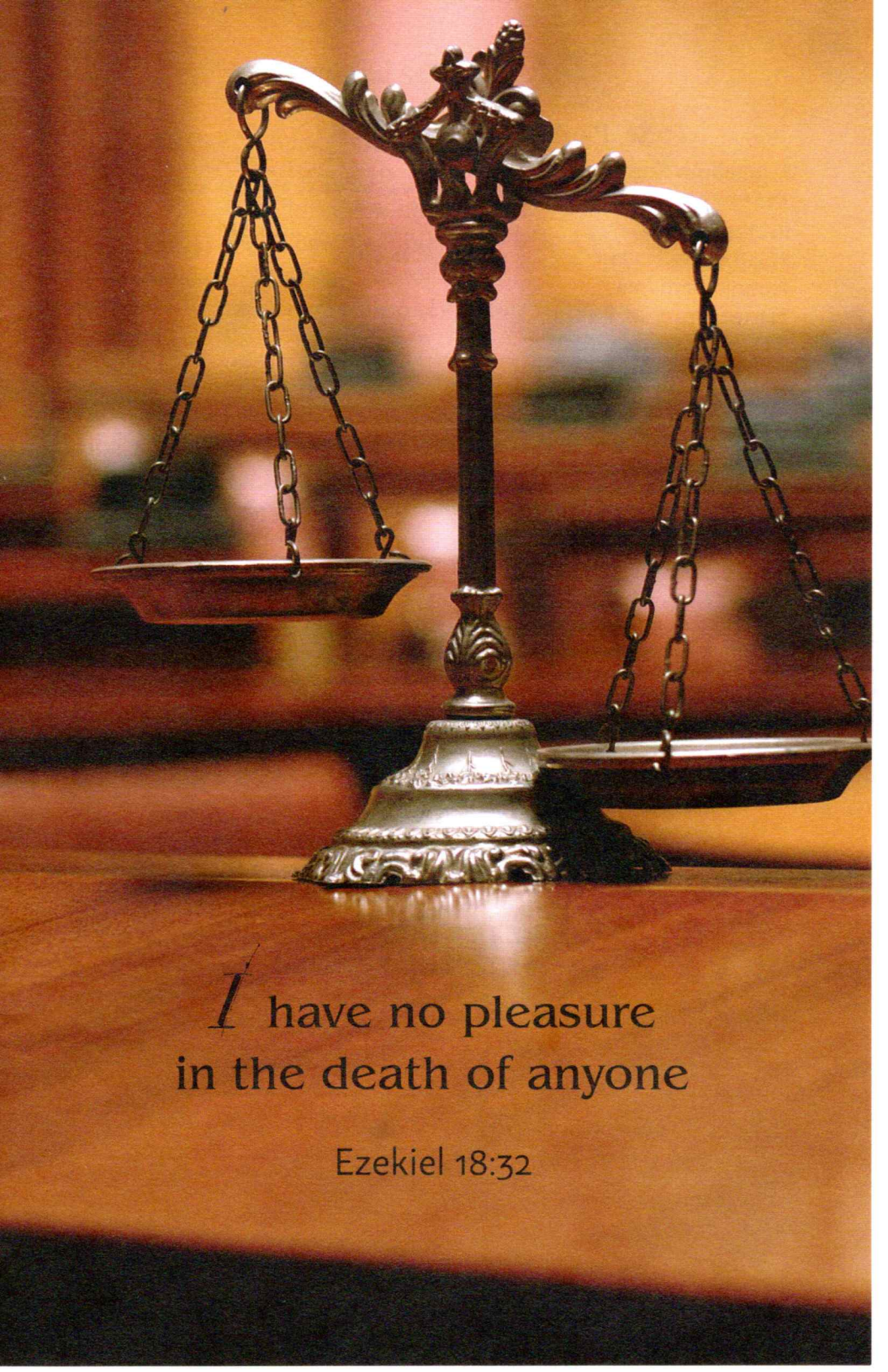

I have no pleasure
in the death of anyone
Ezekiel 18:32

St. Paul Lutheran Church (NALC)

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost — September 27, 2026

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*Gathering Hymn	"God is Here"	**B Hymn #719**
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Closing Hymn	"Oh That the Lord..."	**G Hymn #480**
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 are given by Rusty & Michele Breyley in honor of their grandchildren.

There will be no Communion October 4, but there will be Communion on Oct. 11.

Today at 4:30 pm the NALC will be having their Chili Cook Off. Each congregation is asked to bring a 6 qt. crockpot of ready to eat chili, bread or cornbread and dessert. St. Paul will be hosting this event. We will be voting for our favorite chili: best overall, best mild, best spicy and most creative.

Youth Group (grades 6-12) will be gathering at the Hopkins Family home tonight from 4-7 PM. Please join us for games and pizza. We will be planning for a year of run and fellowship.

Parents' Fellowship and Dinner will be held Sunday, October 11 from 4-6 PM at the 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.

Giving for The Lord's Ministry
September 13, 2026

Bell Choir	20.00
Benevolence	90.00
Current	5,674.00
Feed Crawford County	45.00
Filling Home	5.00
Luther Home of Mercy	50.00
Missionary	80.00
NALC Seminary	50.00
NALC Disaster Relief	25.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	30.00
Special Projects	75.00
Women of the Church	20.00
Total	$6,164.00
Attendance 95	

Anyone wanting to donate to the NALC Disaster Response may mark your envelopes accordingly. Donations aid tornadoes 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!

