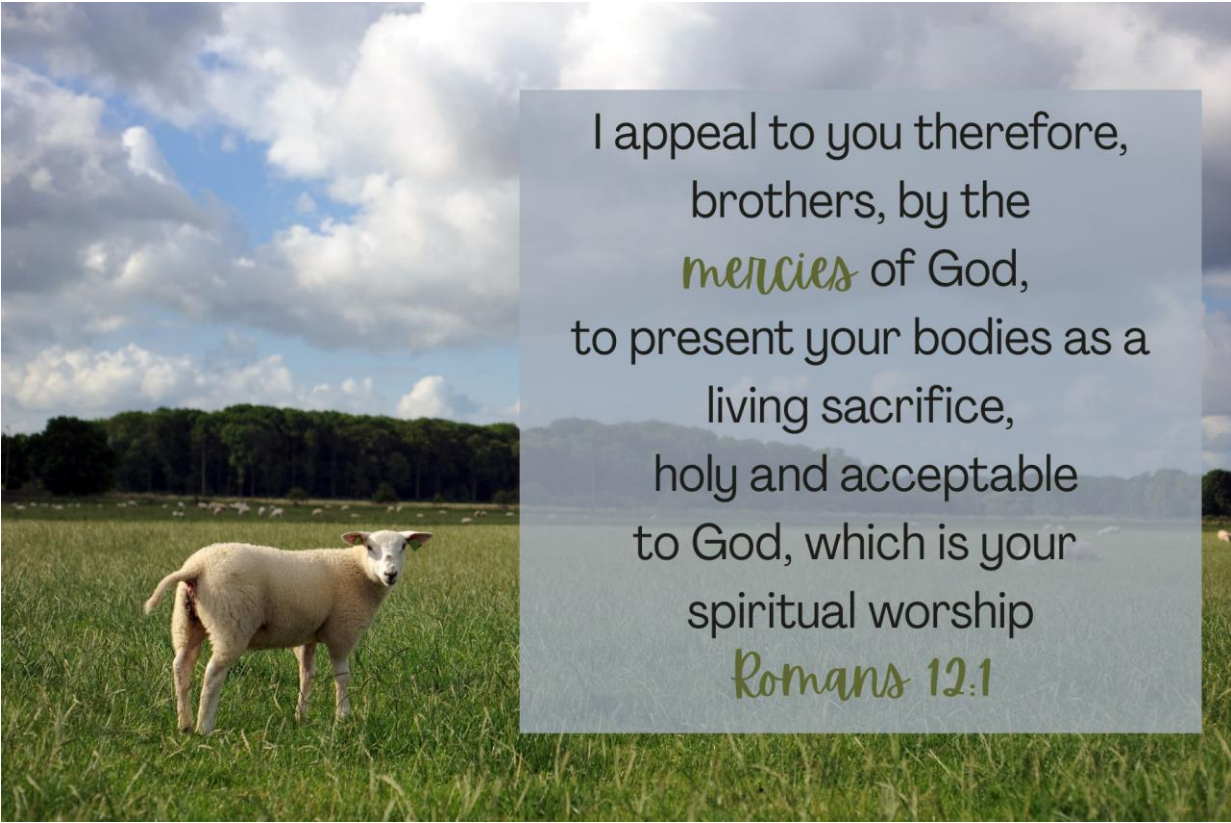


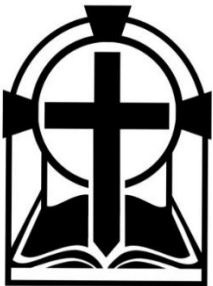


I appeal to you therefore,
brothers, by the
mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a
living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable
to God, which is your
spiritual worship
Romans 12:1

By the Mercies of God

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026



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 preschool-sixth grade
Confirmation Classes for grades 7-8 led by DCE Probst
SPY Youth Class (grades 9-12) led by Pastor Patterson
Lord, Teach Us to Pray Adult Class led by Pastor Bauman meets in the fellowship room

Serving Today

Organist: Kantor Dan Mau
Acolytes: 8 AM Service Daryn Vogel
10:45 AM Service Kaylin Umphress

Church Calendar

Today	8:00 AM Divine Service 9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish Noon Lunch 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:15 PM Youth Confirmation 12:45 PM Jr. Handchimes Rehearsal 1:15 PM Jr. Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM
Monday	10:00 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10:00 AM Small Group Handbells Rehearsal
Wednesday	9:00 AM Bible Study 10:15 AM Matins Service 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Sr. Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 PM Sr. Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	1:30 PM Hickory Creek Visit
Next Sunday	8:00 AM Divine Service 9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish Noon Lunch 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:15 PM Youth Confirmation 12:45 PM Jr. Handchimes Rehearsal 1:15 PM Jr. Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

THE FLOWERS IN CHURCH... are given in thanksgiving for God's blessings for Dennis and Janice Hoeltke's 55th wedding anniversary on August 15th.

