# TWENTY- FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

11:00am

November 8, 2026



Coming . . . Really!

## AS WE GATHER

The final three weeks of the Church Year are traditionally concerned with "the last things." The lessons of the Church bring a special opportunity to reflect on the end of time and on the end of our earthly lives.

It's not a big surprise that no one has accurately predicted the end of the world—not that it hasn't been attempted. From religious sects to cult leaders to apocalyptic predictions made when we entered a new millennium, a fascination grows around those who claim they have it all figured out. We are wise though to take the Lord at His word concerning the Last Day. From Paul writing the Thessalonians about Christ's return, to Jesus' parable of the ten virgins, the Lord does not give us a date or a time of the end of this world as we know it. What He continues to give us, though, are promises of **His faithfulness, His continued care and providence**, and His assurance that when that day comes, it will usher in a glorious blessedness in His perfect presence that will last forever.

**Little Brown Church in the Vale**

- *Mark VanHaaren (Voice/Guitar) & Tony Maltese (Accordion)*

**WELCOME –** Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## 789 Praise and Thanksgiving

1 Praise and Thanksgiving, Father, we offer.
For all things living, created good.
Harvest of Sown Fields, fruit of the orchard.
Hay from the mown fields
Blossom and wood

2 Bless Lord the labor, we bring to serve You
That with our neighbor, we may be fed
Sowing or tilling, we would work with You
Harvesting, milling, for daily bread

*(Instrumental)*

3. Father, providing, food for Your children
By Your wise guiding, teach us to share
One with another, so that rejoicing,
With us all others, may know Your care

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
**People: Amen!**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Amos 5:24; 1 Thessalonians 4:17–18; Matthew 25:13*

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 then confess our sins to God our Father. Merciful Lord, as we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient as we wait.
**People: We become distracted by the things of this world that do not last, and have given our attention and even devotion to things not beneficial to our faith. Forgive us.**

Pastor: As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with others.

**People:** **We have sinned against others and You in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.**

Pastor: As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with You.

**People:** **We come to think the day will never come when You make all things new, and have let our earthly circumstances cause faith to waiver, despair to increase, and doubts to arise. Forgive us.**

Pastor: But let justice roll down like waters,

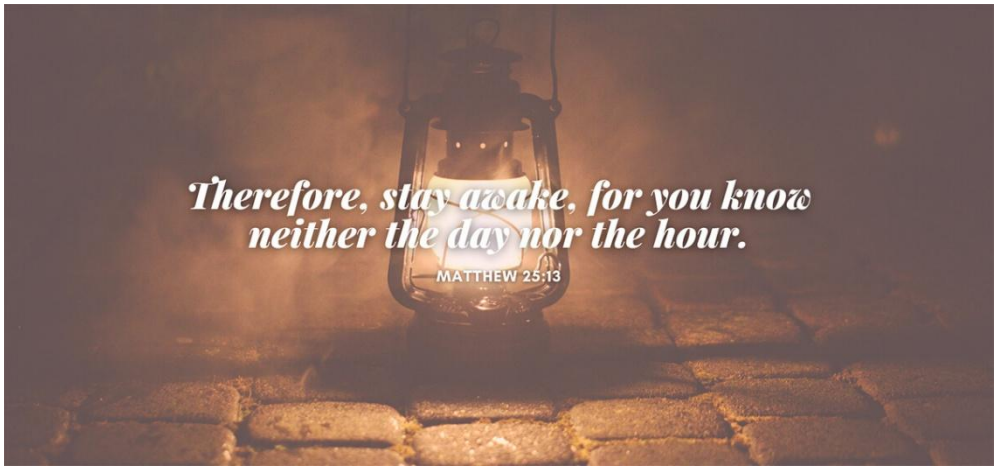
**People:** **and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

Pastor: And so we will always be with the Lord.

**People:** **Therefore encourage one another with these words.**

Pastor: In His parable, Jesus reminds His people to "watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." In our watch and in our waiting, the Lord remains faithful to His promises of provision, and assurance of grace and forgiveness. 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 all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**



## Man on the Middle Cross

- *Mark VanHaaren / Soloist*

*I heard the preacher talking*
*About three wooden crosses*
*Upon a hill for everyone to see*
*Two sinners on the outside*
*Couldn't save themselves if they tried*
*All I could think is man, that sounds like me*

*I've been the one on the left, full of guilt and regret*
*Long-gone on the wrong side of living*
*I've been the one on the right, always looking for a fight*
*Thinking I could never be forgiven*
*I'm standing here today, overwhelmed by grace*
*'Cause I know who paid my cost*
*Thank God for the Man on the middle cross*

*He didn't have to do it*
*But for me, He went through it*
*A love like that, I'll never understand*
*Lord knows I don't deserve it*
*And I know I couldn't earn it*
*Let mercy rain down on this desperate man*

