+The Divine Service+

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist | September 21, 2025 | 8 & 10:15AM



The Calling of St. Matthew

Saint Paul Ev. Lutheran Church—Preble, Indiana

A Congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church!

ST. PAUL is a liturgical, confessional congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For 150 years, Christ's holy Word has been preached and his blessed Sacraments have been administered here. If this is your first time worshipping with us, welcome. We are delighted to have you join us. Please sign the guest registry in the narthex and introduce yourself to one of the pastors today. They would be happy to speak with you.

Holy Communion.

WE CONFESS the bodily presence of Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. The Sacrament is offered to baptized Christians who repent of their sins, have been catechized in the Christian faith, and who are members of our congregation or another congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. If it has been over a year since the last time you communed, or if you are a visitor today, please speak to one of our pastors before receiving Holy Communion. Thank you.

Prayer Before Worship.

O LORD, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells.

Ps. 26:8

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper

in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Ps. 84:10

O LORD, my Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.



The Divine Service

When the bells ring, please stand and face the cross.

Hymn of Invocation | 915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.



The Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 92:1–5; antiphon: Matthew 9:13b, c

I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.

For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,

to the music of the lute and the harp,

to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

How great are your works, O LORD!

Your thoughts are very deep!



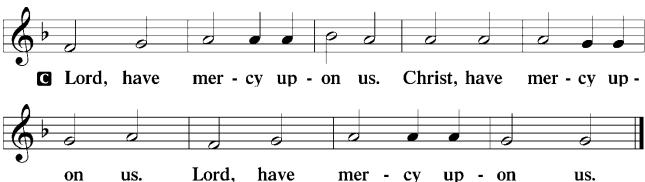


as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.

For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.





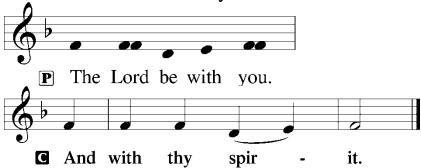
Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

P Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 2:8—3:11

⁸"But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you." ⁹And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. ¹⁰And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

¹And he said to me, "Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." ²So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

⁴And he said to me, "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. ⁵For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— ⁶not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. ⁷But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me. Because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. ⁸Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. ⁹Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house." ¹⁰Moreover, he said to me, "Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. ¹¹And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God,' whether they hear or refuse to hear."

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle Ephesians 4:7–16

⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it says,

"When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

⁹(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Face the cross as it enters the nave.



Holy Gospel Matthew 9:9–13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the ninth chapter.



⁹As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

¹⁰And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

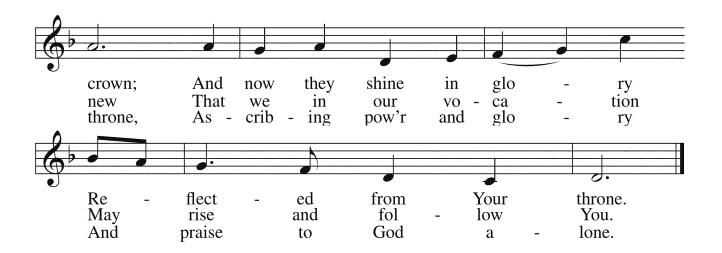
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



