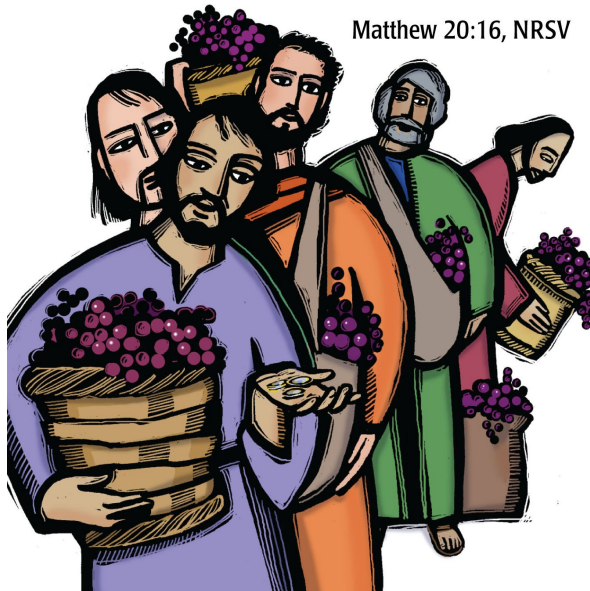


17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

So the **last** will be **FIRST**,
and the **first** will be **LAST**.

Matthew 20:16, NRSV



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 250 * 205 West Jefferson Street
Cole Camp, MO 65325

"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."

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If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.



Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

please stand in body or spirit

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

#853

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

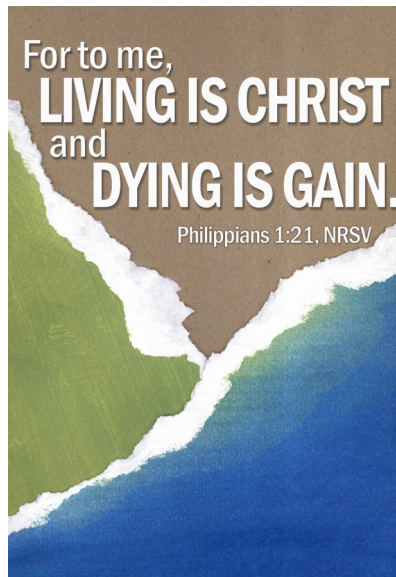
Hymn of Praise

“Gloria”

p. 176

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray..... **Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**



please be seated

First Reading

Jonah 3:10 - 4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. ^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." ⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 145: 1-8

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading

Philippians 1: 21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"

p. 179

Gospel

Matthew 20: 1-16

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 20th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

please be seated

Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

please stand in body or spirit

Hymn of the Day

“Lord of Light”

#688

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

please be seated

Offering



please stand in body or spirit

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Hear, O Lord, the prayer you taught us to pray.....**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.**

please be seated

HOLY COMMUNION

by Stations

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.

Red wine or white grape juice is available.

Communion Hymns

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

#685

“Give Me Jesus”

#770

please stand in body or spirit

Post-Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.... Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

#669

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

"GOD'S HOPE FOR ALL IN NEED"



Welcome: Welcome on this Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost. We gather today to be refreshed by God's Word, strengthened in community, and sent back into the world with renewed grace. May your spirit find peace and your heart find joy as we worship the Lord together today.

We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!

In Our Prayers: "Unspoken prayer concerns", Dennis Balke, Suzanne Lutjen, Mary Haluptzok, Ken Holland, Kevin Tatum, Nathan Vanderlinden, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman and Kyle Luetjen.



Richard Lee, Colin Kabler (brother of Alexis Smith), Tom Ferguson, Tanner Huffman, Merle Fuelling (brother of Paul Fuelling), Dan Sabala, Pam Bruns (Cousin of Ruth Ann Kreisel), Pat Higgins, Kathy Harms, Kylie Simon, Hazel Karstons, Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Larry Haase (brother-in-law of Gene Beckman), David Mobely (brother-in-law of Randy Healan), Joyce Jones (sister of Connie Gerken), Kris Barnes (friend of Julie Cronin), Joe Campbell, Cliff Eckhoff, Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).



