

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 25/26, 2026



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
The People of St. Paul's, the Ministers
474 Yalick Road - PO Box 802 – Dallas, PA 18612
Phone: 570-675-3859; email: stpaul@epix.net
Website: www.stpaulsdallaspa.org

Rev. Charles H. Grube, Pastor
Margaret Quintanar, Director of Music/Organist
Senior Choir & Chimes
Jean Grube, Youth Choir Director

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 am till 4:00 pm

TODAY'S WORSHIP

WELCOME! We rejoice in your presence as we gather in unity around the throne of grace.

AS SOLOMON PRAYS for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasure of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tress that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

WORSHIP BEGINS in our gathering. Please enjoy greeting and conversation in the Narthex, and respect those who have entered the Sanctuary to pray, meditate, and listen to the prelude with silence and an atmosphere of reverence and peace as we all prepare to hear God's word.

IF YOU'D LIKE someone's name to be added to our prayer list spoken in worship and printed in the bulletin, please be sure to contact the church office or complete the prayer request card on the table in the Narthex before worship. Cards added after worship will be included in the following week's prayer list. In either case you will continue to have the opportunity to say aloud or remember silently that person's name during the intercessory prayers.

HEARING ASSISTANCE devices are available; please ask an usher for help.

THE BLUE WELCOME PAD in the pew rack is our record of your attendance and communion (or you may leave a message for Pastor Grube, note a new address or phone number).

LEAVING THE SANCTUARY during worship? Please use the side doors with the panic bar latches; they open and close silently.

SCRIPTURE READINGS for August 1/2: Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21, Romans 9:1-5 and Matthew 14:13-21.

GATHERING

PLEASE NOTE: Parts of this service are omitted for Saturday's worship.

PRELUDE

Partita on *Gather Us In*

Charles L. Lenz

- I. Peal
- II. Chant
- III. Dance
- IV. Meditation
- V. Scherzo

BELL, WELCOME, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand as you are able and turn to face the font for the Confession.

CONFESSION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love. **Amen.**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Eternal God our creator,

in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners, and for his sake, God + forgives us all our sins. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN # 532 *Gather Us In*

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sit.

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

A reading from 1 Kings:

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for

yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word.
Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you,
and no one like you shall arise after you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:129-136

Spoken responsively by the lector and the congregation.

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.

¹³⁰ **The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ With open mouth I pant,
because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your custom toward those who love your name.**

¹³³ Keep my steps steady according to your promise,
and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ **Redeem me from human oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.**

¹³⁵ Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears
because your law is not kept.**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

A reading from Romans:

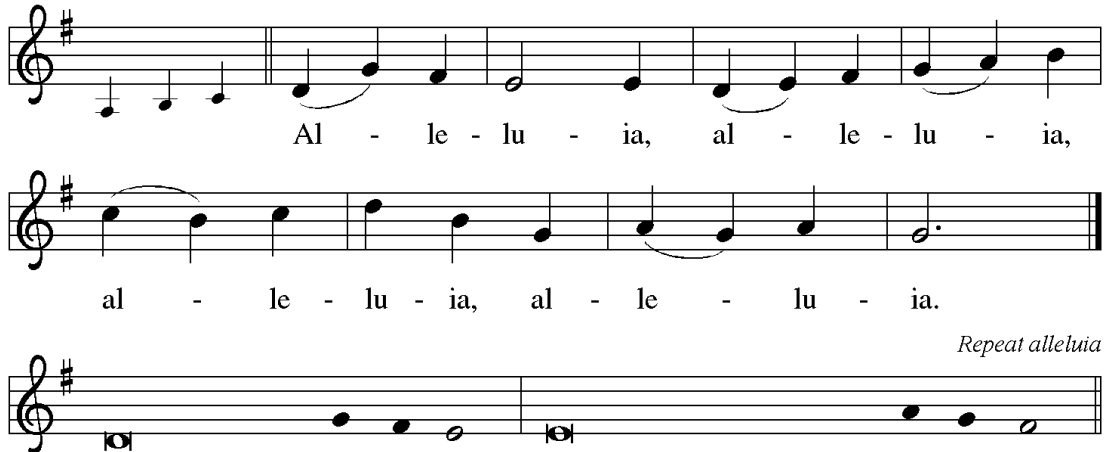
Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

Many will come from | east and west*
and will eat in the king- | dom of heaven.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news the "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.... The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the

sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit.

SERMON

Stand as you are able for the Hymn.