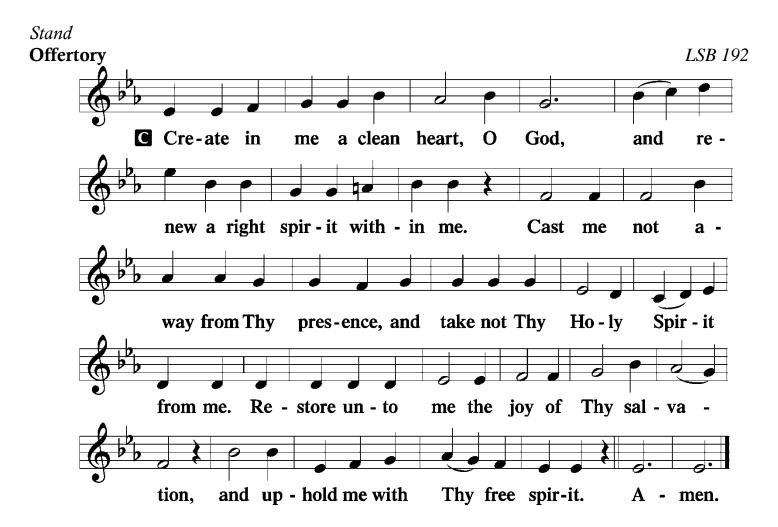
The Nicene Creed

back cover of the hymnal





The Sermon



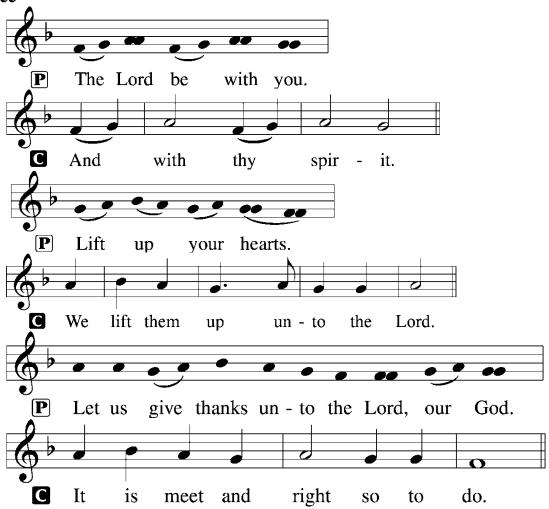
Sit **The Offering**

Stand

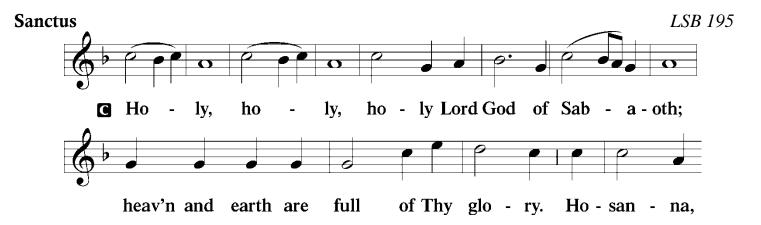
Prayer of the Church

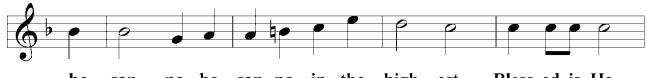
The Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 194



It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with Your servant Matthew, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:





ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer LSB 196

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



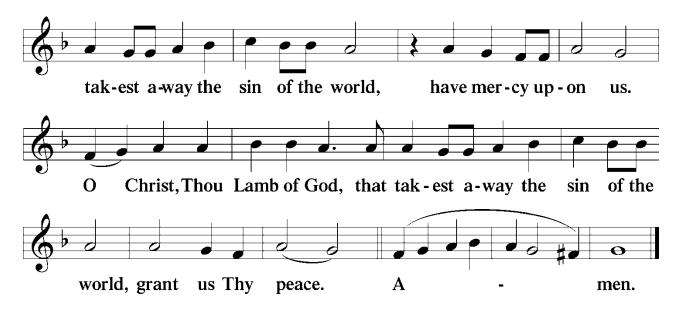
Agnus Dei

LSB 198

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



Sit

Distribution

Holy Communion at St. Paul

Our congregation confesses the bodily presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar. To care for those who are about to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the Altar is open to those baptized Christians who repent of their sins, have been catechized in the Faith, and are members of our congregation, another congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or of another Church body with whom we are in fellowship. If you have not communed in a year or are visiting, please speak with one of our Pastors before communing today. Thank you.

