ps. O’Donnell	Ps. O’Donnell
Preacher	Ps. Schockman	Ps. Schockman	Ps. Schockman
Musicians	Allison DeWitt	Allison DeWitt	Praise Team
Altar Guild	Margie Hertneky	Rachelle Eifert Megan Miller	Stacey Balistreri
Elders	Pat Smith	Glenn Gartzke	???
Greeters	Larry & Bonnie Vasatko	Dutch & Lynda Holland Dave & Bonnie Schlieuwe	Frieda Antoniak Marty Antoniak
Live Stream	N/A	Hertneky	N/A
Radio	N/A	Chuck Laabs	N/A
Ushering Team	Dan Maynard	Dan Friedrich	Erik Benes

Altar Flowers: Sponsored by Stacey Balistreri in loving memory of Paul Goetzke (10 years since his passing)

Radio Broadcast: Sponsored by Bill & Sarah Mertens in praise to God for their 30th wedding anniversary on September 10th

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

Greeting

Hymn of Invocation 555 (v. 1-5)

Confession & Absolution 151

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Kyrie 152

This is the Feast 155

Readings

Isaiah 55:6-9

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

Alleluia and Verse 156

Matthew 20:1-16

Hymn of the Day 555 (v. 6-10)

Sermon

Nicene Creed 158

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Offertory 159

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

Distribution Hymns

+ 738, 742, 731

Thank the Lord 164

Post-Communion Collect 166

Benediction 166

Closing Hymn 680

Announcements

Sermon Outline: *Beyond Our Understanding*

by Rev. Jason A. Schockman, Associate Pastor
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 19)
20 September, A.D. 2026
Is 55.6-9; Phil 1.12-14, 19-30; Mt 20.1-16

God's ways are "mysterious," but we still know what He is doing. What is the difference between knowing the "what" and knowing the "how" of God's work?

What examples does the sermon give of truths Scripture clearly reveals (the "what") whose workings our reason cannot fully explain (the "how")?

Even our redeemed reason, and not just our fallen reason, cannot fully grasp God's ways. Why?

How were the Israelites in Babylon a picture of our own struggle to see God keeping His promises?

What temptations do we face when we cannot see "how" God is working?

When we try to explain a "how" God has not revealed, there is only one correct answer. What is it, and why?

In today's Gospel the vineyard owner asks, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me?" How does that question guide us when God's actions don't make sense to us?

Faith is "not a nebulous thing." What is faith rooted in, and why can we trust it even when we cannot see how God is working?

In Isaiah 55, God says "My thoughts are not your thoughts" right after calling the wicked to return and be pardoned. What does that context show about how His ways differ from ours, beyond His simply being smarter than us?

Although we don't know what God has in store for us in the short term, what end can we be certain of? How does the promise of the rain and snow assure us that God's Word will accomplish it?

Receiving and giving the love and hope of Christ

Weekly Announcements

September 20, 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

Sisters in Service

Ladies, mark your calendars for October 1st. That's the date of our next Sisters in Service meeting. A lot of things are happening in October for Sister in Service! We continue the celebration of our 140 years of service to St. Paul's as well as planning for the hosting of the October 18th Coffee Fellowship Hour that will include a free-will offering bake sale! So, join us on Thursday, October 1st, at 5:30 as we enter the fall season of food, fun and fellowship. We love seeing new faces, so please consider bringing a friend.

LWML

We are in need of 25 banana boxes (tops & bottoms) by the end of September for packing quilts for shipping. If you would like to help, please check when you shop for groceries it would be appreciated. They can be placed in the LWML room in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Pat Menden (262-719-6008) for info or to check if they are still needed.

Fall garden clean-up time is nearing. If you would be able to help, please contact Pat Menden (262-719-6008).

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.

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, through December 16th

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

The Entrusted Life

St. Paul's is offering a six-week class on Christian Finance Wednesday evenings from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. The class will begin on October 14th, and run through November 18th. During that time, we will figure out ways to deal with difficult financial decisions, budgeting, how to deal with debt, saving vs investing, preparing for retirement, contentment, giving, and much more. "...but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts." 1 Thessalonians 2:4. God has entrusted us with so much, together let's figure out how to best steward those gifts. This six-week class will be led by Dale Stratil.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



God's being is His generosity.

