

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

8:30 am

September 6, 2020



**Forgiveness in the Family of Christ.  
Yes, we ALL NEED to seek it and give it!**

**AS WE GATHER**

The most essential, important, and difficult aspect of living the Christian life is learning how to live in the forgiveness of sins. There is a direct connection between my receiving God's forgiveness and my forgiving another person.

Joseph forgave his brothers, even though they had sold him into slavery. Paul urges us **not to quarrel over opinions** about earthly matters, but to honor the Lord in all we do. Jesus tells a parable about God's overwhelming forgiveness and how such forgiveness leads us to forgive others. We can live under the kingship of God only because He has forgiven our sins. In Jesus, God has removed our sins as far as the east is from the west. We practice such forgiveness with one another, living together as the family of Christ.

**WELCOME – Pastor**

## YOUR MERCY FLOWS

Wes Sutton

Vocals

Your church once flows great, though  
 on us like a riv - er. Your mer - cy  
 stand - ing clothed in sor - row, is ev - en  
 stands un - shak - a - ble and true. Most  
 still, the bride that you a - dore re -  
 ho - ly God, of all good things the  
 vive Your church, that we a - gain may  
 giv - er. We turn and lift our  
 ho - nor Our God and King, Our -



15  
fer - vent prayer to You. Hear our cry  
Mas - ter and Our Lord.

18  
O Lord, be

21  
mer - ci - ful once more.

24  
Let Your love, Your an - ger

27  
stem re - mem - ber mer - cy O

30  
Lord a - gain.

## INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: The LORD is merciful and gracious,

**People: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Pastor: As far as the east is from the west,

**People: so far does He remove our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:8, 12**

**CONFESSION**

Pastor: Let's put the burdens of our sins and the weariness of our souls upon the Lord who brings relief and rest.

**People: O God, we confess to You all the bitterness we have harbored toward our neighbors, our refusal to forgive, and our lack of love toward those in need. In Your tender mercy do not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. In Your steadfast love and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior, grant us Your forgiveness, fill us with Your love, and grant us Your peace.**

Pastor: THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS.

**People: Amen.**

**PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray . . .

O God, our righteousness, restore the broken relationships in Your Church, especially between family members. Provide reconciliation and peace where Satan has sown division and discord, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Genesis 50:15-21 (*No revenge, only forgiveness*)

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Romans 14:1-12* ("Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.")

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.<sup>2</sup> One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup> One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup> The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup> For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

<sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup> for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

<sup>12</sup> So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Please Stand**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 18:21-35 (*A life-style of compassion.*)

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?"

<sup>22</sup> "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!

<sup>23</sup> "Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him.<sup>24</sup> In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. <sup>25</sup> He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

<sup>26</sup> "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.'<sup>27</sup> Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

<sup>28</sup> "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

<sup>29</sup> "His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. <sup>30</sup> But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

<sup>31</sup> "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup> Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me.'<sup>33</sup> Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup> Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

<sup>35</sup> "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

## The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Please Be Seated*

**801 How Great Thou Art**



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er  
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the  
 3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to  
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y  
 birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain  
 die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly  
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
 gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
 bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
 ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

*Refrain*



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!



## THE SERMON — *Pastor Christopher Fairbairn*

*What causes you to withhold forgiveness? Do you “keep track” of the score?  
How would today’s Gospel move you to act differently the next time you are wronged?*

### PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray for God’s people around the world and all who call out to Him in their various needs.

Dear heavenly Father, look with favor upon the nations of the world, especially those suffering from war, conflict, disease, and famine. Be their peace and healer. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, You have given us the wonderful gifts of families and friends. Look with favor upon our relationships. Bring reconciliation where there is division. Bring love where there is anger. Bring hope where there is despair. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, send Your forgiveness to all those who are weighed down by guilt. Bring Your resurrection hope to all those who hide their sins in shame. Remind them of the baptismal waters, which give them a new identity: child of God. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, we pray for all those who are sick, [*especially . . .*]. Heal their diseases, and redeem their lives from the pit. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Finally, Lord, bless Your Church here and scattered throughout the world. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Keep us mindful of Your gracious forgiveness shown to us, the family of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: All these things we bring before You, O Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### **OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS**

If you brought your offering today, you are welcome to leave it in the offering plates you will find at the front of the church or in the main hallway. Thank you.

### **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.**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

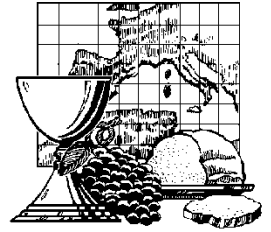
**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Please see our communion policy stated on the inside front cover.



## THE DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION WINE: For those who may not be able to take regular wine, we offer non-alcoholic wine. The non-alcoholic wine is the light-colored wine in the center of the communion tray.

### Praise Choir (with Barb and Will Hoffmeier, Jeff Shapiro & Paul V)

- **All Praise to Thee.** (canon by Thomas Tallis, adapted and arranged by Marie Pooler)

### Solo (Paul V)

- **On the Banks of the Promise Land**

## BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

Pastor: Let us pray.