TODAY'S RADIO MINISTRY... is sponsored by Eric and Linda Scheidt with thanksgiving to God as we celebrate our 37th wedding anniversary.

THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER... is available in the gathering space or online at stpaulcolumbus.org.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Children of the Heavenly Father (Hymn 725)—J. W. Kerr

Welcome and Announcements

In the Lord's Service—Tri-W

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Hymn

802

Confession of Sins

please stand page 203

Kyrie and Gloria in Excelsis

page 204

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

please be seated

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

[The LORD declares:] "Listen to Me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. For the LORD comforts Zion; He comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

"Give attention to Me, My people, and give ear to Me, My nation; for a law will go out from Me, and I will set My justice for a light to the peoples. My righteousness draws near, My salvation has gone out, and My arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for Me, and for My arm they wait. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will never be dismayed."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Romans 11:33-12:8

[Paul writes:] Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to Him that he might be repaid?" For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his

teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

please stand and sing page 205

G Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter. **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then He strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that He was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles Creed

page 207

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

765

Sermon

By the Mercies of God

Romans 11:33-12:8

Prayer of the Church

please stand

Offering

786 standing for stanza three

Service of the Sacrament

please stand pages 208-210

Distribution

761, 848 stanzas 1-3, 649, 535, 539 standing for stanza four

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

Closing Liturgy

please stand pages 211-212

Closing Hymn

848 stanza 4

Postlude

Now the Silence (Hymn 910)—C. Ore

Extending Christ's Love

On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. The gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church firmly founded on the confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Through the ministry that will occur in our Christian Education Center, the word of Christ will be taught. By the Spirit's power, young and old will confess Jesus as the Son of the living God. Thanks for your generous support!

The Catalog of Needed Items gives you the opportunity to support Extending Christ's Love above your pledge. Items can be reserved in honor of or in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a special event. You can find the Catalog online (stpaulcolumbus.org) or print copies are in the gathering space. If you have any questions about the Catalog or need assistance reserving items, please contact Phil Burbrink or Rachel Fohne.



By the Mercies of God Romans 11:33-12:8

"By the Mercies of God" means we trust and serve God because we know what He has done for us in

J_____ C_____.

What are those "Mercies of God?"

- We were s_____, but Christ died for us.
- We stood condemned under the Law, but "there is therefore now no c_____ for those who are in Christ Jesus."

God gives His mercy to sinners. Only THEN does He say: "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice." Notice the order:

Mercy f_____, then sacrifice.

Next Sunday's Readings Jeremiah 15:15–21; Romans 12:9–21; Matthew 16:21–28

LIVING THE SERMON... List some ways, "by the mercies of God," in which you can be a "living sacrifice" in service to others. Pray that the Holy Spirit would work through you as a living sacrifice for Christ.

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH... O Lord, You have shown us mercy after mercy. Your mercies are new every morning! Empower and equip us to be living sacrifices who bring Your mercies to those around us each day.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.* Romans 12:9

Youth Events

KFC (Kids for Christ—fifth graders and younger)

Harvest Fest—Sunday, September 27th at 4 PM

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) and SPY (ninth-twelfth grade)

SPY and C4Life Youth Night—Sunday, September 20th from 5-7 PM

Youth and their friends are invited to Pastor and Michelle Bauman's house (3019 Revere Court, Columbus) for supper, devotions, games, and fellowship.

Sunday, September 27th—Harvest Fest

C4Life and SPY youth are invited and encouraged to attend Harvest Fest and to participate in the devotion which begins at 5:30 PM.

Upcoming Youth Conferences

Sign up for Y4Life in Washington, DC (grades 9-12) and Higher Things (grades 8-12)

The deadline to sign up for these two conferences is **Sunday, October 4th**. For more information or to sign up, please contact DCE Probst.

Friends are always welcome. For more information, speak to DCE Probst or a youth counselor.



Stewarding HIS Gifts

January-July General Fund Financial Update

Offerings Needed:	\$531,630	Total Income:	\$598,417
Offerings Received:	<u>\$494,964</u>	Total Expenses:	<u>\$643,328</u>
Difference:	(\$36,666)	Difference:	(\$44,911)

Through the summer months, our weekly general fund giving has decreased. In addition, August is our second largest expense month as Lutheran Education Scholarships are given to our families who have children attending Lutheran schools. Please continue to support the work our Lord has given us to do so that we can keep on reaching out with Christ's love to serve and grow.