*I've been the one on the left, full of guilt and regret*
*Long-gone on the wrong side of living*
*I've been the one on the right, always looking for a fight*
*Thinking I could never be forgiven*
*I'm standing here today, overwhelmed by grace*
*'Cause I know who paid my cost*
*Thank God for the Man on the middle cross*

*The cross is where He went (He went)*
*Oh, but that ain't where He stayed (He stayed)*
*He brought me back to life*
*When He rose up outta that grave (that grave)*
*Someday I'll stand before Him*
*And I'll see Jesus face to face*
*I'll worship and adore Him*
*For a life forever changed*

*I've been the one on the left, full of guilt and regret*
*Long-gone on the wrong side of living*
*I've been the one on the right, always looking for a fight*
*Thinking I could never be forgiven*
*I'm standing here today, overwhelmed by grace*
*'Cause I know who paid my cost*
*Thank God for the Man on the middle cross*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His Bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**FIRST READING** *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (Paul comforts those who thought Christians who had died might miss Christ's return.)*

Reader: 13 And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.

**People: 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.**

Reader: 15 We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.

**People: 17 Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. 18 So encourage each other with these words.**

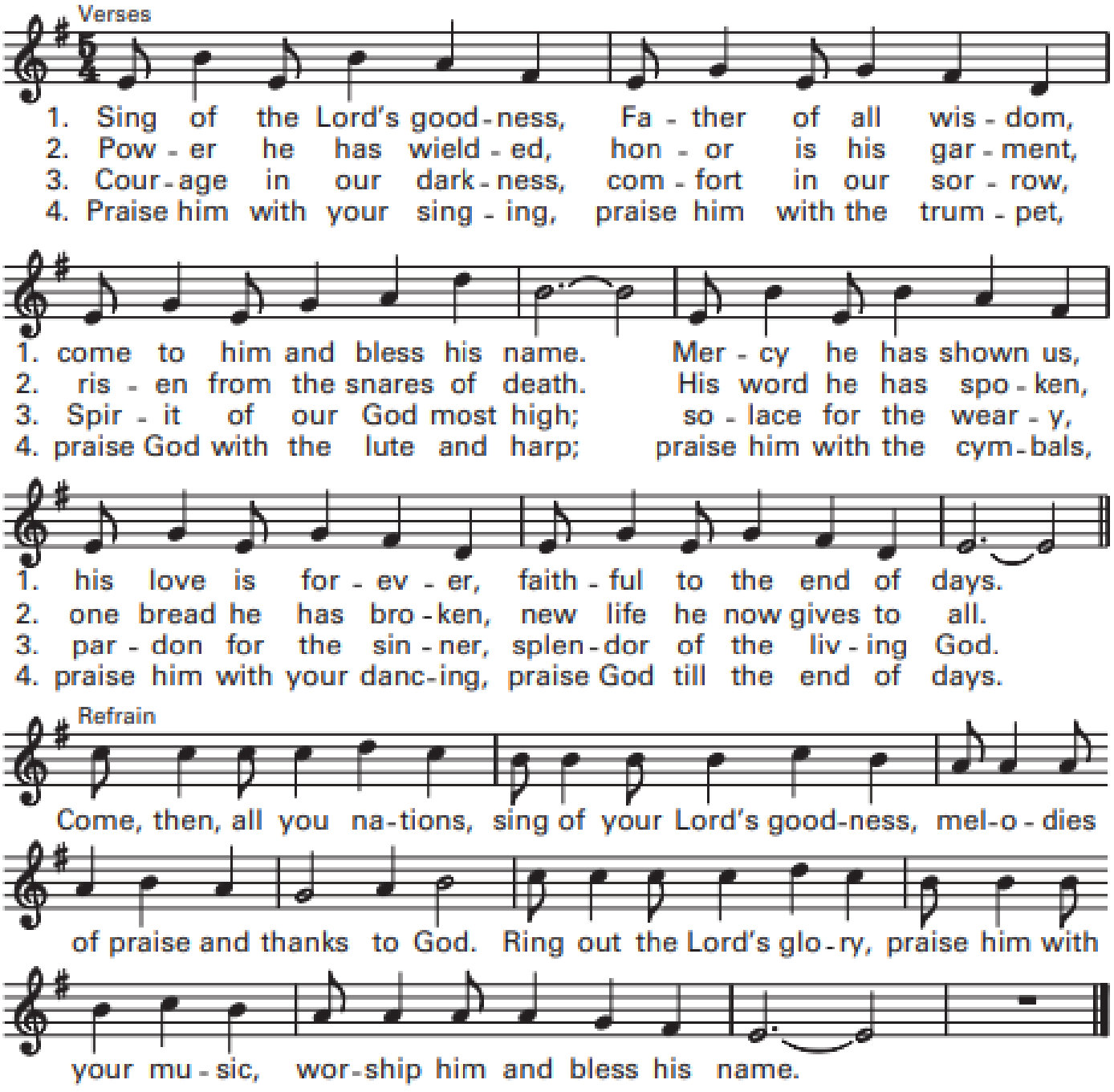
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

# Sing to the Lord's Goodness

Ernest Sands




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**Holy Gospel** *Matthew 25:1–13* (Jesus teaches preparedness for His return.)

"Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and
went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
[3] The five who were foolish didn't take enough olive oil for their lamps, [4] but the
other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. [5] When the bridegroom was
delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.
[6] "At midnight they were roused by the shout, 'Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come
out and meet him!' [7] "All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps.
[8] Then the five foolish ones asked the others, 'Please give us some of your oil
because our lamps are going out.'
[9] "But the others replied, 'We don't have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy
some for yourselves.'
[10] "But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were
ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. [11] Later,
when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, 'Lord! Lord!
Open the door for us!'
[12] "But he called back, 'Believe me, I don't know you!'
[13] "So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.

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.



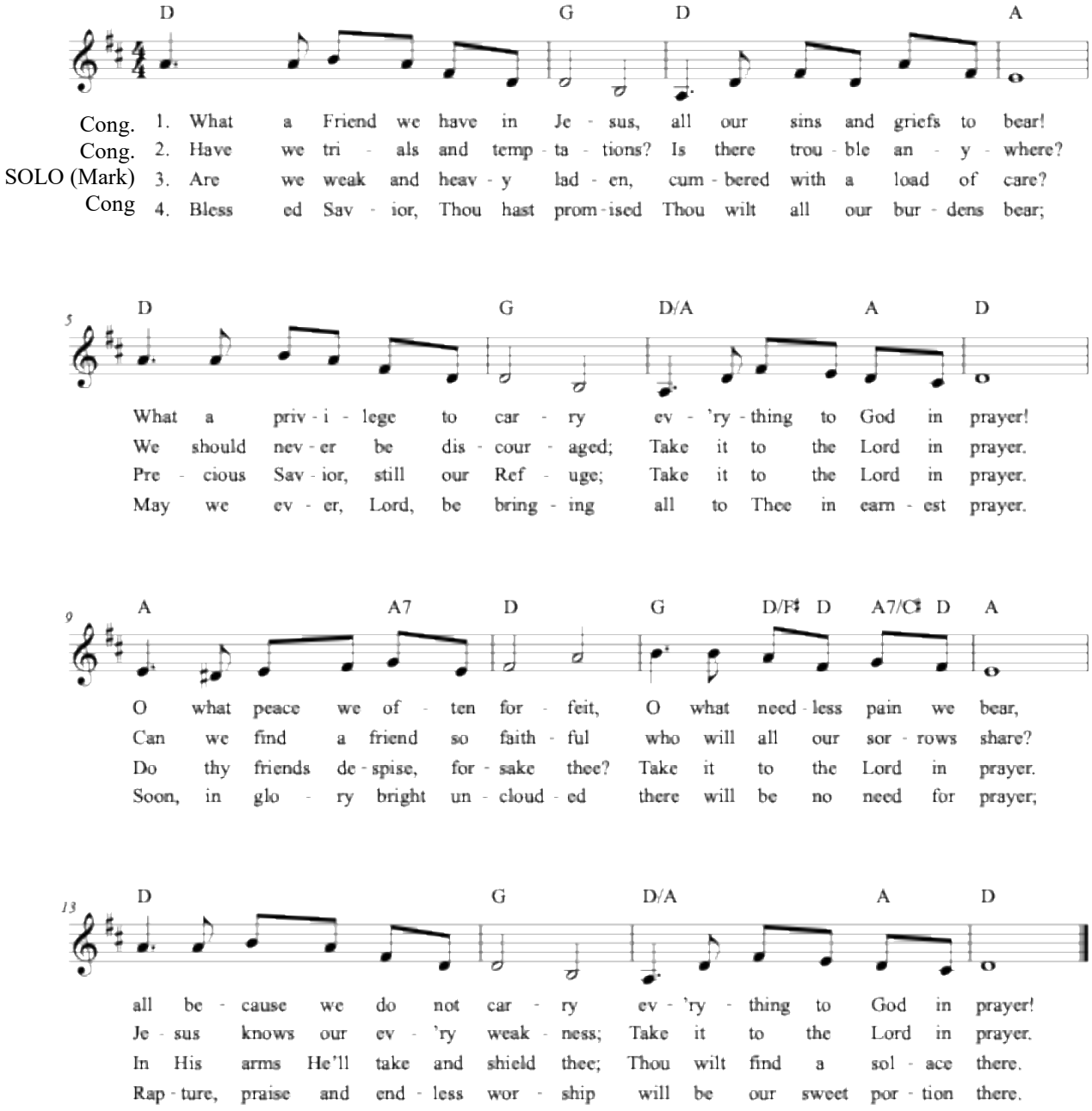
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.

