

8:30 AM

September 27, 2026



Whom Shall I Love and Whom Shall I Fear?

AS WE GATHER

We always want to know why. The rulers of the people wanted to know why Jesus was saying what He said and doing what He did. But Jesus challenged them with His Word and with the prophetic voice of John the Baptist. Why did they not listen, and why did they not repent?

Why do we not listen and repent? Jesus told a parable of two sons—one whose words were yes but his heart was no, and the other whose words were no but whose heart said yes. We are called to listen. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and we shall be saved.

WELCOME – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

Preservice Music / Harpist – Brittany DeYoung

How Great Thou Art *Arranged by Brittany DeYoung*

901 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so
 3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy



en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
 un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,
 du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,
 gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;



Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
 There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O
 Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I
 May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing



is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
 en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!
 hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.

5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be done indeed.
 May I undisturbed draw near Thee While Thou dost Thy people feed.
 Here of life the fountain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 25:6–7; 147:6*

Pastor: The Lord lifts up the humble;

People: He casts the wicked to the ground.

Pastor: Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love

People: for they have been from of old.

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

People: according to Your steadfast love, remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:8–9*

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Let us therefore come before His throne of grace with humble and sincere hearts to lay our burdens down.

Silent prayer for personal confession

Pastor: Gracious Lord,

People: we come before You, laying the burden of our sin at the foot of Your cross. We openly acknowledge our failure to follow Your plans for our lives. We have stumbled and fallen in our service to You. We have placed our agenda ahead of Yours. We have been shallow in our love toward You and toward those You have placed in our path. We cry out for mercy, trusting in Your promise to forgive us through the love of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor: God has heard your cry for mercy and fulfills His promise to save and deliver you! Lavishing His grace upon you in Jesus, He enables you to love and forgive as He has first loved and forgiven you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I 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: O God of life and hope, You have given rescue to sinners in despair of their sins and to those marked for death. Turn our attention to Your mercy that we learn to rejoice in Your good will, that all would be saved and strive for unity in Christ our Savior; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Come Lift Up Your Voice

- *St Paul's Choir*

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32* (The Lord takes no pleasure in the death of anyone, so turn to Him.)

The word of the Lord came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life.

²⁸ Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰ "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, everyone according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



EPISTLE *Philippians 2:1–18* (At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow.)

Christ's Example of Humility

2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility **count others more significant than yourselves**. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ **so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lights in the World

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

534 Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

1 Lord, en - throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor, First - be - got - ten
2 Though the low - liest form now veil You As of old in

from the dead, You a - lone, our strong de - fend - er,
Beth - le - hem, Here as there Your an - gels hail You,

Lift - ing up Your peo - ple's head. Al - le - lu - ia,
Branch and flow'r of Jes - se's stem. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus, true and
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! We in wor - ship

liv - ing bread! Je - sus, true and liv - ing bread!
join with them; We in wor - ship join with them.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Great is Thy Faithfulness - *St Paul's Choir*



HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 21:23–32* (Which of the two did the will of his father?)

The Authority of Jesus Challenged

²³ And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

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.

AGPS 78 Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Sing alleluia! Amen!
 Let your prayers and praises ascend.
 Lift up your voices and sing
 To our Lord God, our Savior and King!
 Here brought together by grace
 We are gathered as friends in this place.



REFRAIN

**And assembled as one, in the name of the Son,
 Lifting hearts, lifting hands, Celebrating as friends,
 And proclaiming the Lord, All our praises afford.
 We are brothers and sisters in Christ.**

Man walked alone and in need
 Without faith, hope or promise or creed;
 Wandering, aimlessly lost,
 Unaware of the staggering cost;
 That God in his mercy would save
 All his people from death and the grave. **REFRAIN**

Lord, teach us how to proclaim
 All your goodness, your love and your name!
 Lord, teach us how to forgive
 And in love, teach us, Lord, how to live.
 Raising our voices in song,
 Help us tell all the world we belong.

REFRAIN

MESSAGE – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: As You have promised, Lord, hear Your people when they call, and answer us according to Your mercy. Almighty Father, You take no pleasure in the death of anyone. As John the Baptist once called a people to repentance and faith, so raise up voices within Your Church today to call a world to turn from their sins and live through faith in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty Father, You have given to us the saving name of Jesus. Continue to bless us with faithful pastors who will preach Jesus Christ and His salvation, and bestow upon us faithful church workers who will serve us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty Father, You know our enemies and those whose purpose is set against Yours. Give Your blessing to all who defend our nation here and abroad and to all emergency personnel and disaster workers who come to our aid in time of need. Guide the nations in the paths of peace and deliver us from terror and violence. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty Father, You have given us healing, comfort, and peace in Christ, especially in times of illness, affliction, depression, and sorrow. Hear us on behalf of our hurting families and neighbors, those lonely or facing darkness and all who suffer any need. Grant them grace sufficient to sustain them in their hour of trouble and at last deliver them into the perfect rest of Your eternal presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, 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

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: 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

921 On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
 2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
 3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
 Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
 May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
 es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
 low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!