HYMN OF THE DAY #793 *Be Thou My Vision*

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

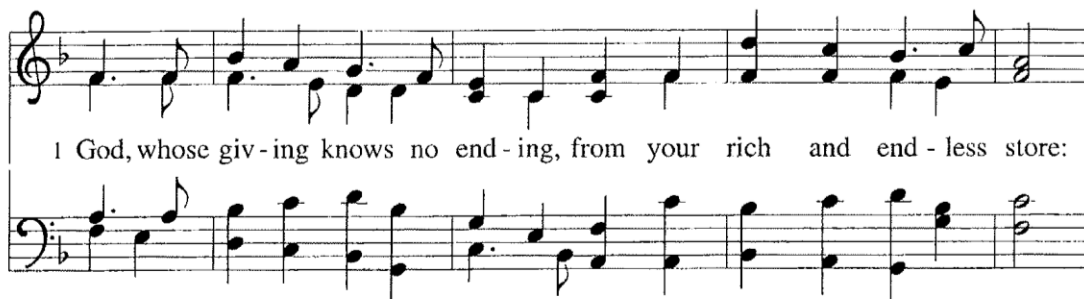
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words.

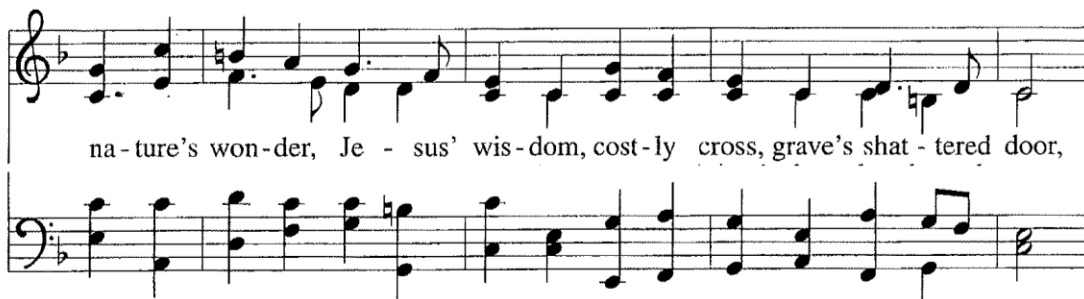
MEAL

OFFERTORY #678, v. 1 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

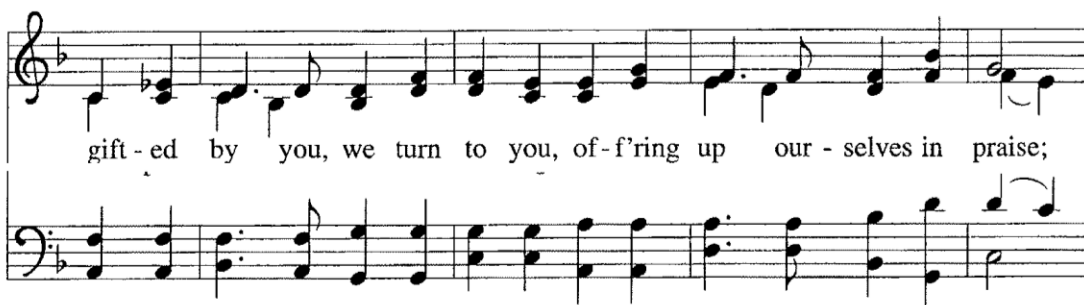




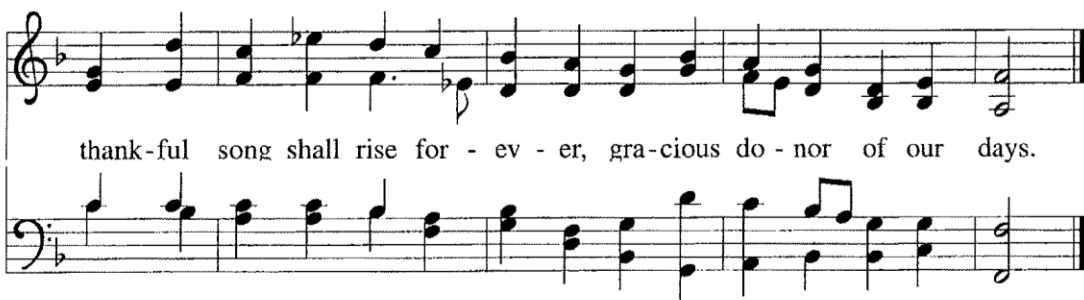
1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:



na-ture's won-der, Je - sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company

RUSTINGTON

8 7 8 7 D

Alternate tune: HYMN TO JOY

OFFERING PRAYER

The assisting minister leads the prayer.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. **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.

