

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 26, 2026

8:30am



You Are A Treasure

AS WE GATHER

Jesus' parables in today's Gospel are a bit difficult to understand. In the first, the kingdom of heaven is hidden like treasure in a field. In the second, it is extremely costly, like a large, perfect pearl. And we rejoice that we have found the Kingdom and value it above all. But what about that third parable, in which angels sort evil and righteous people like fish being burned or saved? Can we sinner-saints be confident as that day approaches? We can, for our inclusion in the Kingdom is not because of anything we have done. First, God chose us to be a people for His treasured possession, the Old Testament Reading tells us. Then, explains the Epistle, "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" (Romans 8:34). Our heavenly Father sent His Son to give us His own righteousness. For our Lord, incorporating us in the kingdom of heaven was something to die for.

WELCOME – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn**RINGING OF THE BELL**

500 Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid



1 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose aid The world's foun - da - tions
 2 O Source of un - cre - at - ed light, The bear - er of God's
 3 Giv - er of grace, de - scend from high; Your sev'n - fold gifts to
 4 Im - mor - tal hon - or, end - less fame At - tend the al - might - y



first were laid, Come, vis - it ev - 'ry hum - ble mind; Come,
 gra - cious might, Thrice - ho - ly fount, thrice - ho - ly fire, Our
 us sup - ply; Help us e - ter - nal truths re - ceive And
 Fa - ther's name; The Sav - ior - Son be glo - ri - fied, Who



pour Your joys on hu - man - kind; From sin and sor - row
 hearts with heav'n - ly love in - spire; Your sa - cred, heal - ing
 prac - tice all that we be - lieve; Give us Your - self that
 for all hu - man - kind has died; To You, O Par - a -



set us free; May we Your liv - ing tem - ples be.
 mes - sage bring To sanc - ti - fy us as we sing.
 we may see The glo - ry of the Trin - i - ty.
 clete, we raise Un - end - ing songs of thanks and praise.

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *1 Peter 2:9; Isaiah 43:1; Colossians 3:12*

- Pastor: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession,
- People: that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**
- Pastor: Now thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel:
- People: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine."**
- Pastor: Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
- People: compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- Pastor: Heavenly Father, Creator of life and light,
- People: we confess that we have not reflected Your great love to us in sending Your Son to give up everything, including life itself, so that You may own us as Your beloved people. We have not loved the people around us as ourselves.**
- Pastor: Lord Jesus, our Redeemer,
- People: we confess that we have not borne Your name to the world. We have not loved You with all our heart, mind, and strength.**
- Pastor: O Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
- People: we confess that we have not shown Your love to the people near and dear to us, nor to those with whom we learn, work, and play.**

Pastor: O Holy Trinity,

People: **forgive us and comfort us; surround us with Your love so that we may be the treasured possessions You desire us to be. Forgive us for Your name's sake. Amen.**

Pastor: Rejoice and be glad! Our Lord Jesus Christ visited this dark world and gave His perfect life in payment for your sins. He has restored You to be fit for the Kingdom of God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

You treasure us, O Lord, and You steadfastly love Your chosen people.

People: **In the midst of even the worst things that can happen to us, we are more than conquerors through the love of Jesus.**

Pastor: Help us to know the peace that Your presence brings in the midst of our troubles,

People: **and guide us toward the kingdom You promised;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 7:6-9 (*God has chosen you as His treasured possession.*)

Reader: ⁶ For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

⁷ The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.

People: ⁸ But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Reader: ⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:28–39* (Paul gives words to the inexpressibly lavish love of God in Christ Jesus.)

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.

