

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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16th Sunday after Pentecost September 28, 2025

NOTE: Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex for worship services.
Please see an Usher or Greeter if needed.

Presiding Minister	Pastor David Viles
Organist / Keyboard	Zola Finch
Song Leader	Kathy Meller
Acolyte	Lucas Plochberger
Audio / Video Technician	Roger Pennell
Reader	Donald Weber
Council	AJ Ferrell
Greeters	Donald Weber & Marie Scheperle
Altar Flowers	Donita Stubinger

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Next Sunday is The WELCA Chili Supper - Serving from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Please remember to bring your items by Saturday, October 4. We will have room to store them in the refrigerator.

Time & Talent Surveys have been emailed out to everyone with an email. Please complete and submit as soon as possible. If you need a hard copy, they are available at the back of the narthex. The plan is to have all the responses back by November 2, and will be able to contact the different committees and other areas for your participation.

Church Fall Clean-up will begin at 8:30 am on Saturday, October 4th to make our outside areas beautiful. Please show up and help out.

Margaret Circle will meet at the Church on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Donita Stubinger will host and Helen Girard will lead the Bible study. Please RSVP to Erika (573-635-6681) or Donita (573-496-3704) to let us know you will attend!

Trinity Lutheran Church of Russellville is selling homemade apple pies. Taking pre-orders in September for October pickup dates. Cost is \$10 each. Buy 5 and get the 6th one free. Pies will be ready to bake or freeze for later. You'll receive a text message when your order is ready. You pay when you pick up your pies. Call 573-782-4631 for inquiries.

Adult Forum: After the worship service, we often meet in the large Sunday school room to look at the Gospel and discuss it in more detail. We share questions and answers and have great discussions. It normally lasts about 30 to 45 minutes. Everyone is welcome.

Hymn History – Our Sending Song “God Be With You Till We Meet Again” was written by Jeremiah Rankin, pastor of Washington’s First Congregational Church and president of Howard University, the historically black university in Washington D.C. He wrote it, he said, after discovering that the term “good-bye” meant “God be with you”. Dr. Rankin was born in 1928, received his Doctor of Divinity in 1869, and published many songs and sermons. He edited the song “Beautiful the Little Hands.” The hymn we sing today was written in 1882.

NOTE: Use Hymnals to read Music for the Hymns if desired.

***Gathering Song: Hymn # 719 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

1 Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan, above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need, on shadowed thresholds dark with fears, from paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the vision of your tears.

3 From tender childhood's helplessness, from human grief and burdened toil, from famished souls, from sorrow's stress, your heart has never known recoil.

4 The cup of water giv'n for you still holds the freshness of your grace; yet long these multitudes to view the strong compassion in your face.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850-1935, alt.

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

Silence for Reflection

P: Merciful God,

C: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen

*** SHARING THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

GREETING (Please be seated)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Kyrie: Hymnal Page # 147 - 148

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord have mercy.

Help save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **A-men.**

Hymn of Praise: Hymnal Page 148-149

Song Leader

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

All

I Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

Refrain:

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

2 Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. A-men.

Final Refrain:

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. All-le-lu-ia.

Prayer of the Day:

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

Choir: Marvelous Grace of Our Loving God

Children's Sermon

WORD

The 1st lesson is a reading from Amos, the 6th chapter.

Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria. Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music, who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146 (Read Responsively)

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.

**The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!**

The 2nd lesson is a reading from I Timothy, the 6th chapter.

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by

many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation: Hymnal Page 151**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Pastor David Viles
"Seeing Lazarus at the Gate"

Hymn of the Day: Hymn # 532 Gather Us In

- 1** Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
- 2** We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.
- 3** Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
- 4** Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

*** Apostle's Creed – Please stand.**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*** The Prayers of Intercession:**

The congregation's response to "God of grace," is "receive our prayer."

MEAL

Offering: We worship God by giving back a little of what he has first given us. God calls us by the Holy Spirit to care for all of God's people and creation through these gifts. Through this small sacrifice, God's love is shown through us, to those who are in need.

***(Please Stand) Offertory:**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

***Offertory Prayer: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Song: Holy, Holy, Holy Hymnal Page 153

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

*** Words of Institution – Eucharist Prayer**

***The Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Distribution of the Elements

Please be seated as we sing Lamb of God:

Hymnal Page # 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

All are welcome to the Lord's supper regardless of membership or other church affiliation.

***Blessing after the Meal**

Pastor David Viles

***(544 verse 1) Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing, worship, thanks, devotion voicing; glory be to God on high! Christ, your cross and passion sharing, by this Eucharist declaring yours the final victory.**

***Prayer after Communion:**

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing: (Please Stand)**

Pastor David Viles

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, † bless you now and forever. C: Amen.

***Sending Song: Hymn #536 God Be With You Until We Meet Again**

**1 God be with you till we meet again;
by good counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain

**Till we meet, (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet again,)
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet again.)
God be with you till we meet again.**

**2 God be with you till we meet again;
holy wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again. Refrain**

**3 God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again. Refrain**

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904, alt.

P: Go in peace. See Lazarus at the gate.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude