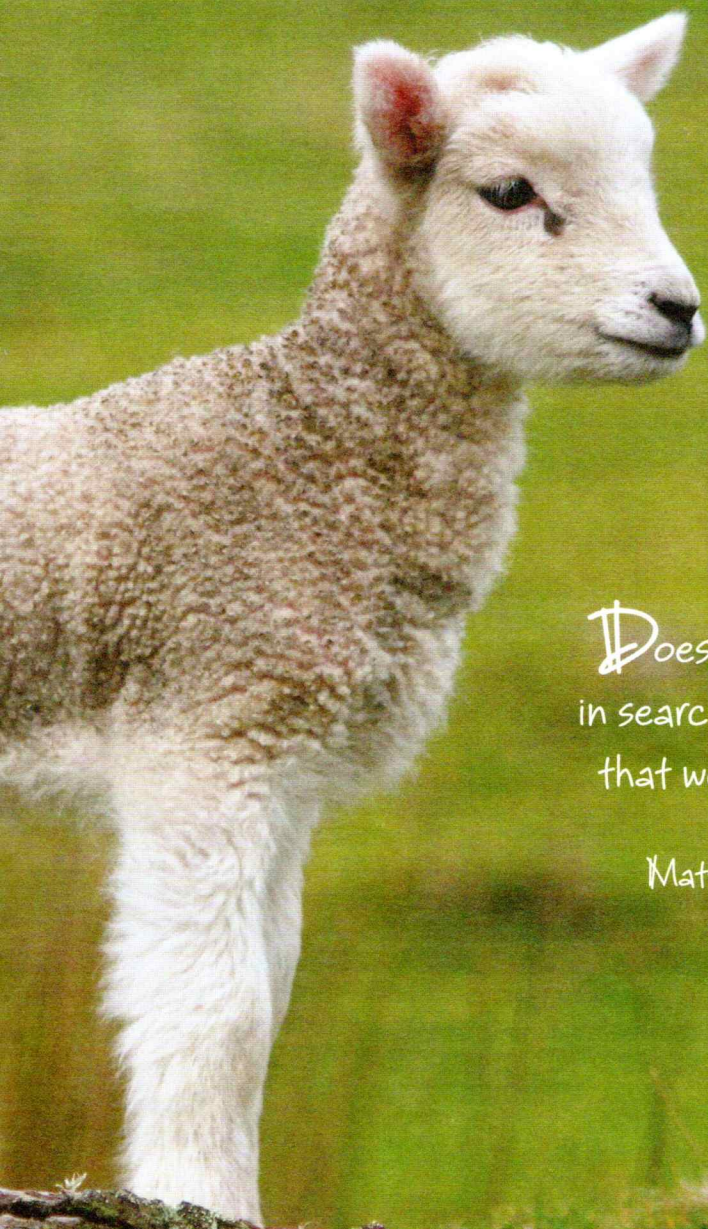




Does he not go
in search of the one
that went astray?

Matthew 18:12

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (NALC)

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

Prelude

Gathering Hymn "Earth and all.... " **G Hymn #558**

Announcements

THE WORD

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*The Apostolic Greeting Page 57

*The Kyrie Page 57

Hymn of Praise Page 60

*The Prayer of the Day Insert

Special Music Tom Bush

First Lesson Ezekiel 33:7-9

The Psalm Psalm 32:1-8

The Second Lesson Romans 13:1-10

*The Verse " Alleluia" Page 62

*The Gospel Lesson Matthew 18:1-20

Children's Sermon

Sermon Hymn "Lord of All Nations" **G Hymn #419**

Sermon Pastor Andrea Taphorn

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Offering

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THE SACRAMENT

*Great Thanksgiving/Preface Page 68-69

*Words of Institution Page 69

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Distribution of Elements

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Post Communion Canticle "Thank The Lord..." Page 72

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Benediction Page 74

*Closing Hymn "Joyful, Joyful"" **G Hymn #551**

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

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Marilyn Long in memory of her father, Luther Long.

The flower arrangement on the organ are in honor of Kathy Halsey's birthday and given by the Webber Family.

Parents' Fellowship and Dinner will be held Sunday, September 13 from 4-6 PM at the Church Parsonage. Parents of young children are invited to join us for an evening of good food, fellowship, and conversation at the parsonage! Bring a side dish to share. Enjoy some time to relax and connect with other parents. **This gathering is for parents only**—a chance to enjoy a little grown-up fellowship and a meal together. We hope you join us.

Sunday, September 20th, please plan to stay after church if you are part of any group. We will quickly be calling people up after worship to take these candid shots for our directory. If you are a participant in: God Squad, choir, bell choir, council, Women of the church, lay person, memorial committee or dartball plan to attend. Thanks!

CHURCH DIRECTORY NEWS. Last chance to schedule an appointment for the directory is coming soon!. We'd love to have 100% participation for the best possible directory. So, please have your appointment scheduled by Monday, September 14. If you need help or have any questions, please call Deb Feichtner, 419-492-2215 or Jen Rinehart, 419-545-5820. Or, simply log on to the site, www.ucdir.com, church code: oh2991 and password: member-SPLC. Remember if you submit a photo, please email it to dmfeichtner@gmail.com or the church at stpaullutheran@embarqmail.com and give your \$15 to Deb, Jen or Joyce, by Sept. 20th. Each family photographed will received a free 8x10 photo that will be mailed to you!

