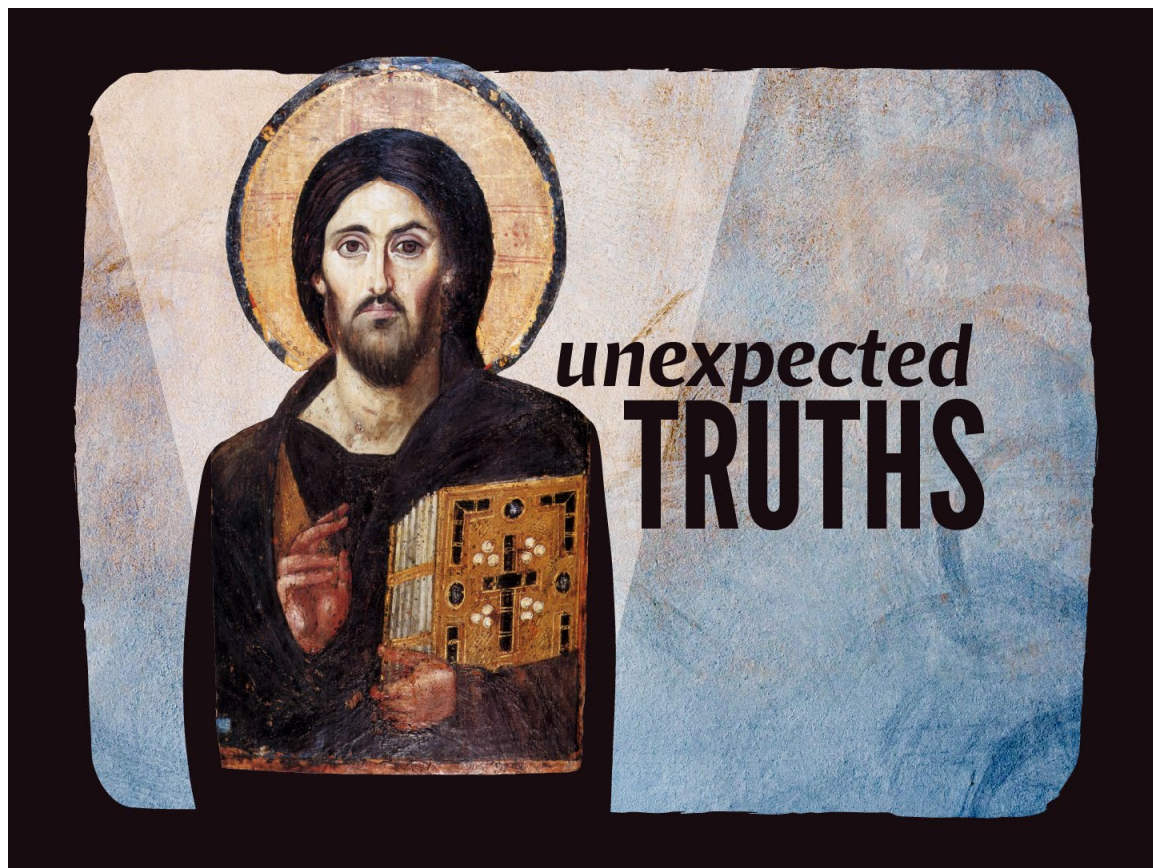




St. Paul's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 30, 2026
Fourteenth Sunday
after Pentecost



Cross comes before crown

Welcome to honored guests and St. Paul's family alike!

In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to be strengthened through the study of God's holy and powerful Word, and through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Restrooms and a drinking fountain are located on the right in the hallway outside the sanctuary.

We have **personal hearing devices**. If you need one, please let an usher know before the service.

Our worship is designed for your whole family. Find children's busy bags, a book that teaches young children about worship, children's bulletins, and children's worship note sheets on the **children's worship materials cart** near the central sanctuary doors.

God loves the sound of children in worship, and so do we! If you need to step out of worship for a moment, we have a **family room** located through the door in the back of the fellowship hall. The facility includes a TV, a window, and speakers so that you can still follow along with the worship service.

If you do not have a church home, we would love to talk with you about how we can serve you with the Gospel and make here your home!

