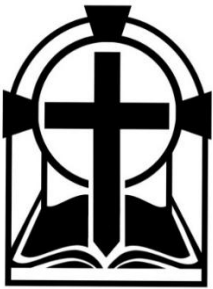




Three Sons

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 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 Andrew Johnson
10:45 AM Service Lily Gibson

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

Noon Lunch

Noon-2 PM ECM Open House

12:15 PM Youth Confirmation

1:00 PM Spanish Bible Study and

Fellowship

2:30 PM Spanish Service

4:00 PM Harvest Fest at Schroer Ranch

7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

Monday

10:00 AM Homeschool Religion Class

10:00 AM Small Group Handbells

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

6:00 PM Tri-W Meeting

Friday

7:00 PM IU Harp Ensemble Concert

Next Sunday

LWML Sunday—Mite Box Offering

Honey Sunday

8:00 AM Divine Service

9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM

9:10 AM Fellowship

Pastor Patterson Anniversary Recognition

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

IN THE GATHERING SPACE...

- + October Newsletter; also online at stpaulcolumbus.org
- + October-December *Portals of Prayer*
- + New edition of *Lutheran Women's Quarterly*

THE FLOWERS IN CHURCH... are given by Joe and Susan Arnholt in honor of celebrating many blessings on their 34th wedding anniversary.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Chanson based of Psalm 42:8—D. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

Choral Call to Worship Jr. Handbells

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (Hymn 803)—M. Keller

Ringling of the Bell

Early Childhood Ministry Children Sing 10:45 AM Service

Opening Hymn

Jr. Choir sings stanzas 2 and 5

549

Confession of Sins

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A time of silence is observed for personal confession of sins.

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Kyrie

spoken responses

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

C Amen.

Hymn of Praise

P Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord,



You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

please be seated

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

[Ezekiel writes:] The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, declares the LORD God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine: the soul who sins shall die.

"Yet you say, 'The way of the LORD is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is My way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the LORD is not just.' O house of Israel, are My ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the LORD God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the LORD God; so turn, and live."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18

[Paul writes:] So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

please stand and sing page 156

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

And when [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell Me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles Creed

G I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *please be seated*

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

537

Sermon

Three Sons

Matthew 21:23-32

Prayer of the Church

please stand

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

Offering

912 *please stand for stanza 3*

The 8 AM service continues on page 4.

10:45 AM Service

Closing Prayer

Lord's Prayer

prayed together

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

G Amen.

Closing Hymn

525 stanzas 1, 2, and 5

Postlude

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (Hymn 549)—J. Bleresch

The Lord's Supper will be offered following today's service.

You are invited to our early childhood ministry's open house in the education building.

8 AM Service

Service of the Sacrament

pages 160-163

Distribution

873, 525 stanzas 1-4, 811, 620, 618

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

Post-Communion Canticle

Thank the Lord

please stand page 164

Closing Liturgy

page 166

Closing Hymn

525 stanza 5

Postlude

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (Hymn 549)—J. Blersch

Three Sons — Matthew 21:23-32

The First Son: First, he says, _____. Then he says _____.

How are you like the first son in your relationship with your heavenly Father?

The word *repent* means to change one's mind.

The Second Son: First, he says, _____. Then he says _____.

How are you like the second son in your relationship with your heavenly Father?

Who is the Third Son? Why do we need the Third Son?

How and in what ways did the Son of God say "yes" to His heavenly Father and "yes" to you?

Forgiven by Christ, and empowered by the Spirit, how can you live as a faithful son or daughter of your heavenly Father, saying "yes" to your Father and "yes" to loving and serving others?

Next Sunday's Readings *Isaiah 5:1–7; Philippians 3:4b–14; Matthew 21:33–46*

LIVING THE SERMON... Through the Parable of the Two Sons, Jesus exposes when we said "no" to our heavenly Father and also when we said "yes", but our "yes" was nothing more than an empty promise. As followers of Christ, we live in repentance, which is saying "no" to our sinful and selfish selves and saying "yes" to Christ's forgiveness and the Spirit's help to say "yes" to obeying the will of our Father and serving others in love. In the power of your Lord's forgiveness, seek to live as a faithful child of your heavenly Father.

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH... Give thanks for Jesus, the perfectly faithful Son of the heavenly Father. Rejoice in the forgiveness you have received through the Son of God. Pray for the Spirit's help to say "no" to sin, and "yes" to your Lord, His Word, and His ways, and then when you say "yes", you would faithfully do what you have promised.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... *But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 3:13b-14

Extending Christ's Love

Because of the grace and generosity of our Master, we are called to work in His vineyard. We are to tend the corner of His vineyard known as St. Paul Lutheran Church. Through your generous giving of your time, treasure, and talent, the Gospel message of Jesus Christ continues to be proclaimed in our early and early childhood ministry.