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.

# What a Friend We Have in Jesus




**MESSAGE –** Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

*What comes to mind when you consider heaven and what happens when we die?*

*Paul put it this way, "We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring <u>with Jesus</u> those who have fallen asleep in him."*

*What kind of comfort does this offer those who face evil and tragedy in the world?*

*Why should we talk about these things? Are you a **hope Giver** or hope Doubter?*

## HONORING OUR VETERANS

Pastor: This nation, under God, depends on each generation accepting the call to serve both God and country.

**People: Everywhere we look we are reminded of the commitment our veterans made in presenting their bodies as a living sacrifice.**

Pastor: So today we honor them as we proclaim a resounding….

**People: THANK GOD FOR YOU!**

Pastor: THANK YOU! That we are free to come and to worship the One who presented His body as the ultimate living sacrifice for ALL.

You, O God, are our God. You are with us in all the times of life to offer hope and light and everlasting comfort.
We come to you now with thanks: thanks for our freedom; for our peace; for our prosperity and security. On this remembrance Sunday, we thank you, especially, for the women and men who gave of themselves in times of war to help to ensure the blessings that we now so richly enjoy.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Pastor: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

**All: We give you thanks, O God. Bless this land with Your peace. Amen.**

## America the Beautiful

(Solo)
*Oh beautiful, for heroes proved*
*In liberating strife*
*Who more than self, our country loved*
*And mercy more than life*

*America, America,*
*may God thy gold refine*
*Till all success be nobleness*
*And every gain devined*

(Congregation)
**Oh beautiful, for spacious skies**
**For amber waves of grain**
**For purple mountain majesties**
**Above the fruited plain**

**America, America**
**God shed his grace on thee**
**And crowned thy good, with brotherhood**
**From sea to shining sea**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray for the Church, the gathering of God's forgiven people, that we may support and encourage one another as we await the day of the Lord's return.

**People: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for our nation, our state, our local community, and our neighborhoods. May justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream in our courts and in all centers of government, that we may lead lives that are peaceful and peaceable.

**People: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for those with special need for our petitions in these times, including the sick and hospitalized, the shut-ins, those facing challenges in employment or in other parts of their lives, that their needs may be met according to God's gracious plan. This day we remember [*names*] all those in need of our prayers.

**People: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend 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 <u>our guests</u> 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.

*Stand*

**Offertory**




**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:22–27*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**All: Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## Amazing Grace

**SOLO** *Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)*
*that saved a wretch like me!*
*I once was lost, but now am found,*
*was blind, but now I see.*

**Cong:** 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

**SOLO**: *The Lord has promised good to me,*
*his word my hope secures;*
*he will my shield and portion be*
*as long as life endures*