Today's service begins on page 4

Our Pentecost worship series | **Unexpected truths**

Many of the most important truths revealed in the Bible are not self-evident at all. They frequently appear surprising or even contrary to human expectations. Scripture teaches that humanity is not naturally good but deeply sinful. God declares that salvation cannot be achieved through human efforts, but it comes entirely by his grace. Most unexpected of all is the message that God brings forgiveness and eternal life through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

Biblical truth is revealed by God rather than discovered by reason alone. While some truths may seem obvious to human judgment, the truths of the Bible are often unexpected.

Today's worship theme | **Cross comes before crown**

Some churches teach that if a person follows God, God responds by granting prosperity and peace, as would only be expected. Today we see how that is nonsense. The Bible explains that if we are part of the Church of God, we will have to bear crosses. Believers suffer in this world, sometimes just because they are believers.

Why bother? We carry our crosses in gratitude for Jesus carrying his cross, one too heavy for us because it was weighted down with our sin. We carry our crosses because we know that in those moments of struggle, we are forced to turn to Christ and rely on his strength. This is the unexpected path, the one Jesus himself walked: the cross comes before the crown.

Our prayer before worship | **to set our hearts and minds right for worship**

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" Give me joy, dear Jesus, as I prepare to worship you today. Make me understand what my life would be like without you so that I long to hear about your grace and compassion. Help me participate in a way that honors you and builds up all who worship with me, and let their worship strengthen and encourage my faith.

Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near

CW 867 sts. 1–2, Ref, 3–4



1 Af - flict - ed saint, to Christ draw near, your Sav - ior's
 2 Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the
 3 Should per - se - cu - tion rage and flame, still trust in
 4 When called to bear your weight - y cross, or sore af -



gra - cious prom - ise hear; his faith - ful Word you can be -
 con - flict should be long, the Lord will make the tempt - er
 your Re - deem - er's name. In fi - ery tri - als you shall
 flic - tion, pain, or loss, or deep dis - tress, or pov - er -



lieve, that as your days your strength shall be. v. 2
 flee, that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain
 see that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain
 ty, still as your days your strength shall be. Refrain



So, sing with joy, af - flict - ed one; the bat - tle's fierce, but the



vic - t'ry's won! God shall sup - ply all that you need;



yes, as your days your strength shall be.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (Ref): Constance Dever, b. 1960

Tune: Constance Dever, b. 1960

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Greeting

P(residing minister) | The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C | And also with you.

Confession

P | We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C | Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

Absolution

P | God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C | Amen.

Prayer and Praise

P | In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

O Taste and See

CW 965

O taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless-ed are they who take
ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it
stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con -
tin - ues for - ev - er. O taste and see that the
Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Text: n/a

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949

Text: Public domain

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Prayer

P | Holy Spirit, God and Lord, come to us this joyful day with your sevenfold gift of grace. Rekindle in our hearts the holy fire of your love that in a true and living faith we may tell abroad the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, now and forever. Amen.

¹⁵O LORD, you understand.

Remember me and care for me.

Take vengeance for me on those who persecute me.

You are slow to anger. Do not take me away.

Keep in mind that for your sake I bear disgrace.

¹⁶Your words came to me, and I devoured them.

Your words became my joy, the delight of my heart,
because I bear your name, O LORD God of Armies.

¹⁷I did not sit with the band of partygoers,
nor did I celebrate with them.

I sat alone, because your hand was upon me.

You filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unending?

Why is my wound incurable, refusing to heal?

Will you be as deceptive as an intermittent stream to me,
like a source of water that a person can't depend on?

¹⁹Therefore this is what the LORD says.

If you repent, I will take you back, so that you may stand before me.

If what you say is worthwhile and not worthless,
you will be my spokesman.

They must turn to you,

but you must not turn to them.

²⁰I will make you like a bronze wall to this people.

They will fight against you,

but they will not overcome you,

because I am with you to save you and to rescue you, declares the LORD.

²¹I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked,

and I will deliver you from the grasp of the ruthless.

P | The Word of the Lord.

