

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2020**

+SERVICE OF THE WORD+

Divine Setting Four pg. 203 in the hymnal

WELCOME

BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

“Dearest Jesus, We Are Here”

#592

INVOCATION

BAPTISM

Case Allen Schlechte

LSB pg #268

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 50:15-21 (ESV)

Joseph doesn't seek revenge on his brothers because he sees the greater purposes of God. Even those things we intend to cause harm, He can use for blessings.

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 14:1-12 (ESV)

The apostle Paul warns us not to pass judgment on the ways fellow Christians show their devotion to God. There are many areas where we are free to hold a variety of opinions or practices.

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. 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. 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. 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. 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. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. 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; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

“These Things are Written”

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35 (ESV)

Jesus tells a parable to show how important it is to forgive others. Since God has cancelled the great debt of our sins, how can we continue to hold the sins of others against them?

P: The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rachel Saunders

SERMON HYMN

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

#702

SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Praise and Thanksgiving"

#789

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

#924

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rev Mike Neidow, Rev Ben Kaiser, Emmanuel Lutheran Church & School, York
Rev Eddie Mekasha, missionary to Sudanese and Ethiopian Immigrants

For Our Congregation and Community:
Welcome into God's Family Case Allen Schlechte

Barbara Rebentisch and her ministry work in Taiwan

The Family of Jack Zimmer Beaver Crossing

The Family of Keith Pulse who passed Thursday September 10

Deaconess Kim Buelmann and her work in Germany

Dealing with an illness: Bill Chessar (brother of Teresa Rathjen), Duane Barth, Jordan Ortmeier, Pauline Bulgrin, Glen Neujahr, Dawson Dey (son of Andrea Dey and Grandson of Stan and Kathy Bruns), Don Butzke, Bil Rodgers, Eugene Hladky, Jon Surma (Jessica Borchers's father), Sheila Franks (Daughter in law of Mike and Jo Franks), Dick Greenwood, LaVerne Miller (Latricia Gierhan's Father), Patty Bativelle (Teresa Gruber's Former Sister in Law), Debbie Haleem (Ron & Velma Watson's daughter), Linda Ehlers, Carole Stern (Heather Wellman's mother), Shelley Neemeyer (Sheri Hahn's sister-in-law), Mya Noreen (Great Grand Daughter of Darlene Link), Mitch Peeks, Hawley Family, Aaron DeWaard

Declining Health: **Rodney Haith**, Candi (relative of OJ Utter), Mary Jo (Amy Frye's stepmom)

Recovering from surgery: Lois Richters, Linda Luebbe, Jenni Conell, Mandy Georges (David Matlock's daughter), Aaron Price (Rosie Matlock's grandson)

St. Paul Lutheran Church: 1100 D Street, Utica, Nebraska 402-534-2200 (phone); School:402-534-2121

Pastor: Rev. Jon Dunbar; Visitation Pastor: Rev. Richard Gudgel; Principal: Mr. Bob Brauer
Cell:402-641-4813 Cell:402-319-0965 Cell:402-534-3406
Brittany Fulcer DCE: 414-292-8069

In Response to God's Love

September 6: Total Attendance: 120 Sunday School: none

VOLUNTEERS:

TODAY(09-13-20) Acolyte: Paul Fehlhafer Lay Reader: Colleen Classen Organist: Pat Koch

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY (09-13) 9:00 AM Worship Service online and in person
 10:30 AM Missionary Presentation online and in person with Barb Rebentisch
 6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group
 7:30 PM Senior High Youth Group

MONDAY (09-14) 1:00 PM Bible Study
 4:30 PM JH Football @ Centennial

TUESDAY (09-15) 1:30 PM Nimble Thimbles
 4:30 PM Volleyball in Columbus

WEDNESDAY (09-16) 3:45 PM Midweek Classes
 7:00 PM St Paul Lutheran School PTA Meeting

THURSDAY (09-17) 4:30 PM Volleyball @ St Paul Lutheran School

FRIDAY (09-18) 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study

SATURDAY (09-19) -----

SUNDAY (09-20) 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion online and in person
 10:30 AM Bible Study online and in person
 6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group
 7:30 PM Senior High Youth Group

As of 9-09-20	Amount received 9-06-20	Needed each week	Received YTD 2020	YTD Amount needed to cover 2020 budget +2019 shortage	Difference
General Fund	\$11,934.00		\$387,196.00		
Thrivent Choice	\$0.00		\$7,105.00		
School Tuition	\$3,851.00		\$27,339.00		
Total	\$15,785.00	\$21,716.00	\$421,640.00	\$532,450.00	-\$110,810.00
Building Fund	\$25.00		\$180.00	Bldg Fund**	\$46,917.00
Teacherage Fund	\$0.00		\$225.00	Teacherage Fund	\$75.00
Restricted Funds (other than bldg)	\$0.00		\$8,612.00		
Mekasha Mission (9/20-8/21) 5k goal	\$110.00	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$96.00	\$14.00

Current Operating Note: \$0.00 (debt limit is \$90,000) On April 14, 2020 St. Paul received funds from the SBA Paycheck Protection Loan Program of \$114,627.00.