School Safety Grant Received: We are excited to announce that we have been awarded an \$86,000 School Safety Grant from the Department of Homeland Security. These funds will be applied to the fire suppression system, secure doors and windows, and security/alarm systems and cameras. All these expenses were already in the budget for the Christian Education Center, so this grant is a tremendous blessing. Special thanks to Rachel Fohne and the Finance Committee for their ongoing efforts to apply for available grants.

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.

Youth Events

KfC (Kids for Christ—fifth graders and younger)

Harvest Fest—TODAY 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)

TODAY—Harvest Fest

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

Next Sunday, October 4th—Assemble College Care Packages and Go Carts at Rascals Fun Zone

All SPY and C4Life youth and their friends are encouraged to remain for lunch after the 10:45 AM service. While the seventh and eighth graders have confirmation, the sixth graders and SPY youth not in youth choirs will assemble college care packages. At 1:45 PM we will depart for Rascals Fun Zone, enjoy two hours of activities, and return to church around 5:30 PM. Youth can bring money for snacks and the arcade. Drivers are needed. Please contact DCE Probst if you can serve.



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 **next Sunday, October 4th**. For more information or to sign up, please contact DCE Probst.

Sign up for the App

Stay up to date with the latest events and updates regarding youth activities. Download the Remind app and enter the following: C4Life@4aef23g (grades 6-8) and SPY@ge9993 (grades 9-12).

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

Stewarding HIS Gifts

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 August 31, 2026 \$1,300

IN OUR PRAYERS... Marriage: Jerrod and Rachel (Wagoner) Wray married on Thursday; **Sick and Recovering:** Sandy Lagneau (surgery on Thursday), Gloria Schultz, Conner Davis, Chris Nolting, Dennis Hoeltke, Barbara Hughes, Arayah Lutz, Marie Tellman, Art Ramsey, Dee Schurman, Jax Branaman, Jennifer Jeffares, Phyllis Fox, Doug Brown, Riley Walton, Jill Scheidt, Bob McDonald (Wendy Wiederhoeft's father), Ginger Stache (Doreen's daughter-in-law), Mike Sarver (Danny Johnson's friend), Allen Kanouse (Scott and Renee Strietelmeier's friend), Dakota Faith and Chaleece Leckron (Jayne Dornquast's friends), Pastor Jeff Pflug, Grayson Harker (Irene Shireman's friend), Liz Hettig (Evelyn Pence and Don Strietelmeier's niece), Brittany and Skye Spears (Sharon Templeton's relatives), Anthony Jaynes (Toni Howarth's father), Katy Garza (Clearys' niece), Lynn Ramberg, Ty Ramberg, and Deb Larsen (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...

Today Pizza

October 4th Fettuccine Alfredo

October 11th Fall Break – No Lunch Served

October 18th Corn Dogs with Macaroni and Cheese

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE...

Please sign up in the gathering space.

+ Sunday lunches for the fall semester.

+ Fellowship Hour Hosts

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.

ECM OPEN HOUSE... Our early childhood ministry open house is **today** following the 10:45 AM service. Plan to come up the hill, tour the classrooms, visit with our staff, view student artwork and crafts, and get to know our early childhood ministry families.



TRINITY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE...

is **today** from 1–3 PM. Come see the exciting progress of the *Way. Truth. Life.* Campaign and building project firsthand! Visitors will walk through the construction project and see the vision for the future of Trinity taking shape. As part of the open house, there will be an opportunity to write a Bible verse, prayer, or name on the structure of the building, leaving a lasting reminder of the faith, prayers, and people that are part of this exciting chapter in Trinity's history. Guests are asked to park in the rear parking lot and enter through the new gym entrance.

HARP ENSEMBLE CONCERT... You and your friends are cordially invited to attend a concert featuring the Indiana University Harp Ensemble **this Friday, October 2nd** at 7 PM. The sound of four harps in our sanctuary is remarkable, and this would be a wonderful opportunity to invite friends to visit.

St. Paul Concerts

PRESENTS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HARP ENSEMBLE

PROF. ELZBIETA SZMYT, DIRECTOR

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND, 2026, 7:00 P.M.



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH &

6045 E. STATE ST, COLUMBUS, IN

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND. ADMISSION IS FREE.

INSTALLATION INVITATION... Trinity Lutheran in Dillsboro invites you to the installation of Pastor Kyle Richardson as their pastor **this Saturday, October 3rd** at 10 AM.

40th ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION...

During fellowship time, **next Sunday, October 4th**, we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Pastor Patterson's ordination and faithful service to God's people, including eight years of service here at St. Paul. Please plan to attend. Cards of thanks and appreciation can be placed in the gathering space now through next Sunday.

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 while you are at school. Our youth will be assembling care packages **next Sunday, October 4th** so please submit the addresses by **tomorrow, September 28th**.

LWML SUNDAY... is **next Sunday, October 4th**. We will pray for the ongoing mission work of the LWML. We will also receive a special offering to support LWML mite box missions. An offering envelope is included in today's bulletins. Fill with your "mites" (coins and dollars) and bring your offering with you next Sunday.

HONEY SUNDAYS... are **Sundays, October 4th and 11th**. Orders will be taken at the table in the gathering space for a suggested donation of \$10 per bottle. Orders will be shipped directly to you in time for Thanksgiving. Search for more info at <https://dakotaranch.org/>

FOR LIFE EVENTS... You are invited to participate in the following events that uphold God's gift of life:

Life Chain—Next Sunday, October 4th: Join us at Columbus City Hall from 2-3 PM to make a public, prayerful, and peaceful stand for life.

Clarity Annual Impact Celebration—Monday, October 19th: Clarity invites you to an evening celebrating the lives touched, the stories changed, and the impact you helped make possible. The event will be held at Westside Community Church beginning at 7 PM. Please RSVP at claritycares.org/impact-rsvp.

MOMS IN THE WORD... All mothers and their children are invited to our monthly Moms in the Word gathering on **Monday, October 5th** at 10 AM in the fellowship room. Join us for a devotion and fellowship!

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN WORKDAY... Our OGT Workday is **Tuesday, October 6th** 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 at any time at the trailer located on the east side of the warehouse.

GRIEF SMALL GROUP CLASS... All 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 Wednesdays at 2 PM at the church beginning **October 7th** and continuing through November 18th. The class 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. For more information or to sign-up, please contact

Marybeth Glick at marybethglick@gmail.com or 812-371-6254.

FALL BREAK SUNDAY... is **October 11th**. Lunch will not be served and there will be no afternoon youth choirs or confirmation class. Pastor Bauman and DCE Probst will be available for a confirmation make-up/work ahead session immediately after the 10:45 AM service.

OUR CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP... The stewardship packets are available in the gathering space. To save postage costs, please pick up your packet and any packet that you can deliver to others. The procedures for making your pledge will be explained at both services next Sunday.

Loyalty Sunday is **October 18th** when we will offer our pledges for 2027 as we respond to the Lord's benefits with thankful and grateful hearts. Prayerfully consider God's blessings in your life and how you can use God's gifts to further His kingdom through our congregation, community, and world.

HOLY LAND PRESENTATION AND OLIVE WOOD HANDICRAFTS... On **Sunday, October 11th** (note date change), at the beginning of Bible study, we will hear about the Christians of the Holy Land. More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income. Tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the war in Gaza. Many Christian families have fled their homeland since they lost their source of income. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, but today it is less than 1% in the land of Christ.

There will be a display of olive wood religious handicrafts from Bethlehem available for donations. The olivewood carvings include Nativity sets, crosses, ornaments, candle holders, and others. They make nice gifts for a wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter or Christmas. They are carved by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on their crafts for their daily bread. All proceeds support Christian families from Bethlehem.

LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS... If you are interested in serving as a church officer or as a member of one of our church boards or if you would like to recommend someone to serve, please contact Phil Burbrink at 812-344-9946.

LAKEVIEW MINISTRIES DINNER AUCTION... Join the Lakeview family on **Saturday, November 21st** at Primo Banquet Hall and Conference Center in Indianapolis for an evening of great food, fellowship, fun, and support for the ministry of Lakeview! Enjoy dinner, live and silent auctions, the Dessert Dash, raffles, and plenty of camp fun for grown-ups. Tickets are \$85 per person or \$600 for a table of eight. Learn more and register at www.lakeview.camp/auction.

Early Bird Special: Register by **this Saturday, October 3rd** for a chance to win a VIP Night Of Package featuring preferred table seating, first dinner dismissal, and a free raffle ticket for each guest at your table.

THRIVENT MEMBERS—WE NEED YOUR HELP...

If you are a Thrivent member, we need your help in fully utilizing your member benefits.

Action Team: Every Thrivent member can sponsor two \$250 action team projects every year. These can be fundraising, educational, or service projects. If you haven't used one or both of your action team grants for 2026, please contact the church office or Pastor Bauman for a list of possible action team grants.

Choice Dollars: *There have been significant changes to the Choice Dollars Program.* Please note the following:

- All Thrivent members now have Choice Dollars to designate.
- The amount of Choice Dollars for Thrivent members to designate has increased.

➤ The deadline to designate Choice Dollars has been *moved up three months* from March 31, 2027, to December 31, 2026.

If you are a Thrivent member, please login to your Thrivent account and designate your Choice Dollars before the end of the year. You can also designate your Choice Dollars by phone at 800-847-4836. When prompted say, "Thrivent Choice" and then press 1.

We thank all our Thrivent members who utilize their benefits to support our mission and ministry.

THANKS TO... all who attended the LWML Zone Rally yesterday and those who served at the event.

The Response of God's People

Sunday, September 20th

Divine Service: **338**

Communion: **273**

Sunday School: **165**

Offering

General Fund: \$15,961.37

Needed Weekly: \$17,721

Extending Christ's Love: \$26,255 including \$225 Thrivent Choice Dollars and \$500 from Faith Madison, thanking our pastors for serving during their vacancy and thanks for help moving their new pastor
Harvest Mission for Food Pantry: \$30.55



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