God's Everlasting Love

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,

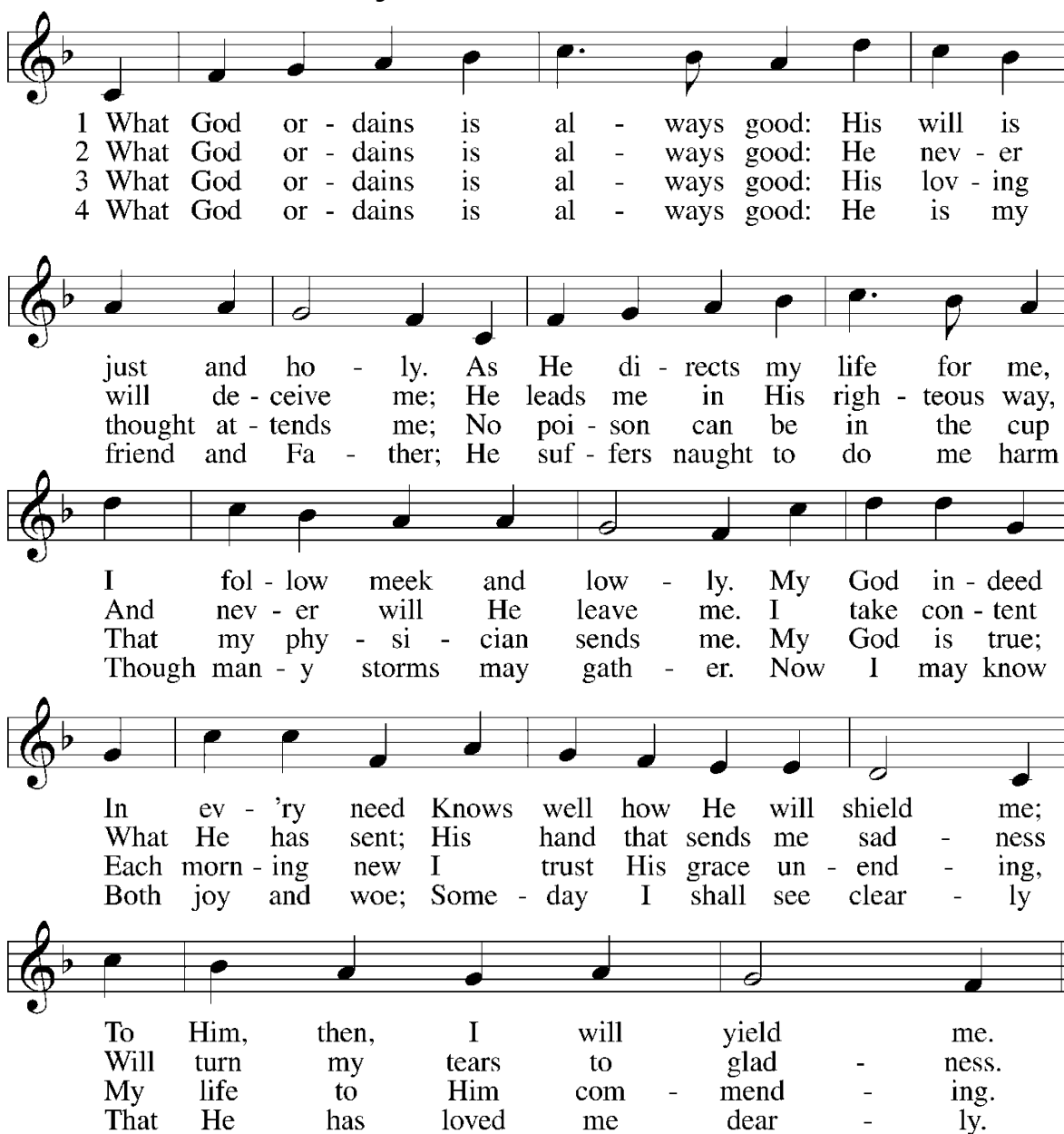
"For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

760 What God Ordains Is Always Good



1 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His will is
2 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He nev - er
3 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His lov - ing
4 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He is my

just and ho - ly. As He di - rects my life for me,
will de - ceive me; He leads me in His righ - teous way,
thought at - tends me; No poi - son can be in the cup
friend and Fa - ther; He suf - fers naught to do me harm

I fol - low meek and low - ly. My God in - deed
And nev - er will He leave me. I take con - tent
That my phy - si - cian sends me. My God is true;
Though man - y storms may gath - er. Now I may know

In ev - 'ry need Knows well how He will shield me;
What He has sent; His hand that sends me sad - ness
Each morn - ing new I trust His grace un - end - ing,
Both joy and woe; Some - day I shall see clear - ly

To Him, then, I will yield me.
Will turn my tears to glad - ness.
My life to Him com - mend - ing.
That He has loved me dear - ly.