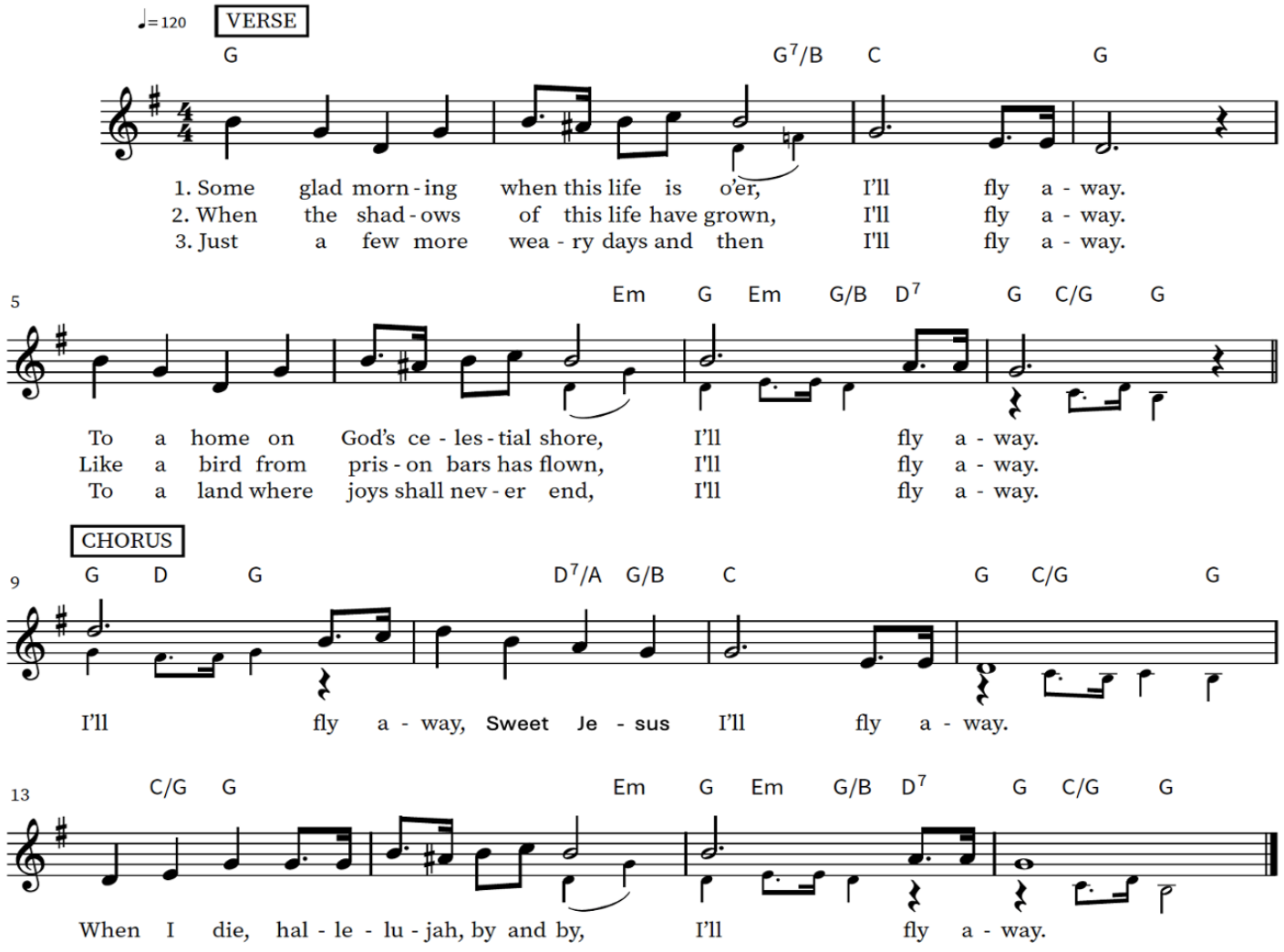
**Cong:** When we've been there ten thousand years
bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun

*Please see the Military Board in the church hallway for their branch and years of service.*
*We apologize if we have missed any of our active members.*
*Please contact B. Hoffmeier for your information. Bhoffmeier2@gmail.com*




**THE INVITATIONS**

# I'll Fly Away




**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 |
| Guest Artist | Mark VanHaaren (Guitar/Vocals)<br>Tony Maltese (Accordion) |
| Elder | Mark Potter |
| Family Life | Jeanette Koch |
| Praise Team | Kurt Menhart<br>Hannah Hughes<br>Sarah Hughes<br>Chris Englert<br>Linda Johnson<br>Alexandra Vago (Bass Gtr) |
| Welcome Center | Patrick Baker |
| Greeter | Hoffmeier Family |
| Tech Team | Curtis Kalina |
| Acolyte | Tyler Hughes |
| Ushers | Chuck Hempel<br>Ernie Edick |
| Reader | Jenna Raikes |
| Counters | Katie Helmick<br>Carole Crete |
| Altar Society | Sue Poole<br>Jan Paver |



**Remember Our Homebound**

Jean Pichan
Northville Pointe Senior Living
40405 6 Mile Rd.
Northville, MI 48168

**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

**Attendance** Last week: 11.1.2026– Attendance – 8:30am - 123 + 11am - 78 = 201
Communion – 170

Received week of 11.1.2026 for **Church** (Envelopes + loose plate)- **$19,603** total includes online giving
**School - $6,995.50**

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*One vase in honor of our handbell director, Carol Kandah, in appreciation for all she does from the St. Paul Joyful Ringers.*

*One vase in appreciation of Sue Poole, Barbara Hoffmeier, Nancy Berg, Pat McGuigan and the many St. Paul members who contribute to the monthly Family of God meals.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8 NOV, SUN | 8:30 – 9:30am | Worship w/Communion | |
| | 9:45 – 10:45am | Sunday School & Youth Bible Study | |
| | 11am – 12pm | Worship | |
| | 12 – 1pm | Church Sanctuary- vow renewal | |
| | 7 – 9pm | Adult pick up basketball - check notes for availability | school gym |
| 9 NOV, MON | 6:30 – 7:30pm | Board of Day School | Parish Hall |
| | 7:30 – 9pm | Northville Basketball Assoc. Gym | |
| 10 NOV, TUE | 12 – 1pm | Meeting - Ladies Lounge, Church | |
| | 6 – 9pm | Northville Basketball Association - Gym | |
| 11 NOV, WED | 9 – 10am | Yolanda M. - room 13 school | |
| | 9:30 – 11am | Women's Bible Study- Parish Hlal | |
| | 6 – 7:30pm | Northville Basketball Assoc. - Gym | |
| | 7 – 9pm | Northville Swim Club (NSC) Room #3 | |
| 12 NOV, THU | 4:30 – 5:30pm | Choir Practice | |
| | 5:45 – 7pm | Bell Choir Rehearsal - church | |
| | 6 – 9pm | Northville Basketball Assoc. -Gym | |
| 13 NOV, FRI | 6 – 7:30pm | Northville Basketball Association-Gym | |
| | 7 – 9pm | AA Mtg. | church parish hall |
| | 9 – 11:30pm | Yuta Basketball Rental | gym |
| 14 NOV, SAT | 3 – 6pm | Bible Quizzing Competition - All Campus | |