Distribution Hymn | 557 Seek Where You May to Find a Way

Distribution Hymn | 730 What Is the World to Me

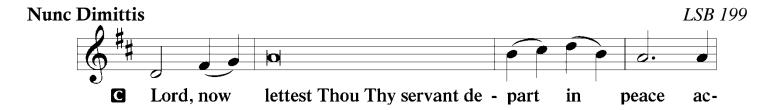
Distribution Hymn | 614 "As Surely as I Live," God Said

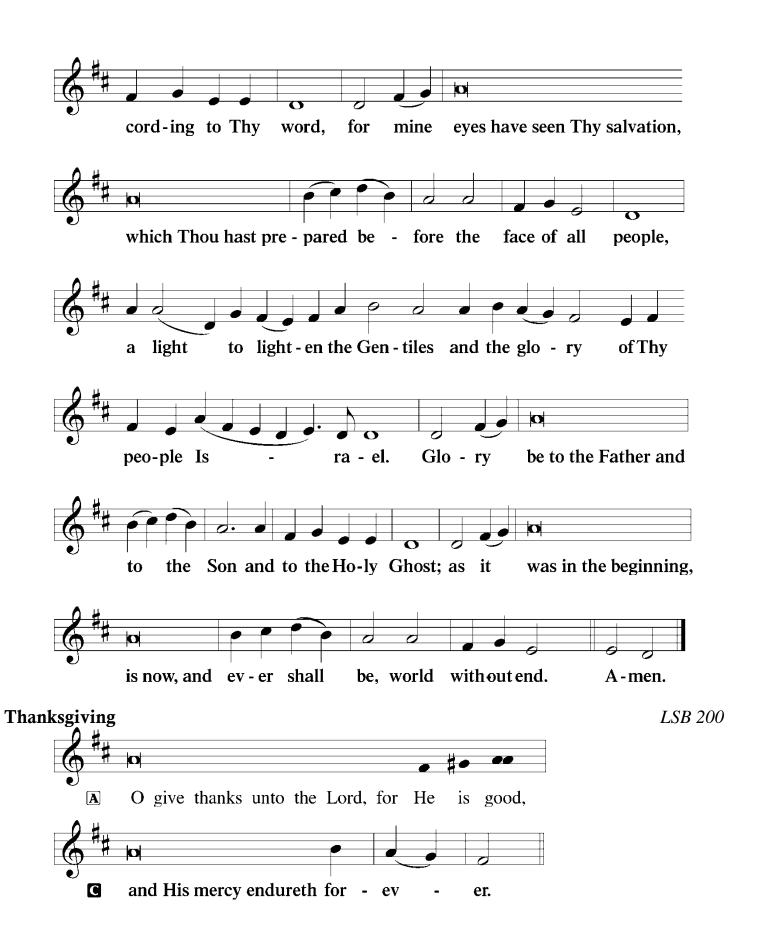
Stand

The Dismissal

The holy body and precious blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in the one true faith unto life +everlasting! Depart in peace.

C Amen.

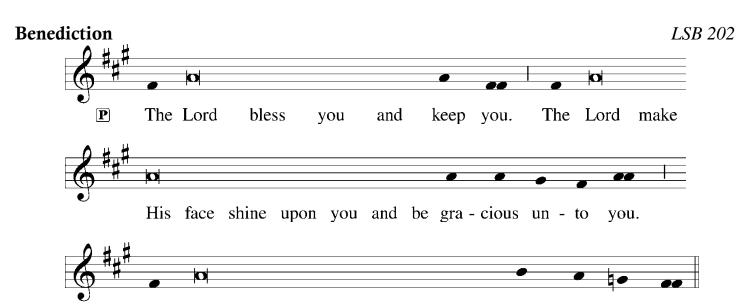




Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.





God.

Thanks

be

to

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



Hymn to Depart | 688 "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake

The Festival of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

A Meditation on the Word of God | Matthew 9:9-13

St. Matthew was also known by the name Levi in the Gospels. He was originally a tax collector by trade and thus would have been viewed by the Jewish populace as a traitor and sell-out to the Romans. The account of the Lord Jesus calling Matthew is found in his own Gospel in chapter 9. Matthew was sitting at his tax booth one day when Jesus passed by. The Lord simply said, "Follow me." The man who had devoted himself to acquiring money at the expense of his own people got up and walked away from his table, his money, his old life.

Jesus joined him at his house for a meal that celebrated Matthew's newfound calling. Many of his friends, who were also tax collectors, joined in the feast. At this the Pharisees grumbled that Jesus was not more discriminating in his choice of dinner guests: "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When he heard it, Jesus responded, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matthew 9:-13).