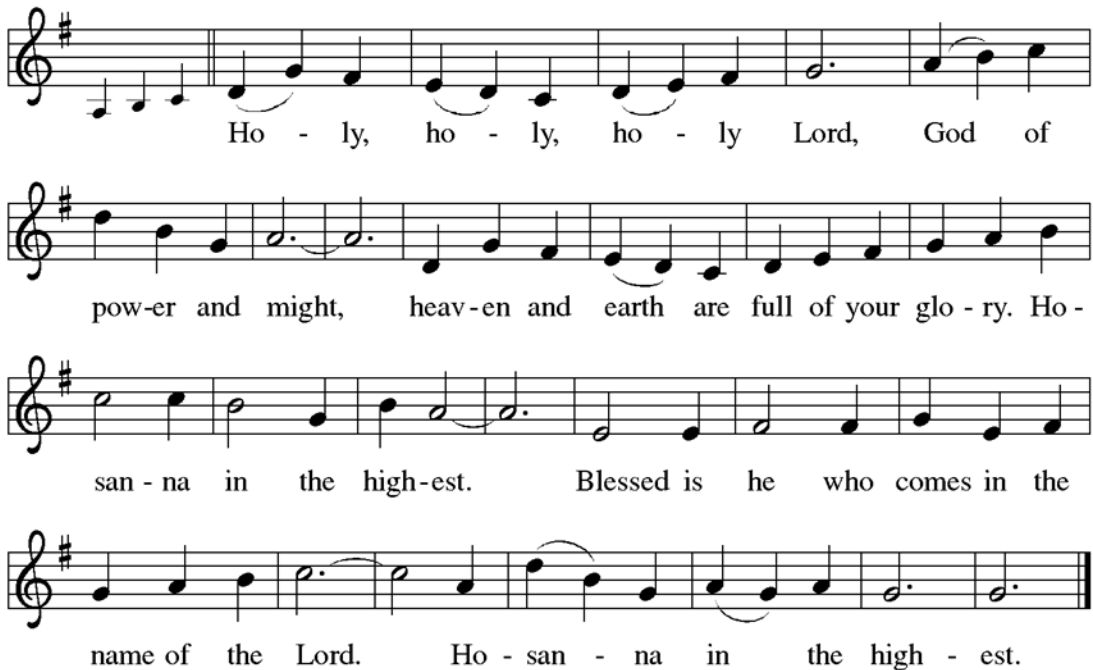
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . .

Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out upon us...be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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. Amen.**

COMMUNION

Come and taste the goodness and mercy of God.

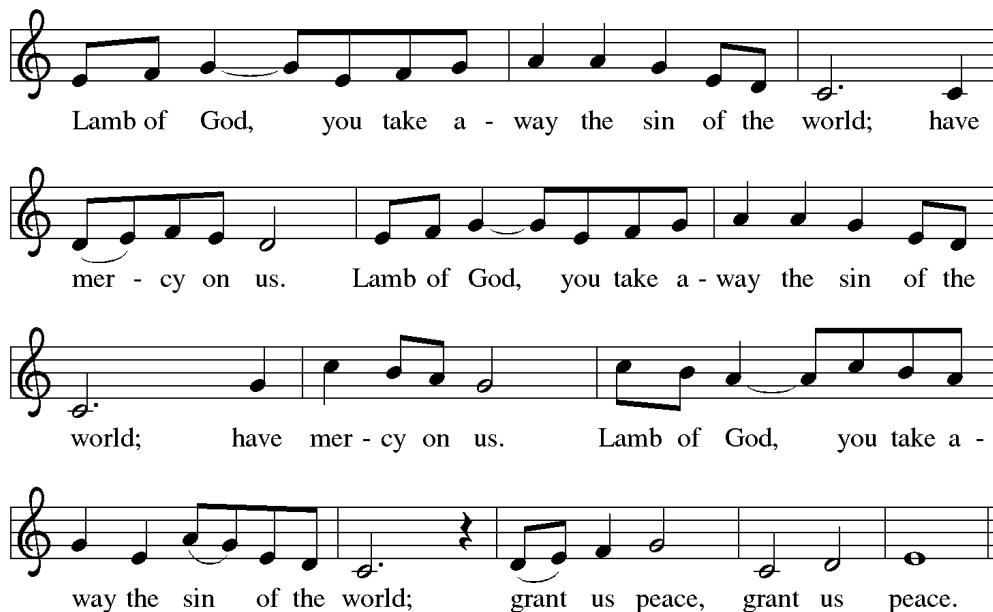
The bread is broken for the communion and the assembly is seated. Online worshipers receive the word, The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

We invite you to come forward to stand on the floor at the predella step beginning with the person seated closest to the ambo. The communion ministers will come to you, beginning with the bread. Then, take an empty glass from the tray to be filled with wine from the pouring chalice or a prefilled glass of juice for those who cannot or prefer not to receive wine. When you have communed, return to your seat by the opposite end.