November 3, 2026 - It was a warm and pleasant evening at FOG with about 80 people coming for dinner. The diners enjoyed all eleven casseroles, tangerines, corn chips, brownies and cookies and beverages. Everyone thanked us for the food and drinks. We brought leftover Halloween candy and everyone was invited to take a few treats. Chocolate is always the favorite. A young child in a highchair appeared to appreciate the food offered, showing a big smile. In addition to the food, SPL donated blankets, a pack-n -play and protective child gates. All of these items are greatly appreciated by the church pastors and will be distributed to families. Pastor Alexander provided a message about God's protective and loving hands that surround us all. A huge thank you to those that donated food, drove to Detroit and served the meal. This is a mission that truly serves the Detroit community with much needed food and supplies.

## HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE 2026

(H/C = Holy Communion)

**Saint Paul Lutheran Northville -noon services**



***Decorate Church 11.29.2026***

11/25/2026 - Thanksgiving Eve Service – 7pm — Wednesday (H/C)
11/26/2026 – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED - Thursday

11/29/2026 – Worship – 8:30am & 11:00am – Sunday

12/02/2026 – Advent noon Service – Wednesday – lunch follows service
12/02/2026 - Advent Dinner – 5:30pm – 6:45pm – Wednesday (Board of Evangelism)
12/02/2026 - Advent Service – 7pm –- Wednesday

12/06/2026 – Worship – 8:30am (H/C) & 11:00am (H/C) - Sunday

12/09/2026 – Advent Noon Service - Wednesday -lunch follows service
12/09/2026 – Advent Dinner – 5:30pm-6:45pm – Wednesday (Youth Group)
12/09/2026 - Advent Service -7pm - Wednesday

12/13/2026 – Worship – 8:30am (H/C) & 11:00am – Sunday

12/16/2026 – Advent Noon Service- Wednesday -lunch follows service
12/16/2026 – Advent Dinner – 5:30pm-6:45pm – Wednesday (St. Paul School)
12/16/2026 - Advent Service -7pm –Wednesday - St. Paul Sunday School

12/20/2026 – Worship – 8:30am (H/C) & 11:00am (H/C) – Sunday

12/24/2026 - Christmas Eve - 6:00 pm & 8:00pm – Thursday

12/24/2026 - Christmas Eve Family Service - 10pm – Thursday (H/C)

12/25/2026- Christmas Day Service – 10am — Friday (H/C)

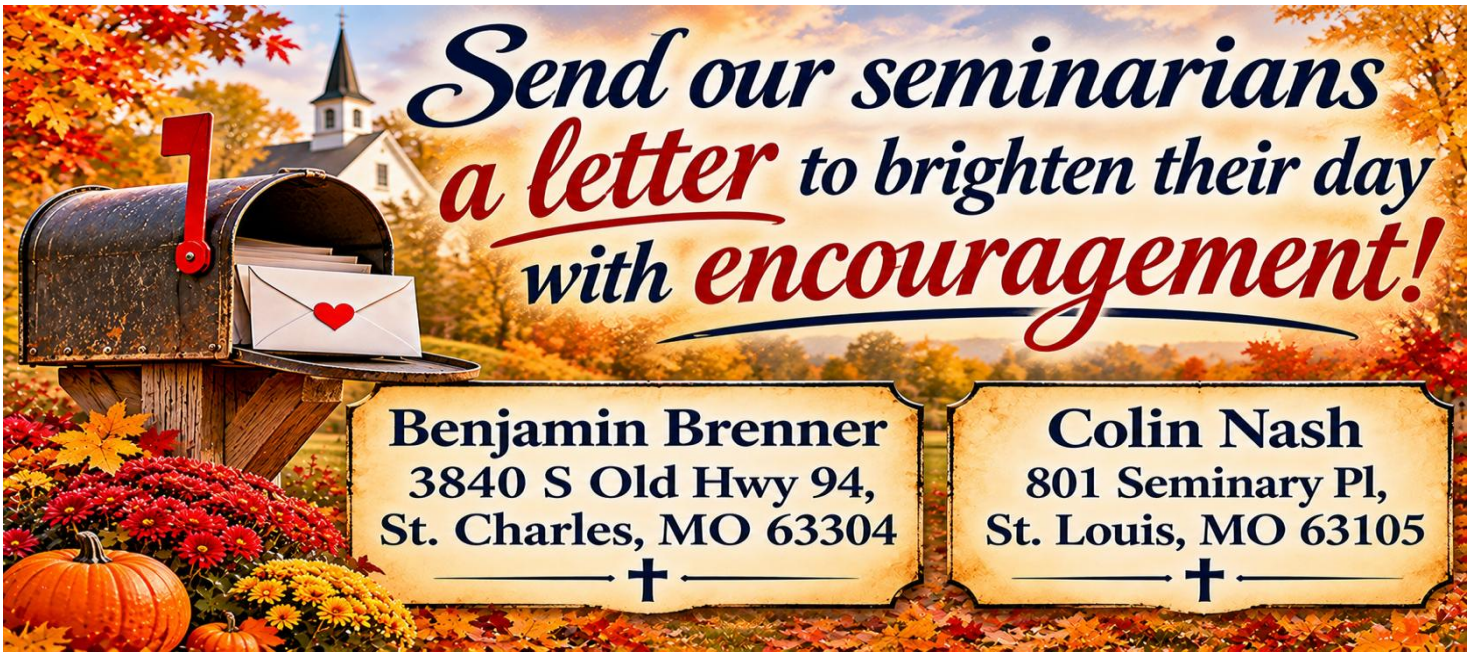
12/27/2026 - Worship – 10am – Sunday – ONE SERVICE