Nursing Home & Homebound: Vern Dean Bohling, Shirley Cash: *Anew*. Judie VonHolten, Eugene Beckman, Florence VonHolten, Arlene Schlesselman & Larry & Judy Schlesselman: *GSCC*. Earl Bauer: *Windsor Nursing Home*.

Prayers: If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.



Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: Rank E3 Jensen Hamilton (grandson of Dennis Hamilton), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen), J. Phillips Navy Petty Officer E-4 MMN (nephew of Katy Schlesselman), Lt. Col. Ron Poe, SSG Nick Smith and Major Joseph Strathman.



With Sympathy: We pray for those whose loved ones have recently died: Martha Doogs (sister of Shari Farrington).

One Stitch at a Time: The Sewing Group meets every **Monday** at 9:00am in the Luther League Room. Everyone is welcome to join!



Yoga: Dr. Stephanie Shirding is once again offering a free Community Yoga class! This class is held from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall **every Monday**. We thank Dr. Shirding for offering this once again! Search for "Monday Mediations" on Facebook for more information about the class.



Circle: The Esther Circle will meet at 7:00 pm on **September 21st** at Sharel Wienberg's home.



Sunbeam: The Sunbeam Committee will meet on **September 23** at 2:00 pm in the Gathering Space.



Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **September 24th**, from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.



Junior Lutherans Activity: Junior Lutherans and their families are invited to an afternoon at Pop Pop's Pumpkin patch here in Cole Camp on **October 18th** at 4:00 pm. We'll have activities with pumpkins, a Bible story, time to ride the train cars, and pet animals (llamas!). We look forward to seeing you!





Personal Care Kits - We at St. Paul's are invited to share God's love with our neighbors by gathering items for the **Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits**. We will be collecting the personal care items for the next 3 weeks – **September 20 – October 11**. Listed below are the needed essential items for our neighbors to stay healthy in these most challenging times. Together with a Thrivent grant and your generous giving, we hope to be able to assemble at least 70 kits. The kits, together with our quilts, will be taken to Jefferson City on Saturday, October 17.

2-3 bars of soap to equal 8-9 oz.

1 sturdy wide-toothed comb

1 bath towel, dark color (20"x40" or 52"x27")

1 toothbrush (**NO** toothpaste)

1 nail clipper

Little Blessings: Our daycare is in need of some new rocking chairs similar to what is pictured here. They prefer upholstered chairs, not gliders, and they do not need to recline. If you have something that is gently used please let us know to make sure it's what we're looking for. Thank you!



Thank you: Thank you to all those faithful individuals who worked tirelessly on our church float for the past three months. The list of workers includes our construction guys - Dennis Balke, Greg Bredehoeft, and Phillip Luetjen. Also, to the guys who came to do some "heavy lifting". Please note that Dennis built the framework for the eagle and Uncle Sam's hat! Debbie Eckhoff and Krista Poe covered the eagle with flowers, made the feathers for the wings, and hot-glued everything in place. Thank you to the 12-15 gals who counted, pleated, and fluffed over 3000 flowers for the float! During the last two weeks before the fair, these gals also responded to those "emergency" text messages crying for "HELP" and gave advice and support, when needed! Thank you to Tiffinay Nash for preparing the stencils for the lettering on the float and the stars on the flags. Finally, thank you to our drivers - Dennis Balke, Pastor Stephen, Cody Mullins, and Jake Jackson. Although, we did not receive Grand Champion recognition, "On Eagle's Wings" was a beautiful float due to the hard efforts of many! Our float did come in second place in the listing of the five competing floats! Thank you!!



thrivent For information on Choice Dollars visit Thrivent.com/choice dollars or call 1-800-847-4836 and say, "Thrivent Choice". A special thank you to those who have already given their Thrivent Dollars to St. Paul's. This month is.....Glenalee Dillon and Philip Luetjen.



