Is it lawful to pay taxes?

MATTHEW 22:17



St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (NALC)

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost October 18, 2026

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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, John Barnhart, Servicemen: Andrew Gendron.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of all birthdays and anniversaries for Oct. and Nov.by Jim & Helen Luidhardt.

We welcome Pastor Paul Larson for leading our worship this morning.

Those attending the Over 70's dinner need to have reservations turned in today.

Thank you to my church family for the cards, texts, visits and prayers as I recover. You are all such a blessing.

Doug Heydinger

Thankoffering Sunday will be held Sunday Nov.22. This year's offering will be used to help local needs as there are sure to be some. Many who have a crisis can use gas cards, or after initial long temporary shelter need help getting reestablished under a more permanent shelter.

WOC checked with the BackPack program again to see if they have a need for a holiday fill. One of the things that Second harvest cannot supply is Cream of Mushroom soup in the standard size can. And getting a large quantity through one of their other is sources is sometimes hit and miss as to getting it. Kathy is grateful for our continued support and indicated 600 cans should be a good amount. Just over a month into the school year and they are averaging 535 bags a week going to local students!

Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes will be placed out in the vestibules soon. We are awaiting labels. Details of how to pack the boxes and what can be included along with the label will be out as well. Donations to send the box is set at $10.00 per box. Collection date is by Nov. 15. Bring them to the church and well will get them to the collection location.

Dart ball practices are October 26 and November 3 at 7 P.M. The first game will be Nov. 9 at home with Windfall CCC.

Giving for The Lord's Ministry
October 11, 2026

Bell Choir	25.00
Benevolence	195.00
Current	3,417.00
Feed Crawford County	20.00
Filling Home	10.00
God Squad	50.00
Missionary	30.00
NALC Seminary	120.00
NALC Disaster Relief	210.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	90.00
Special Projects	120.00
Women of the Church	40.00
Total	$4,327.00
Attendance 102 Communion 87	

Noisy Change Oct. 4 $91.59

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 9 AM
	Catechism 9 AM
	Worship 10 AM
Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM
	Catechism 9 AM
	Worship/Communion 10 AM

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 n the high school room.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4707 Ridgeton Rd. Bucyrus, Oho
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
Email: stpaulluthran@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 Image and Inscription

"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21). The meaning of the first part of Jesus' statement is clear. We should keep the Fourth Commandment and pay our taxes. We stay in a right relationship with the civil authorities by giving them this proper honor. But how do we render "to God the things that are God's"?

Just as we give to the government the money that bears its image and inscription, so the image of God is what is given to Him. Jesus is the image of the invisible God. He alone puts us in a right relationship with the Father.

We render to God not our own imperfect works but the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, whose inscription on the cross marked Him the King of the Jews. He is the full payment for our sins, rendered on our behalf. We trust in Him.

Baptized into Christ, we have received the inscription of God Himself—the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. By the saving work of Jesus, we are now God's holy coinage, His cherished treasure.

On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase (*LSB* 422). Amen.

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PORTALS of PRAYER

Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
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About the Cover: The Pharisees' question over taxes was meant to trap Jesus as either an unfaithful Jew or a political threat to the Roman government. However, Jesus astonished them all with His answer. God reigns over all things, even governments. So, yes, we are to pay our taxes, but we owe our whole lives to our Lord, who gave His whole life for us on the cross, paying for our sins in full.

Scripture: ESV® Cover verse: Matthew 22:17 Cover image: © Shutterstock.com (Proper 24) October 18, 2026
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The Word of God



Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost ***October 18, 2026***

Prayer of the Day

O God, our refuge and strength, since you yourself are the author of our devotion, graciously consider the devout prayers of your Church. May those things which we ask in faith effectively follow by your grace; 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: Isaiah 45:1-7

[1]Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand
I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the
belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be
closed: [2]"I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will
break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of
iron, [3]I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in
secret places, that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of
Israel, who call you by your name. [4]For the sake of my servant
Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name
you, though you do not know me. [5]I am the Lord, and there is
no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you
do not know me, [6]that people may know, from the rising of the
sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the
Lord, and there is no other. [7]I form light and create darkness; I
make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does
all these things."

Psalm 96:1-9

[11]Sing to the LORD | a new song;*
sing to the LORD, all | the whole earth.
[2]Sing to the LORD and | bless his Name;*
proclaim the good news of his salvation from | day to day.
[3]Declare his glory a- | mong the nations*
and his wonders a- | mong all peoples.
[4]For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised;*
he is more to be feared | than all gods.
[5]As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;*
but it is the LORD who | made the heavens.
[6]Oh, the majesty and magnificence | of his presence!*
Oh, the power and the splendor of his | sanctuary!
[7]Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples;*
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
[8]Ascribe to the LORD the honor | due his name;*
bring offerings and come in- | to his courts.
[9]Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;*
let the whole earth trem- | ble before him.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

[1]Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. [2]We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, [3]remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4]For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, [5]because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. [6]And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, [7]so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8]For not only

has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. [9]For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, [10]and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

[15]Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. [16]And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. [17]Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" [18]But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? [19]Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. [20]And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" [21]They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." [22]When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

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For Christian Community
God of love, you gather us together by the power of the Holy Spirit into Christian community. Give us the willingness to work together for the sake of the Gospel, hearing your voice guiding us in all we do as we serve the world you love. Lord in your mercy…
C. Hear our prayer.

For Seeking the Light
As daylight diminishes and the night's darkness lengthens, keep us ever mindful of the light we have in Christ. Move us to seek the wisdom of your word, which is the light unto our paths. Lord in your mercy…
C. Hear our prayer.

For Local Ministries
Holy God, you have given us all good gifts and have equipped us to serve or neighbors in your name. Give us the creativity, inspiration, and resources to accomplish the mission set before us. Help us to discern where we are needed and also where we are not needed. Lord in your mercy…
C. Hear our prayer.

For the Promise of Eternal Life
Lord Jesus, you prepare a place for us even in the presence our last enemy, death itself. We thank you for leading safely home all those who listened to your voice in this earthly life. Keep us close to your side and lead us to that place where we shall dwell with you and all the redeemed and feast at your heavenly table forever. Lord in your mercy…
C. Hear our prayer.

Lessons for Next Week: Revelation 14:6-7; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

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