



*For we walk by faith,
not by sight.*

2 Corinthians 5:7

***St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS
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Most of the readings for today share a vivid common image. The *Old Testament Reading* from Ezekiel is a messianic prophecy that ends with a high and lofty mountain. It has a final-day image of all the trees knowing who the Lord is, and all God’s people dwelling securely in His presence. The *Gospel* also pictures a tree—of impressive size. It looks forward to the great harvest that comes from the growth of the kingdom of God, which began as a tiny mustard seed. The *Psalms*, too, describes a tree, firmly planted and prospering (Ps 1:3). In all three of these readings, the one who brings about this glorious conclusion to the church is God through the Messiah—and that *is* common to the Epistle from 2 Corinthians.

We welcome everyone.

The Lord’s Supper is a very special privilege God gives to His people.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. If you are not partaking of the Lord’s Supper but would like to receive a blessing, please come up to the communion rail when sent by an elder, kneel, and cross your arms over your chest. The Pastor will then know that you desire a blessing.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US.

Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in the narthex of the church.

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

We welcome children and all the joy and little chatter that comes with them. If for any reason you want to take your little one out, there is a Nursery (Cry Room) available for use, located just outside the sanctuary.

We walk by faith, not by sight. Trusting in the faithful promises of God. That is what gives us good courage. That is what leads us on in the journey. We trust not in ourselves and our path, but the God who sent His Son Jesus on the path to the cross. He is the reason for our good courage. He is the sum and substance of our faith. He has promised to lead and guide us until we reach our eternal home with the Lord. By God’s grace, may you continue to walk each day by faith in Christ until your journey’s end.

~ Taken from a devotion by Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan – President, Missouri District – LCMS ~

Opening Hymn 490 "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
(Matthew 28:19b)

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
(1 John 1:8-9)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
(John 20:19-23)

C Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 92:12-15; antiphon: v. 1

P It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

C **to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.**

P The righteous flourish like the palm tree

C **and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**

P They are planted in the house of the LORD;

C **they flourish in the courts of our God.**

- P** They still bear fruit in old age;
C **they are ever full of sap and green,**
P to declare that the LORD is upright;
C **He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.**
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
P It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
C **to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.**

Kyrie ~ Lord, Have Mercy (Mark 10:47)

LSB 152

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



- C** A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*

LSB 154

(Luke 2:14; John 1:29)

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord,



You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

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



C A - men.

The Old Testament Lesson

Ezekiel 17:22–24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: "I Myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I Myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I Am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Psalms 145:3, 5b, 6b

P Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,

C **and His greatness is unsearchable.**

P On Your wondrous works, I will meditate,

C **and I will declare Your greatness.**

The Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:1–17

¹We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (*John 6:68*)

LSB 156

C Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

The Holy Gospel Lesson

Mark 4:26–34

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

C Glo-ry to You, O Lord.

²⁶Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰And He said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables He spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to His own disciples He explained everything.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C 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.

Hymn 850 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

Sermon Text

2 Corinthians 5:1-17

Sermon "We Are Always of Good Courage"

1. Times happen in life that challenge us and discourage us, especially _____ .
2. Our bodies groan from what we _____
_____ in this life.
3. Paul gives us courage by showing us the best _____

We Are of Good Courage as We Walk by Faith Because of the Better and Best That Are Yet to Come.
4. The interim state is better than we experience now, but the resurrection of the body _____ .
5. For now, we live the good life by walking courageously _____ .

Hymn 742 "For Me to Live Is Jesus"

Prayers

Lord's Prayer (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

☑ 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.

Installation of VBS Teachers and Helpers

Recognition of College and High School Graduates

Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

LSB 166

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



Closing Hymn 677 “For All the Saints”

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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Pastor Wonnacott and family will be on vacation June 20th-24th.

Today’s altar flowers are given to the glory of God from family members of Eunice Bauer, in celebration of her 100th birthday. We praise and thank God for making her His precious child and blessing her with many wonderful years!

The July–September Portals of Prayer and HopeFull Living devotionals are available in the tract rack in Narthex. Please help yourself and enjoy one or both of these for your daily Bible study.

From the Church Office: I would like to get a new directory printed the first of July. If you or someone you know has gotten a **new address or phone number**, or if your home “546” phone number is no longer valid and you’d like it removed or a cell phone number added, please let me know by June 30th. Thank you for helping me with this.

Food gathering for Grace Food Pantry: We will be collecting until June 23rd. There are cards on the table in the narthex with needed food items. As always, you may donate items without taking a card.

Indiana District LWML Ingathering: diapers & infant clothing (St Paul); grocery gift cards (St Timothy) – both in Indianapolis; duffel bags (Lutheran CFS). A box is located in the Narthex under the mailboxes.

Parish Fellowship will meet Monday, June 24th at 10:30 in the library.