Grant us grace, heavenly Father, that we not think too highly of ourselves and too little of our neighbor, but give welcome in Your name to all people and rejoice because You have filled us with Your redeeming love in Jesus Christ, our Lord, with whom, in whom, and through whom all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, both now and forevermore.

People: **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.  
*Numbers 6:24–26*

**People: Amen.**

## THE INVITATIONS

### God Bless Our Native Land



1 God bless our na - tive land; Firm may she ev - er stand  
 2 So shall our prayers a - rise To God a - bove the skies;



Through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of  
 On Him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, Guard - ing with



wind and wave, Do Thou our coun - try save By Thy great might.  
 watch - ful eye, To Thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

WHERE WE SERVE

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Pastor Christopher Fairbairn</i>	
<i>Officiant</i>	<i>Pastor James Frusti</i>	
<i>Music Director</i>	<i>Paul Ventimiglia</i>	
<i>Elder</i>	<i>Dennis Verseman</i>	
<i>Counters</i>	<i>Dave Tischler</i>	<i>Shibu George</i>
<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Jan Paver</i>	
<i>Altar Society</i>	<i>Michele Doerfer</i>	<i>Beth Foor</i>
	<i>Chris Henning</i>	
<i>Tech Team</i>	<i>Nancy Berg</i>	
<i>Welcome Center</i>	<i>Barbara Hoffmeier</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Gary Cash</i>	<i>Jeff Henning</i>
	<i>Neale Hoener</i>	<i>Mike Williamson</i>

6	SEP, SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 8:30 – 9:30am</li> <li>● 11am – 12pm</li> <li>● 12 – 1pm</li> <li>● 6:30 – 7:30pm</li> </ul>	<p><b>Worship with Communion</b></p> <p><b>Worship with Communion</b></p> <p><b>Board of Evangelism church parish hall</b></p> <p><b>AA Mtg church parish hall</b></p>
7	SEP, MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All day</li> <li>● All day</li> <li>● 7 – 8pm</li> <li>● 7 – 8pm</li> </ul>	<p><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>NO SCHOOL</b></p> <p><b>Bd. of Christian Ed. church office</b></p> <p><b>Board of Social Ministry parish hall</b></p>
9	SEP, WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6 – 7pm</li> </ul>	<p><b>Board of Trustees room #5</b></p>
10	SEP, THU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6:30 – 7:30pm</li> </ul>	<p><b>Handbells choir loft</b></p>
11	SEP, FRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 7 – 9pm</li> </ul>	<p><b>AA Mtg. church parish hall</b></p>
12	SEP, SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All day</li> <li>● 9:30 – 11am</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rally Day Set-Up Gym</b></p> <p><b>Men's Bible Study parish hall</b></p>
13	SEP, SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 8:30 – 9:30am</li> <li>● 10 – 11am</li> <li>● 11am – 12pm</li> <li>● 6:30 – 7:30pm</li> </ul>	<p><b>Worship w/Communion</b></p> <p><b>Homecoming /Rally Day 10 O'CLOCK SERVICE</b></p> <p><b>Worship</b></p> <p><b>AA Mtg church parish hall</b></p>

# News & Notes

Attendance Last week :

Sunday 8.30.20 - 8:30am- 58

11:00am - 30 = 88

Communion - 72

*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 second and fourth Saturday @ 9:30am – Parish Hall.

Donations needed each week for Church and School – \$9,808

Received week of 8.23.2020 for Church (Envelopes plus loose plate\*)\$8,846

\*total includes online giving

*Today's flowers are:*

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

*One vase in honor of Lisa Fairbairn's Birthday.*

*Please arrange to pick up your flowers after the 11am Sunday Service.*



## Remember Our Shut-Ins

Jean Eckhardt  
Brentwood Care Facility  
2002 Andrew Ave.  
Laporte, IN 46350

Parishoners and guests are cordially invited to the SPL Homecoming (previously Rally Day) event. On behalf of the Board of Christian Education, we hope that you are able to participate. It will not be as 'fancy' as in previous years due to the pandemic. However, as a board we thought it important to bring people together, while following appropriate and safe social protocol.

Homecoming: Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020

Time: 11:00 am. There will be one service at 10:00 am.

Format: Lunch and fellowship.

We will serve a box lunch in the parish hall. Parishoners and guests may eat in the parish hall or outside (weather permitting).

We want to practice safe procedures so everyone will be asked to wear a mask as they collect their lunch. Seats will be arranged for appropriate social distancing. There will be no games or other attractions for the children.

Please join us for Homecoming and enjoy fellowship with friends in Christ.



Another Way Pregnancy Center is hosting a Virtual Banquet on Thursday, October 8th at 7:00pm. This is an major fundraiser for the organization whose mission is to provide support to men and women through pregnancy and the first year of the baby's life. They offer pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, pregnancy options counseling, parenting support programs, sexual health and relationship education. Here are the Top Five reasons you should participate: 5. You can watch in you PJ's; 4. You don't have to hire a babysitter; 3. You don't have to dress up; 2. You can donate from the comfort of your sofa; And the number one reason is - You will help us save babies! To learn more & to register for our exciting Virtual Fall Banquet, visit <http://awpcevents.org>. Please consider supporting AWPC, one of St. Paul's major community outreach projects.

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with the Family of God meal on Wednesday, August 19th. Our coordinators, Barbara & Will Hoffmeier, were out of town and the "crew" really stepped up to serve a meal at the mission.

Shopper: Janet Wisner

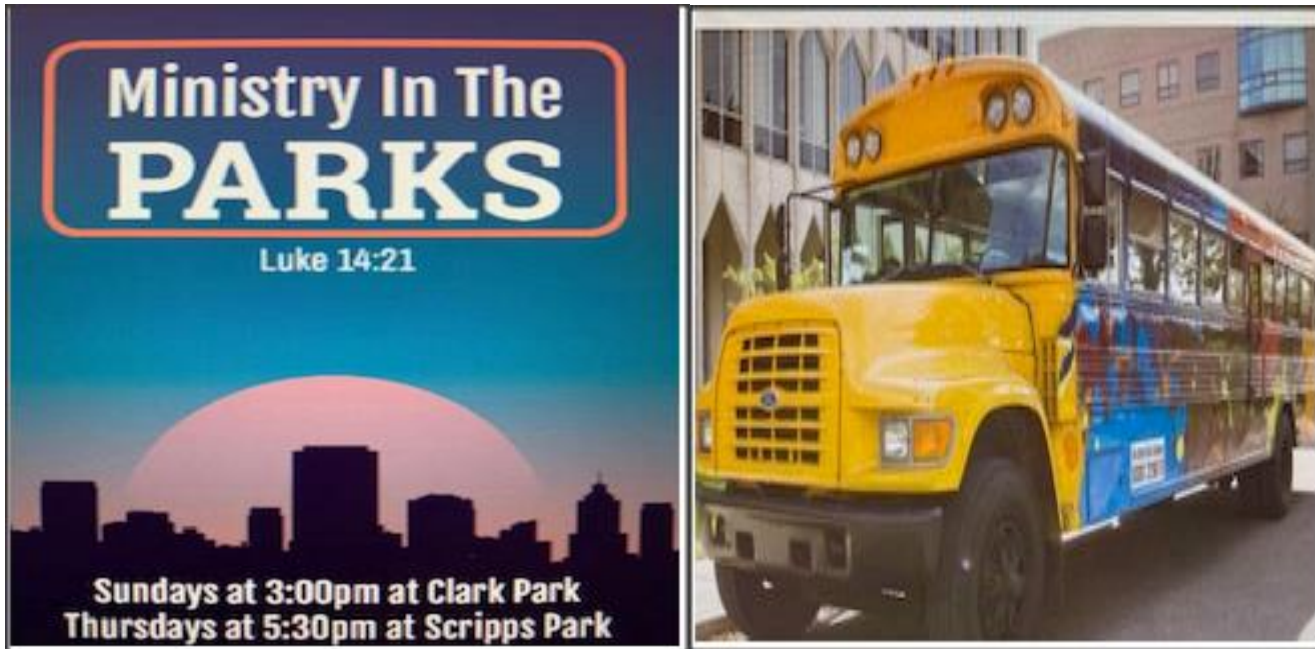
Cooks: Janet, Nancy Berg, Kim Johnson, Linda Johnson, Doris Oltersdorf, Kathy Verseman

Brownie Bakers: Marilyn Breuhan, Carole Crete, Ruth Fisher, Kathy Hoener, Carol Kandah

Servers: Chris & Anne Burgess, Chris & Beth Dempster.

Our next meal will be WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH. All help is appreciated. Contact Barbara if you can assist #248.756.3035.. All help is appreciated. Contact Barbara if you can assist #248.756.3035.

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**BLESSING BAG OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY** – September 13,2020 we will have a unique “Blessing Bag Outreach” opportunity. I (Margo) have rented a bus from the “Detroit Bus Company” that will arrive at St. Paul Lutheran Church at 1:15pm- load with blessing bags, tables, shoes and people- and then head to Detroit (Clark Park in SW Detroit) to serve during the ministry/worship that the Family of God has kicked off in the parks of Detroit. The blessing bags are an accumulation of hygiene items and snack foods, new t- shirts ,shorts and socks thanks to many many donors from St. Paul Lutheran Church and friends all around Metro Detroit – I have been collecting the items all summer! The shoes, shirts and shorts that we will be passing out are from the Board of Evangelism at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The bus holds 32 people. To try to socially distance I will have room for 20 volunteers. I have room for 5 more volunteers. We will return to St. Paul Lutheran Church at or around 4:40-5:30pm. If you would like to “take a seat” please call the church 248-349-3140 and speak with me! NO children please! We will be outside and there will be a lot of standing! We will be serving pizza, salad, drinks and dessert as well, there will be plenty for the volunteers.