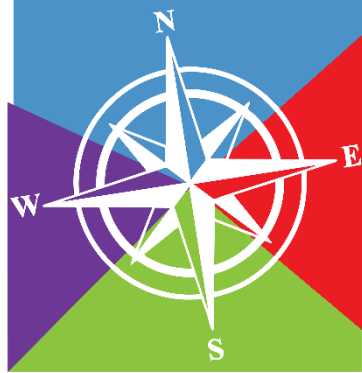


ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:30 am

August 24, 2025



The Open Door

AS WE GATHER

The Gospel of Christ is God's invitation to salvation and eternal life. Cards or letters of invitation occasionally end with the eloquent phrase from the French language abbreviated only with the letters RSVP, signaling that the sender wishes to know for how many to plan in attendance. But to receive an RSVP invitation requires a response. Today, Jesus issues the invitation to the Kingdom asking all to "strive to enter." Surprisingly, the response or effort required is simply to receive the benefit of our Lord's own work on our behalf. You enter the open, narrow door **through Baptism** into the death of Christ. The baptismal life is a striving to die and rise daily by faith in the way of the cross of Christ. Through the door of the Eucharist we are nourished and faith is strengthened and sustained by Christ's body and blood. This eating and drinking is necessary for the struggle of faith. Here today you continue your RSVP, entering the door who is Christ by the power of your Holy Baptism.

WELCOME – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

RINGING OF THE BELL



804 O Worship the King



1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
 2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
 3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4 Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?



O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;
 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
 Al - might - y, Thy pow'r hath found - ed of old,
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
 And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
 And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.



Tucker Curtis Duffy

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.

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.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Great is the steadfast love of the Lord toward us,

People: and His faithfulness endures forever. Splendor and majesty are before Him, from this time forth and even forevermore.

Pastor: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High,

People: call upon Me in the day of trouble, says the Lord, and I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that my heart may know peace.

Pastor: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. 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.

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

PSALM *Psalm 50:1–15*

People: **The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

Women: *Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes; He does not keep silence; before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.*

Men: *He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people: "Gather to Me My faithful ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!"*

People: **The heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is judge!**

Women: *"Hear, O My people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before Me.*

Men: *I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds. For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is Mine.*

Women: *"If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are Mine.*

Men: *Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?*

People: **Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Hebrews 12:4–24

(God disciplines those He loves by His Word.)

⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

A Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken

¹⁸ For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.

²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned."²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL *Luke 13:22–30*

(Strive to enter the narrow door.)

²² He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³ And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them,²⁴ "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able."²⁵ When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.'²⁶ Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.'²⁷ But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!'

²⁸ In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹ And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

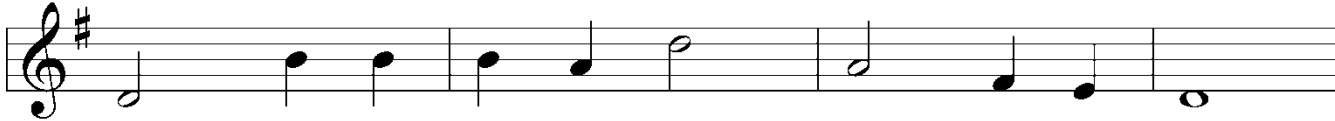
Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

748 I'm But a Stranger Here



1 I'm but a strang - er here, Heav'n is my home;
 2 What though the tem - pest rage, Heav'n is my home;
 3 There - fore I mur - mur not, Heav'n is my home;



Earth is a des - ert drear, Heav'n is my home.
 Short is my pil - grim - age, Heav'n is my home;
 What - e'er my earth - ly lot, Heav'n is my home;



Dan - ger and sor - row stand Round me on ev - 'ry hand;
 And time's wild win - try blast Soon shall be o - ver - past;
 And I shall sure - ly stand There at my Lord's right hand;



Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.
 I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.
 Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.

