

Let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD,
that He may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon



Isaiah 55:7

St. Paul Lutheran Church (NALC)

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 20, 2026

Prelude

Gathering Hymn "I The Lord..." **B Hymn# 752**

Favorite Hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers" **G Hymn#509**

Announcements

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*The Apostolic Greeting Page 57

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Hymn of Praise Page 58

*The Prayer of the Day Insert

Special Music Tom Bush

First Lesson Isaiah 55:6-9

The Psalm Psalm 27:1-13

The Second Lesson Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

The Verse "Alleluia" Page 62

*The Gospel Lesson Matthew 20:1-16

Children's Sermon

Sermon Hymn "There's A Wideness..." **G Hymn #290**

Sermon Pastor Andrea Taphorn

*Apostles' Creed Page 65

Offering

Offertory

*Prayers/Lord's Prayer Page 76

*Benediction

*Closing Hymn "Standing on the Promises...." **C Hymn #410**

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 Steven & Jill Rittenour in honor of their 19th wedding anniversary.

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

Today, 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. So, 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.

Auction money raised at the church picnic was \$3,900. Thanks to all who donated.

September 27 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. Please contact June Geiger for more information. All churches in the North Central District are invited to participate.

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 9 AM
Choir practice 8:30 AM
Catechism 9 AM
Worship 10 AM
Monday/Tuesday Pictures
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.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
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God's Practical Grace

The infinite Lord God of the universe promises to reveal Himself at a specific location: where the Word is rightly preached and the Sacraments are rightly administered. This should make a great deal of sense to us, but it seems illusory to many people. Some believe that God is everywhere; therefore, He can be found everywhere. However, while God is certainly in His creation, He does not leave us to cast about and imagine where He can be found.

Instead, God meets us in a specific way and through specific means: His Word and Sacraments. These instruments of God's grace come to us in the Divine Service, where sins are forgiven and our faith is fed and sustained. Praise be to God that we have His sure Word and promise of where He can be found!

Lord God, strengthen my heart to attend to Your Word and Sacrament among the church, where You may be found, for You live and reign one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

PORTALS of PRAYER

Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
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About the Cover: The weight of our sin can only be lifted by the Lord. How blessed are we, His children, to know that He desires to forgive us abundantly! There is no sin too great for His grace and pardon. Christ's love is so abundant for us that He died for us before we even had a say in the matter (Romans 5:8). So, by faith in His promises, we receive the abundant life-giving benefits of His death and resurrection forever.





Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 20, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Direct our hearts, O Lord, by your merciful reign, because without your help it is impossible to please you. 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: Isaiah 55:6-9

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Psalm 27:1-13*

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then | shall I fear?*

the LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I | be afraid?

²When evildoers came upon me to eat | up my flesh,*
it was they, my foes and my adversaries,
who stum- | bled and fell.

³Though an army should en- | camp against me,*
yet my heart shall not | be afraid;

⁴And though war should rise | up against me,*
yet will I put my | trust in him.

⁵One thing have I asked of the LORD; one | thing I seek;*
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days | of my life;

⁶To behold the fair beauty | of the LORD *
and to seek him | in his temple.

⁷For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe | in his shelter;*
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high up- | on a rock.

⁸Even now he lifts | up my head*
above my enemies | round about me.

⁹Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds | of great gladness;*

I will sing and make music | to the LORD.

¹⁰Hearken to my voice, O LORD, | when I call; *
have mercy on me and | answer me.

¹¹You speak in my heart and say, | "Seek my face." *
Your face, LORD, | will I seek.

¹²Hide not your | face from me, *
nor turn away your servant | in displeasure.

¹³You have been my helper; cast me | not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of | my salvation.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁹... {F}or I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

¹{Jesus said,} “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

Lessons for Next Week: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-10;
Philippians 2:1-4 [5-13] 14-18; Matthew 21:23-27 [28-32]

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

For the Confession of Christ

Heavenly Father, you have called us from among the peoples and nations of the world to be your own and to serve you with our lives. We pray that you would keep us steadfast in faith. May we sing your praises and confess Christ as Lord to all we meet so they would know your mercy and grace. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For the Gift of Autumn

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the gift of the seasons. As we move into the season of Autumn, may we find delight in the changing landscapes around us that reveal the beauty of your creation. May we be reminded of your never-failing presence in all the seasons of all our lives. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

Make Us Generous

O Lord, source of all good things, make us respond to those around us with the same generosity that you have first shown to us. Let us put our complete trust in you alone. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Healing Grace

Heavenly Father, pour out the healing grace of your presence on all those who are sick and suffering. Restore wounded lives, hearts, and bodies by the holy anointing of your Spirit. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.