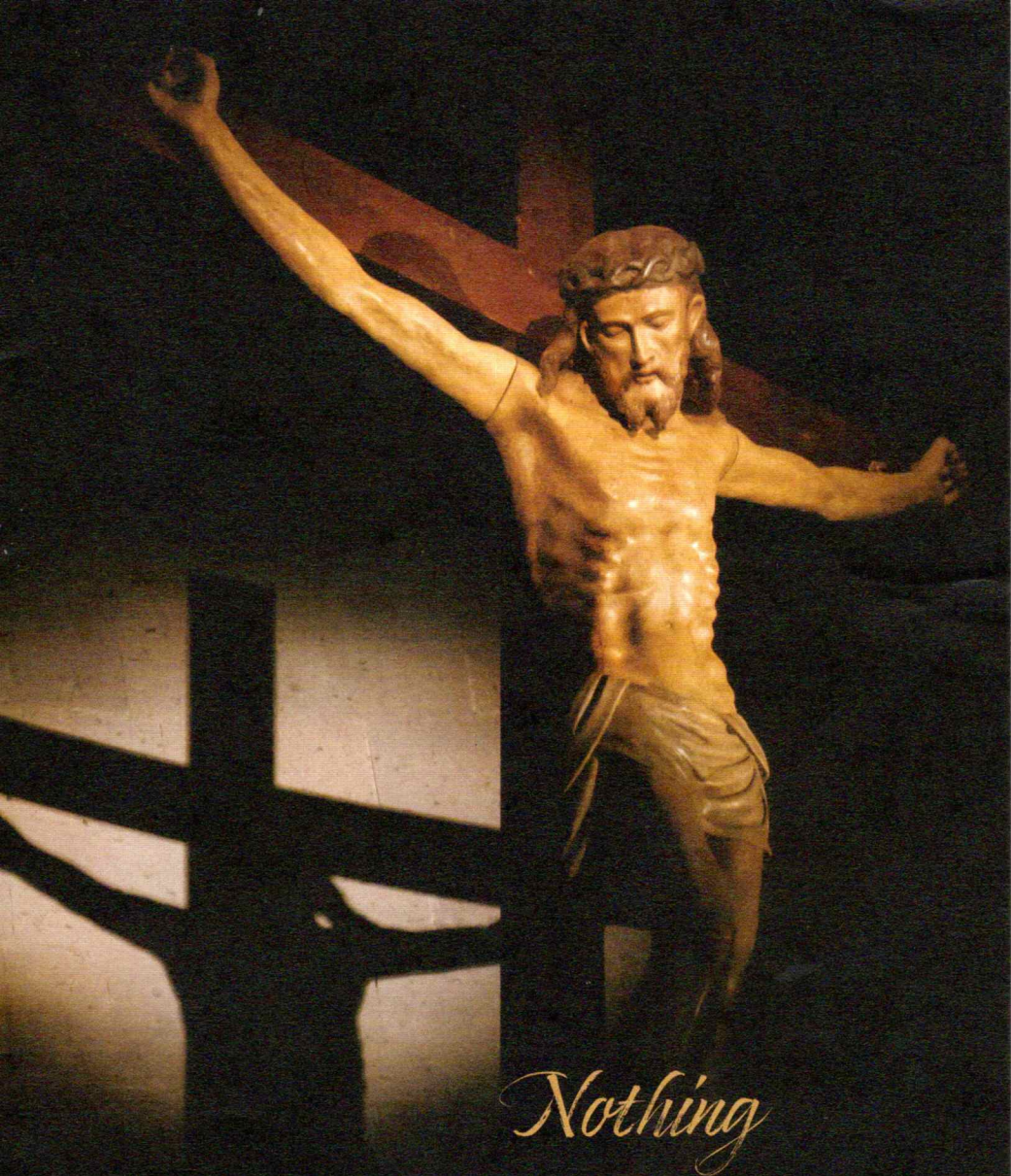




Nothing
WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US
FROM THE LOVE OF GOD
in Christ Jesus

ROMANS 8:39

St. Paul Lutheran Church (NALC)

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

Prelude		
Gathering Hymn	"God of Grace"	G Hymn #415
Announcements		
Brief Order of Public Confession		Page 56
*The Apostolic Greeting		Page 57
*The Kyrie		Page 57
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*The Prayer of the Day		Insert
Special Music		Tom Bush
First Lesson		Deuteronomy 7:6-9
The Psalm		Psalm 125
The Second Lesson		Romans 8:28-39
The Verse	"Alleluia"	Page 62
*The Gospel Lesson		Matthew 13:44-52
Children's Sermon		
Sermon Hymn	"Seek Ye First..."	B Hymn #783
Sermon		Pastor Andrea Taphorn
*Apostles' Creed		Page 65
Offering		
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*Prayers/Lord's Prayer		Page 76
*Benediction		
*Closing Hymn	"O Christ the Same..."	B Hymn #778
Postlude		
*Stand as you are able		

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad to have you worship with us today.

Our prayers include those in nursing homes and home bound: Mary Ann McCallister, Helen Lyons, Susie Leonhardt, Edna Armstrong, Servicemen: Andrew Gendron, Brodie Taphorn.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by David & Kathy Halsey in honor of their wedding anniversary.

There has been a prayer chain sign-up placed on the bulletin board. If you'd like to be added to our prayer chain, please add your name and preference of contact by either phone # for a text msg. or email for an email message. If anyone one has a prayer request, please contact Deb Feichtner, Pastor Andrea or Joyce Schanzenbach.

Thank you to the God Squad for the gift card.