HOLY GOSPEL READING Matthew 13:44-52 (Parables of the Kingdom)

Reader: ⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

People: ⁴⁵ **"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.**

Reader: ⁴⁷ "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

People: **"Yes," they replied.**

Reader: ⁵² He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE 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.

713 From God Can Nothing Move Me



1 From God can noth - ing move me; He will not step a - side
 2 When those whom I re - gard - ed As trust - wor - thy and sure
 3 The Lord my life ar - rang - es; Who can His work de - stroy?
 4 Each day at His good plea - sure God's gra - cious will is done.



But gent - ly will re - prove me And be my con - stant guide.
 Have long from me de - part - ed, God's grace shall still en - dure.
 In His good time He chang - es All sor - row in - to joy.
 He sent His great - est trea - sure In Je - sus Christ, His Son.



He stretch - es out His hand In eve - ning and in morn - ing,
 He res - cues me from sin And breaks the chains that bind me.
 So let me then be still: My bod - y, soul, and spir - it
 He ev - 'ry gift im - parts. The bread of earth and heav - en



My life with grace a - dorn - ing Wher - ev - er I may stand.
 I leave death's fear be - hind me; His peace I have with - in.
 His ten - der care in - her - it Ac - cord - ing to His will.
 Are by His kind - ness giv - en. Praise Him with thank - ful hearts!

MESSAGE – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

6 Yet even though I suffer
 The world's unpleasantness,
 And though the days grow rougher
 And bring me great distress,
 That day of bliss divine,
 Which knows no end or measure,
 And Christ, who is my pleasure,
 Forever shall be mine.

7 For thus the Father willed it,
 Who fashioned us from clay;
 And His own Son fulfilled it
 And brought eternal day.
 The Spirit now has come,
 To us true faith has given;
 He leads us home to heaven.
 O praise the Three in One!

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: God has chosen us to be His treasured possession and has given His Son to die for us. Let us go to Him with all our concerns.
For the Church around the world, that lay and clergy members alike seek to reveal the invisible treasure of God's love in Christ; for all who seek value in themselves, that they discover God's great love for them, and for all those who will face God's judgment at the end of the age, that they realize the forgiveness He offers in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: For the leaders of the world's nations, that they seek to relieve conflict and ensure justice; for farmers and ranchers that they look for ways that feed us all while caring for God's good earth; for all who go into harm's way in our communities and across the globe; and for all who work to meet the needs of those who are sick and suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Guide, strengthen, and protect them all, heavenly Father.

Pastor: For those near and dear to us in their various crises of health and long-term ills; the victims of flood, fire, or quake; and those who do not know where to turn, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Visit, sustain, and open doors of healing and peace according to Your gracious will, O God.

Pastor: For ourselves, parents and children, singles and couples, young and old, that we strengthen one another in faith and love, in strength and confidence amid the conflicts and turmoil of this world, that God's love and grace be evident in how we care for one another, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear our prayer, heavenly Father, for we call to You in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

If you brought your offering today, you are welcome to leave it in the offering box you will find at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

We invite our guests and members to fill out our Friendship Card during worship, which is found on the back of the pew. Please leave your card at the end of the pew near the center aisle as you leave.

Offertory



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

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. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold to what is good; return no person evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak and value the sanctity of life; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you.

People: **Amen.**

THE INVITATIONS

728 How Firm a Foundation

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.
- 4 "When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.