We invite all Baptized Christians and those who commune in their own churches to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Small children and those not communing may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come forward to receive Holy Communion, please inform an usher or neighbor of your desire to commune so they can inform the communion ministers, and they will bring the sacrament to you in your seat.

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say,
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond Amen.*

During the distribution, Lamb of God is sung:



When the assembly and ministers have communed, the table is re-dressed and the assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, turn us to hunger for your reign of justice and thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant us the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN # 705

God of Grace and God of Glory

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Partita on *Gather Us In*

Charles L. Lenz

vi. Finale

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SERVING AS WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeter:	Larry Pierce
Acolyte:	Volunteer Needed
Assisting Minister:	Gail Smallwood
Lector:	Gail Smallwood
Communion Bread:	Grace Fisher
Saturday Altar Set Up:	Cookie Fetterman
Sunday Altar Clean Up:	Gail Smallwood
Minister of Technology:	Marissa Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU to Frank Mariano for serving as our Supply Pastor today while Pastor Grube is on vacation.

THE YELLOW ROSE is given in Honor of Marie Griffith's 75th Birthday, by the Social Ministry Committee.

BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God by the Smallwood Family.

COME AND GET THEM! St. Paul's Dorcas Society has only 4 packs of "A Note to Say Hello" picture cards of St. Paul's remaining and on display at the church entrance and available in the church office Mon. through Thurs.; and before/after Sat. evening 5:30 pm and Sun. morning 9:30 am services. All proceeds benefit Dorcas fundraising for service and community projects. Twelve cards/envelopes in durable folder for \$15.00. Cash or checks accepted- please make check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Psalm 118:24 is included in the cards: "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad."



Scout PROJECT

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – Rocco Pericich is a Life Scout with Troop 281 and for his Eagle Scout Project this September, will be renovating the existing fire pit area in St. Paul's Backyard by building a new gravel seating area and adding surrounding landscaping plants. The main purpose of this project is to provide our church youth and multi-generational family ministries

with a safe, welcoming, and dedicated outdoor space to gather for fellowship and activities right in time for the fall season.

You can help Rocco bring this project to life in several ways:

- **Calling Thrivent Members:** Rocco is looking to partner with Thrivent clients who can sponsor \$250 Action Team grant for the project and fundraising materials. Because the project will begin in September, applications need to be submitted by mid-August. If you are a Thrivent member willing to help, or if you would like more information, please contact Rocco at 570.931.6157 or roccopericich@icloud.com.
- **Support his fundraiser:** Join Rocco on Saturday and Sunday, August 1st and 2nd after the services for a Bake Sale. All proceeds will go directly toward gravel and landscaping supplies.

You may also provide financial support in two ways:

1. Through Vanco the online giving platform via our website: stpaulsdallaspa.org. Click the link to online giving and donate to the Landscaping Tile.
2. Place your donation in an envelope and mark it Landscaping Scout Project (checks should be made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and on memo line indicate Landscaping Fund).
Donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for supporting Rocco and his Eagle Scout Project!



RETIREMENT UPDATE - Pastor and Jean are on vacation and this is a good time to bring you up-to-date regarding his final service which is Sunday, October 25. Some plans have been finalized, and others are still being worked out.

1. There will be a reception for Jean on Sunday, October 18, sponsored by the Christian Education Committee. Jean has been the Director of the Youth Choir and a member of the Christian Education Committee since Sept. 1977.
2. Saturday service, October 24, will be cancelled.
3. Journal of Memories/Names - Starting today and for the next few weeks, while Pastor Grube and Jean are on vacation, there will be a journal available in the Narthex for you to jot down a memory, thank you note, or you could just sign your name. The journal will also be available before and after the service on Oct. 25 for anyone who hasn't had the chance to sign it. If you are unable to come to church or if you worship on Zoom, please feel free to either contact Carol Fett (cafett54@gmail.com) or call Carol (570.852.9176) or Gail Smallwood (gesmallwood56@gmail.com) (570.852.1438 and we will be happy to transcribe your comments for you. The journal will be presented to them at the close of the October 25 worship service.
4. A sign-up form will be available in the Narthex starting August 30, for you to indicate if you will be attending the reception in the Social Hall. We need to tell the caterer how many people will be attending for room set up and food preparation purposes. Deadline is October 4.