Matthew 20:9 – “And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.” Behold the generosity of God! He gives out of His grace, not what we deserve to receive. Living a godly life means living in imitation of God — and surely one of the foundations of



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

Thanks be to God for faithful servants of God who have lifted up the truth of God's Word in their times. Believers who recognize the difficulties of this life often yearn to be with the Lord as Paul says,

“...for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). So, today, we need not fear death or any enemy, but we can rejoice and stand firm in the Holy Spirit, speaking the truth about God's gifts of life, eternity, and forgiveness. The Lord's Word makes clear that He wants people everywhere to repent and be cleansed of their sins that they may dwell with Him forever (Psalm 27:4).

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 20 MS & HS Youth Group Kick-Off 12:00pm - 2:00pm (**NERF WAR!**)
- 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 @ Brewfinity



BALLPARK = *Bash* =

FOR ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL

— A FALL FUNDRAISING EVENT —



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29TH



DOCKHOUNDS STADIUM

5:30-9pm

Ballpark Bash Benefit Tickets



Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: *Beyond Our Understanding*

September 20–27, 2026

Beyond Our Understanding

Those who are sent as “*laborers for his vineyard*” (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear “*the burden of the day and the scorching heat*” on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). That's the “what” of His salvation, the “HOW” is a completely different story. This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that “*he may be found*” (Is. 55:6), “*have compassion*” and “*abundantly pardon*” (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, “*whether by life or by death*” (Phil. 1:20), by “*fruitful labor*” (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are “*worthy of the gospel*” (Phil. 1:27).

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

Verse: Luke 12:15 Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.

Psalm: Psalm 27:1-9 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule
LSB, p. 304

How Firm a Foundation

Story/Topic	Jacob & Esau Joseph
Primary Scripture	Genesis 37
Catechism by Heart: Verse	Matthew 6:33–34: But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.
Catechism by Heart: Section	<i>What is the Ninth Commandment?</i> You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. <i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor’s inheritance or house or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.
	<i>What is the Tenth Commandment?</i> You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. <i>What does this mean?</i> We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor’s wife, workers or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: *Beyond Our Understanding*

Day	Bible Stories for Families with Young Children	Readings for Adults & Older Children	
Sun.	Jesus Feeds Five Thousand People: John 6	Psalm 19, 81, 113	Mt 20.1-16
Mon.	Jesus Sends the Seventy-Two: Luke 10	Psalm 136, 97, 112	3 Jn 1-15
Tue.	The Good Samaritan: Luke 10	Psalm 123, 30, 86	Jude 1-25
Wed.	The Good Shepherd: John 10	Psalm 15, 48, 4	Rv 1.1-20
Thur.	A Psalm of David: Psalm 23	Psalm 36, 80, 27	Rv 2.1-29
Fri.	Jesus Raises Lazarus: John 11	Psalm 130, 32, 139	Rv 3.1-22
Sat.	Sunday’s Gospel Reading: Matthew 18.1-11	Psalm 56, 100, 62	Rv 4.1-5.14

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

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 –Dorothy Duchow; Kathy Mueller; 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; 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 Rhodée) 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; 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; Sam—a young man struggling to make good choices; those struggling with addiction; Jennifer; Brian; David

Anniversary: Bill & Sarah Mertens—30th—September 10th

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

Hymn of the Week: *What God Ordains Is Always Good*

LSB 760

Looking forward to the Festival of St. Michael and All Angels Hymns: 902, 522 (521, 940, 725) 670 <i>Worship The LORD Your God Only (Pastor O'Donnell)</i> Created some time in the first 6 days of creation, angels are distinct spiritual beings, created especially to serve The LORD by promoting the church and protecting its servants (Heb 1.14). They may take physical form (Gen 18.2) but they do not have bodies ((Lk 24.3). They are complete in their spiritual nature. They do not marry or propagate. There are ranks and orders of angels. They were at first without sin, but some rebelled before man's fall into sin. (2 Pet 2.4) Now, according to God's order, the holy angels remain in their sinless state, (Mt 25.31) "always seeing the face of God," (Mt 18.10) while the evil angels remain in rebellion against God (Jude 6; Dan 10, 12), battling all that is good in the present time. While the time for angels to repent came and went; humans—as the pinnacle of creation—have a time—and that time is now. (2 Cor 6.2)	September 27, 2026
---	----------------------------------



St. Paul's
OCONOMOWOC
splco.org



DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT SEMINAR!

You're invited to an important seminar for
School & Church Families

SPONSORED BY
ST. PAUL'S PTO



INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY

Smart habits.
Safer families.



