



St. Paul
Ann Arbor

Sowing **truth**. Building **faith**. Shining **love**.

Justification of the Ungodly



- The Radical Gospel in Romans -

Welcome to Worship

August 2, 2026

8:30 AM, Downtown Campus



St. Paul Lutheran
Church of Ann Arbor

At St. Paul Ann Arbor, we equip families and
individuals to know Christ, to discover truth,
and to create meaningful connections.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 2, 2026 (8:30 AM)

One church
with two
locations:

Downtown Campus
420 W. Liberty St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Worship:
Saturdays @ 6:30 PM
Sundays @ 8:30 AM

Discipleship Hour:
(Resumes in September)

Earhart Campus
495 Earhart Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Worship:
Sundays @ 10:15 AM

Discipleship Hour:
(Resumes in September)



Welcome to St. Paul Ann Arbor!

We are so glad you're here. At St. Paul, we value **unity**. Whether you are a long-time member or visiting for the first time, we want you to feel connected to one another and to the hope we have in Jesus.

Getting Connected

Our pastors would love to meet you! If they don't get a chance to greet you before the service, please stop by afterward to say hi.

- **The Black Folder:** Guests, please find the folder at the end of your row to share your name and contact info. We'd love to know more about you!
- **What's Next?** Flip to the back page of this worship folder to see upcoming events and groups for connecting with others and serving the community.

About Holy Communion

In Holy Communion, God's people gather as Jesus taught, united in what we believe. Sharing the beliefs and practices of the **Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)**, we confess that this meal is more than a symbol. We confess (believe, speak, and live this truth):

- Jesus gives His true **body and blood** in the bread and wine of Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sins.
- God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—gives His gift of salvation in Baptism.
- We are sinners who need the gifts Jesus offers by His death and resurrection, as God promises in His inspired Word (the Bible).
- Holy Communion is something God gives His people as we gather for forgiveness and for the strength to live in God's Word by the Holy Spirit and to daily follow Jesus.

Should I commune? If you share this confession of faith, we welcome you to the table! If you have questions or hold different beliefs from those above, **we invite you to come forward for a blessing** (simply cross your arms over your chest). A pastor also would love to chat with you before or after the service to learn more.

Families with Children

We love having kids in worship! (Yes, even if they're wiggling or crying.) If you are here with children, please know there are Activity Bags and Children's Bulletins at any entrance. Need a break? A Cry Room is available at the rear of the sanctuary, while a nursery is located just below the main entrance. Our hospitality team is happy to guide you to any of these spots.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

HYMN

"How Wide the Love of Christ"



LSB# 535

WE CALL UPON THE NAME OF GOD

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made in remembrance of your Baptism.

*Invocation
Matthew 28:19b*

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

C: **Amen!**

(Reflecting on Romans 8:34–35)

P: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

C: **Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from Christ Jesus our Lord!**

P: Amid trouble, distress, and persecution,

C: **Amid hunger, loneliness, and danger,**

P: Amid violence, powers, heights, and depths,

C: **Amid life and death,**

P: Christ Jesus is interceding for us.

C: **Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from Christ Jesus our Lord!**

WE TURN TO GOD, MINDFUL OF OUR SINFULNESS

*Confession of Sins
1 John 1:8–9*

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.**

P: With convicted hearts, let us confess our sins to our heavenly Father.

C: **Most merciful God, 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.**

(We observe a moment of quiet reflection as we consider our own sinful condition)

GOD TURNS TO US, EAGER TO FORGIVE

Absolution
Romans 8:31, John 20:19-23

P: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you for all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

(LSB# 818)



1 In Thee is glad-ness A-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus,
2 Since He is ours, We fear no pow-ers, Not of
sun-shine of my heart. By Thee are giv-en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless-es In worst dis-
heav-en, Thou the true Re-deem-er art. Our souls Thou
tress-es; He can change them with a breath. Where-fore the
wak-est, Our bonds Thou break-est; Who trusts Thee sure-ly Has built se-
sto-ry Tell of His glo-ry With hearts and voic-es; All heav'n re-
cure-ly; He stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
joic-es In Him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for
pin-ing To see Thy shin-ing, Dy-ing or liv-ing
glad-ness, Tri-umph o'er sad-ness, Love Him and praise Him
To Thee are cleav-ing; Naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

- P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
- P: Almighty God, besides whom there is no other God, Your people suffer in this world, having no enduring place in which to dwell. Grant that we who are not yet home in Your kingdom may with all creation endure with patience our distresses, being sustained by Your Word and gracious Spirit—who intercedes for us with far yet deeper groanings to reach your heart of grace; this we pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

We Hear the Word of God

FIRST READING..... ✠ Romans 8:18–39

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ 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 among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, “*For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.*”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.
 C: **Thanks be to God.**

WE RISE TO THE GOSPEL

Alleluia & Verse
 (LSB pg. 173) John 6:68



HOLY GOSPEL ✠ Matthew 14:13–21

¹³ Now when Jesus heard [about the death of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. (ESV)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
 C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”
 Stanzas 1–3