THE SERMON – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

THE PRAYERS

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Loving Father, You are always good, and You intend every good for us. Thank You for adopting us as Your own dear children in the waters of Holy Baptism. Thank You for reminding us that our sins are forgiven in The Absolution. Thank You for teaching us to recognize Your living voice and to understand Your love through Your Holy Word. Thank You for when You feed us with the body and blood of Jesus in Holy Communion. Continue to use these visible Means of Grace, that when we face hard times, we may learn to recognize the unexpected grace of Your loving hand at work through all things for our good. O Lord,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Bridegroom, Your Bride, the Church, is buffeted from without and within by the impulses of power, agenda, and control. Grant to Your people faithful Pastors, teachers, missionaries, and other servants who will hold before us the eternal Gospel of Your saving love. Grant us listening ears to hear what You are speaking to us through their ministry. O Lord,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, it is easy to see the problems in the systems of this world. It is even easier to lay blame at the feet of corrupt rulers, military powers, economic forces, and unjust laws. Grant us a different perspective that we may learn to recognize You at work among people who are poor, weak, marginalized, and set-aside in our land. Rather than wasting our energy criticizing what is wrong, grant us strength of purpose to practice a better way—the way of love and service to our neighbor in Jesus' name. O Lord,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Kind Healer, help those who are sick and people who suffer any affliction of body, mind, or spirit. Help them to reject all notions that their sufferings are a punishment from You. Instead, cause them to know and to believe that You love them and will sustain them through every affliction . O Lord,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: All of these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, dear Father, for the sake of Jesus, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

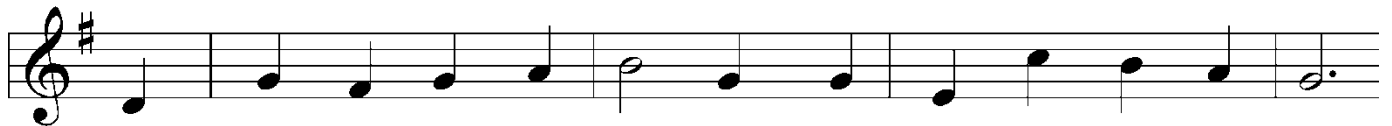
If you brought your offering today, you are welcome to leave it in the offering box you will find at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

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.

915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
 2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
 Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
 The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
 A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 abide with you, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE INVITATIONS

680 Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -
 4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head
 won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise
 dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the
 sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the
 ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
 splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.



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	Pastor Christopher Fairbairn
Officiant	Pastor Jim Frusti
Minister of Music	Paul Ventimiglia
Family Life Director	Jeanette Koch
Elder	John Hasse
Greeter	Jenter Family
Welcome Center	Pat McGuigan
Ushers	John Hasse Charleen Hill Bob McGuigan Pat McGuigan
Tech Team	Thomas Kutz
Counters	Jan Greulich Frank Newman George Foor
Acolyte	Lucy Adler
Coffee Hour	McGuigan, Ernst and Poole

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: 8.17.2025– Attendance – 8am – 96+ 11am –65 = 161

Communion – 84

Received week of 8.17.2025- for Church (Envelopes + loose plate)- **\$7,250** total includes online giving School - **\$0**

Altar Flowers

*Two vases in honor of the baptism of Tucker Curtis Duffy
from the Duffy and Faussi families.*

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

Remember Our Shut-Ins

Christina Rohn
 Waltonwood #240
 27475 Huron Circle
 Novi, MI 48377

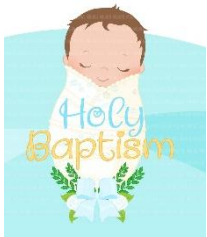
For August, Women in Christ is featuring a mission grant to support Ministry Scholarships for Shepherd’s Canyon Retreats in the amount of \$20,000. We too often overlook our pastors, DCE’s and Lutheran teachers and how much they need a respite from serving us all. This mission grant supports a LCMS Recognized Service Organization. Funds from this grant will be used to provide scholarships to help pastors, DCE’s, and teachers who are suffering from depression and compassion fatigue. These funds will allow them to attend week-long retreats in Arizona where they will be able to receive help, hope, and healing by God’s grace. Thank you for your generous support over the first half of 2025.

Praise Rock Band (ALL ages) and Craft Time for Children

Kristen Goodman will lead arts, crafts and open gym time for children on alternate Sundays starting June 29, 2025 in Room 11 of the school, which is downstairs. If there is an adult who would like to play basketball, dodge ball or another game with the children on one of these Sundays, please see Mrs. Goodman - (248) 662-7580. Praise Rock Band will take place on alternate Sundays starting June 22, 2025 in Room 11 in the lower level of the school. This is open to ALL ages. We'll be playing beginner-level songs and will have available positions in piano, guitar, bass guitar, drums, cowbell and vocals. Led by Jeni Huggins - please see her or text 248-787-0480 if you have any questions, or just show up. We will work toward offering a few songs to a small audience on a date in September to be determined.

