

Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying His voice and holding fast to Him, for He is your life and length of days.

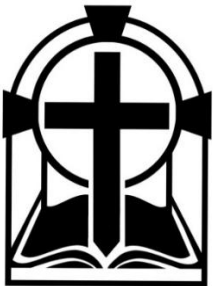
Deuteronomy 30:20



Two Ways

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 7, 2025



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod

Columbus, Indiana

Welcome to St. Paul!

We are glad that you have come to God's house to be fed and strengthened by His holy Word. The order of service for today is printed on the **insert** in this bulletin. Guests, we extend a special welcome to you this morning. We are privileged to have you as our guest today and encourage you to worship with us again soon.

The Family Quiet Room and Restroom are located outside the doors of the sanctuary and to the left. In the Family Quiet Room, you can hear and see the service. **Assisted hearing devices** are available for the service. Please contact an usher.

Do you need prayer support? Please call Bonnie England at **812-447-7895** to activate our **Prayer Chain**. Your fellow church members will pray for you.

Our Communion Practice: We invite and encourage those who have been instructed, confirmed, and confess the faith of this congregation and other congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to receive the Sacrament. Communicants at this altar acknowledge their sins, believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, and desire the Spirit's help to turn from their sins.

Those who are not communing are invited to come forward and receive a blessing by placing their arms across their chest.

If you have questions regarding our Communion teaching and practice, please speak to a pastor.

Communion Preparation: To prepare for the Lord's Supper, you may wish to pray the prayer on the inside cover of the hymnal or review the Christian Questions and Answers on pages 329-330.

Today's Christian Education Opportunities

First Steps of Faith (Infants and Toddlers with a parent) meets in the conference room
Sunday School classes for ages three-sixth grade
Confirmation Class meets in the confirmation room
SPY Class (grades 9-12) meets in the youth room
The Discussion Class meets in the gathering space for a study on the Early Church
Bible Study in the fellowship room studying the Nicene Creed

Serving Today

Organist: Kantor Dan Mau
Acolytes: 8 AM Service Daryn Vogel
10:45 AM Service William Laws

Church Calendar

Today

Mite Box Sunday
8:00 AM Divine Service
9:10 AM Fellowship
9:30 AM Sunday School
9:30 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM
10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish

Noon Lunch
12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study
12:15 PM Youth Confirmation
12:15 PM Choristers Rehearsal
12:45 PM Jr. Handchimes Rehearsal
1:15 PM Jr. Handbells Rehearsal
1:30-5:00 PM Church Reserved
7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

Monday

October Newsletter Deadline
10:00 AM Moms in the Word
10:00 AM Homeschool Religion Class
10:00 AM Small Group Handbells
6:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting
7:00 PM Council Meeting

Wednesday

9:00 AM Bible Study
10:15 AM Matins Service
6:00 PM Bible Study
6:00 PM Sr. Handbells
7:00 PM Sr. Choir
7:30 PM ECM Board Meeting

Friday-Saturday C4Life Rally at Camp Lakeview

Next Sunday **8:00 AM Divine Service**

9:10 AM Fellowship
9:30 AM Sunday School
9:30 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM
10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish

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12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study
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THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH... are given in celebration of Mike Yeley's 77th birthday and Brian and Jackie Arnholt's 20th wedding anniversary.

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Now Thank We All Our God, BWV 657—J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Hymn

*Jr. Choir sings stanza four
Please stand for stanza five*

791

Confession of Sins

please stand page 151

Kyrie

pages 152-153

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God in the Highest

page 154

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you. **G** *(sung)* And also with you.
- P** Let us pray. O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** *(spoken)* Amen. *please be seated*

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

[Moses said] "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in His ways, and by keeping His commandments and His statutes and His rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying His voice and holding fast to Him, for He is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

- P** This is the Word of the Lord. **G** Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is

indeed useful to you and to me.) I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

please stand and sing page 156

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 14:25-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 14th chapter.

C *(sung)* Glory to You, O Lord.

Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be My disciple.

"Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C *(sung)* Praise to You, O Christ.

please be seated

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

853

Sermon

Two Ways

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Apostles Creed

please stand page 159

Prayer of the Church

The prayers will conclude with all praying together the Morning Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger, and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Offering

707

Service of the Sacrament

please stand pages 160-163

Distribution

565, 696, 556, 756

Visitors: Please read our Communion statement on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

Post-Communion Canticle

Thank the Lord

please stand page 164

Post-Communion Collect and Benediction

page 166

Closing Hymn

918

Postlude

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow—J. Pachelbel

Two Ways; Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Two Ways: The Way of l_____ and g_____

The Way of d_____ and e_____

The choice between the two ways is not an easy choice because...

...we have our s_____ nature that doesn't desire to walk in the way of righteousness.

...often choosing the godly way is the l_____ way.

...we are constantly t_____ to go our own way.

Since these two ways are always before us, we need to be in the W_____ to receive God's strength and power, and we need to p_____.