Not only was Matthew then one of the Lord's disciples, but he was also sent as an apostle and finally used by the Holy Spirit as the evangelist who wrote the Gospel that appears first in the New Testament. Matthew's Gospel portrays Christ as the prophet greater than Moses. It divides into five sections, reminiscent of the five books of Moses. Its first long discourse, given on a mountain, relates how Christ explicates the spiritual meaning of the Law. He alone recounts the perspective of Joseph in the account of our Lord's infancy (the dreams of Joseph by which the angel directs his actions, the visit of the Magi, the slaughter of the innocents, the flight into Egypt). Matthew's Gospel contains the fullest version of the Beatitudes and of the Lord's Prayer. He portrays Christ always as the fulfillment of various Old Testament prophecies, whose blood of the New Testament inaugurates the age of grace. His account of the postresurrection command of Christ to make disciples of all nations by baptizing in the triune name and teaching the baptized to hold on to all that Jesus commanded guides the Church's mission to this day.

The Church's traditions speak variously about his field of labors, but nearly all agree that he died a martyr's death.

-From Pastor Will Weedon's book, Celebrating the Saints.

Announcements

St. Paul

The LIT (Lutheran Institute of Theology) courses have dropped and, thanks to the generous donation of our members, are available to ALL our members free of charge! To get access to these high-quality, informative and theological courses for all Synod laypeople and pastors, go to www.lutheraninstitute.org. On the checkout page, click the text "Have a coupon?" and enter the Church's code stpauldecatur24.

What to Expect in the Institute

- Under the **Resources** section of the site, each course has a downloadable PDF with summary statements, key terms, key takeaways, and discussion questions for individuals, families, or groups.
- Each course also includes quizzes, progress tracking in your account, and certificates of completion.
- We will release new courses approximately every 8 weeks to begin with. As we grow, our goal is to move toward a 6-week release cycle.

Field Workers. We rejoice with our new field worker, Iestyn Jones and his family, who have been placed into our midst. Iestyn is from Wales (United Kingdom) and his dear wife is from Norway. As they are joining us in worship today, please give them a warm St. Paul welcome.

Confirmation will meet during Sunday School hour in Pastor's Study and will be taught by our 2nd year field worker, Ryan Skove. In years past, this class was taught by Pastor after the second service. This year, the Lutheran Lads Greek Study will meet after second service. Talk to Pastor Yeager if you are interested in studying Greek.

Bible Class and Tuesday Early-Bird Bible Class. For Sunday morning Bible Class at St. Paul, starting September 7, Pastor Yeager will begin a study of the Book of Judges. This is not a book many Lutherans are familiar with. So come to expand your knowledge of the Bible. Don't know who Barak is? Ehud? Want to know what the story of Samson is really all about? It's not what you think. Come to Bible Class. Especially those of you who are not in the habit of coming to Bible Class. This study will be well worth your time and in fact it will be more worthwhile than any activity you could otherwise be doing at 9:15AM on a Sunday morning.

Church Directory. After this week's sign-ups, all appointments for Fri-Sat October 10-11 have been taken. The photo company has graciously agreed to add a third date for pictures, Thursday, October 9th from 2-8:36PM. Hopefully this will benefit many of you, since many in the congregation could not make a Fri-Sat appointment. You may sign up online at ucdir.com with the login "in2030" and the password "photos" or simply email Pr. Yeager with your preference. Even if you don't like to have your picture taken, we ask that you participate so that we can have a 'full' directory with all our members and families listed. This will help newer members get to know our congregation. There is no cost to you unless you choose to purchase additional photos from the company. Thanks in advance for your help in this endeavor.

Cancelled Stamps - Mites for Missions. Please consider saving stamps for "Mites for Missions." What to do? Trim stamps from the envelope, leaving ¼ inch margin. Place trimmed stamps into a zip lock bag. Place your stamps in the designated basket located at the back of church. *Aluminum Cans*. Pastor and Lynn Brege are collecting aluminum cans for Missions. Please bring your cans (preferably crushed) to 8369 N 300 W and leave them by the barn door. All proceeds will go to local missions. Thanks!