Sundays - Approximately 9:35 am - 10:55 am

August 24, 2025	Arts, Crafts and Gym Time - Room 5 and Gymnasium
August 31, 2025	Praise Rock Band - Room 11, lower level in school
September 7, 2025	Rally Day will be at Maybury State Park



Today we share in the joy of **HOLY BAPTISM OF Tucker Curtis Duffy** in the 8:30am worship service today. Tucker is the infant son of Stephanie and Conner Duffy and was born in Novi, Michigan. Tucker's sponsors are Brian and Lauren Jaussi. As God writes Tucker'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 Tucker's life.

BUY-A-BRICK FUNDRAISER



**You can choose Memorial
or Honorium brick
to support the new church sign.
Cost of each brick will be
\$125.00 (\$6 extra for symbol)
We will be laying the brick garden in
front of the new sign.
More information to follow**

ST PAUL NORTHVILLE RALLY DAY



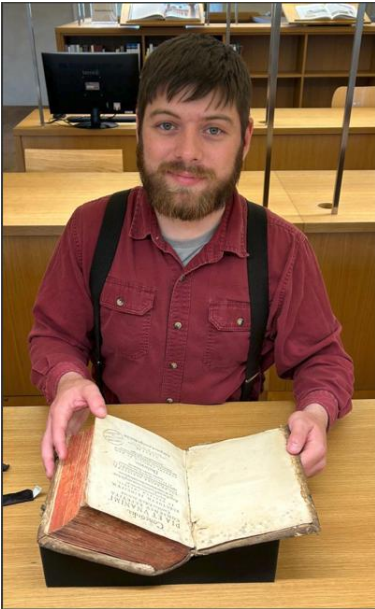
CHURCH IN THE PARK

Sunday, September 7th

10am - at Maybury State Park

**Come worship with us and stay for
a potluck & fried chicken lunch**

SHUTTLES TO THE PARK FROM CHURCH WILL BE
AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



WELCOME COLIN NASH

If you would like to write to our new adopted seminary student you can send mail and other encouragement to:

6333 North Rosebury, apt 2E
Clayton, Mo 63105

Or email him at:
nashcolin549@gmail.com

August 5 FOG



The summertime menu of Cheesy Chicken Pasta salad with was well received again. The salad makers were Beth & Chuck Hempel, Bill & Janet Kovalak, Julia Smith, Pat McGuigan, Gretchen Hasse, Kathleen McGall, Yolanda Martell and Claudia Williamson. The rolls were provided by Karen Frusti and Nancy Berg with butter from Janise Faerber. Kathy Baetz-Matthews supplied the chips and Sue Poole provided and cut the watermelon. Marti Gilchrist and Shelly Walldorff supplied the drinks and a variety of desserts were supplied by Anne Burgess, Rachel Kovocho, Megan Kutz and Janise Faerber. There were about 90 servings including takeouts and seconds. Marci Treder prepared the paper products bag and when we were loading up prior to leaving for Detroit, the comment was made about how nice it is to have that ready to go. We always appreciate Margo

being our kitchen organizer the day the food comes in. Our servers were Julia Smith, Megan and Mya Kutz and Pat McGuigan with Julia driving. We particularly enjoyed serving with Mya as she is leaving soon to return to Michigan State for her senior year. Blessings to her and all our other young people starting or returning to college.

Our young friend was back, and we learned he is 12 and going into 8th grade this year. He likes to visit with us and helped take things back to the car when we were done. I think he likes the extra attention, and he loves chocolate milk.

Pastor Nick from FOG was our guest Pastor this past Sunday and led Bible class. He mentioned the cultural diversity in that area of Detroit and at FOG. That was actually one of our memories from Tuesday. Julia mentioned all the languages being spoken (Spanish, Arabic, and a little German courtesy of Pastor Nick). I witnessed several situations where someone was acting as interpreter for another.

Pastor Alexander lead the memory verse and short devotion before seconds were served. The next date for the Tuesday meal is September 2. Watch for the SignUp Genius email and if you don't receive it let Sue Pool know so she can add you to the list.



The handbell choir , also known as The Joyful Ringers is looking to recruit some additional members. We are a fun group that loves our music ministry and are excited to add some new members. It is helpful if you've had some musical experience, played a musical instrument or sang in a choir. However, just a desire to join a musical ministry at St Paul's will be enough. We practice on Thursdays from 5:45 to 7:00.pm during the school year. Anyone interested in. becoming a part of this beautiful and uplifting handbell choir, Please call or text Carol Kandah 248-921-6061.