C | **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day | I Trust, O LORD, Your Holy Name

Psalm 31D



1 I trust, O LORD, your ho - ly name; O let me
2 Bow down your gra - cious ear to me and hear my
3 You are my strength, my shield, my rock, my for - tress
4 With you, O LORD, I cast my lot; O faith - ful
5 All hon - or, praise, and maj - es - ty to Fa - ther,



not be put to shame nor let me
cry, my prayer, my plea; make haste for
strong a - gainst each shock, my help, my
God, for - sake me not, to you my
Son, and Spir - it be, our God for -



be con - found-ed. My faith, O LORD,
my pro - tec - tion, for woes and fear
life, my tow - er, my bat - tle sword,
soul com - mend-ing. LORD, be my stay,
ev - er glo - rious, in whose rich grace



be in your Word for - ev - er firm - ly ground-ed.
sur-round me here. Help me in my af - flic - tion.
al - might - y LORD— who can re - sist your pow - er?
and lead the way now and when life is end - ing.
we run our race till we de - part vic - to - rious.

Text: Adam Reusner; (sts. 1–4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, Pittsburgh, 1907, alt.
Text: Public domain Tune: © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 715833

Second Reading

Romans 8:18–25

¹⁸For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing

for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope ²¹that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²²For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. ²³And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

P | The Word of the Lord.

C | **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 8:34

P | Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Gospel

John 14:23–27

²³Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will hold on to my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴The one who does not love me does not hold on to my words. The word that you are hearing is not mine, but it is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have told you these things while staying with you. ²⁶But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I told you.

²⁷“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not let it be afraid.

P | The Gospel of the Lord.

C | **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

CW 694



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en, all to leave and
2 Let the world de - spise and leave me; they have left my
3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure! Come, dis - as - ter,
4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry, armed by faith and



fol - low you; des - ti - tute, de-spised, for - sak - en, you on
Sav - ior, too. Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; you are
scorn, and pain! In your ser - vice pain is plea - sure, with your
winged by prayer; all but heav'n is tran - si - to - ry, God's own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry fond am - bi - tion,
not, like them, un - true. And, since you have smiled up - on me,
fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you Ab - ba, Fa - ther;
hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this earth - ly sto - ry,



all I've ev - er hoped or known; yet how rich is
God of wis - dom, love, and might, foes may hate and
you my all in all shall be. Storms may howl, and
swift shall pass the pil - grim days, hope soon change to



my con - di - tion, God and heav'n are still my own!
friends may shun me; show your face, and all is bright.
clouds may gath - er, all must work for good to me.
heav'n - ly glo - ry, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Text: Henry Francis Lyte, 1793–1847, abr., alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Jeremiah 15

The Bearer of Bad News

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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.

Offering

***To our honored guests:** We're happy that you're with us to hear about God's love for you today! Our offering is not a debt we owe God but a way that we return to God a portion of what he generously gave to us. Our motivation, then, is not obligation but love for God. Our offerings are how St. Paul's funds our Gospel mission work. As our honored guests, please do not feel obligated to contribute.*

*If you would like to support our Gospel ministry with an offering, you have options! Place your offering in **the offering plate** in our gathering space as you leave worship today, **mail an offering** to our church anytime, or go to **stpauls.edu** or **scan this QR** code to give an offering online.*



Prayer of the Church and the Lord's Prayer

P | Father in heaven, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus, to bring peace and hope to our fallen world. Already in eternity you planned to overturn the tyranny of Satan and the ravages of sin and you kept your promises to restore the perfection of paradise.

C | Lead us to cherish your great mercy and hold to it as our priceless treasure.

P | Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, we praise and adore you for offering your perfect life and innocent death to redeem the world from death and hell. You proclaimed the good news that sins are forgiven and life with God is restored and you called your followers to share the gospel with all people.

C | Make us bold and confident to be witnesses to family and friends we know and love.

P | Holy Spirit, Lord, and giver of life, through Word and sacrament you create and strengthen faith that trusts the promise of the Father and the work of his Son. You break down the barriers of resistance and rejection and bring the lost into the family of God.

C | Empower and encourage us to speak about Jesus to neighbors and acquaintances.

P | Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

P | Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, move us by your great love to enter the mission fields near our homes and neighborhoods. Help us always to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have.

C | Guide us, strengthen us, and bless us as we share the love of Jesus. Amen.

All | Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

CW 831



1 Why should cross and tri - al grieve me? Christ is near
 2 When life's trou - bles rise to meet me, though their weight
 3 God gives me my days of glad - ness, and I will
 4 From God's joy can noth - ing sev - er, for I am
 5 Since I know God nev - er fails me, in his voice



with his cheer; nev - er will he leave me.
 may be great, they will not de - feat me.
 trust him still when he sends me sad - ness.
 his dear lamb, he, my Shep - herd ev - er.
 I'll re - joice when grim death as - sails me.



Who can rob me of the heav - en that God's Son
 God, my lov - ing Sav - ior, sees them; he who knows
 God is good; his love at - tends me day by day,
 I am his be - cause he gave me his own blood
 Trust - ing in my Sav - ior's mer - it, safe at last,



for me won when his life was giv - en?
 all my woes knows how best to end them.
 come what may, guides me and de - fends me.
 for my good, by his death to save me.
 trou - bles past, I shall heav'n in - her - it.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; (sts. 1–3): tr. Christian Worship, 1993; (st. 4): tr. Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955; (st. 5): tr. Harlyn J. Kuschel, b. 1945

Tune: Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–1676

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Text (sts. 1–3) and tune: Public domain

Prayer

P | Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C | Amen.

The Blessing

P | Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C | Amen.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

CW 493



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
- 3 You saints, who here in pa - tience your cross and suf - f'ring bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth, as he ap - proach - es, with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb you shall be - hold,
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph lay be - fore him your shin - ing crowns of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.

Tune: Swedish

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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+ Ministry Notes +

Our good day in God's house continues after worship, too.

Our after-worship adult Bible Class time is a great time for good Christian encouragement as we **grow** in the Word together and take time to pray for one another. Today we will begin a new Bible study *Stranger Than Fiction*, focusing on several of Israel's Judges; today we will focus on Gideon. Sunday School for the children will take place at the same time.

Wednesday (Kingsway) Bible Study

Our Wednesday morning Bible studies meet at 10 AM and will be studying the book of James together, led by Pastor James. All are welcome!

Bible Information Class (BIC) *NEW START DATE*

Our next BIC will begin on **Monday, August 31 at 6 PM**. All are welcome to learn/review the basic teachings of Scripture together. Whether you're just curious about what the Bible teaches, have questions, would like to become a member, or have been one for decades, all are encouraged to attend this class that gathers us around God's Word. If you or someone you know would like to learn more, please let one of our pastors know.

The grill is heating up

Thanks to the generous freewill offerings toward a new grill, we are 30% of the way to our goal. See the grill offering can and up-to-date goal thermometer just outside our main sanctuary entrance for weekly updates and the opportunity to help reach this goal.

Take me out to the ballgame

St. Paul's FEAT is hosting an outing to a Tampa Bay Rays game September 12. Rsvp is needed for this event – confirm your interest on the signup sheet in the church entryway or online by following this qr code. More info is available on the signup sheet, or you can ask Peter or Kay-Lynn Johnston.



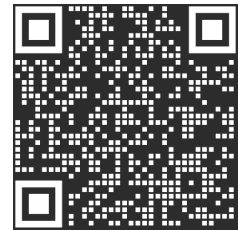
Reading is FUNdamental

When was the last time you visited our church library? With the excitement of worshipping God and fellowshiping with each other, it is understandable if you haven't visited our library shelves (right outside the rear doors of our sanctuary, by the parents' room) recently. You don't need to worry about squeezing something else into an already packed Sunday morning, because our church library has been digitized! Visit libib.com/u/spbhchurchlibrary or scan this qr code to browse at your convenience, and pick up your library materials next time you're in the building. And if you'd like a good recommendation for your next read, your pastors have some great suggestions.



Monday Mystery Readers Volunteers

Miss Foley's first grade classroom loves reading! They are looking for volunteers to come in on Monday afternoons as mystery readers to share this love of reading. Volunteers will be asked to come in from 12-12:50 to both read to the students and listen to the students practice their reading skills. Note: All volunteers must be fingerprinted and pass a level two background check. School will help set up the necessary screening, but the cost of the screening (about \$38) will need to be covered by the volunteer. Sign up using this QR code or talk to Miss Foley for more information. Thank you!



Ivories that need tickling

We are looking for a piano teacher or two for our grade school students. If you are interested, if you know someone who may be interested, or if you have a recommendation for a great local teacher, please contact Principal Dave Goddard or Office Manager Dorothy Draeger or stop by the school office. Thanks!