5. Rev. Stanley Reep, Pastor Grube's best friend, has been asked to be the guest preacher on October 25 (we're awaiting his reply). Communion that day will be by procession and Pastor was asked to pick two of his favorite hymns. Some of the Grube children will be participating in the service. At the end of the service, there will be time for sharing a few words, gifts will be presented and a prayer will be said before dismissal and the reception in the social hall. The entire service and presentations will be available on Zoom. No Sunday School this day.
6. Baut Studios is designing two window hangings using colored glass from the windows of our Shavertown church building; one for Jean with a music theme and a nature theme for Pastor's. If you would like to contribute towards the gift, envelopes are available in the Narthex or you may contribute via our website (stpaulsdallaspa.org) and click on the online link. Then click on the **SPECIAL GIFT** tile to donate and indicate it is for Pastor's retirement.
7. There will be a sign up poster in the Narthex towards the end of August to indicate if you will be attending the reception so that we can give the number to the caterer; the deadline for sign ups will be October 4.

REMEMBER "MUMS THE WORD"!

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE – LDR is the ELCA's ministry to accompany disaster survivors, and they are already at work with congregations, synods and local partners in affected communities. Catastrophic flooding in south Texas has forced people from their homes and left communities covered in debris and mud as the water recedes. At the same time, wildfires across the western United States continue to threaten lives, homes and entire communities. You may have noticed the Lutheran Disaster Response envelopes by the offering plate; if you would like to help victims, please take an envelope and return it at any time. Donations may also be made by clicking on the Disaster Response tile on your Vanco account.

STARTING NEXT WEEKEND the Roast Beef Dinner (Sept. 19) volunteer sign up sheets will be posted in the Narthex. Please consider signing up to help in one of the many ways volunteers are needed. No experience is necessary – on the job training is gladly given!

PRAYER LIST - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list. Pray for the Congregation of Trinity Lutheran, Towanda, Prince of Peace Episcopal, Dallas, Grace Episcopal, Kingston and Trinity Episcopal, West Pittston.

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Tom Ash, Chris Bellezza, Annie and Marty Bisher, Pam Cyphers, Mary Lou Daley Button, Fran Dierolf, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Grace Fisher, Marge Fritzinger, Lois Gdovin, Colin Grube, Lois Hardisky, Daniel Henderson, Robert Kline, Martha Kush, June Lorah, Raelene Napierkowski, Leah Pambianco, Wally Richardson, Val Rothrock, Greta Ruckno, Dave Scheff, John Thomas, Anita Weiss, Peter and Carol Wittkamp, Alyson Wood, Shirley Zimmerman.

Please note: Those people listed as Family and Friends will be listed here for a four-week period. Please contact the church office at 570-675-3859 or stpaul@epix.net if you desire a name to remain on the list beyond that time.

Family & Friends: Alanna Berger, Cliff and Ron Bunt, Marjorie Catania, Joni Conway, Paul Davis, Janet DeCosta, Debbie Demuro, Nancy Harm, Debbie Hilbert, Marty Hille, Jenn Hubbard, Christine Ide, Frank Ide, John Jaikes, Candace Jones, Michael Kaminski, Patricia Kay, Joe Kerestes, Debbie Kertesz, Ken Kertesz, Bradley Kessler, Alice Laskowski, John, Karen and Charlie Lulun, Jim Madonna, Carol Marker, Carleton McGrady, Becky Morgan, Patty N., Tim Nulton, Ryleigh Phillips, Paul Pryor, Abraham Quintanar, Febe Quintanar, Andy Reistetter, Doris Rosencrans, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Karen Sadler, Bob Schooley, Sandra Serhan, Nancy Shymanski, Richard Skurski, Sandy Sprau, Benjamin Szostak, Abigail Thomas, Larry Titus, Corrine Varneke, Tabitha Walters, Jean Weeks, Karen Wise, Peg Wyda, Mary Z., Ashley, Bethann, Keith, Megan, the M family, Johnny, Betsy, Dawn, Jonathan, Mandy (no last names given).