Welcome to God's Family

Case Allen Schlechte
 son of Mark and Aftan Schlechte
 Grandson of Gene and Sandy Schlechte
 Sponsors: Mike & Teresa Rathjen and Jeff Schlechte

Burger Bash, sponsored by Utica Lions, Friday, September 18, at the Centennial Football Field serving from 6:00 to 8:00. Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, cookies or bars, and a beverage. Profits will go towards St. Paul and Centennial Public Schools milk/fruit programs, Centennial scholarships, community projects, and food drives.

We welcome Gary Wolter as our new school custodian. Thank you Mike Hahn and family for their excellent service in keeping our school clean.

Saturday September 12, 20 of those Missionary Gary Thies refers to as “not normal people” left at 7am for Mission Central, Mapleton, IA. We took a tour the campus including the barn (worship center and museum) and the Creation Theater. We also heard from Deaconess Kim Buelmann who serves the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as a missionary in Germany. In her role as a deaconess, she assists German congregations in providing outreach to refugees from the Middle East. She teaches these refugees and other new believers about the Christian faith and leads outreach activities. She helps the refugees learn German and provides them compassionate support and friendship. Kim also supervises GEO (globally engaged in outreach) missionaries serving in Germany. Kim is the sister of one of Pastor Gudgel and Bonnie’s sons-in-law. Prayers for Kim and her work are encouraged. Monetary gifts may be made by sending them to Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA, and indicating that they are for Kim.

Missionaries Visiting in the Fall Two missionaries will be paying visits to St. Paul's over the next couple months! Barb Rebentisch is an LCMS missionary from Paullina, Iowa who teaches English in Taiwan. She helps develop faith resources for sharing the Gospel in the Chinese language. She will be presenting on her work this morning during the Bible Study hour..

Greg Holz is the Lutheran mission director of Crossing Cambodia, an organization that ministers to street children in the city of Battambang. Originally from Colorado, Greg now lives full time with his wife and children in Cambodia. His team provides children with an education along with basic living needs. Greg will be presenting on **Sunday, October 4th**. Door offerings will be collected for both Barb and Greg to support their work.

Sunday School Opening St. Paul's will be restarting our Sunday School ministry today **Sunday, September 13th at 10:30am**. Our teachers are excited for the opportunity to help children grow in faith and love for Jesus! We hope you'll consider participating. We want to make families aware of a few adjustments necessary due to COVID-19.

1) Masks will be required (just like at school) and parents will need to provide a contact number where they can be reached. Extra masks will be available for use.

2) Children should only attend if they are feeling healthy and symptom-free. They will need to sign in by the Welcome Center before opening each Sunday.

3) There will be no Preschool Class offered at this time due to concerns about adequate space and the hands-on help that small children need. We are looking into the possibility of providing take-home packets for these families.

Please contact DCE Brittany Fulcer with further questions. We hope to see your child or grandchild soon at Sunday School!

New Bible Study on Islam. We will explore the Muslim culture, the most common Muslim objections to Christianity, and the core doctrine upon which Islam stands or falls. There was a time when we could say, "I'll never come into contact with a follower of Islam." In 2020 that is no longer the situation, travel anywhere in Lincoln and you will easily see evidence of Islamic followers. Meeting Time: 7:00 - 8:30 Utilizing video, Bible and Quran as resources. Open to Couples, Singles, Teens - Anyone is welcome.

Sept. 20: Understanding Muslims

27: Testing the New Testament

Oct. 4: Coming to the Crux

11: Jesus: Mortal Messiah or Divine Son of God?

Nov. 1: The Case for the Gospel

8: The Truth About Muhammad

22: The Holiness of the Quran

Dec. 6: Reaching Your Muslim Neighbor

Our school is seeking help with safely transporting our 5th and 6th grade students to band at Centennial Public School here in Utica. If you would be able to help drive students to and from Centennial between the hours of 10:00 am to 11:45 am during the school week, please visit with Mr Brauer. Thank you!

Our students are selling Christian Christmas cards and other items from Kleinhehn and Rada catalogs. If you interested in purchasing items, please contact Mr Brauer or a St Paul School Family. All profits from sales goes directly to the Student Activity Fund.