<u>Wyneken</u>

Golf Outing—Fundraiser. The Wyneken class of 2027 is hosting a golf outing fundraiser to support their upcoming trip to our nation's capital! We're looking for sponsors to help make this incredible learning experience possible. Whether you're a business owner, golf enthusiast, or just want to support young people's education, your sponsorship would mean the world to these students. https://bit.ly/2025GolfSponsor Of course, they are also looking for golfers too! Come and enjoy a day of golfing at Cross Creek on Sunday, September 21. Check in is at 11 a.m. with a noon shotgun start. The cost is \$75 per player or \$300 for a foursome. A pulled pork meal will follow at 5 p.m. If you don't golf but would like to enjoy the meal, you can purchase a meal ticket from any Wyneken 7th grader for \$12. All proceeds goes to Wyneken's Class of 2027's Washington DC trip. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Clemons at 260-706-3213. Thank you for helping the class with their fundraising activities!

Community

Immanuel, Union Twp. At a Special Voter's Meeting held on Sunday, September 7 the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church (Union Township) in Decatur, IN elected to Call the Rev. Kevin McGladdery of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Orange, Connecticut as their pastor. Please keep Rev. McGladdery, Immanuel - Union, and Zion - Orange, CT in your prayers as Rev. McGladdery receives and deliberates this call.

Hope Clinic. Join us for one of our fundraising banquets **Monday, Sept. 22** at the Mirage or **Tuesday, Sept. 23**rd at First Mennonite, Berne. RSVP by Sept 8 at hopeclinicfundraiser.net or call or text 260-223-6132 or email <u>becky@hopeandanswers.com</u>.

The Friends of Wyneken will host a Germanfest at the historic Wyneken House on <u>Saturday</u>, <u>September 27</u>, <u>from 5:30-9:00 PM</u>. There will be German and American food and beverages, a silent auction, music by the duo String Theory, and plenty of <u>gemutlichkeit</u>. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Call or text (260) 437-0420 for information or to reserve tickets. The Wyneken House is located at 11730 NW Winchester Road, Decatur, Indiana.

Martini Hog Roast is BACK!! <u>September 27th, 2025!!</u> Doors open at 4:30pm with dinners being served from 5:00-6:30pm. Silent auction and other activities will end at 7:00pm with the event ending at 7:30pm. Online ticket sales are now LIVE on the Martini Lutheran Church website. Adults are \$15 and children 12 and under are free. Scan QR code on poster in narthex to purchase tickets or call Sara Martini 260-749-0014.

Zion Friedheim fundraiser to benefit Heidi Wilkinson. Heidi is the daughter of Michelle Knipstein (Mrs. Gary) and is a member of Zion Friedheim. The fundraiser will be held at Zion-

Friedheim's Family Life Center on Saturday, October 11, from 4-7 p.m. The menu for the meal is your choice of pork or Swiss steak, cheesy potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, roll, dessert, and a drink. Presale tickets are available for \$15 (there may not be any tickets sold at the door) and should be purchased by October 7. Tickets contact Scott Christner at 260-223-1685.

St. Peter Lutheran (Fuelling) Anniversary Church Dinner. <u>Dine-In or Drive-Thru Available</u>. <u>When:</u> Sunday, October 12th, 2025 10:00am-1:00pm. <u>Where:</u> St. Peter Lutheran (Fuelling) Church 1033 E. 1100 N. Decatur, IN 46733 <u>Menu:</u> Swiss Steak / Chicken Breast, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Dinner Role, Dessert, Drinks. **Price:** Adults - \$12, Children 12 and under - \$6.00.

Fall Banquet: Right to Life of Northeast Indiana will be October 14, 2025 at the Memorial Coliseum!!! We are excited to share our keynote speaker with our eight counties! Kirk Cameron, well known actor and author. He is known by millions as "Mike Seaver" from the 1980's hit sit-com, "Growing Pains." Kirk is also known for his family-focused films, "Fireproof" and recent film, "Life Mark." Last year we were blessed to have 3000 attendees for our banquet, which made the banquet a record-breaking event for the United States!!! This year we are hoping to break the record with having 3200 attendees. We are hoping you are able to join us to share in this amazing event! Here is the link with more information: https://ichooselife.org/resources/events/upcoming-events/fallbanquet. We are thankful for your continued support for our mission to protect LIFE from conception to natural death through education, advocacy and public policy.