Need some PRAYER? Anyone who desires special private prayer with a pastor or a Stephen Minister may do so by coming forward after service to one of the front pews.

Our Vision — a place to come for comfort, support, answers, opportunities to serve, and to strengthen a salvation relationship with Jesus



WHERE WE SERVE

Preacher/Officiant

Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

Music Director

Paul Ventimiglia

Family Life

Jeanette Koch

Elder

Mark Baumgarten

Ushers

John Hasse
Charleen Hill
Bob McGuigan
Pat McGuigan

Greeter

Huskey Family

Counters

Dave Tischler
Jan Paver

Reader

Mike Ames

Welcome Center

Pat McGuigan

Coffee Hour

Board of Elders

Tech Team

Thomas Kutz

Remember Our HomeboundJean Pichan
Northville Pointe Senior Living
40405 6 Mile Rd.
Northville, MI 48168

Bible Study and Small Group Opportunities

SUNDAYS: Join us for Bible study and fellowship @ 9:45am in the church Parish Hall.

SATURDAYS: Men's Bible Study – Every 1st and 3rd Saturday @ 9:00am – Parish Hall

Attendance Last week: 7.19.2026– Attendance – 8:30am –108 + 11:00am – 75 = 183
Communion – 142

Received week of 7.19.2026 for **Church** (Envelopes + loose plate)- **\$14,055** total includes online giving
School - \$0

In memory of Carole Miller and the Confirmation Class of 1956, a donation has been made to the Student Aid Fund from Christian and Sandy Krauter.

In memory of “Baba” Diana Babic a donation has been made to the General Fund Memorials from the Babic Family.

26	JUL, SUN	● 8:30 – 9:30am	Worship
		● 8:30 – 9:30am	Worship w/ Communion
		● 9:45 – 10:45am	Sunday School & Youth Bible Study
		● 11am – 12pm	Worship
		● 7 – 9pm	Adult pick up basketball - check notes for availability school gym
27	JUL, MON	● 6:30 – 7:30pm	Council Mtg PH Parish Hall
30	JUL, THU	● 4:30 – 5:30pm	Choir Practice
		● 5:45 – 7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal - church
31	JUL, FRI	● 7 – 9pm	AA Mtg. church parish hall
		● 9 – 11:30pm	Yuta Basketball Rental gym
1	AUG, SAT	● All day	Men's Bible Study Parish Hall

At the LWML Convention at the end of June, new Mission Grants in the amount of \$281,250 were approved for the 2026-2028 Biennium. The first grant approved is called "CTSFW Food Co-op Purchase Food for Seminary Students – Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne" in the amount of \$15,000. The CTSFW Food Co-op provides up to 85 percent of student families' monthly grocery needs at no cost to them. This is a tremendous blessing for families operating on a student budget. Operating as an actual cooperative, each family volunteers monthly to receive points used to purchase grocery items. The Co-op spends approximately \$7,000 a month on fresh produce, eggs, milk, cheese, ground beef, and other grocery items to fill the shelves. The Co-op has taken away the concern for the men and women who answered God's call to serve Him and you. The month of July is also one of the four months that MITES are collected. Look for the large MITE box in the narthex this month. Thank you for your generous support of MITES over the years



Wild Card Bible Quizzing Tournament This FREE Bible Quizzing tournament will be hosted at **St. Paul Church**. There is **no age limit**. Join us **Saturday, September 12, 2026 @ 12PM-5PM!** The material will be 8 random chapters from the Gospel of John (randomly selected 1 week before the tournament). No prior knowledge of the material is required. All ages welcome on teams of 3 people each. For info or to register, visit biblequizzing.azurewebsites.net/Tournaments or talk to Jake Fairbairn <jakecfairbairn@gmail.com>, (248) 231-9684.

St. Paul Endowment Fund News It is amazing to think that the St. Paul Endowment Fund began in 2011 with a single gift of just **\$1,000**. Through God's blessings and the generosity of our congregation, the Fund has continued to grow and support meaningful ministry opportunities.