AI AWARENESS

Understand the basics.
Use it wisely.



SCAM AWARENESS

Spot the signs.
Stop the scams.



EQUIP. EMPOWER. PROTECT.

Practical tips. Real examples. Stronger families.

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

The Christian faith is for broken people. Reading from Bo Giertz's *The Hammer of God*, Christopher Thoma's *Ashes to Ashes*, and his own *Thirty in Winter*, the speaker will show how fiction enables pastor-writers to bypass "holy pretensions" and get directly to the heart.

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

5-7p.m.

BrewFinity Brewery

N58W38900 Industrial Rd. Suite D

Oconomowoc, WI 53066

www.brewfinitybrewing.com

WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY September 21	Lord's Cupboard Meal Board of Operations Meeting	Parking Lot Library	5:30 pm 5:30 pm
TUESDAY September 22	Social Media/AI/Scam Awareness Seminar	Gym	6:00 pm
WEDNESDAY September 23	Lutheran Basics	Room 219	6:30 pm
THURSDAY September 24	Church Choir Rehearsal Praise Team Rehearsal	Balcony Church	6:30 pm 7:30 pm
SATURDAY September 26	Journeymen Divine Worship	Maxim's Church	7:30 am 5:00 pm
SUNDAY September 27	Divine Worship Life Application Bible Study Christ's Kids Class (Birth-3 years) 7/8 Public School Confirmation Sunday School Divine Worship Middle School Youth Group High School Youth Group	Church Gym 4K Room Meet in Gym Meet in Gym Church Room 219Y/Gym Room 219Y/Gym	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 5:30 pm 7:00 pm

BIBLE STUDIES

Life Application Bible Study

Sunday: 9:15 am – Fellowship Hall
Pastor O'Donnell Sabbatical Debrief

Sunday School

Sunday: 9:15 am - Gym

Jacob & Esau

Joseph

Meet in the gym 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	Dan 10.10-14; 12.1-3	Rev 12.7-12	Mt 18.1-11
Altar Guild	Jackie Smith	Cindy Fredrickson	Stacey Balistreri
Elders	Jim Juneau	Neil Anderson	Ryan Schneider
Greeters	Mark & Sue Baganz	Chris & Pam Kroupa Dona Thurow Judy Mueller	Mike & Sarah Neff
Live-Stream	N/A	Scheuer	N/A
Radio	N/A	Chuck Muecke	N/A
Ushering Team	Gary Flanagan	Neil Anderson	Mike Neff

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

THE FESTIVAL OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

Pastor: Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

Theme: *Worship The LORD Your God Only*

5pm & 8am Worship

LSB, Divine Service, Setting 3, pg. 184

10:30am Worship

Special Order

5

PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 86:1, 3, 5, 7, 12, 13

Be merciful to / me, O Lord,*
 for I cry to You / all day long.
 For You, Lord, are good, and ready / to forgive,*
 and abundant in mercy to all those who call up- / on You.
 Bow down Your ear, O Lord, / hear me;*
 for I am poor and / needy.
 In the day of my trouble I will call up- / on You,*
 for You will / answer me.
 I will praise You, O Lord my God, with / all my heart,*
 and I will glorify Your name for- / evermore.
 For great is Your mer- / cy toward me,*
 and You have delivered my soul from the / depths of Hell.

6

SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Romans 8:18

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

7

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

8

PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O Lord, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us, that we may be continually given to all good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

9

PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK

The Will of God is Always Best

TLH 517, LSB 758

Albrecht von Brandenburg



1. The will of God is always best
 And shall be done forever;
 And they who trust in Him are blest,
 He will forsake them never.
 He helps indeed in time of need,
 He chastens with forbearing;
 They who depend on God, their Friend,
 Shall not be left despairing.

2. God is my Comfort and my Trust,
 My Hope and life abiding;
 And to His counsel wise and just,
 I yield in Him confiding.
 The very hairs, His Word declares,
 Upon my head He numbers.
 By night and day God is my Stay,
 He never sleeps nor slumbers.



