

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Maybury Park - Rally Day

10 AM

September 7, 2025



Life in Christ is **WORTH EVERYTHING!**

AS WE GATHER

Jesus is blunt about the cost of discipleship. He does not sugarcoat the life He calls us to in the baptismal waters but neither does He diminish His promises, gifts, and blessings that accompany this life of faith. Today He calls us to count the cost, knowing that the way of the Christian is constantly tested and tried by our affection for the things of this life, our vulnerability to the enemies of the faith, and the weakness of our own sinful flesh. Part of that cost is not just in what you desire but also in **what you are willing to surrender for the sake of Christ** and His kingdom.

Everyone has issues in their life – stress, pain, debt, loneliness – wouldn't it be great to have someone to lean on? At St. Paul Lutheran, we're here for you and want to give your family hope for a brighter future, a future filled with the nurture and strength of your Savior!

Here you will find real people living a forgiven life, which happens when we focus on our resurrection confidence! It all centers around the love of God for you in Jesus Christ.

WELCOME– Pastor Christopher Fairbairn



918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer



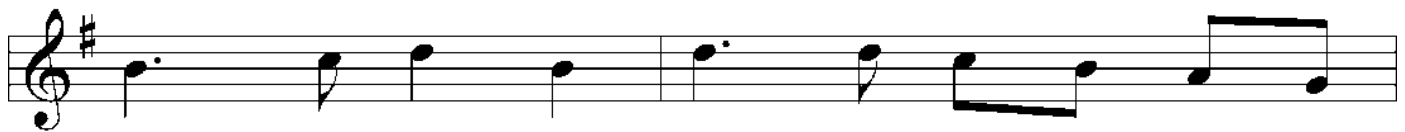
1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
 Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
 Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
 strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more;
 shield;
 Thee;
 Feed me till I want no more.
 Be Thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to Thee.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Pastor: We know that we are to love You, O Lord, with all that we are and have.

People: We also know that we have been swayed by the "gods" of this world, wasting more time on acquiring things and pleasing ourselves than spending time teaching each other the fear and wisdom of the Lord.

Pastor: We recognize that You have entrusted us to each other in our families and congregation, where we are to use every means to teach about You and Your infinite mercy in Christ our Lord.

People: We confess that we have listened to the voices of this world which try to drown out Your precious Gospel. We have ignored our role to be examples of salt and light, and we have not been in faithful study of Your Word. We have neglected the poor, the lonely, and the lost.

Pastor: For Jesus' sake our heavenly Father has promised us an eternal Promised Land, full of more than physical buildings and food for the stomach. He offers full and free pardon to all who repent and rely on His mercy. Rejoice in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Forgiveness is yours!

People: We claim the rich mercy of our God in Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O merciful Lord, Your Son has called us to follow no matter the cost.

People: Grant us open eyes to see beyond the cross to the promised land that awaits us because of His sacrifice on our behalf;

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.

(Please Be Seated)

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found;
 He is my light, my strength, my song;
 This cornerstone, this solid ground,
 Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
 What heights of love, what depths of peace,
 When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
 My comforter, my all in all—
 Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
 Fullness of God in helpless babe!
 This gift of love and righteousness,
 Scorned by the ones He came to save.
 Till on that cross as Jesus died,
 The wrath of God was satisfied;
 For ev'ry sin on Him was laid

Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
 Light of the world by darkness slain;
 Then bursting forth in glorious day,
 Up from the grave He rose again!
 And as He stands in victory,
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
 For I am His and He is mine—
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death—
 This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
 From life's first cry to final breath,
 Jesus commands my destiny.
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
 Can ever pluck me from His hand;
 Till He returns or calls me home—
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Old Testament Reading *Deuteronomy 30:15–20* (Choose life; obey God.)

[Moses said to the people before they were to enter the Promised Land:]

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Director of family Life – Jeanette Koch

(Please Stand)

Holy Gospel *Luke 14:25–35*

(The cost of discipleship)

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying,

'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Salt Without Taste Is Worthless

³⁴ "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵ It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

(Please Be Seated)

Lead On Good Shepherd

Verse 1

Well, I've been turned 'round,
 But I've never been lost.
 Seen the water get troubled,
 But we walked across.
 When my knees were shaking,
 You held my hand,
 Turning my problems
 To a promised land.

Chorus

Lead on, Good Shepherd,
 I'll follow all my days.
 There ain't nothing sweeter,
 Than to watch You make a way.
 You've walked me through the valley,
 But You never steered me wrong.
 So lead on, Good Shepherd, lead on.

Verse 2

Seen some mighty deep canyons,
 That You brought me through.
 Seen some mighty big mountains
 That just up and moved.
 Glory, glory, hallelujah,
 Yeah, that's my song.
 Walking with my Father
 Into the great unknown.

