

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:30 am

August 23, 2026

**Conformed by His GRACE:**

The Rock from Which You Were Hewn

AS WE GATHER

Throughout the Bible, we find God sculpting rocks, constructing with rocks, and protecting others by means of rocks. Ever the master architect, the Lord uses rocks to accomplish His purposes. More than that, the Lord Himself is our rock, the One in whom we have lasting and eternal security. "Built on the Rock the Church shall stand," we sing (*LSB* 645:1). How do we stand? The prophet Isaiah tells us: "Look to the rock from which you were hewn" (Isaiah 51:1). When we see our God as the rock from whom we come and by whom our lives are built, we find that He alone is our lasting foundation, our mighty fortress, and the reason why we gather to worship today.

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

912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
 2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,
 △ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
 And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til
 Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.
 that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.
 pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION LSB 728; 761; 575/576

Pastor: That we may rest on Jesus and His unchanging grace, let us with repentant hearts confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

(We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.)

Pastor: How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!

People: **Heavenly Father, Your Word tells us that we all have sinned and fall short of Your glory. By what we have done and by what we have failed to do, we have lived shaky lives that falter when we do not stand firm in You.**

Pastor: Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee!

People: Lord Jesus, have mercy upon us. You are the rock of ages in whom we find protection and deliverance.

Pastor: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand!

People: Holy Spirit, enable us to trust the promises of Your Word, confident in the forgiveness of sins found in Christ Jesus, our solid rock. Amen.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I am blessed to proclaim the certainty of God's saving grace to all of you! In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, our mighty rock and fortress, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and
righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

3 His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Refrain

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the rock from which we have been hewn.

People: Help us rest securely in Your promises and find strength in Your mighty deliverance;

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 *Isaiah 51:1–6* (“Look to the rock from which you were hewn.”)

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. ³ For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ “Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 11:33–12:8*

(Do not be conformed; be transformed.)

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?"

³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?"

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

A Living Sacrifice

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Gifts of Grace

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 16:13–20*

("On this rock I will build My church.")

Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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.



645 Built on the Rock

- 1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.
- 3 We are God's house of living stones,
Built for His own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
With all His grace and His favor.
- 4 Here stands the font before our eyes,
Telling how God has received us.
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
And what His Supper here gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.
- 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,
That, when the church bells are
ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ His message is bringing:
"I know My own; My own know Me.
You, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you. Amen."

Sermon – Christopher Fairbairn

"In light of what God has done, here is **how we should live.**"

— teaches Paul

We move from doctrine to **duty**, from creed to **conduct**,
and from belief to **behavior**.

How do you conform to the pattern of the world and culture around you?

What are you doing to bring the pattern of Christ to your family and community?

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. We rest securely in Your promises, gracious God, and come into Your holy presence with thanksgiving and gratitude in our hearts. Every day, in each and every way, we see all that Your mighty hand has provided to give us everything that we are and everything we possess. Because we are completely dependent upon Your hand to guide us and provide for us, Lord, be our rock of refuge,

People: to which we can always go.

Pastor: In Holy Baptism, You have anchored us in Your Word and united us with Christ Jesus. Your Spirit will never forsake Your own, for we rest securely in the blood and righteousness our Savior has given to us and to all who trust in Him. Enable Your Church to proclaim the Good News of Jesus until the day He comes again in all power and glory. Until that day when every knee shall bow before You, lead our hearts to believe and our mouths to confess Your saving name. Lord, be our rock of refuge,

People: to which we can always go.

Pastor: Without Your aid, O Lord, we fail. When we falter and fall, uplift us by Your grace. Be near to the downtrodden, the heart-broken, and the weary. Steady the knees that give way, reminding those with fearful hearts that You alone are the God who saves. Stretch out Your arm to be a shield and fortress for all who are in harm's way. Inspire us by the sacrifice of those who lay down their lives for our benefit. Give courage to those who walk through times of temptation and testing, helping them to know You are the God who provides hope for all who seek You. Lord, be our rock of refuge,

People: to which we can always go.

Pastor: Many among us are suffering and in great need, O Lord. We name before You those we know and love whose concerns are known to You, the One who knows all things. Answer their prayers and, according to Your good and gracious will, enable them to gratefully receive all You give. We pray for those who are in need within our Christian congregation and among our families and friends. Lord, be our rock of refuge,

People: to which we can always go.