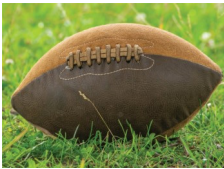
ELCA Youth Gathering: Can you "Imagine More" courage, joy, love, grace, welcome? That's the theme of the upcoming 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering: *Imagine More*. The Gathering will take place **June 28 - July 2, 2027**, in Minneapolis, MN. Youth who have completed 8th through 12th grades are invited to attend. We will have an informational meeting with a light lunch for youth and parents on Sunday, **September 27th**, just after worship. Please RSVP to Anne Goosen if you can be there. If you are interested in attending the Youth Gathering, you and your family are encouraged to sign up for one or more shifts in the fair stand since the church shares a portion of proceeds with the Luther League to support attending the gathering.

~*~ In Our Community ~*~



See You at the Pole: The Cole Camp FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) will host the annual "See You at the Pole" event on Wednesday, September 23, at 7:20 am, at the flagpole in front of the school building. This annual event invites students, teachers, and community members to gather in prayer over our nation and our school. All are welcome to join in!

Fish Fry: Mt. Hulda Lutheran Church will be hosting their annual Fish Fry on **September 27th**. Serving from 4:30pm until approximately 7:00pm or until the fish is gone! A free will offering will be taken to help support local families through the Lutheran Early Response Team, (LERT), and the Cole Camp Area Church Alliance.



Fields of Faith: The Cole Camp FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) will host "Fields of Faith" at the Cole Camp Bluebirds Football game on October 14th. Tailgate starts at 6:00 pm, the program will begin at 7:00 pm. All are welcome (youth groups, other schools, ect). If you would be able to assist with providing food, please contact Pastor Stephen Zeller.

Flu Shot Clinic: The Benton County Health Department will have a drive-thru flu shot clinic on Thursday, **October 8th**. It will be held at St. Paul's under the canopy from 9:00am until 12:00pm. They accept medicare and medicaid. If you do not have insurance a donation will be appreciated. Please mark your calendar and get prepared for the flu season.



THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, September 20:	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Adult/SS Class
	10:00 am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
Monday, September 21:	9:00 am	Sewing Group
	6:30 pm	Yoga
Wednesday, September 23:	2:00 pm	Sunbeam Committee
Thursday, September 24:	8:00 am	BCHD
Saturday, September 26:	5:30 pm	Casual Worship Service
Sunday, September 27:	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Adult/SS Class
	10:00 am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations



~ * ~ Coming Events ~ * ~

September 20	Sunday School Resumes
September 21	Esther Circle
September 26	WELCA Mid-MO Fall Gathering
October 7	WELCA Quarterly Meeting

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers	The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister	Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist	Sandy Schlesselman
Pianist	Jeannette VonHolten
AV Technicians	Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk
Altar Guild	Susan Goosen & Debbie Vaughn
Ushers	Melinda Strathman, Head Usher
.....	Chad Schlesselman, Mark Oelrichs, Randy Schlesselman, Steve Triplett



17th Sunday after Pentecost ~ September 20, 2026

Assisting Minister	Darin Oelrichs
Communion Assistants	Luther League
Reader	Susan Goosen
Children's Sermon	Pastor Stephen Zeller
Acolytes	Gannon Elliott & Tristan Fox
Flowers	Debbie Vaughn



18th Sunday after Pentecost ~ September 27, 2026

Assisting Minister	Tom Oelrichs
Communion Assistants	Trisha Goosen & Stephanie Randall
Reader	Adrienn Dieckman
Children's Sermon	Joyce Schlesselmann
Acolytes	Fred Goosen & Kale Kruep
Flowers	Kathy Gerken