Chorus

Lead on, Good Shepherd,
 I'll follow all my days.
 There ain't nothing sweeter,

Than to watch You make a way.
 You've walked me through the valley,
 But You never steered me wrong.
 So lead on, Good Shepherd, lead on.

Bridge

Step by step, day by day,
 Lead me on, Lord, I pray.
 Road gets dark, walk by faith,
 Lead on, Good Shepherd.(2x)

Chorus

Lead on, Good Shepherd,
 I'll follow all my days.
 There ain't nothing sweeter
 Than to watch You make a way.
 You've walked me through the valley,
 But You never steered me wrong.
 So lead on, Good Shepherd, lead on.

Bridge

Step by step, day by day,
 Lead me on, Lord, I pray.
 Road gets dark, walk by faith,
 Lead on, Good Shepherd (2x)

Ending

Lead on, Good Shepherd, lead on,
 Good Shepherd.
 Lead on, Good Shepherd, lead on,
 Good Shepherd.
 Lead on, Good Shepherd, lead on.

Sermon – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

What are you doing to increase your knowledge of Christ and grow in your faith?

*Are you content with what you “already know”
about Jesus, or will you decide to
nourish your life in Christ even more?*



On The Banks of The Promised Land

Verse 1

I have built my life on the Solid Rock,
Far away from the sinking sand.
But I cast my eye to the home that waits
On the banks of the Promised Land.

Verse 2

There's a song of praise that is lifted there
By the saints and the angel band.
Oh, I long to go and to join that choir
On the banks of the Promised Land.

Chorus

Hallelujah, what a morning
When I reach for that nail-scarred hand,
And I'm led from grace to glory
On the banks of the Promised Land.

Verse 3

Ev'ry grief and pain that has bound me here,
Jesus knows and He understands.
They'll be washed away as I cross that
stream
To the banks of the Promised Land.

Chorus

Hallelujah, what a morning
When I reach for that nail-scarred hand,
And I'm led from grace to glory
On the banks of the Promised Land.

Verse 4

Then I'll see the face of my Savior dear,
Beckoned close by His sweet command.
All my burdens gone, I will rest at last
On the banks of the Promised Land.

Chorus

(Oh) Hallelujah, what a morning
When I reach for that nail-scarred hand,
And I'm led from grace to glory
On the banks of the Promised Land (2X)

On the banks of the Promised Land,
On the banks of the Promised Land.
I'm goin' to the Promised Land.
I'm bound for the Promised Land.
I'm goin' to the Promised Land.

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various needs.

We pray, heavenly Father, for those whose lives are difficult due to circumstances beyond their control, the effects of war and terror, the oppression from dishonest government, the results of drought and flood, disease and displacement, slavery and poverty. Give them courage and strength to endure. As fits Your gracious plans, bring them peace and security, food and shelter, health and home. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray, Lord Jesus, for those who proclaim the Gospel and lead the Church here and around the world, Family Life Directors and teachers, lay leaders and missionaries, caregivers and chaplains. In the face of indifference and opposition, keep them strong in the faith so that the Church may grow in grace and numbers. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious God, hear our prayers for those near and dear to us who call out to You for relief in their time of struggle. Surround them with people of faith, good counselors, and compassionate caregivers. Use us and our resources to bring about the healing, dignity, and consoling they so desperately need. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of 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 that you will find here at the Oak Shelter. **Thank you.**

(Please Stand)

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 *Numbers 6:24–26*

God is Good

May your struggles keep you near the cross
And may your troubles show that you need God
And may your battles end the way they should
And may your bad days prove that God is good
And may your whole life prove that God is good
(2x)



(Please Be Seated)

THE INVITATIONS

What A Friend

Verse 1

Everybody has trials and temptations.
Everybody knows heart break, - isolation.
But we can lay our burdens down,
Lay our burdens down.

Chorus

**What a friend we have in Jesus.
East to west, my sins are gone.
I see grace on every horizon.
And forever and ever His heart is my
home.**

Verse 2

Everybody has fears, everybody got
worries.
Everybody knows sorrow, -devastation.
But we can lay our burdens down,
Lay our burdens down.

Chorus

**What a friend we have in Jesus.
East to west, my sins are gone.
I see grace on every horizon.
And forever and ever His heart is my
home.**

Bridge

No more betrayal for He is faithful.
He fills me up and my cup runneth over.
No more betrayal for He is faithful.
How He has proven it over and over. (2x)
Over and over ...