Around the Word Devotions + September 20-26, 2026

“Perseverance in Glorifying God”

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 September 20-26, 2026

THEME OF THE WEEK: Perseverance in Glorifying God

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He hath visited and redeemed His people." He visited in Nain, where He raised the dead. We await His second visitation, where His glory will be revealed fully in our own resurrections. In this time between His visitations, we persevere in glorifying Him. We do it by hearing His Word, by praising His goodness, by confessing our sins and His truth. We also do it in hope, the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of all flesh at the last day. His redemption and visitation mean our resurrection is sure, just as His is sure. "We believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:11-17 — Jesus is Unclean

Jesus touched the bier. That little detail might get overlooked in all the commotion of today's reading. But this little detail is not unimportant. Doing so made Jesus, at least according to the Mosaic Law, unclean. It was one thing for the bearers to carry the dead body and its coffin, for this was necessary and they were called to do so. But most certainly a hush and a murmuring ran through the crowd when Jesus touched the bier. This Jesus touches death, becomes "unclean" for this young man, in order that He would take its curse upon His body. And also for us. In His resurrection Jesus is Lord of death. Death could not hold this young man. And it will not hold you either. *Jesus, call me out of my grave on the last day that I may see You face to face! Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:121-128 — Certainty in His Word

Our eyes long for Christ's salvation and the fulfillment of His righteous promise. In the meantime, we face a world that neither fears nor glorifies Him. The Lord has given us certainty in His Word. He has given us Baptism as the pledge of a clean conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus. He has given us His Testament, His Body and Blood as a guarantee. Against naysayers and doubters, those who abandon the truth in this waning world, we hold to the Lord's Word, to the testimony. The Lord's Word is gold that survives every fire's testing. *Lord, be surety to us for good. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 3:13-21 Love, God's Glory

The glory of God is His love, and it is unfathomable—unknowable; yet, Paul bows His knees to pray that we and all the saints would know it. How can you know what is unknowable? Only in Christ and by faith. To have Christ by faith, trusting the promises of God's concrete love for us in Christ's death and resurrection, is to have all of God's glory. It is given to us in Jesus. Thus there is glory "in the Church," as St. Paul says. What humans cannot comprehend—God's glory—is still ours to have, keep, and benefit from. *Lord, root me by faith in Your Son, in whom Your surpassing love is known. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 32:39, 40 — God Kills and Makes Alive

There is no God but the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He says, "...I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal..." (Deut. 32:39). At first glance, the order appears to be backward. We live first and then we die. Yet, God does things differently. Through the Law, He first kills us by revealing the depth of our sin and the death we rightly deserve. And then, in the promise of the Gospel, He raises us to newness of life through the forgiveness of sins. So, the Lord's order is right. He first kills and then makes alive, because the life He gives will never end. *O Lord, kill my sinful flesh through the preaching of the Law so that You may bring me to life through Your Gospel. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: John 11:19-45 — Jesus, The Resurrection, The Life

This conversation between Jesus and Martha has comforted Christians for centuries. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. All who believe in Him will live forever. Jesus only needs to speak a word, and the bars of death are broken; the bond of death is loosed. Jesus calls Lazarus out of the grave, and He will do the same for you. If Jesus waits to return, each of us will have to breathe our last and die. It is the way of all flesh. We will be dressed in grave clothes and be put in a tomb. We will be mourned. We will stink. But Jesus, who loves us also, and who weeps at our death, will stand on the earth, and the dead will hear His voice and come forth. He is the Resurrection. He is the Life that never ends. *Jesus, be my Resurrection and my Life. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:21-28—In Christ Shall All Be Made Alive

Our eyes behold sickness and death. We see men overcome by the weakness of their flesh as they sin against one another. We see death swallowing up life. Though our eyes cannot see it, Christ's resurrection is greater in power and scope than the deadly effects of Adam's sin. St. Paul tells the Romans, "If many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many" (5:15). The day is coming when we will rejoice to see Jesus reigning with death under His feet. We will see and rejoice at the host of saints gathered from across the continents and centuries who have followed their Captain in victory from death to life. *Grant me steadfast faith to share in Jesus' victory. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 36

Jesus speaks of the human heart and the human mouth as a fountain of death. We are dying, and the things we do and say bring forth death. But with the Lord is "the fountain of life." His works and His words bring forth life. In fact, the words of God are so full of life that they make the dead to be raised, and, even more wonderfully, they make sinners to be righteous and holy. *O LORD, You give us to drink from the fountain of Your pleasures, for with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light. Oh continue Your loving kindness to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright in heart. Amen.*

To support the work of these devotions please visit www.whatdoesthismean.org/support

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 authors are Pastor Daenzer, Pastor Flamme, Pastor Grieve, Pastor Jennings, Pastor Ross, and Pastor Wolfrummueller.