40 Days for Life takes place September 24-November 2. 40 Days for Life is a community-based campaign that takes a determined, peaceful approach to showing local communities the consequences of abortion in their own neighborhoods, for their own friends and families. It puts into action a desire to cooperate with God in the carrying out of his plan for the end of abortion. Sign up to spend time in prayer outside of Planned Parenthood by calling 260-471-1849 or visiting 40daysforlife.com/en/fortwayne.

Singing With The Saints Hymn Festival: <u>Sunday, November 2, 3 p.m.</u> You are invited to join us at Zion Friedheim for an afternoon of singing and fellowship. We are currently planning to include a Festival Adult Choir (high school and older), a Festival Children's Choir (2nd grade-8th grade, unchanged voices), and instrumentalists. <u>You do not need to be members of Zion Friedheim in order to participate!</u> Text Allison Ulmer at 361-236-5507 or fill out this short google form https://forms.gle/925uVAhhsPHhuZDF8 no later than August 20 if you or your children are potentially interested in participating. Rehearsals will start after Labor Day and will be scheduled based upon the information from the form.

Sing in the Seminary Choir. CTS invites signers from area congregations to participate in the Good Shepherd Institute hymn festival this November. This year's hymn festival is <u>Monday</u>, <u>November 10, at 7:30pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church</u>, <u>1126 S. Barr St.</u> There are several practices in October at St. Paul's. If interested in further details, Pastor Yeager has details a full letter for anyone interested. Talk to him today.

Prayer of the Church

- +Sick and Recovering: Pendy Selking, Cindy Gallmeyer, Mike Hoffman.
- +Our teachers: Mrs. Carolyn Voshell, staff, students, and childcare.
- +Expectant mothers: Halei Faurote; Taylor Selking; Maddie McCullough.
- +**The Homebound**: Laurna Bulmahn, Marilyn Werling, Cindy Gallmeyer, Warren Scheumann, Gene Bulmahn (all at Woodcrest); Mike Hoffman (Golden Years, Fort Wayne); Don Haines (home), Ron Selking (Residences, Chesterton, Indiana).
- +Birthdays 9/22-9/28. Janeen Gerke, Julie Schueler, Levi Adams, Ben Blum, Barb Bulmahn, Karen Fisher, Maddie McCullough, John Schueler, Mike Werling.

Acolytes 9/21

8AM Gus Fuelling

10:15AM Charlie Faurote

Attendance

Wednesday, September 10 20

Sunday, September 14 8AM 102 10:15AM 80

Stewardship for 9/7/25

Online Offering: \$1,863.49 Offering: \$9,472.84 Total for the week: \$11,336.33

vs. weekly goal: -\$202.16 vs. Year to Date: -\$91,282.94

Weekly Calendar

8AM The Feast of St. Matthew—D.S. Sunday, September 21

9:15AM Bible Class, Sunday School, Confirmation

10:15AM The Feast of St. Matthew—D.S.

11:30AM Lutheran Lads Greek Study

9:30AM Association Bible Class, St. John Bingen Tuesday, September 23 Wednesday, September 24

Vespers

Sunday, September 21

8AM The 16th Sunday after Pentecost—Matins 9:15AM Bible Class, Sunday School, Confirmation

10:15AM The 16th Sunday after Pentecost—D.S.

11:30AM Lutheran Lads Greek Study

PRAYERS at the SACRAMENT

Before receiving the BODY OF CHRIST, pray:

"Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." *Matthew 8:8*

Before receiving the BLOOD OF CHRIST, pray:

"I will take the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord."

Psalm 116:13

After receiving the Sacrament, pray the ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O Good Jesus, hear me.
Within thy wounds hide me.
Suffer me not to be separated from thee.
From the malignant enemy, defend me.
In the hour of my death, call me,
And bid me come to Thee,
That with Thy saints, I may praise Thee
forever and ever. Amen.