 LSB# 576

MESSAGE

"Groanings and Glory"
Rev. Dr. Ted Hopkins

Romans 8:18–39

RESPONSE

(Tune: LSB# 576)

**Whatever be these darkened days,
Our suff'ring times, our troubled ways—
They have no worth comparing to
The hope of glory, freedom new!
*If God is for us, we shall stand,
For none can fell us from His hand;
No, none can fell us from His hand!***

Text: ©2026 Kirchenlied S. Schreiber, b. 1685

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

We Worship the Lord with Our Offerings

During the Offering, please let us know you're here! For members and guests who have our Church Center app, we ask you to please take a moment to Check In and let us know you are in worship with us today. For our guests and members who do not have our Church Center app, we invite you to please fill in the requested information in the Friendship Pad (the black folder located at the end of the pew at the center aisle). Please pass it along for anyone else who might need it.

Want to give electronically? Simply scan the QR code here:
For other giving options, see the end of this worship folder.



VOLUNTARY

The Prayers We Bring to God



P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

PRAYERS for THIS DAY

(As prompted) *P: Lord, in Your mercy,*
C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13

**C: 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.**

A Foretaste of the Great Feast in Heaven



CHRIST'S WORDS ESTABLISH THE LORD'S SUPPER

Words of Institution
1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: *Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.* In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: *Drink of it, all of you; this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.*

Sharing the Peace of Christ

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: **Amen.**

Pax Domini
John 20:19

An ancient and significant gesture in worship is the **Sharing of Peace**. This tradition, rooted in Scripture (1 Peter 5:14; Romans 16:16), recognizes that one of the biggest dangers in the body of Christ is disunity— both from grievances not forgiven and from not knowing our neighbors. When we extend our hand to another, we identify with Jesus, who entered into our world, came to know humanity from the inside, and restored peace between God and all people. When we share the peace of Christ, we desire to know and be at peace with everyone who comes into our midst, especially those we are meeting for the first time.

"Peace be with you." ✠ "The peace of Christ be with you."

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei (LSB pg. 180)
John 1:29

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

WE COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Communion Distribution

Please note before receiving Holy Communion: *Please read the brief statement of our beliefs, "About Holy Communion", found at the beginning of our worship folder. Our pastors would be happy to meet with you to discuss our beliefs further, and help prepare you for Communion.*



Hymns: "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"
"In Christ Alone"

(See page 10)
(See page 11)

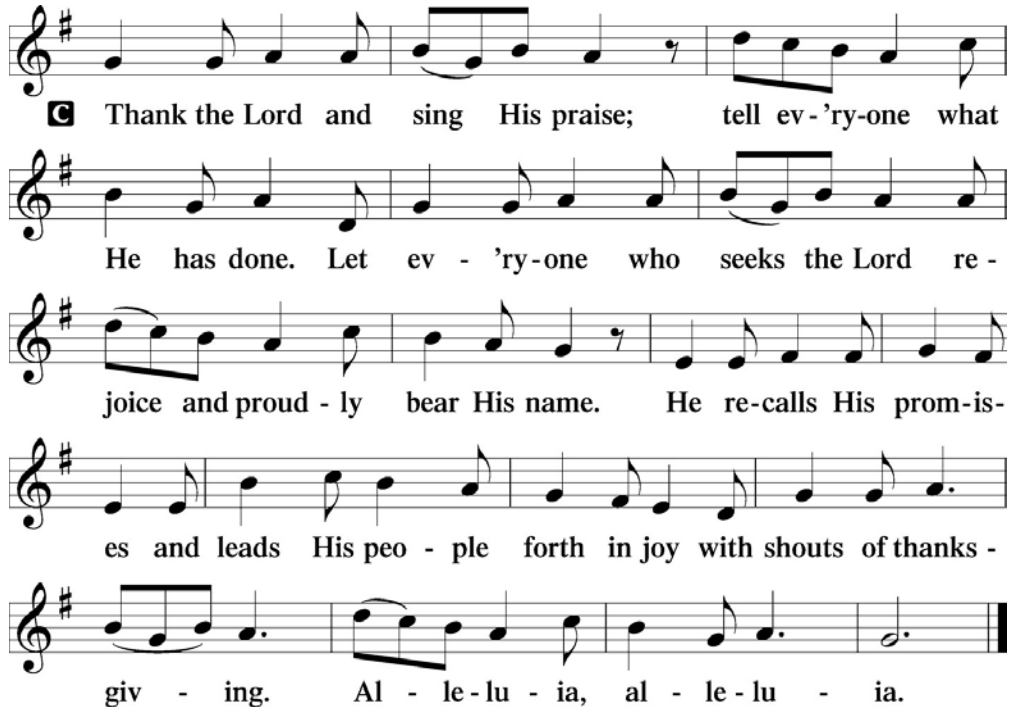
WORDS OF PEACE AND JOY

Communicants' Dismissal

- P: Now may this Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in ☩ peace!
- C: **Amen.**

WE DEPART WITH THANKS AND PRAISE

Post-Communion Canticle
(LSB pg. 181)



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-
joice and proud-ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

TAKING IT HOME

Romans 8:22-24a (ESV)

- P: "For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly..."
- C: **As we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved."**