Calendar of Events

TODAY ~ Father's Day..... June 16th, 2024

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am

Youth Grade 4-HS Donuts with Dads..... 8:30 am

Worship Service..... 9:30 am

MON:

Board Meetings..... 7:00 pm

TUES:

Board of Lay Ministry Meeting 6:30 pm

WED:

Youth Night 7:00 pm

THURS: ~ Pastor Wonnacott & Family on Vacation Through June 24th ~

FRI:

SAT:

NEXT SUNDAY June 23rd, 2024

Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am

Worship Service with Communion..... 9:30 am

Euchre Night is Friday, June 28th from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Bethany Room. Anyone 16 and older can join us for fun & fellowship. Please bring a snack to share. Drinks will be provided. Come and bring a friend!

YOUTH NEWS

SUMMER YOUTH NIGHTS: We have the following dates set aside for our Youth in Grades 4 - High School to join together in fellowship and various activities

June 19th (7 pm): Here at church

June 26th (7 pm): TBD

July 10th (7 pm): TBD

More information for these events will be available on the GroupMe "St. Paul's Youth" chat as well as other church communications.

FIREMAN'S FESTIVAL DRINK TABLE: On behalf of our Youth Group, a big "Thank You" to the congregation for the tremendous support you showed through your drink donations and/or stopping by our table this past week at the Fireman's Festival. Our Youth had plenty of opportunities to engage with folks from the community and represent St. Paul's (and our Savior) in a positive manner. Funds collected from this endeavor will go toward offsetting costs of future Youth events. Thank you - to God be the glory!

Our VBS program Celebrate the Savior-Jesus Gives Us Joy will be held June 24th -28th from 9-11:30 am. All children age 3 through those who are just completing Grade 5 are encouraged to attend. Kids will explore five key events in the life of Jesus and discover how the love of Jesus fills us with joy. This is a community event sponsored by our congregation. Registration forms may be found on the table in the narthex. Children can also be registered online at vbsmate.com/StPaulsLutheranBremenIndiana. “Thank you to all who have volunteered to serve in our VBS program.”

Our VBS Mission this year is Phil’s Friends. The congregations is invited to help us support this ministry that creates care packages for cancer patients. They currently get requests for 300 packages per week so every donation, monetary or items, is greatly appreciated. Please see insert. Monetary donations may be put in the clear container on the VBS table in the narthex. Checks may be made payable to St. Paul’s Sunday School with “Phil’s Friends” on the memo line. Thank you for your generous spirit!

Special Concerns:

That we live more courageously in our bodies as we walk by faith, not by sight.

For Pastor Rafael & Deaconess Jamielynn Flores and Pastor Micah Wildauer and their work in foreign missions.

That the Lord would bless our offerings that we give today.

For our country and her leaders.

For the people of Haiti - That the Lord would surround our brothers and sisters in Christ with His grace and protection. Pray they stay strong in the faith through their suffering at this time of violence and unrest.

We pray for all persecuted Christians throughout the world.

SCHOOL CORNER

Thank you to all who volunteered in the ticket booths at the Firemen’s Festival. PTL appreciates your support!

Thank you, congregation, for all you have done to support the Preschool and Day School this last school year, through your volunteering, financial giving, and especially spiritually! We appreciate YOU! Please continue to pray for our teachers and the preparation for the upcoming school year.

It is not too late to enroll in St. Paul’s Preschool and Day School (Kindergarten through 8th Grade)! If you know of any families

looking for a Christian educational experience, please recommend us. **Word-of-mouth is the best advertisement.** Our mission is to provide a solid education, with a Christian foundation and atmosphere for Preschool through 8th Grade. We also offer a comprehensive scholarship program. Online enrollment and inquiries are open on our website, stpaulsbremen.church/school. Interested families can also call the school, 574-546-2790, or email schools@stpaulsbremen.org. We are happy to answer questions and schedule tours.

Please continue giving to the Lutheran SGO! Our goal is to make a Christian education affordable, so please continue to give, and receive the tax credit and deduction for your donations! **Now, there is a link to donate to the LSGO on the church's website under the School drop-down menu.**

You can also find several (easy) ways to donate at www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate. Donations can be given through a check, IRA, stocks, Donor Advised Funds, PayPal, credit card, and **NOW electronic giving!** Benefits to you are a 50% state tax credit for your donation and eligibility for a tax deduction. These scholarships make a big difference for our families. Please contact Jennifer Harman, in the school office, if you have questions.

We also continue to take donations to St. Paul's tuition assistance fund. Checks for tuition assistance can be made out to the church.

Servants for Today's Worship June 16th, 2024

Rev. Neil Wonnacott (574-546-2332 or 574-301-9291)
Organist: Ellen Augustine
Ushers: Austin Nielsen & Mark Wildauer
Acolyte: Emiliano Mejia
Elder: Dave Burcham
Video Streamer: Ethan Tjernagel

Servants for Next Sunday's Worship June 23rd, 2024

Pastor Gregory Fiechtner
Organist: Anita Eichinger
Ushers: Wayne Spicher & Todd Haug
Acolyte: Kellan Guse
Elder: Terry Miller
Communion Assistant: Mike Gumz
Video Streamer: Tyler & Dakota Schmeltz