St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 26, 2018

Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Mike Tessman, Assistant Minister
Stacey Mika, Lay Reader

408 S. Davidson Street | Karnes City, TX 78118
Office (830) 780-2251  Pastor Dorn (602) 565-9793
www.StPaulsLutheranKC.org
www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranKarnesCity
Gathering
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

In today’s gospel many people take offense at Jesus’ invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus’ disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John’s gospel for Peter’s confession of faith. “To whom can we go?” asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. “You have the words of eternal life.” In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

The assembly stands.

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

Rise up, O saints of God!
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.

Speak out, O saints of God!
Despair engulfs earth’s frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
the word of hope proclaim.

Rise up, O saints of God!
The kingdom’s task embrace;
redress sin’s cruel consequence;
give justice larger place.

Give heed, O saints of God!
Creation cries in pain;
stretch forth your hand of healing now,
with love the weak sustain.

Commit your hearts to seek
the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit’s pow’r,
rise up, O saints of God!

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.
LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

APOSTLES’ 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.
MORNING LITANY

O Lord, I cry to you for help.
In the morning my prayer comes before you.

Let my mouth be full of your praise
and your glory all the day long.

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

Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.

You redeem my life from the grave,
and crown me with mercy and steadfast love.

Lord, hear my prayer,
and let my cry come before you.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Oremos. Dios Santo, tu palabra alimenta a tu gente con la vida que es eterna. Dirijan nuestras elecciones y nos conserven en su verdad, que, renunciando a lo falso y al mal, podamos vivir en ustedes, a través de su hijo, Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor. Amén.

The assembly is seated.

Word
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
In the Near East, covenant means agreement or alliance. It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.
Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.  

And Joshua said to all the people,  

14 Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.  

15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."  

16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods;  

17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed;  

18 and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

Word of God, word of life.  

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

10 Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.  

11 Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.  

12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.  

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.  

14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.  

15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.  

16 With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.  

17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.  

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.  

19 Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,  

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Word of God, word of life.  

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.
THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: John 6:56-69

Glory to You, O Lord!

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

[Jesus said,]

56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. 57 Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” 59 He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. 60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” 61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But among you there are some who do not believe.”

65 For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. 66 And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” 67 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 68 So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” 69 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 70 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

_Blest Be the Tie That Binds_

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the unity of heart and mind  
is like to that above.

Before our Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign  
through all eternity.
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assembly shall kneel as they are able.

Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Lord God, we pray for the whole church. Sustain all who have tasted the bread of heaven and found solace in the promise of eternal life. Teach us to forgive one another in love and build each other up. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord God, save and protect your creation. Feed, nourish, and encourage all living creatures, and teach us to practice faithful stewardship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord God, you rule the nations. Lead all people to speak truth and kindness to one another, walking in the paths of justice and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O Lord, send calm and perseverance to those who are in trouble or who live daily with great stress; for those that are ill or injured. Fill them with your Spirit and satisfy them with your presence, especially Sadat, David, Sharon, Ellvera, Bobby & Betty, Alex, James, Pauline, Mitch, Roxanne, Shane, Norma, Laquita, Helen, Linda, Jack, Michael, Raymond, Alva, Steve, Evalina, Francis, Ella, Khloe, Kenneth, Eric, Moma, The Ndeh Family, Charles, Leroy, Carly, Eddie, Shanna, Travis, John, Yvonne, Anyemarie, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord God, we pray for those gathered here today. Feed us well so that the difficult journey of life may not be too much, and sustain us through times of trial. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord God, we bless you for the lives of those faithful ones who have gone before us. Raise all at the last day, that we may exalt your name together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As we sow Seeds of Hope, we pray for St. John Lutheran in Westhoff. Guide them to new opportunities and abilities to draw younger people into the congregation. We pray also for St. Peter’s in Elgin that they may have vision, direction, and that God would use them as an instrument of grace in their community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Almighty and loving God, we look to you in hope and trust, knowing that you will do far more than we can ask or imagine, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you**
OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

The assembly stands.