Staying in touch

Current missionary and former St. Paul's teacher Cindy Lendt would love to stay in touch with us. Follow along on her journeys and catch up on the great things God is doing on the other side of the world by following her on Substack here: <https://lendt.substack.com/>

Our Christian Stewardship of God's Gifts

Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. – 1 Cor. 4:2

preacher | **Tim Rosenow**

presiding minister | **James Saatkamp**

accompanist | **Justin Siegler**

usher | **Bill Hoeltke** and **Bruce Salzmänn**

worship streaming tech | **Bill Hartman**

flowers | **Dan** and **Jane Cerney**

last Sunday's in-person worship attendance | 88

General Fund freewill offering | \$1,911

Let's pray! This week, we offer special prayers for...

birthdays | **Cindy Essig** (8.30), **Hunter Sargent** (8.30), **Mike Rivers** (9.2), **Annabelle Winton** (9.2), **Hilary Rosenow** (9.3)

anniversaries | none this week

godly comfort in grief | **Susan Clonts** and family at the death of her brother Mike

homebound members | **Dave Brandt**, **Sharon Cummons**, **Leon** and **Barbara Johnson**, **Susan Rammel**, **Rick Robinson**, **Kathy Saracione**, **Josephine Throo**, **Paula Vitolo**

health | **Brenda Rivers** (recovering from surgery); **Carole Chapman** (recovering at home); **Mike** (brother-in-law of Karen Hartman, recovering after surgery); **Kris Christie** (mother of our former vicar, Karl, major heart surgery); **Kay-Lynn Johnston** (strength and resilience); **Rick Robinson** (recovering); **Stacey Rolén** (daughter of Rick and Angie Freihofer, recovering from surgery); **Barbara Sadler**, **Kathy Babcock** (Barbara's daughter), and **Kathy's daughters** (genetic health issues); **Nancy Scruton** (recovery)

This Week | August 30th – September 5th

MON | school picture day

WED | Kingsway Bible study 10 AM

FRI | Schoolwide morning chapel (w/coffee and donuts) 8:30 AM | Afternoon VPK chapel 12:15 PM

Upcoming Events

September 7 | NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)

September 11 | Schoolwide morning chapel 8:30 AM | Afternoon VPK chapel 12:15 PM

September 12 | Rays baseball game @ Tampa Bay, hosted by St. Paul's FEAT

September 25 | No preK or k-8 school (inservice/teacher professional development day)

Our congregation

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family. As a family, we **gather** together around God's Word in church and in Bible classes. We have a school where children can **grow** in their relationship with our Heavenly Father and where we can **go** to share the love of Jesus with them.

If you would like to learn more about our church family or our church, school, and preschool can serve you, please speak with our pastor, principal, preschool director, faculty, or one of our members.

Our Synod

St. Paul's belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), congregations united in faith and in desire to serve everyone we can with the truth of God's saving Word. To learn more, visit wels.net or ask a pastor.

Our worship

We gather for worship Sundays at 9:30 am and for children's and adult Bible study about ten minutes after worship.





**St. Paul's
Lutheran**
CHURCH & SCHOOL

**Precious
Lambs**
PRESCHOOL

Address | 6150 N Lecanto Hwy, Beverly Hills, FL 34465

Office phone | 352.489.3027

Office email | office@stpauls.edu

Coordinating Pastor | **James Saatkamp**

☎ 414.335.2316 ✉ pastor.saatkamp@stpaulsk8school.org

School and Outreach Pastor | **Timothy Rosenow**

☎ 920.860.2216 ✉ pastor.rosenow@stpaulsk8school.org

Principal | **Dave Goddard**

☎ 813.702.5853 ✉ principal@stpaulsk8school.org

Preschool director | **Sharon Welfel**

☎ 352.462.1814 ✉ sharon.welfel@stpaulsk8school.org

Find us online!

Website | stpauls.edu

Church Facebook | [stpaulslutheranchurchbeverlyhills](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulslutheranchurchbeverlyhills)

School Facebook | [stpaulsbeverlyhills](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsbeverlyhills)

YouTube | [@StPaulsBeverlyHills](https://www.youtube.com/@StPaulsBeverlyHills)

Vimeo | [stpaulslutheran](https://www.vimeo.com/stpaulslutheran)