

Back to the Basics:
Rediscovering Foundational Truths for a Fruitful Faith
August 31, 2025
9 AM



Encouraging dedication to holiness in thought, word, and deed as followers of Christ.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATHERING



Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.

Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✝ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen.

WELCOME SONG

SING A SONG

I want to sing a song for You, Lord. Lord, for You I want to sing a song.
And I want to lift my voice to Heaven, and listen to the angels sing along.

CHORUS

A song of Your faithfulness, a song of Your grace,
And of Your loving kindness, to the glory of Your name.
With ev'rything that's in me, Lord, listen to me say:
I want to sing a song for You, I want to sing a song.

I want to live my life for You, Lord. Lord, for You I want to live my life.
I want to praise the name of Jesus, and pray above all things You're glorified. (*chorus*)

And I sing about Your mercy,
And I sing about Your love,
Your goodness, Lord, Your righteousness.
I want to sing... (*chorus twice*)

And we'll sing, "Holy, holy, holy!"
We'll sing, "Holy, holy, holy!"
We'll shout, "Holy, holy are You Lord Almighty!"

Holy, holy, holy!
Holy, holy, holy!
Holy, holy, holy!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON



Please be seated.

FIRST READING

1 Peter 1:13-16

¹³ Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. ¹⁴ Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. ¹⁵ Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct, ¹⁶ for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 5:2, 5-9

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

² And Jesus began to speak and taught them, saying:

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

PURSUING HOLINESS

Pastor Jonathan Bull

Please stand as you are able.

SERMON HYMN

THE JESUS WAY

If you curse me, then I will bless you
If you hurt me, I will forgive
And if you hate me, then I will love you
I choose the Jesus way

If you're helpless, I will defend you
And if you're burdened, I'll share the weight
And if you're hopeless, then let me show you
There's hope in the Jesus way

CHORUS

I follow Jesus
I follow Jesus
He wore my sin, I'll gladly wear His name
He is the treasure
He is the answer
Oh, I choose the Jesus way

If you strike me, I will embrace you
And if you chain me, I'll sing His praise
And if you kill me, my home is heaven
For I choose the Jesus way (*chorus twice*)

Oh, I choose the Jesus way.

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

JESUS MESSIAH

He became sin, who knew no sin; that we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, Love so amazing.

CHORUS

Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, his blood the wine; broken and poured out all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing, yeah

All our hope is in You, All our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world. *(chorus)*

Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all. The Lord of all! The Lord of all.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,

that we may work for the good of all;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠ MEAL ✠ ✠ ✠

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This is the table, not of the church, but of the Lord
It is made ready for those who love God
and for those who want to love God more.

So come, you who have much faith
and you who have little;
You who have been here often
and you who have not been here long;
You who have tried to follow
and you who have failed.
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG

YOUR HANDS

I have unanswered prayers. I have trouble I wish wasn't there.
And I have asked a thousand ways
That You would take my pain away. That You would take my pain away.

I am trying to understand how to walk this weary land,
Make straight the paths that crooked lie,
Oh Lord, before these feet of mine, Oh Lord, before these feet of mine.

When my world is shaking, heaven stands.
When my heart is breaking, I never leave Your hands.

When You walked upon the Earth, You healed the broken, lost, and hurt.
I know You hate to see me cry;
One day You will set all things right, One day You will set all things right.

When my world is shaking, heaven stands.
When my heart is breaking, I never leave Your hands,

Your hands.
Your hands that shape the world are holding me; they hold me, still.
Your hands that shape the world are holding me; they hold me, still.

When my world is shaking, heaven stands.
When my heart is breaking, I never leave You.

When my world is shaking, heaven stands.
When my heart is breaking, I never leave,
I never leave Your hands.

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.
Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH

Great is Your faithfulness, oh God.
You wrestle with the sinner's heart.
You lead us by still waters, into mercy.
And nothing can keep us apart.

CHORUS

So remember Your people, remember Your children.
Remember Your promise, oh God.
Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough, for me.

Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob.
You use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song of Your salvation.
And all Your people sing along. *(chorus twice)*

Yeah, Your grace is enough, heaven reaching down to us.
Your grace is enough for me.

God I sing
Your grace is enough, I'm covered in Your love.
Your grace is enough for me, for me.

DISMISSAL

Follow the way of Jesus. Experience God's Love!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

AWESOME GOD

by Rich Mullins

St. Paul Praise Team

*Altar Flowers are given today by Dave & Judy Castor,
in honor of their son Tim's 45th birthday, and
in memory of Dave's dad, Robert Castor.*

Prayer requests may be sent to prayer@splcwesterville.org



Free Concert!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH 2025

ST PAUL LUTHERAN PRAISE BAND

Concessions | 5:30

Concert | 6:00

SPLC Shelterhouse

Weather Permitting!



Freewill offering
to support the
Praise Band's
future gear &
tech upgrades!



**4686 E. WALNUT ST
WESTERVILLE, OH 43081**

Questions?
zach.ruppel@splcwesterville.org

JOIN US!

RAIN OR SHINE

This Week's Activities at St. Paul

Sunday, 8/31

9 AM: **Contemporary Worship**
(Shelter House)
10:30 AM: **Worship** (Sanctuary)
12 PM: **Private Event** (Nursery)
3 PM: **Grief Group** (Library)

Monday, 9/1

The Office is Closed

Wednesday, 9/3

9:30 AM: **Piece & Sew** (Lower Level)
6:30 PM: **Vocal Choir Rehearsal** (Fellowship Hall)
7:30 PM: **Praise Team Rehearsal** (Sanctuary)

Thursday, 9/4

10 AM: **Bible Study** (Library)
6 PM: **Inreach/Outreach** (Library)
6:45 PM: **Bell Choir Rehearsal** (Sanctuary)

Saturday, 9/6

4 PM: **Rally Day Set-Up** (Fellowship Hall)

PERMISSIONS

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As we cultivate welcoming communities of faith with our neighbors and world, we strive for a world where everyone **"Experiences God's Love"**.

HOLY COMMUNION

We celebrate Holy Communion at every service. We welcome you to join us at the table of the Lord. Our Communion Bread is gluten, peanut, tree nut, soy, and dairy-free. **White grape juice is always available in the center of the tray.** All are welcome.

NURSERY

The nursery is located at the top of the ramp of the main entrance to the church. Currently, the nursery is not staffed, however, it is available for you to use with your child. Also, for our young worshippers, please find **Worship Wonder Bags** on the small coat rack in the rear of the sanctuary, untie, and enjoy. After worship, please put the **UNTIED bag back** on the rack to be replenished and cleaned.

Online giving to St. Paul is available: Using your mobile device, scan below or Text **SPLCGIVE** to **73256**.

CONTACTS

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Prayer requests may be sent to
prayer@splcwesterville.org

Office Hours: M-F 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Closed for lunch: 12 pm – 1 pm

MUSIC STAFF

Karla Kruse, Director of Music Ministries
Judy McLeod, Handbell Director
Zach Ruppel, Director of Contemporary Music
Philip Cordell, Organist
Susan Treer, Contemporary Keyboardist

Please contact us if you have any questions. Check out the web site for more information. St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