12/28/2026 – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED- Monday

12/31/2026 – New Years Eve Service – 6pm – Thursday (H/C)

1/03/2027 – Worship – 8:30am (H/C) & 11:00am (H/C) – Sunday

1/4/2027– CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED - Monday



**Sharing Food and Fellowship at Family of God**

On our recent visit to **Family of God Church** in Detroit, our volunteer team had the privilege of serving a hot meal to **about 60 people** who were deeply hungry and incredibly grateful for the food and fellowship. Along with the main meal, we passed out **Halloween candy**, which was a huge hit and seemed to go quickly!

The gathering began with a meaningful **Bible study**, followed by a **shared prayer** to bless the food and the community before the meal was served.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the wonderful volunteers who made this service possible: **Beth Hempel, Chuck Hempel, Barbara Hoffmeier, Matt and Marcy Treder**, and our wonderful **brownie bakers** who provided a sweet conclusion to the meal (Anne Burgess, Jan Faerber, Gretchen Hasse, Beth Hempel and Sue Poole.) Your time, generosity, and hard work brought nourishment and comfort to so many. If you would like to help, please contact Barbara Hoffmeier #248.756.3035. Servers are needed for Wednesday, November 18th.

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The newest members to our St. Paul family are **Darin and Brenda Hasse** and their two sons **Peter** (21) and **Christian** (13). They transferred from Zion Lutheran in Petoskey and are now living in South Lyon.

**Brenda** majored in Computer Science and has a Bachelor of Business/Health Care. Brenda works as a medical biller. Her hobbies are photography, electronics, cooking, reading, computers and crafts. She would like to serve working with children and youth groups and has volunteered on Boards of Education and Evangelism.

**Darin** majored in Mechanical Engineering. His hobbies are computers, reading and electronics. He has served as an usher.

**Peter** completed an Associates Degree at Northern Central Michigan University and has a Medical Assisting Certificate.

**Christian** is in 7th grade and is attending Confirmation Class at St. Paul. He started his education here at St. Paul in Preschool and Kindergarten.

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

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**BLAZE ~ 2027 Bible-in-a-Year Reading Group**

Have you ever read through the whole Bible? Join St. Paul in our new group called "BLAZE", where we will read through the whole Bible together in 1 year. We have a daily reading schedule that you can do on your own or with family or friends, and we'll meet together on **2nd & 4th Tuesdays (starting Jan 12) @ 6:30PM in the Parish Hall**. The reading plan starts **January 1, 2027**, so be sure to get the reading schedule before then! To join the email list or see more info and resources like the reading plan, go to: biblequizzing.azurewebsites.net/Blaze

# COS:YOUTH ROAD RALLY

## READY, SET, GOOSE!

**An Epic All-Livonia Photo & Video Scavenger Hunt**

## EVENT DETAILS

- **WHEN:** Saturday, November 21st | **2:30 PM – 5:30 PM (ish)**
- **WHERE:** Start & Finish at **Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church** (Scavenger hunt spans all of Livonia!)
- **WHO: 5th Graders & Up!** (Hosted by Nathan Troike & COS:Youth)

## WHAT IS IT?

A high-energy, fast-paced photo and video scavenger hunt! We'll be using the **Goose Chase** app to race across Livonia in 3 teams, completing wild challenges, collecting funny clips, and climbing a real-time leaderboard.