Supporting the Lord's Work

There are multiple ways to give to St. Paul. You can always donate online through the website or use the QR code on the back page of this bulletin. **You can make a one-time donation or schedule weekly or monthly donations that you can adjust or cancel at any time.** Scheduling online donations can help donors stay up to date on general fund and ECL pledges. If you have a question about donating to St. Paul or any of the information below, please reach out to Rachel Fohne at 812-343-3786 or rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org.

Extending Christ's Love Pledges

Now is an excellent time to revisit your Extending Christ's Love pledge! The fulfillment of member pledges is an essential part of our Extending Christ's Love financial plan. If you have forgotten details about your pledge, need an update on how much you have donated, or need to adjust your pledge, please reach out to Rachel Fohne. These details help us with our financial planning. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

Multiple Ways to Give with Potential Tax Advantages

Did you know there are strategic, tax advantaged ways to give to St. Paul? You can donate appreciated securities directly to St. Paul to fulfill your General Fund or Extending Christ's Love pledges. Donating appreciated securities such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds may offer a tax advantage to the donor. Generally, the tax-deductible value of a gift of securities is the current market value as of the date of the gift. Appreciation (capital gains) of this donated security is generally not taxable to the donor.

Some employers even offer employee stock purchase plans. If you are enrolled in such a plan, you have the option to donate these appreciated securities directly to St. Paul. Reach out to your employer to see what options are available to you. Also, farmers who donate commodities such as grain directly to the church might be able to receive valuable tax benefits. As always, please consult with your tax advisor about your specific situation.

Donate to our Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization at St. Paul!

Support our SGO fundraising campaign! SGO donations made between June 1, 2026, and May 31, 2027, will support our 2027-2028 school year. A donation to our St. Paul Lutheran SGO directly benefits our Early Childhood Ministry funding our mission and ministry! Donors receive a 50% state income tax **CREDIT!** You can donate stocks, bonds, mutual funds, grain, and livestock to the SGO and receive a 50% tax credit! Please consult your tax advisor for specific tax advice. You can visit www.lutheransgo.org for more information or speak with Rachel Fohne!

2026-2027 St. Paul SGO Fundraising Goal: \$110,000

Amount Raised as of July 31, 2026 \$200

IN OUR PRAYERS... Wedding Anniversaries: Eric and Linda Scheidt's 37th anniversary; Dennis and Janice Hoeltke's 55th anniversary; **Sick and Recovering:** Conner Davis, Chris Nolting, Dennis Hoeltke, Barbara Hughes, Arayah Lutz, Marie Tellman, Art Ramsey, Dee Schurman, Jax Branaman, Jennifer Jeffares, Phyllis Fox, Renee Strietelmeier, Doug Brown, Riley Walton, Jill Scheidt, Dakota Faith (Jayne Dornquast's friend), Chaleece Leckron (Jayne Dornquast's friend), Pastor Jeff

Pflug, Nate Rankin (Lykins' brother-in-law), Jim Zeleniuk (Doug and Rhodie Brown's friend), Grayson Harker (Irene Shireman's friend), Liz Hettig (Evelyn Pence and Don Strietelmeier's niece), Jan Forbes (Greg Forbes' mother), Skye Spears (Sharon Templeton's granddaughter), Anthony Jaynes (Toni Howarth's father), Gloria Olness and Evelyn Sapper (Nora Cleary's sisters), Katy Garza (Clearys' niece), Lynn Ramberg, Ty Ramberg, Deb Larsen, and Ozzy Hentges (Kallis' friends),

Connie Ball, Linda Hall (Gayla Alesandro's friend), Ed Vogel (Eddie Vogel's father); **Active Military:** Garrett McGaha, Bryce Cleery (Judy Sullivan's friend), Shane McGowen (Sally Haak's nephew), Peyton Mullins (Sperrys' friend), Ty Chamberlain (Taffy Schroer's relative), Devin Klein (Adam and Kristy Hall's nephew), Garrett Grider and Terry Redelman (Kallis' friends)

SUNDAY LUNCHES... Volunteers are needed to prepare lunches. Food is provided. Volunteers attend the 8 AM service and then prepare lunch during the 10:45 AM service. If you are interested in serving, please sign-up in the gathering space. Here are the upcoming menus:

Today Spaghetti and Garlic Bread

Next Sunday, August 30th Chicken Wraps

September 6th No Lunch Served; Labor Day Weekend

September 13th Meatball Subs

HARVEST MISSION... All are welcome to bring surplus produce, plants, and flowers to the Harvest Mission table in the gathering space. Anyone can take from this table for a donation to St. Paul's food bank. Please contact Nora Cleary at 812-343-9142 for more information or to help.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE...