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
 Music Director
 Guest artist
 Family Life
 Elder
 St Paul's Choir

Pastor Christopher Fairbairn
 Paul Ventimiglia
 Harpist / Brittany DeYoung
 Jeanette Koch
 John Hasse

Lisa Fairbairn
 Cheryl Bailey
 Nancy Berg - Crenshaw
 Anne Burgess
 Chris Burgess
 John Hasse
 Barbara Hoffmeier
 Will Hoffmeier
 Linda Johnson
 Rich Johnson
 Chris Englert
 Sue Roman
 Jim Frusti
 Alexandra Vago
 Venetia Shlie

Ushers

John Hasse
 Charleen Hill
 Bob McGuigan
 Pat McGuigan

Greeter

McGuigan Family

Counters

Katie Helmick
 Carole Crete

Reader

Gretchen Hasse

Welcome Center

Beth Hempel

Coffee Hour

Board of Elders

Tech Team

Thomas Kutz

Acolyte

Thomas Kutz

Remember Our Homebound

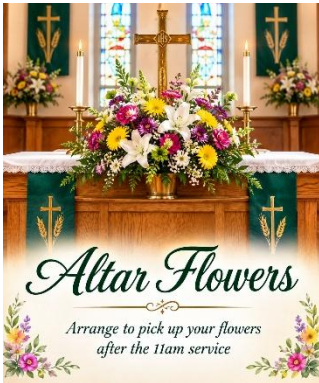
Ann Cook
1823 Crooks Rd.
Rochester, MI 48309

**Bible Study and Small Group Opportunities**

WEDNESDAYS: Women's Bible Study- Wednesdays @ 9:30am in the church Parish Hall.

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



One vase in memory of Russ Kelly's birthday from his wife Ann.

*One vase in appreciation of our music director, Paul Ventimiglia,
for the beautiful music he provides each Sunday from
Doug and Nancy Berg.*

Attendance Last week: 9.20.2026– Attendance – 8:30am - 121 + 11am - 56 = 177
Communion - 149

Received week of 9..2026 for **Church** (Envelopes + loose plate)- **\$ 15,336** total includes online giving
School - **\$1,795**

Good morning church. On October 4, we are going to recognize and celebrate the work of our LWML, Lutheran Women's Missionary League. You will see women participating as readers, ushers, welcome center, greeters, coffee hour helpers, Bible study leader, banner makers, children's message and much more. You can show your support by wearing purple on October 4th, if you have questions, please talk to us. We appreciate the coins (mites) you put in the little boxes, this money goes next door to around the world to tell those that don't know about Jesus in a variety of ways. Thank you Pastor, Paul and our Bells for your support of our Lutheran Women in Mission, helping us celebrate it's work. Serving with Gladness, Sue

For the month of September, Women in Christ is featuring the mission grant entitled "I Was Hungry and You Fed Me—Orphan Grain Train" for the amount of \$18,000. Jesus said whatever care is given others out of Christ-centered love and Christian faith has been done to him (Matthew 25:40). Nourishing with food those who are hungry is the most elementary act of mercy. Jesus did this Himself for thousands. The Mercy Meals initiative of Orphan Grain Train—Michigan is entirely congruent with, and in furtherance of, the LWML mission intention of feeding people the Bread of Life. Please consider putting coins into your MITE box to help those who need our help.

Would you consider helping to keep this tradition alive?



Does it seem like we are recruiting early? Well, you are right.

Traditionally the Board of Evangelism organizes this event. As it turns out, this year 4 of the 7 members are unavailable on October 31. We would like to continue this event, but need to make sure we have enough people available the evening of the 31st to make it work. We can do the preliminary work but need to get our helpers lined up early. If you can spare a few hours, you will be truly appreciated. Sign up Genius will be arriving soon and a poster in the hall.

One vase of flowers is needed for October 18, the cost is \$15.00. If you would like to sponsor a vase, please contact Anne Burgess at 734-765-4792 or anne.burgess.313@gmail.com.





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!

ANOTHER WAY PREGNANCY CENTER
PRESENTS

Our Annual Fall Banquet

CONTENDERS

October 22, 2026
6:00-9:00pm

Italian American Banquet Center
39200 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154
www.awpcf.org/events

Featuring Dr. Marc Newman, Pro-Life Advocate

St. Paul has 3 reserved tables at the banquet. The tickets are discounted to \$50 if you reserve through the McGuigans. We are ready to take your reservation. Paying by check, write the check out to Pat McGuigan for \$50 per ticket or pay cash and your choice of either chicken or vegetarian meal. Questions contact Pat @ 734-718-8597. The deadline for getting discounted tickets from us is October 4.

We served another meal at the Family of God meal on Wednesday, September 16th that was very much appreciated.

Chris and Jeff Henning shopped for the lasagnas, bread and beverages the week before. Nancy Berg did the rest of the shopping for the salad and bananas the day before and Michelle Benson joined her to prepare the food in the school kitchen Wednesday afternoon. Kathy and Dennis Verseman, Rich Mai, and Will Hoffmeier took the food down to the mission to serve. They were joined by David Sonac's family from Salem Lutheran, Westland to serve about 70 people. ALL the food was used and many compliments were given. It's always interesting to interact with the people as they come through the serving line. They come from all walks of life and have some great stories to share. About ten people come to the Bible study before the meal and have been the 'regulars' for years. They always look forward to St Paul, Northville coming because they know "they'll get a really good meal!" Please pray for the Pastors Jim, Nick and Alex and the Deacons Paul and John that work so hard for the mission. And, pray for the people that come for this physical food so they will seek the spiritual food that is so much needed there. *Now that the weather is turning colder we expect more people to come for warmth. Thankfully the new furnace is working - however it hasn't been paid for yet and the FoG needs your financial support. Contact Barbara Hoffmeier or Sue Poole for more information.*