Chorus

**What a friend we have in Jesus.
East to west my sins are gone.
I see grace on every horizon.
And forever and ever His heart is my
home. (2x)**

**And forever and ever His heart is my
home.**

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
Minister of Music	Paul Ventimiglia
Family Life Director	Jeanette Koch
Reader	Mark Ernst
Elder	George Foor
Greeter	Krause Family
Ushers	Gary Cash Jeff Henning Neale Hoener Mike Williamson Mark Baumgarten Patrick Baker
Counters	Jan Paver Christine Lewis

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



One vase in memory of my parents Jim and Jeanne Frogner from Ann Kelly.

One vase in honor of Lisa Fairbairn's birthday.

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

Remember Our Shut-Ins

Marlene Shoebridge
303 Pennell
Northville, MI 48167

SAVE THE DATE

DETROIT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE BOOTS ON THE GROUND 5th ANNUAL FALL SERVICE



DAY

WHEN: September 27 9 am – 12 pm

WHERE: 19370 Greenfield, Detroit 48235

WHAT: Outside clean up, possible painting & whatever needs to be done.



BRING: Rakes, clippers, trimmers, etc., and very important work gloves

Every little bit helps even if you can't stay for the whole 3 hours

ANY QUESTIONS: Contact Pat McGuigan (734) 718-8597 or
pking1252@gmail.com



Also: Last year we realized how refreshing a donut and beverage break was mid morning so you might want to bring a lawn chair or camping stool.

“Many hands make light work”

The FAMILY OF GOD MEAL on Wednesday, August 20th, was a big hit! We had about 90 people come but we made 120 servings, so many came back for seconds and even thirds. We took eight Chicken Tamale Casseroles with condiments, chips and salsa, brownies, bananas and beverages. Our servers were Mark Potter, Ernie Edick, Will and Barbara Hoffmeier. The David Sonak family from Salem Lutheran - Westland, joined us at the buffet line, which really helped out. Our cooks were Nancy Crenshaw-Berg, Marilyn Edick, Sue Mai and Barbara. Will also helped as we prepared the meat the day before. Sandy Hardies helped Barbara with the shopping and Nancy and Doug Berg made a trip to Randazzo's for our fruit. Our brownie bakers were Jan Faerber, Emily Edick (a 3rd grader), Lisa Fairbairn, Karen Frusti, Gretchen Hasse, Beth Hempel, and Sue Poole. *A special time of the evening was staying for the worship service with a small group and watching their interaction with Pastor Nick and Deacon John on the topic of 'forgiveness.'* In a world of brokenness, and they all have their personal stories, God's love will sustain us and give us strength to forgive others and even ourselves. Thank you for supporting this mission outreach, it's so important to our brothers and sisters in Christ you don't even know. You're welcome to join us Wednesday, September 17th. Please contact Barbara #248.756.3035 or Nancy #248.756.4031.

As we all head back from a beautiful summer and think about school and all the activities that start up with fall, let's remember this month's Women in Christ mission grant entitled Gospel Building for a Child's Future (Hands of Mercy) for \$14,500. This grant supports the students of Lutheran congregations which are supported by an expanded Hands of Mercy training center at Yambio, South Sudan. The grant enables the students to gain Bible literacy through using My First Catechism and includes workbooks and children's Bibles. The classrooms will be fitted for children's safety and improved learning environments and will have wooden desks and white boards. The Women in Christ graciously thank you for helping us fulfill our mission grants over the years.



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.



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

This year we'll be learning Paul's letters of 1&2 Corinthians. 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!). Practices will be in the church Parish Hall on Tuesdays @ 6:45PM (2nd-6th grade) or @ 7PM (7th-12th grade), starting August 26. Competitions are 2nd Saturdays from October to March.

Adult volunteers are also needed! No knowledge of the material or Bible Quizzing rules is required. We just need lots of helpers who are good with kids to help at 1 practice each week and monthly competitions!

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



Can you HELP a STUDENT looking to Rent a Room for only 2 Weeks

There is a unique opportunity for helping future doctors in our area. Medical students that have completed school need to do an audition for a residency spot at local hospitals and need a place to rent as to have a place to sleep & study. Currently, there is an ENT student that needs a place to stay in the Novi area for 2 weeks (10/11/25-10/25/25). They will be driving to Providence in Novi.

Students are happy to pay with the expectation for a bedroom, bathroom & access to store/prepare food. Call the church office or talk with Pastor Fairbairn if you are interested.

**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**

Return to Sunday School - September 7, 2025 is Rally Day at Maybury State Park, which also serves as the kick-off of a new Sunday School year. Sunday School classes for children in grades PreK – 6th grade begin on Sunday, September 14, 2025, and are held from 9:45 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. in Room 5 in the school. If you have any questions about Sunday School class, please see Mrs. Goodman - (248) 662-7580. If you have any questions about praise music for children at St. Paul church, please see Mrs. Huggins – (248) 787-4080. Confirmation class is for those in grades 7 – 8 and is held in Room 3 in the school starting at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please see Jeanette Koch or Pastor Chris.