OFFERING HYMN (ELW p. 186) Create in Me a Clean Heart

OFFERING PRAYER
Let us pray.
Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sending
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING
May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, Æ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.
Take My Life, That I May Be

Refrain: Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. Refrain

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. Refrain

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King; take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee. Refrain

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine; take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Refrain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve. Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY  (ELW p. 884)  Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul’s by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul’s. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us. If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance, please signal an usher.
For Prayerful Consideration

**Ill, Injured or Otherwise Struggling:** Sadat Abrihim, David Anaba, Sharon Baumann, Ellvera Boehm, Bobby & Betty Busselman, Alex Caballero, James Castillo, Pauline Davidson, Mitch Dorn, Roxanne Dorn, Shane Edens, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Helen Grimm, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Michael Janysek, Raymond Jenkins, Alva Jonas, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Ella Manka, Khloe Martinez, Kenneth Matthews, Erica Montemayor, Charles Pierce, Leroy Polderick, Carly Rosenboon, Eddie Salas, Shanna Swierc, Travis Tessman, John Tackitt, Yvonne Watkins, Anyemarie, Mary Ruth Witte, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow

**For those in the military:** Nick Adams, Anthony Alvarez, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Jon Wayne Schulz, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva

**Contribution Corner:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>WEEKLY BUDGET</th>
<th>WEEKLY GIVING</th>
<th>OVER (UNDER)</th>
<th>YTD BUDGET</th>
<th>YTD GIVING</th>
<th>OVER (UNDER)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/19/2018</td>
<td>$2,431.87</td>
<td>$1575.00</td>
<td>$(856.87)</td>
<td>$80,851.71</td>
<td>$60,851.00</td>
<td>$(19,400.71)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Today we welcome Lay Leader, Thomas Mutz, to our pulpit!** Mr. Mutz is a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Poth. He is currently in his second year of the Parish Ministry Program at the Southwestern Texas Synod at TLU. Thomas has been married to his wife Brenda for 30 years. They have two children Matthew, a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force and Elizabeth, a graduate student at UT Dallas. Thomas works at San Antonio Water System and runs the family farm.

**Coming Events**

*Let’s join together and PARTICIPATE!*

The Women of the Church will be purchasing and putting together school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Anyone who would like to donate to this cause can do so at any time. We will be accepting monetary donations to help pay for the school kits. Place your donation in a marked envelope that says Women’s Group. Thank you!

“God’s work. Our hands.” **Sunday** will be Sunday, September 9, 2018. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.
You work every day to make your community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together in 2018!

**Women’s Bible Study Group: “Seamless” by Angie Smith.** Wednesday evenings at 6:00

In seven sessions, **Seamless** covers the people, places and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Each week of study features key information that ties all of scripture together into the seamless truth of the gospel message and is accompanied by maps, general Bible facts, and word studies. For more information, contact Rita Jordan A sign up sheet is located in the Fellowship Hall.

---

**Saturday**

**September 15th**

**9AM TO 5PM**

**LUTHERAN FALL FESTIVAL**

**At Fredericksburg Marktplatz**

**Fun for the whole family**

- 5K—starts at 9AM
- Chili Cook-off
- Quilt Auction
- Live music all day
- Craft Fair
- Food vendors
- Bounce houses
- Carnival games
- Gift Card Wheel
- Hay Maze & Kid’s Train

For more information, or to sign up for the 5K, Quilt Auction, Chili Cook-Off, Craft Fair, or to sign up to help with Carnival booths visit www.CrossTrails.org.

**Benefiting Camp Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch Camp**

Cross Trails Ministry

**Summer Camp  Retreats**

www.CrossTrails.org  (830) 257-6340

391 Upper Turtle Creek Rd Kerrville, TX 78028