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday	Sunday School
	Worship 10 AM
	Chili Cook-off 4:30 PM
Wednesday	Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM
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.sulphur.com or 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., Sulphur Springs, Ohio
419-562-5858

Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Pastor Brodie Taphorn
Lay Assistants, Charlie Britt, David Halsey, Jeff Karl
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
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samhopkins@columbus.rr.com
Pastor Andrea's number 614-256-4318
Pastor Brodie's number 614-204-3064

Who Is Jesus Christ?

History relates many heated debates among Bible scholars. Jesus is pictured in many ways, including as an itinerant sage, a Hellenistic cynic, an apocalyptic prophet, an inspired rabbi, and the classic image we have of Jesus.

Thank God that we know who Jesus is. God has told us in the Scriptures. He is the Son of Man—a human being but without sin. He is also the very Son of God—true God with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

He had to be a true human being to suffer and die as our substitute; He had to be true God to be able to bring the sacrifice the Father demanded as the full ransom for sinners.

By God's grace, we confess that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is our Lord.

Thank God that we can joyfully and confidently affirm that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is our only Savior from sin, our help in ages past, and our hope for years to come! Jesus is everything and has everything we need.

Jesus, may I always place my confidence in You as the way, and the truth, and the life. Amen.

PORTALS of PRAYER

Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
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About the Cover: The Israelites thought they could weigh the scales of justice and found God at fault. However, the Israelites ignored God's Law, which showed their ways to be unjust. We cannot tip the scales of justice in our favor by disregarding God's Law, which condemns sinners to death. God, however, does not take pleasure in death. He desires mercy. In Christ, both perfect justice and perfect mercy were delivered when He took the sin of the world upon Himself and suffered the punishment for our sin in our place.

Scripture: ESV®
Cover verse: Ezekiel 18:32
Cover image: © Shutterstock.com
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The Word of God



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost *September 27, 2026*

Prayer of the Day

O Almighty and most Merciful God, through your bountiful goodness, keep us from all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that you would have us do. Grant this, we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

[1]The word of the LORD came to me: [2]"What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? [3]As I live, declares the LORD God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. [4]Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

[25]"Yet you say, 'The way of the LORD is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? [26]When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. [27]Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. [28]Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. [29]Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the LORD is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? [30]Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the LORD God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest

iniquity be your ruin. [31]Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? [32]For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the LORD God; so turn, and live."

Psalm 25:1-9*

[1]To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my | trust in you;*
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.
[2]Let none who look to you be | put to shame;*
let the treacherous be disappointed | in their schemes.
[3]Show me your | ways, O LORD,*
and teach | me your paths.
[4]Lead me in your | truth and teach me,*
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all | the day long.
[5]Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,*
for they are from | everlasting.
[6]Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;*
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.
[7]Gracious and upright | is the LORD;*
therefore he teaches sinners | in his way.
[8]He guides the humble in | doing right*
and teaches his way | to the lowly.
[9]All the paths of the LORD are | love and faithfulness*
to those who keep his covenant and his | testimonies.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-4 [5-13] 14-18

[1]So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from
love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,
[2]complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same
love, being in full accord and of one mind. [3]Do nothing from
selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more
significant than yourselves. [4]Let each of you look not only to his
own interests, but also to the interests of others. [[5]Have this mind
among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6]who, though
he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a
thing to be grasped, [7]but emptied himself, by taking the form of
a servant, being born in the likeness of men. [8]And being found in
human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the
point of death, even death on a cross. [9]Therefore God has highly
exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every
name, [10]so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in
heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11]and every tongue
confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
[12]Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not
only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out
your own salvation with fear and trembling, [13]for it is God who
works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.]
[14]Do all things without grumbling or disputing, [15]that you may
be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in
the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom
you shine as lights in the world, [16]holding fast to the word of
life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not
run in vain or labor in vain. [17]Even if I am to be poured out as
a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am
glad and rejoice with you all. [18]Likewise you also should be glad
and rejoice with me.

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-27 [28-32]

[23]When {Jesus} entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" [24]Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. [25]The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' [26]But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." [27]So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. [[28]What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' [29]And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. [30]And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. [31]Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. [32]For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."]

Lessons for Next Week: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 27, 2026

For the Gift of Faith
Holy Spirit, giver of all spiritual gifts, grant us faith to follow Christ in all we do. Teach us your ways that we may be obedient to your will and open to your leading in our lives. Lord in your mercy…
C. Hear our prayer.

For Unity in the Church
Dear Lord, your Spirit has called us together as your people in this place. Help us to be of the same mind as Christ Jesus our Lord, willing to empty ourselves for each other, the mission, and most of all for you. Grant us wisdom to work together for the sake of the Gospel and not for our own agendas. Lord in your mercy…
C. Hear our prayer.

For Wise and Just Rulers
Almighty God, sovereign Lord, all rulers, powers, and dominions are subject to you. Grant that the leaders of all nations would govern with wisdom, justice, and equity for the good of all. Lord in your mercy,…
C. Hear our prayer.

For Compassionate Healing
Compassionate God, our joys and sorrows are fully known to you. You grieve with us in our pain and sorrow and rejoice in our times of grace-filled joy. Bring healing to all those who are suffering from physical illness or injury, the pain of broken relationships, the sorrow of shattered hopes, and any kind of loss. Lord in your mercy…
C. Hear our prayer.