As of **June 19, 2026**, the Endowment Fund balance stands at **\$110,879.42**. Even after making grant distributions this year, the Fund has continued to grow, ensuring that it will continue to provide lasting support for the ministries of St. Paul for generations to come.

We are now in our **fifth year of awarding grants**. Since the program began, the Endowment Fund has awarded more than **\$19,285** in grants to support ministry, outreach, education, and facility improvements.

Grants Awarded in the First Half of 2026 (\$2450 in remaining grant dollars for 2026, application window opens in October)

- Bible Quizzing – **\$500**
- Mission Trip – **\$1,500**
- LWML Convention – **\$1,000**

Previous Endowment Fund Grants Have Supported:

- National Youth Gathering (Texas)
- Belize Mission Trip
- Protect Young Eyes Technology Event
- Handbell Choir Storage Cases
- New Church Website
- Science & Chemistry Learning Materials
- Christmas Decorations
- Church Roof
- Church Administration Office Construction
- VBS T-Shirts
- Church Sign Refurbishment
- Marketing & Ministry Materials

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Endowment Fund over the years. Every gift—large or small—is an investment in the future of St. Paul. Your generosity continues to make a lasting impact by supporting ministries that strengthen our church, serve our community, and share Christ's love with others.

Please continue to keep the Endowment Fund in your prayers and consider making a gift as you are able. Together, we are building a legacy of faithful stewardship that will bless St. Paul for generations to come.

Regards, Vicki Filipiak



Weather permitting, the parking lot will have cracks filled and seal coated and painted the week of August 1.

 **It can be driven upon 5 hours after painting.**

 **It should not interfere with Sunday worship.**



OUR NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome Courtney Julien and her two sons Isaac (14) and Samuel (11) to the St. Paul family. The Julien family participated in VBS this year. Samuel and Isaac were youth helpers and Courtney took pictures. Courtney listed photography and helping at events here as some of her interests. She has already put her photography skills to work and she and Isaac helped with the grounds clean up day earlier this spring. Thank you and we look forward to working beside you more.

Romans 15:7 - "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you."

A delicious summer meal of Cheesy Chicken Pasta Salad was delivered to FOG on Tuesday, July 7. As always this was a joint effort with many people helping to supply the salads, rolls and butter, chips, watermelon, dessert and drinks.



Barbara Hoffmeier joined the servers at FOG with her two granddaughters. Claire and Elise were wonderful helpers and made friends with a young girl there. As we learned, the girls had gone down last year when they were in town and were anxious to go again. What beautiful servant hearts just like their Oma's.

Julia and Pat were so happy to see George. We had been missing him for quite some time and wondering where he was. As it turned out, he needed that support as his brother had passed away

that morning. God comforts for the broken hearted and provides for our needs.



Pastor Nick is back from leave after the birth of his son, Walter. All we had to ask was "do you have any pictures" and he was ready to pull out his phone like every proud Daddy.

Altar Flowers

One vase of flowers is available for sponsorship - August 30. Cost per vase is \$15.00. If you would like to sponsor this vase please contact Anne Burgess 734-765-4792 or anne.burgess.313@gmail.com

JULY 15 FOG DINNER

A meal of Sloppy Joes, green beans, chips, brownies and watermelon was delivered and just about everything was gone. What a great night. It was a smaller than usual group and the pastors thought it might have been because of the heat. There is an air conditioning unit in the meeting room but it didn't really help much. We were concerned that we might have a lot left over but when everyone was served, there was just a little bit of sloppy joes which we left.



Two of our servers were Ann Kelly and Kathy Verseman. Ann has been going down for a couple of months now and has become one of our regulars. There is always room for more and you might just fall in love with the mission and the people. The next meal is Tuesday, August 4. Julia Smith was another one of our servers and our official driver when she is available.

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and serve this meal. As the sermon message was Sunday:

***“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” –
Matthew 25:3***