God Squad will have Luther Uncorked on Thursday, September 10 at 6 PM. They will meet at Pete's Café in New Washington. All are welcome to attend.

Mum Flower Pick Up will be Wednesday, September 9th from 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM. Just drive up to the east entrance and we will load them in your car. If you have questions, please call Bev Robertson at 419-563-6177.

The Youth Group would like to thank Pastors Andrea and Brodie for hosting a fun night of food and games last Sunday. We brainstormed lots of activities for service and fellowship for this coming year. The next Youth Group gathering will be on Sunday, September 27th at the church, from 4-7PM. Any youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us!

Colonel Crawford American Legion Post 181 will hold a flag retirement ceremony on September 13th starting at 2:00 PM. It will be held at the Dapper Cabin at Hannah Crawford School. This is a very meaningful experience for the entire family to learn and witness the proper way to retire worn and tattered American flags. If you have flags to retire, there is a drop box at the front of the American Legion in Bucyrus. If any children would like to participate, please call David Robertson at 419-561-0189.

Giving for The Lord's Ministry
August 30, 2026

Bell Choir	20.00
Benevolence	210.00
Current	3,299.00
Feed Crawford County	200.00
Luther Home of Mercy	10.00
Missionary	110.00
NALC Seminary	170.00
NALC Disaster Relief	380.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	25.00
Special Projects	465.00
Women of the Church	60.00
Total	\$4,949.00
Attendance	103

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 Andea? You're always welcome to stop by during office hours: **Tuesday & Wednesdays 9:00 AM-Noon**. If another time works better for you, feel 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!

Church Council will meet after worship September 13.

RALLY DAY will be September 13 during Sunday School. Join us for some fun activities for the children. All ages welcome. Please join us for a social hour after church to celebrate Rally Day.

Choir will begin practice on Sunday, September 13 at 8:30 AM. Catechism and adult Sunday School will begin at 9 AM

Chili Cook off for the North Central Ohio Mission District NALC will be held at St. Paul on September 27 at 4:30 pm. Each congregation is asked to bring 6 qt. crockpot of ready to eat chili. Contact June Geiger for more information.

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday Sunday School 9 AM
Worship/Communion 10 AM
Sunday Sunday School/Rally Day 9 AM
Choir practice 8:30 AM
Catechism 9 AM
Worship 10 AM
Church Council after worship
Parents' Fellowship & Dinner 4-6 PM

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: stpaulslutheran@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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Does God seek us? That sounds kind of silly. God sees everything. When God seeks us, He does so to bring us into step with His will and to walk with Him. His eye is always on us; His heart of love always yearns to have us follow Him alone: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

Does God rejoice? Imagine what that must be like when almighty God rejoices. "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance" (Luke 15:7).

Jesus, our Savior and Good Shepherd, is the King of love. He demonstrated that by obeying His Father's will and laying down His life for us. This setting of Psalm 23 is one of celebration, including the delight of Holy Communion and the "transport of delight" that flows from the chalice. "Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise within Thy house forever" (LSB 709:5, 6). The hymn writer wants to do more than dwell; he wants to sing! So shall we all in His nearer presence. Thanks be to God for His never-ending love toward us, His children.

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise within Thy house forever. Amen.

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About the Cover: Every single little sheep in the Lord's flock is precious to Him. He, like a shepherd in search of his lost sheep, is willing to go to great lengths to find every missing sheep. You are also precious to Your Savior, who laid down His life for you on the cross (John 10:17). He knows you by name (John 10:3). He has gone to great lengths to find you, who was once lost. But today, you are found, and there is great rejoicing!



Prayer of the Day

O Lord, always lead and follow us with your grace, that we may be still more intent on doing good. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

Psalm 32:1-8*

¹Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,*
and whose sin is | put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,*
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,*
because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;*
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my | sin to you,*
and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

⁶I said, "I will confess my transgressions | to the LORD."*
Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

⁷Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in |
time of trouble;*

when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

⁸You are my hiding place; you preserve | me from trouble;*
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

Second Reading: Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love

each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let

him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Lessons for Next Week: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-12;
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

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* The Book of Common Prayer verse numbers for this psalm are different from the numbering in the ESV.

For Being Watchers Over Others

Lord God, you have sent us into the world to be your witnesses. You have made us watchmen over those you love, and make us duty-bound to warn others of their disobedience. This is a difficult job and will cause heartache for man, but we trust your Holy Spirit to work in the lives of those you love. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Labor Day

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all the work that you have given us to do, and for your gifts of strength and knowledge to do it well. Remind us that even the most ordinary tasks have an extraordinary impact when done in your name. As we enjoy our daily bread, let us labor for the sake of others and be a blessing to them as well. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Peace

Bring the presence of your peace into places where violence is an every day reality—our homes, our neighborhoods, our cities, and across your world. Bless and sustain all those who work for peace and advocate for an end to violence. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Wholeness and Healing

We pray this day for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Bring healing to the hopeless and courage to the ill. Be present with the unemployed and underemployed, those who struggle to make ends meet, and those who are despairing. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.