Next Sunday's Readings—Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 34:11-24; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

LIVING THE SERMON... Every day, every temptation, every trial, there are two ways set before us—the way of life and good or the way of death and evil. If praying the Morning and Evening Prayers are not part of your devotional life, consider adding them to your daily prayers. The Morning and Evening Prayers can be found at the front of the *Portals of Prayer*, in the hymnal on page 327, or in the Catechism on pages 30 and 31. Pray every morning for strength to choose the way of life that "God would keep me this day from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You." At the end of day, knowing that there have been times when you did not walk in the way of the Lord, confess your sins and seek forgiveness for the sake of Christ, "I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong."

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH... Rejoice that your Lord is your life and your salvation. Give thanks for the Holy Spirit who empowers us to choose life, walking in the way of the Lord. Pray for strength for the Lord to guide your ways, seeking forgiveness when you have chosen to go your own way.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... *[Jesus said:] Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.* Luke 15:10

Extending Christ's Love

Thanks to everyone who attended the Information Forums the past two Sundays. If you missed one or both presentations, the handouts are in the gathering space. We will take the time at the beginning of Sunday School today to answer any questions from the presentations before beginning our Bible studies.

Another significant step forward with this project occurred on August 26th when the Columbus Board of Zoning Appeals approved our Christian Education Center expansion. This past week, all bids for the project were due, and the Building Committee began to review the bids to ensure that the project remains under the \$8.125 million budget.

We thank you for your fervent prayers and generous support as together we seek to extend Christ's love!



Youth Events

KfC (Kids for Christ—fifth graders and younger)

Sunday, September 28th—Harvest Fest

Join us at the Schroer Ranch beginning at 4 PM for this family fellowship event. Enjoy hayrides, games, pitch-in supper, and many more activities.



C4Life (sixth-eighth grade)

This Friday-Saturday, September 12th-13th—Indiana District Rally

Sunday, September 28th—Harvest Fest

C4Life are invited and encouraged to attend Harvest Fest and to participate in the devotion.

SPY (Sr. High Youth)

Sunday, September 21st—2026 Youth Conferences Call Out Meeting and Servant Event

SPY Youth and their parents should plan to stay for lunch and a meeting regarding two upcoming youth conferences: The Y4Life Conference in Washington, DC on January 22-24, 2026, and the Higher Things Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, June 30-July 3, 2026. After the Information Meeting, SPY Youth will assemble care packages for our college students. *Note: Current eighth graders can attend the Higher Things Conference.*

Sunday, September 28th—Harvest Fest

SPY Youth are invited and encouraged to attend Harvest Fest and to participate in the devotion.

Friends are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact a youth counselor or DCE Jen Probst.



IN OUR PRAYERS... Sick and Recovering: John Lagneau, Lisele Bockes, Jim Roth, Barbara Hughes, Cathy Nolting, Mary Booher, Jill Scheidt, Callan Jones, Gloria Schultz, Dennis Peters, Ray and Sharon Cline, Karen Hendershot, Phyllis Fox, Nancy Lipka, Bob and Marilyn Runge, Pam Jenkins, Eric Risk (Renee Strietelmeier's brother), Ashley Haywood (Banister's daughter), Linda Hall (Gayla Alesandro's friend), Bobby Carney (Sperry's friend), Mason Hinshaw (Mary Scheidt's friend), Sue Judd (Kathy Ownbey's mother), Stan Schwork (Dan Mau's friend), Rick Sapper (Cleary's brother-in-law), Lisa Williams (Ann Linke's niece/Jordan Patterson's aunt), Linda Dilk (Kim Chandler's grandmother), Tom Hinds (Jim Hinds' brother), Patricia and Katherine Leshkow (Karen Kruger's cousin and daughter), Franci Dilk (Kim Chandler's aunt), Jerry Maslowski (Sariina Kalli's father), Marilyn Gifford (Hinds' friend), Joan McDaniel (Sarah Gibson's grandmother), Valerie Bernunzio (Karen Kruger's niece), Bonnie Bayly (Karen Kruger's friend), Lisa McGaha (Don and Debbie Schroer's friend), Austyn Gordon (Gonsior's nephew), Amy Coombs (Darlene Bower's friend), Margaret Osmon (Nancy Dyer's sister), Paul Schultz (Gloria's son; Sandy Banister's brother), Cassie Murray (Jason and Laurie Schroer's friend), Tiffany Wilson (Karen Hendershot's cousin), Connie Ball (Jan Voelz's friend), Moe Humphrey (Ray and Pat Hall's friend), Ozzy Hentges (Kallis' friend), Kristina Hargitt (Kim Chandler's friend), Dale Christophel (Ray and Pat Hall's friend), Ed Vogel (Eddie Vogel's father), Annie Walton (Holly Wischmeier's coworker's daughter), William Leitshuh (Cleary's friend), Naomi Gillespie (Haaks' great-niece); **Active Military:** Garrett McGaha, Noah Hoeltke, Evan Rickus, Shane McGowen (Sally Haak's nephew), Peyton Mullins (Sperry's friend), Ty Chamberlain (Taffy Schroer's relative)

SUNDAY LUNCHES...