Pastor: Built on the rock of Jesus and His mighty Word, we have hope in this world because of the certainty we have of life forever with You. Use honesty to disrupt us, hope to sculpt us, joy to construct us, peace to protect us, and faith to persist in us. Help us to see how awesome You are, O Lord! We know Your Word is faithful and true because You alone are the rock from which our lives have been hewn and in whom we rest securely. Into Your merciful care we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, ever trusting in Your grace and mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: 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.

The Lord's Prayer

Father, let your kingdom come.
 Father, let your will be done
 On Earth as in Heaven,
 Right here in my heart.

Father, let your kingdom come.
 Father, let your will be done
 On Earth as in Heaven,
 Right here in my heart.

Give us this day our daily bread.
 Forgive us, forgive us
 As we forgive the ones who sinned
 Against us; forgive them.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 But deliver us from the evil one.
 Let your kingdom come.

Father, let your kingdom come.
 Father, let your will be done
 On Earth as in Heaven,
 Right here in my heart.

Father, let your kingdom come.
 Father, let your will be done
 On Earth as in Heaven,
 Right here in my heart.

It's yours, it's yours,
 All yours, all yours.
 The kingdom, the power,
 The glory are yours.

It's yours, it's yours,
 All yours, all yours.
 Forever and ever
 The kingdom is yours.

Father, let your kingdom come.
 Father, let your will be done
 On Earth as in Heaven,
 Right here in my heart.

On Earth as in Heaven,
 Right here in my heart

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord alone is our rock and our refuge, our fortress and our deliverer.
His blessing be upon us as we go forth in His name.

Pastor: 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 favor and ✕ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

THE INVITATIONS**RECESSIONAL HYMN****918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer**

1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.



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	John Hasse
Ushers	John Hasse Charleen Hill Bob McGuigan Pat McGuigan
Greeter	Krause Family
Counters	Jan Greulich Frank Newman George Foor
Reader	Marty Jenter
Welcome Center	Pat McGuigan
Coffee Hour	Board of Trustees
Tech Team	Thomas Kutz

Remember Our Homebound

Margaret Parkinson
735 Randolph Unit 121
Northville, MI 48167

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

Altar Flowers

Two vases in memory of our dear departed parents; Larry Lincoln and Ruth and Edward Hempel
from Chuck and Beth Hempel.

Please arrange to pick up your flowers after the 11 am service.

Attendance Last week: 8.16.2026– Attendance – 8:30am – 112 + 11:00am – 69 = 181
Communion - 142

Received week of 8.16.2026 for **Church** (Envelopes + loose plate)- **\$14,750** total includes online giving
School - \$0

23	AUG, SUN	● 8:30 – 9:30am	Worship
		● 9:45 – 10:45am	Sunday School & Youth Bible Study
		● 11am – 12pm	Worship
		● 7 – 9pm	Adult pick up basketball - check notes for availability school gym
24	AUG, MON	● 6:30 – 7:30pm	Council Mtg PH Parish Hall
25	AUG, TUE	● 9 – 10am	Yolanda M. - Parish Hall
27	AUG, THU	● 4:30 – 5:30pm	Choir Practice
		● 5:45 – 7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal - church
28	AUG, FRI	● 7 – 9pm	AA Mtg. church parish hall
		● 9 – 11:30pm	Yuta Basketball Rental gym



Your Input Is Needed: For the past 65 years St. Paul Lutheran Church has been blessed with the opportunity to serve the congregation and community by providing a Lutheran Day School. We have shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ while providing traditional education through the elementary school years. In recent years this opportunity has been challenged by changing demographics in our community and differing expectations on the part of parents. The Board of the Day school has come to a point where decisions must be made to assure that the school best meets the needs of families of the congregation.

As we plan for the future, we want to hear from every member of our congregation. Your responses are anonymous unless you choose to identify yourself. The deadline for the survey is Sunday, September 13, 2026. Please scan this code to your device to complete the survey. Thank you for helping us prayerfully discern God's direction for our school ministry.



Rally Day is Sept. 13, 2026. It's also Grandparents Day. Please plan to celebrate this special day at an outdoor service. There will be one service at 10:30 am. The location is Cass Benton Park in Northville. The address is 18005 Northville Road, Northville. You may enter Cass Benton Park from either Hines Drive or Northville Road. The park is located between 6 and 7 mile. There is a nice pavilion, rest rooms, play ground and parking. There is no fee to enter the park. There will be a potluck lunch following the service. Watch for a sign up Genius to volunteer a dish. We look forward to praising our Lord among the trees, flowers, birds and all the natural beauty.