Please sign up in the gathering space.

+ Sunday lunches for the fall semester.

+ Fellowship Hour Hosts

COLLEGE ADDRESSES... Please submit your college address, email, and phone number to the church office at mackenzie.wint@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-376-6504, so that we can stay in contact with you (including a college care package!) while you are at school. Our youth will be assembling care packages so please submit the addresses soon.

TRI-W—WILLING WOMEN WORKERS... All women of the congregation are invited and encouraged to join Tri-W as they serve in many ways. Tri-W meets the first Thursday of every month during the school year. The first meeting is **September 3rd** at 6 PM. Attendance at the meetings is encouraged, but not necessary. An information table is in the gathering space **today and next Sunday, August 30th** for those who want to learn more about Tri-W or want to sign up to serve. Also, if you want more information, you can contact Tri-W President Jan Hackman.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN WORKDAY... We serve the OGT by sorting donated items the first Tuesday of each month. Come and join us **Tuesday, September 1st** from 9 AM-noon. If you cannot attend, volunteer anytime during their regular hours Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM-3 PM. Donations can be dropped off in the trailer on the east side of the warehouse.

COMMUNION WAFER MAKING... We are blessed with dedicated volunteers who make our Communion wafers. You are invited to join us for our next Communion wafer making day **Wednesday, September 2nd** at 10:45 AM in the church kitchen.

CIRCUIT PASTORS MEETING... We are hosting the Aurora Circuit Pastors on **Tuesday, September 8th**. A Communion Service will be celebrated at 10:30 AM with Pastor Fickenschier presiding. You are invited to receive the Lord's gifts with our area pastors at this service.

WHITE CREEK FALL DINNER... St. John's, White Creek is hosting their Fall Dinner on **Saturday, September 12th** from 4-7 PM with dine in or carry out options. Menu includes baked ham or turkey, sage dressing, real mashed potatoes and gravy, homemade noodles, green beans, home grown corn and desserts. Prices are (cash only) Adults: \$16, Children (Ages 3-5) \$6, Children (Ages 6-10) \$8.

DUDLEYTOWN GRAB AND GO DINNER... is **Saturday, September 12th** from 4-7 PM. They will be serving tenderloin and pork burgers along with a choice of side and homemade desserts. You can pre-order by using the link on their Facebook page or by calling 812-528-0182. All pre-orders must be received by 9 PM on Friday, September 11th.

DEWBERRY 175th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION... You are invited to the 175th anniversary celebration of St. Paul's, Dewberry on **Sunday, September 13th**. The festival service begins at 3 PM followed by a meal.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED... St. Peter's, Columbus is hosting their Auto Maintenance Day on **Saturday, September 19th**. They are in need of volunteers for this event. If you have auto mechanic skills and would like to volunteer, you can sign up using the QR code. Please speak to Jordan Patterson or email Ben Eckert at benjamin.eckert1@outlook.com with any questions.



THANKS FROM... Thank you so much for the overwhelming support our family has received since Jax's diagnosis. We always knew we were blessed to be part of a great church family but can't thank everyone enough for the extra love we have felt these past two months. This journey continues to show us how many good people there truly are in this world. God is carrying Jax through this journey! Allowing him to be brave and keep his positive spirit.

Love, The Branamans

THANKS FROM... Thank you so much for your support as I head off to Concordia University Chicago. It truly means the world to me knowing you are praying for me and supporting me. Thank you for help me reach my goals.

With Love, Providence Wofford

The Response of God's People

Sunday, August 16th

Divine Service: **370**

Communion: **296**

Sunday School: **163**

Offering August 16th

General Fund: \$10,500.99

Needed Weekly: \$17,721

Extending Christ's Love: \$4,601 including \$140 Pam

Jenkins Memorials and \$50 Lorraine Whitson

Memorials

For Jax: \$490

Harvest Mission: \$6



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; daniel.mau@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-927-9319

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

Administrative Specialist Mackenzie Wint; mackenzie.wint@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-528-1176

Finance Specialist Rachel Fohne; rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-343-3786

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

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

ECM Teachers: Anne Wiltsey (kindergarten); Michelle Schultz and Brooke Hughes (preschool)

ECM Assistants: Gayla Alesandro, Andrea Cotton, Tara Draeger, Sarah Lewis,

Lisa Seckman, Laurie Schultz, Claudia Sims, Amy Yeley

Reaching out with Christ's Love to Serve and Grow