Today— Pizza

Next Sunday, September 14th—Chicken Wraps

September 21st—Taco Bar

September 28th—Meatball Subs

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE... is **tomorrow, September 8th**.

MOMS IN THE WORD... meets **tomorrow, September 8th** at 10 AM in the conference room. Join other moms for a devotion and fellowship! There will also be a fun activity for all the children who attend with their moms.

FRIENDSHIP BIBLE CLASS... Come join us for Bible study, fellowship and fun at Redeemer, Seymour on Monday evenings at 6:30 PM beginning **tomorrow, September 8th**. We invite our friends with special needs and differing abilities, caregivers and anyone who wants to be a friend. Volunteers are always appreciated. Need more info? Call Susan Hessong 812-528-3674.

EMANUEL, DUDLEYTOWN GRAB-N-GO COOKOUT... is **this Saturday, September 13th** from 4-7 PM. Please visit our Facebook Page at Emanuel Lutheran Dudleystown Lcms for the order form or call Karen at 812-216-1898 to pre-order your meals or you can order when you arrive. Meals consist of Pork Burger or Pork Tenderloin Sandwich, Baked Potato, Baked Beans, Coleslaw and your choice of desserts (Homemade pie, Brownies, Angel Food Cake). There is also a Silent Auction beginning today on the church Facebook page.

CHAPEL SERVICES... You are invited to join our early childhood ministry students and their families for their monthly chapel services. Chapel begins at 8:20 AM.

Little Lambs: Tuesday, September 16th

Kindergarten and Little Doves: Wednesday, September 17th

INDIANA DISTRICT WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL CARE WORKSHOP... is **Saturday, September 20th** at Redeemer, Seymour. The day begins at 9:30 AM and concludes with a hymn festival in the afternoon. Cost to attend is \$20 and includes lunch. If you are interested in attending or want more information, please contact Pastor Bauman.

SEMINARY FOOD COOP DOOR OFFERING... On **Sunday, September 21st** we will receive a door offering to benefit the food coop at the Fort Wayne seminary. The donations will be used to buy milk, produce, meat, and other perishables for seminarians and their families.

SEYMOUR LUTHERAN MEN'S CHORUS... will be enriching our Divine Service through song on **Sunday, September 21st** at the 10:45 AM service.

WHITE CREEK 185th ANNIVERSARY... Our mother congregation, St. John's, White Creek invites you to their 185th Anniversary Celebration on **Sunday, September 21st**. The Divine Service begins at 9 AM with Indiana District LCMS President Dr. Stuckwisch preaching.

ECM OPEN HOUSE... You are invited to an Open House at our school following the 10:45 AM service on **Sunday, September 28th**. You can visit classrooms, view student artwork and crafts, and greet and get to know our early childhood ministry families.

COLLEGE ADDRESSES... Please give your college address, email, and phone number to the church office at secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-376-6504, by **next Sunday, September 14th** so that we can stay in contact with you (including a college care package!) while you are at school.

GRIEF SMALL GROUP STUDY... All those who are experiencing grief from the death of a loved one are invited to participate in a small group Bible study using the guide "When Your Heart Breaks." This study will meet on Mondays at 2 PM at the church beginning on **Monday, October 6th** and will be led by Marybeth Glick. This study and support group is open to members and

anyone from our community who is grieving so please invite others to attend. For more information or to sign-up for the class, please contact Marybeth Glick at marybethglick@gmail.com or 812-371-6254.

The Response of God's People

Last Sunday, August 31st

Divine Service Attendance: **373**; Communion: **283**

Sunday School Attendance: **197**

General Fund: **\$10,881.48** Weekly Need: \$15,933

Extending Christ's Love: **\$4,686.73** including \$500.39
playground donation; \$50 Richard Kruger Memorial

Lutheran SGO: **\$2,580** including \$2,480 Pr. Stache
Memorial

Radio Ministry: **\$915** including \$810 Lynn Hoeltke
Memorials

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Ministry

6045 East State Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201

812-376-6504; www.stpaulcolumbus.org

Pastor Doug Bauman; pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-350-4115

Pastor Jeff Patterson; pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-569-2471

Pastor Daniel Fickenscher; pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org; 260-710-6750

Kantor Daniel Mau; kantor@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-927-9319

DCE Jen Probst; director@stpaulcolumbus.org; 765-491-7818

Secretary Mackenzie Wint; secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-528-1176

Financial Secretary Rachel Fohne; financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-343-3786

Latino Outreach Coordinator Renee Strietelmeier; riskplants@yahoo.com; 812-343-6466

Social Media Coordinator Andrea Cotton; socialmedia@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-344-4580

ECM Teachers: Anne Wiltsey (kindergarten); Michelle Schultz, Alyssa Schultz, Glory Wofford (preschool)

ECM Assistants: Gayla Alesandro, Sarah Lewis, Laurie Schultz,

Claudia Sims, Caroline Wilcox, Amy Yeley

Reaching out with Christ's Love to Serve and Grow