***The Game Plan:***

1. **2 Hours of Racing:** Complete missions, snap pictures, and send submissions to the live judge.
2. **Pizza & Dessert Party:** Return to COS to devour food, watch the master slideshow of everyone's hilarious submissions, and announce the winners!

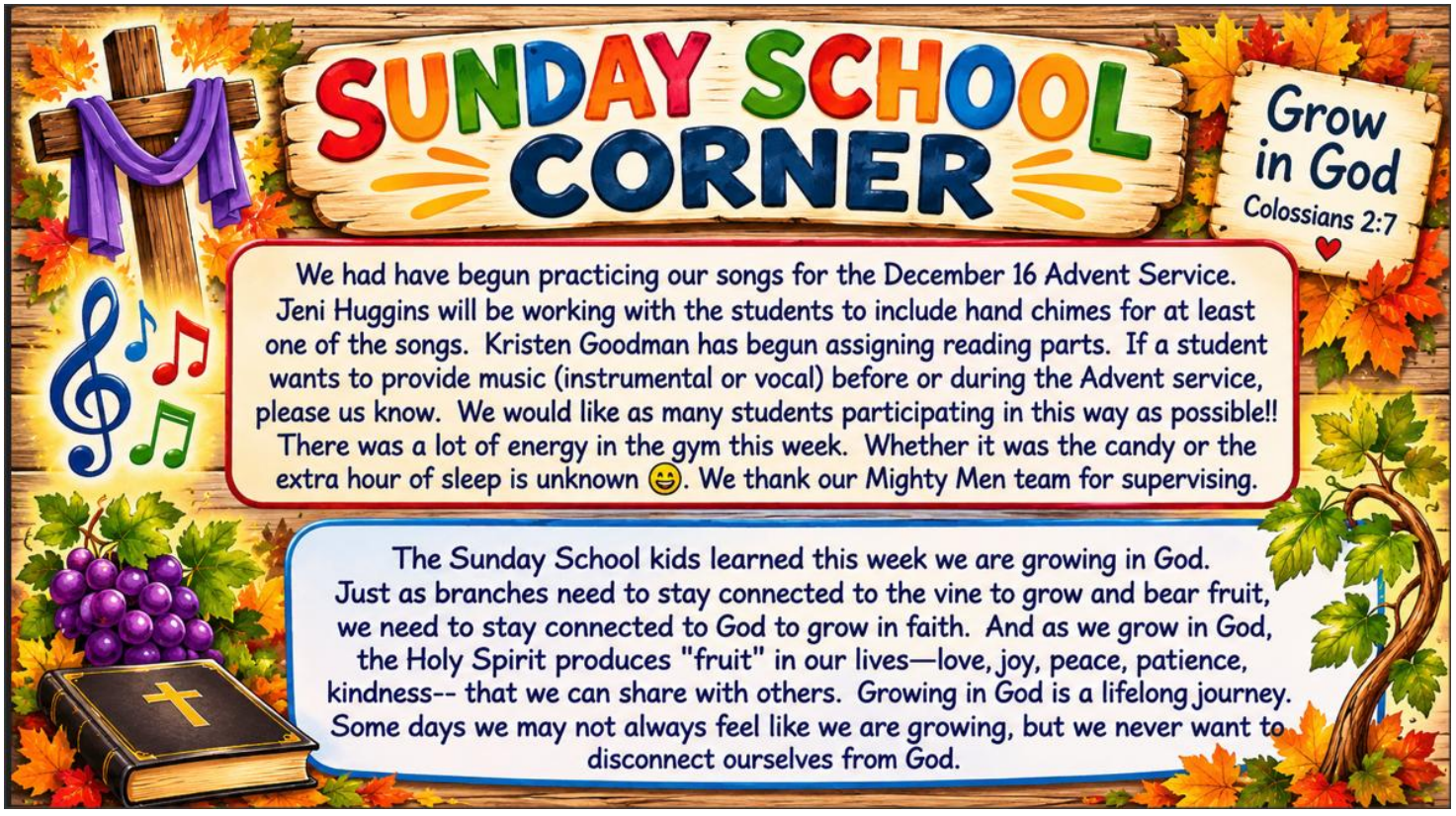
## WHY COME?

Seriously funny, totally wacky, and guaranteed to build awesome memories with friends. *(Plus, there will be photo evidence, so you can't deny any of it!* )

## QUESTIONS & INFO

Have questions or want to jump in? Email us at: youth@christoursavior.org

**DON'T MISS OUT — GRAB A FRIEND AND JOIN A TEAM!**



**Our Grant window is now open through November 15th!** There are $2,450 in remaining Grant dollars for 2026. Please reach out to the church office to obtain a grant application. Our St. Paul Endowment Fund just turned 15 years old in September! Through God's blessings and the generosity of our congregation, the Fund has continued to grow and support meaningful ministry opportunities. 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

- 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.

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