WE RECEIVE THE BLESSING OF GOD

Benediction
Numbers 6:24–26

- 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 His favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

"The Church's One Foundation"
Stanzas 1, 3, 4



LSB# 644

POSTLUDE



Our Worship Servants

Liturgist/Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ted Hopkins
Director of Music: Dr. John Boonenberg
Family Worship Team: Fred & Laurie Metzger
Hospitality: Nancy Niemela
Lay Reader/Elder: Myron Hepner

In Christ Alone: by Keith Getty/Stuart Townend, © 2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCL#11313419

How Deep the Father's Love For Us: Stuart Townend © 1995 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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St. Paul Stephen Ministry

Are you feeling overwhelmed, grieving a loss, or navigating a health crisis? SPAA is here for you. Our trained Stephen Ministers offer compassionate, confidential, and Christ-centered care, providing the support you need during challenging times. Contact Cherise Callahan at 734-395-8775 to connect with a Stephen Minister who will offer a listening ear and a caring heart.

Our Offerings and Gifts

Looking for different options to financially support the ministry of St. Paul through your regular offerings or one-time gifts?



Download the **Church Center** app from the Google Play or Apple App stores and navigate to "Give"



or Scan the **QR Code** to give immediately through Church Center

or Visit <https://st-paul-lutheran-church-ann-arbor.churchcenter.com/giving>



or Mail checks to: **St. Paul Lutheran Church**
420 W Liberty St
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



For more giving information, go to: <https://www.stpaulannarbor.org/give/>

2025-2026 SPAA Attendance and Offering						
Month	Attendance	Offering	Budget	Bud. Var.	Prior Year	PYVar.
July	278	\$ 85,561	\$ 103,200	\$ (17,639)	\$ 95,048	\$ (9,487)
August	292	\$ 92,582	\$ 129,100	\$ (36,518)	\$ 87,623	\$ 4,960
September	364	\$ 108,717	\$ 106,200	\$ 2,517	\$ 98,203	\$ 10,514
October	347	\$ 112,763	\$ 106,200	\$ 6,563	\$ 140,243	\$(27,480)
November	311	\$ 135,822	\$ 132,800	\$ 3,022	\$ 106,819	\$ 29,004
December	291	\$ 163,097	\$ 123,200	\$ 39,897	\$ 157,855	\$ 5,242
January	306	\$ 91,986	\$ 106,200	\$ (14,214)	\$ 107,378	\$(15,392)
February	350	\$ 128,052	\$ 107,400	\$ 20,652	\$ 87,936	\$ 40,116
March	356	\$ 118,257	\$ 135,200	\$ (16,943)	\$ 118,139	\$ 118
April	428	\$ 112,360	\$ 114,900	\$ (2,540)	\$ 95,801	\$ 16,559
May	360	\$ 107,685	\$ 132,800	\$ (25,115)	\$ 112,259	\$ (4,575)
June	-	\$ -	\$ 104,800	\$ -	\$ 122,082	\$ -
YTD	335	\$ 1,256,881	\$ 1,402,000	\$ (40,319)	\$1,329,384	\$ 49,579



News & Upcoming Events

Don't miss out! Sign up for our e-News at: www.stpaulannarbor.org/news-and-events

Fellowship Sunday and Kids Word Resumes - August 2nd!

Kids Word will resume at the late service this Sunday, August 2nd. This is also our last summer Fellowship Sunday with coffee, donuts and extended social time after worship. We hope you will join us!

Welcome to our New DCE Intern, Grace Wiebe!

St. Paul Ann Arbor is excited to announce that we are soon receiving our Director of Christian Education (DCE) Intern from Concordia University St. Paul (MN). Grace will officially start August 11th so look for more information about getting to know her in our August newsletter. To help Grace feel truly welcomed as she begins her year with us, we invite you to share a little extra St. Paul hospitality. **Beginning August 2, we will be collecting cards and gift cards for Grace as she settles into life in Ann Arbor (see baskets at worship entrances).** A gas card, grocery gift card, or a gift card to a local restaurant or coffee shop would be a thoughtful way to support her. A handwritten note or card with words of encouragement would mean so much as well, reminding Grace that she is already cared for and loved by this congregation. Please keep Grace in your prayers as she makes this big move to Ann Arbor. We look forward to welcoming Grace for her intern year at SPAA!

Looking for Community Group Leaders for this fall!

Are you interested in gathering with other people to do something you love for 8-12 weeks this fall? We have community groups forming as Bible studies, Faith & Film, service projects, playing basketball, hiking and more. **We are looking to add some new groups this fall!** If you are interested in facilitating or co-facilitating a short-term group, meeting for up to 12 weeks (as often as you'd like), please reach out to Natalie Nesbitt at nesbitt@stpaulannarbor.org for more information. Some ideas for new groups might be a running group, pickleball, prayer & coffee, preschool play group, book club, knitting group, whatever you would like to lead, we want to hear it!



Church Office Summer Hours:

During the summer, our church office will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9am - 3pm. If you would like to leave a message for staff after hours please call 734-665-9117 or email them directly. Scan the QR code for our staff directory!
