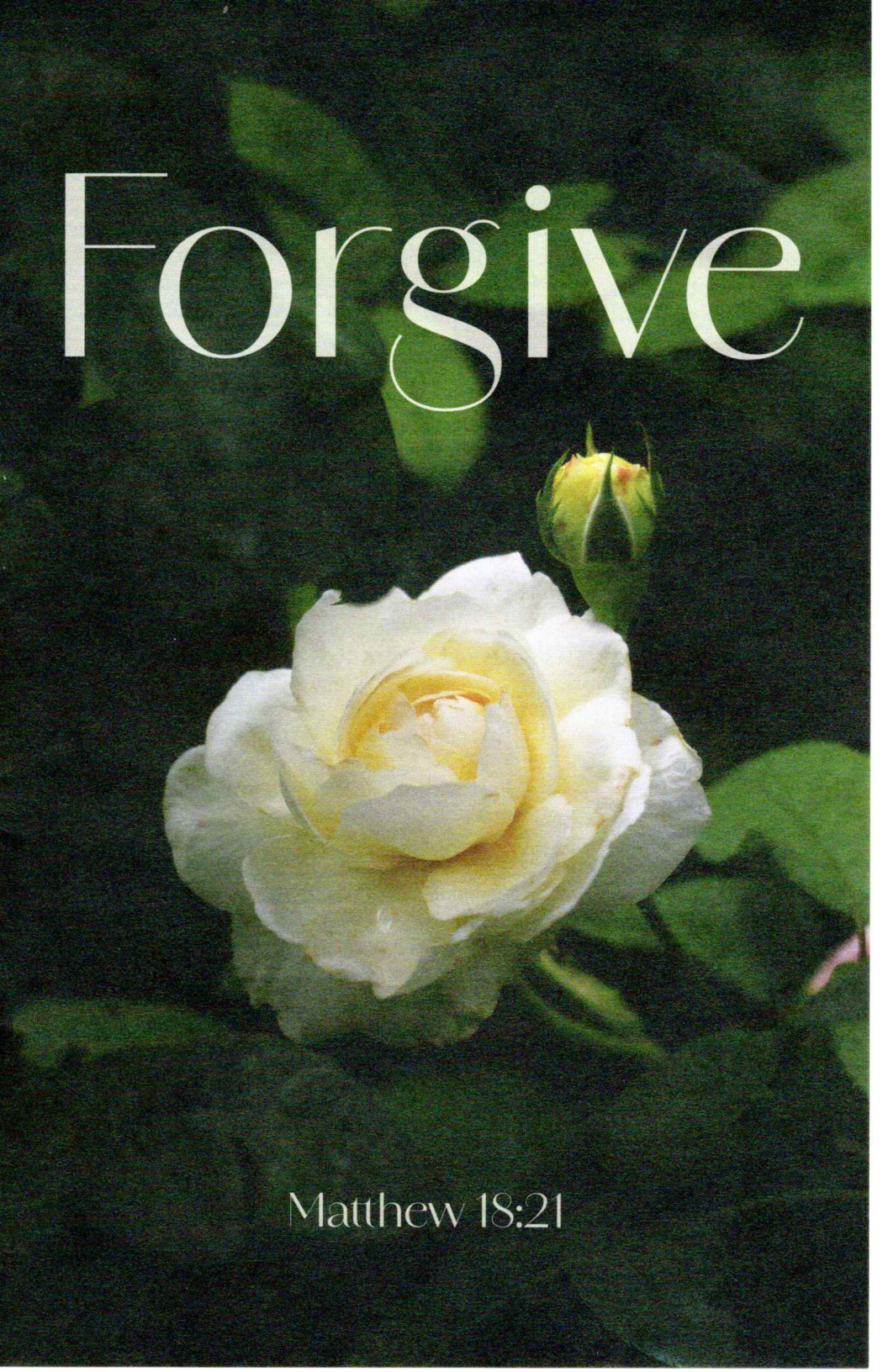


Forgive

A close-up photograph of a white rose with a yellow center, set against a dark green background. A rose bud is visible above the main flower.

Matthew 18:21

St. Paul Lutheran Church (NALC)

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

Gathering Hymn	"Awake My Soul"	G Hymn #269
Announcements		
Brief Order of Public Confession		Page 56
*The Apostolic Greeting		Page 57
*The Kyrie		Page 57
Hymn of Praise		Page 58
*The Prayer of the Day		Insert
Special Music		Tom Bush
First Lesson		Genesis 50:15-21
The Psalm		Psalm 103:1-12
The Second Lesson		Romans 14:1-12
The Verse	"Alleluia"	Page 62
*The Gospel		Matthew 18:21-35
Children's Sermon		
Sermon Hymn	"Forgive Our Sins"	G Hymn #307
Sermon		Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Apostles' Creed		Page 65
Offering		
Offertory		
Prayers/Lord's Prayer		Page 76
*Benediction		
Closing Hymn	"Praise My Soul"	G Hymn #549
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 in memory of Lois Walker by her family.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Mark Teynor who passed away September 6, 2026. Calling hours: Sept.20, 1-3, service at 3 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Bucyrus, Oh.