**Thank You, St. Paul
Lutheran Church
for Supporting the**

awpc™

Baby Bottle Drive!

Thanks to your generous hearts, **\$1,577 was raised in the Baby Bottle Drive** to support Another Way Pregnancy Center. Your gifts help extend Christ's love to women and families facing unplanned pregnancies, offering hope, healing, and life-affirming care.

**"Let all that you do be done in love."
— 1 Corinthians 16:14**

Thank you for being a part of this life-affirming mission!



Praise
IN THE PARK

**THANK YOU TO OUR
TABLE SPONSORS!**

FAMILY LIFE RADIO
ALLIANCE CATHOLIC CREDIT UNION
HILL CITY CHURCH
FARMINGTON HILLS CHURCH OF GOD
OUR LADY OF SORROWS CATHOLIC CHURCH
NOVI RIGHT TO LIFE
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CNS HEALTHCARE
ESSENTIAL FAMILY CHIROPRACTOR
IMPACT CHURCH
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - COUNCIL 4401
MICHIGAN NURSES FOR LIFE/LIFESPAN
REACHOUT WORLD
WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED

Maui Vacation in your Plans?



As a way of raising funds for our St. Paul short-term mission trips, a generous family in our congregation is offering the use of their condominium at the beautiful Sands of Kahana Resort in Maui, Hawaii during the week of December 4 - December 11, 2026. More information about the resort at <https://sandsofkahanaresort.com/>. The unit (Orchid Room) is a two bedroom / two bath, with kitchen and with a pull-out couch, comfortably sleeps up to six people. The unit will be awarded to the highest bidder (minimum bid is \$500) in a blind auction with the winning bidder notified on October 1st. Auction proceeds will be deposited to the St. Paul Short-Term mission fund to support future SPL MOST mission trip goers.

Please submit a short statement of your interest along with your bid to Jeff Henning (Jhenning90@comcast.net) by September 30, 2026. If you should have any questions or want more information, please reach out to Jeff Henning or Chris Burgess. Chris and Ann Burgess took advantage of this opportunity last year and would be happy to describe their wonderful experience to interested bidders!

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.



We'll run it after both services, so make it to whichever one works best for you. No commitment required. Check out what Bible Quizzing is all about!

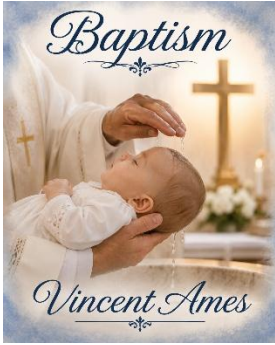
Interested in quizzing or volunteering? Talk to Jake Fairbairn <jakecfairbairn@gmail.com>, (248) 231-9684>.

St. Paul Bible Quizzing - Kids & Adult Volunteers Needed!

Bible Quizzing is a great way to learn Scripture with friends and with the motivation of competition. This year we'll be going over the Gospel of John, which is a great place to get started in Scripture! Kids in 2nd-12th grade are welcome to join. Membership at St. Paul is not required. All experience levels welcome (no prior Bible knowledge required!).

Join us for a 20 minute Bible Quizzing demo with short games, activities, and Q&A in the school building on August 16 and August 23.





We share in the joy of **HOLY BAPTISM OF Vincent Donato Ames** in the 11:00am worship service today. Vincent is the infant son of Evan and Sabrina Ames and was born in Royal Oak, Michigan. Vincent's sponsors are Jessica and Andrew Roy. As God writes Vincent's name in the book of life let us all pray that this new relationship that has begun today will be lived, explored and discovered throughout Vincent's life.



OUR NEW MEMBERS

Lisa and Francis Murkowski are our newest members to our St. Paul family. Lisa has a Science and Language arts background, she is a retired teacher and she enjoys writing, reading and crafts. In her previous congregation she was a "Divorce Care Facilitator" and has served with VBS and Mission Trips. She would like to be a reader here. Francis is a retired Marketing Manager and likes reading and fishing. He would like to serve here as a reader and help with marketing.

We welcome **Megan Kutz** officially as a member of St. Paul although she and her family have been worshipping with us for quite some time now. Megan transferred her membership from Saint Matthew Lutheran Church in Walled Lake. She is a Special Ed Teacher in Northville Public Schools. She likes writing, reading and yoga. She has already helped with several events including VBS and is on the prayer chain. She would like to help with FOG meals and be a reader. So happy to welcome her.

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."