Dana Blankenship

Church Directory—Sundays, August 2nd and August 16 after church, Deb Feichtner and Jen Rinehart will be available in the basement area to help you schedule your photo appointment if you haven't already done it online. Fellowship will also be held with some goodies both Sundays! If those days don't work, please contact them by phone or in person to get scheduled. Reminder...each family receives a free 8x10 photo and a church directory!

“It's a Birthday Bash-Happy Birthday America” The annual outdoor church picnic will be held August 23 at 10:30 am at Au-miller Park. There will be a potluck following the service with meat, drinks and table service provided. We will also hold a live and silent auction. Let's celebrate a day of fellowship, food, and fun. God bless the USA!

Church Council will meet Monday, August 3 at 7 PM.

Giving for The Lord's Ministry July 19, 2026

Bell Choir	20.00
Benevolence	215.00
Current	2,495.75
Feed Crawford County	130.00
Filling Home	45.00
God Squad	40.00
Lutheran Home of Mercy	40.00
Missionary	50.00
NALC Seminary	180.00
NALC Disaster Relief	43.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	120.00
Special Projects	80.00
Women of the Church	80.00
Total	\$3,538.75
Attendance 84	

Anyone wanting to donate to the NALC Disaster Response may mark your envelopes accordingly. Donations aid tornado and other natural disaster victims.

Looking to connect with Pastor Andrea? You're always welcome to stop by during office hours: **Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:00 AM—Noon.** If another time works better for you, feel free to call the church office or reach out directly to Pastor Andrea (614) 256-4318 to set up an appointment. She'd love to hear from you!

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday Sunday School 9 AM
 Worship 10 AM
Monday Duo Mente Impressions Concert 7 PM
Sunday Sunday School 9 AM
 Worship 10 AM

The St. Paul worship services and sermons are recorded and available to watch on the web page at www.stpaulsulphur.com or on St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs, Ohio YouTube. A live feed of the worship service is available downstairs in the high school room.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4707 Ridgeton Rd. Bucyrus, Ohio
419-562-5858
Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Pastor Brodie Taphorn
Charlie Britt, David Halsey, Jeff Karl Lay Assistants
Organist Kathy Sheets, Assistant Karen Schimpf
Secretary, Joyce Schanzenbach
Choir Director, Roxanne Shipman
Bell Choir, Cindy Hopkins
Church Council President, John Britton
Sunday School Superintendent, Jill Rittenour
Email: stpaul Lutheran@embarqmail.com
Web Page: www.stpaulsulphur.com
Webmaster, Sam Hopkins
samhopkins@columbus.rr.com
Pastor Andrea's number 614-256-4318
Pastor Brodie's number 614-204-3064

Assurance of Salvation

As a young man, C. F. W. Walther grew up unsure about the truth of the Gospel and Scripture. The common teachers of that time in Germany did not teach the Bible as the true Word of God. Walther eagerly sought the reassurance that the Gospel message was true. He found this assurance through the Holy Spirit in the form of trusted friends, a pastor, and Martin Luther's writings.

Assured of the Gospel, Walther went on to become a pastor and the first president of the church body that became The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He was instrumental in helping the newly formed church body establish its doctrines on the foundation of God's Word in the Scriptures.

We, too, can trust the Gospel message for our salvation. When our minds spiral with doubts and fears, we can read Romans 8 and let the Holy Spirit remind us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord! Thanks be to God!

Lord God, we cannot thank You enough for Your everlasting love for us and for Your gift of salvation. Work faith in our hearts to receive this gift and hold on to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
cph.org/magazines



About the Cover: God's love is not found in a mere feeling. God's love is in Christ Jesus our Lord. God's love is in Jesus, through whom all things were made. God's love is in Jesus, who is above all authorities, powers, and creation. God's love is in our Lord, who stretched out His arms on the cross to win us forgiveness. God's love is in Jesus, who rose from the dead to give us everlasting life. Nothing will be able to separate us from that love.

The Word of God



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

Prayer of the Day

O God, your almighty power is most clearly shown in your mercy and pity. Multiply your grace that we may run to your promises and be made to share in your heavenly joy; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 7:6-9

⁶{Moses said to the Israelites,} “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations”

Psalm 125

¹Those who trust in the LORD are | like Mount Zion,*
which cannot be moved, but stands | fast forever.

²**The hills stand a- | bout Jerusalem;***
so does the LORD stand round about his people,
from this time forth for- | evermore.

³The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway
over the land allotted | to the just,*
so that the just shall not put their | hands to evil.

⁴**Show your goodness, O LORD, to those | who are good***
and to those who are | true of heart.

⁵As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,
the LORD will lead them away with the | evildoers;*
but peace be | upon Israel.

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

⁴⁴{Jesus said to the disciples,} "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

For the Witness of The Church

For the whole Church, the vine you have planted, and made us the branches: Father grant that we may bear that fruit you are seeking, that we may know love as you have defined it in the life and death of your Son for us, and that our love for others may be genuine. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Those on Vacation

Timeless God, you are Lord over all our days. You have provided your people with times for work and for play, for toil and for rest. Be with those who are taking vacation time, that they may find respite and delight the change of routine, pleasure in one another's company, and safety in their travel. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Marriage

Spirit of love, pour out the bounties of your grace upon all who are married. Keep them together, strong in faith, certain in hope, and abounding in love, that their two lives, united by you into one, may bear witness to our blessings of forgiveness, joy, and unity in faith. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Those in Need

Abiding Lord, our lives are filled with challenges and questions that are difficult to understand. We thank you for your constant presence that gives us hope to face each day. Bring your healing touch to all who are hurting. Pour out your healing spirit on all who are in need. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

Lessons for Next Week: Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 136:1-9 [23-26];
Romans 9:1-5 [6-13]; Matthew 14:13-21