Parents' Fellowship and Dinner will be held today 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 stpaulslutheran@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!

Giving for The Lord's Ministry September 6, 2026

Bell Choir	45.00
Benevolence	90.00
Current	3,189.00
Feed Crawford County	60.00
Filling Home	90.00
Luther Home of Mercy	60.00
Missionary	45.00
NALC Seminary	180.00
NALC Disaster Relief	170.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	15.00
Special Projects	200.00
Total	\$4,144.00
Attendance 96 communion 90	

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!

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. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Contact June Geiger for more information.

This Week at St. Paul

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
Wednesday Women's Bible Study 9:30 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

Why Forgive?

Forgiveness isn't popular today. Getting even is. Suing is. Holding grudges is. Our hearts tell us to get revenge, to make sure we're treated fairly. Don't we have a right to be angry, a right to make others pay? Why should we forgive? The last words of Ephesians 4:32 give the reason: In Christ, God forgives us. Jesus won that right when He died on the cross. For His sake, the Father now accepts us as perfect. And, yes, God really does blot out every evil thought, word, and deed, over and over again. In forgiveness, we who deserve hell get heaven instead. When in faith we cherish that undeserved gift, we can't help but pass it on to others.

The amazing thing is that in forgiving others, we're helped too. Bitterness, anger, and hate disappear as our hearts begin to love those who have hurt us. What a surprise for people expecting retaliation! What an opportunity to share God's saving work with fellow sinners in need of God's love! God's grace, given and shared, frees us from evil thoughts and deeds. The world might scorn us for letting go of hurts and following God's path. Non-Christians don't understand that we who love Christ know an important secret: Forgiveness is a gift that keeps on giving.

Give me a kind heart, dear God, forgiving others as You forgive me. Amen.

PORTALS of PRAYER

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



Pentecost

About the Cover: Forgiveness cannot be quantified. The unforgiving servant in Jesus' parable shows that disregarding his own forgiveness results in withholding it from fellow servants. But forgiveness is to be given just as it has been received. Our debt of sin could not be overcome by us. But Christ paid what we could not by His death on the cross. Therefore, the abundance of His forgiveness leads us to forgive one another abundantly.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

Prayer of the Day

O Lord, help your people to avoid the infection of the evil one, and with pure hearts to follow you, our only Lord. 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: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Psalm 103:1-12

- ¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name.
- ²Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and forget not | all his benefits.
- ³He forgives | all your sins*
and heals all | your infirmities;
- ⁴He redeems your life | from the grave*
and crowns you with mercy and | lovingkindness;
- ⁵He satisfies you | with good things,*
and your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
- ⁶The LORD ex- | ecutes righteousness*
and judgment for all who | are oppressed.
- ⁷He made his ways | known to Moses*
and his works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
- ⁸The LORD is full of compas- | sion and mercy,*
slow to anger and | of great kindness.
- ⁹He will not al- | ways accuse us,*
nor will he keep his an- | ger forever.
- ¹⁰He has not dealt with us according | to our sins,*
nor rewarded us according | to our wickedness.
- ¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,*
so is his mercy great upon | those who fear him.
- ¹²As far as the east is | from the west,*
so far has he removed our | sins from us.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One

person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came up and said to {Jesus}, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his

master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Lessons for Next Week: Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 27:1-9;
Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30; Matthew 20:1-16

For Forgiveness

God of love, you have forgiven us of our sins, known and unknown and restored us to a right relationship with you through Christ. Help us to forgive others who have hurt or disappointed us, that we may be freed from the suffering of holding a grudge and they might know your grace. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Schools and Teachers

God of Wisdom, we ask your tender care and instruction for all students around the world, that they would have enough to eat in order to concentrate on lessons, have a peaceful learning environment, and loving yet diligent teachers to instruct them. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Those Away From Home

God of Light, bring your comfort and protection to all those who are away from home—either at school, college, in the military, or away for work. Watch over them and return them home safely when their tasks are completed. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For All Who Suffer

Bring peace of mind and heart, wholeness and healing of body and spirit, to all who suffer from any illness or distress. Grant them a sense of your constant presence through those who care for them. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.