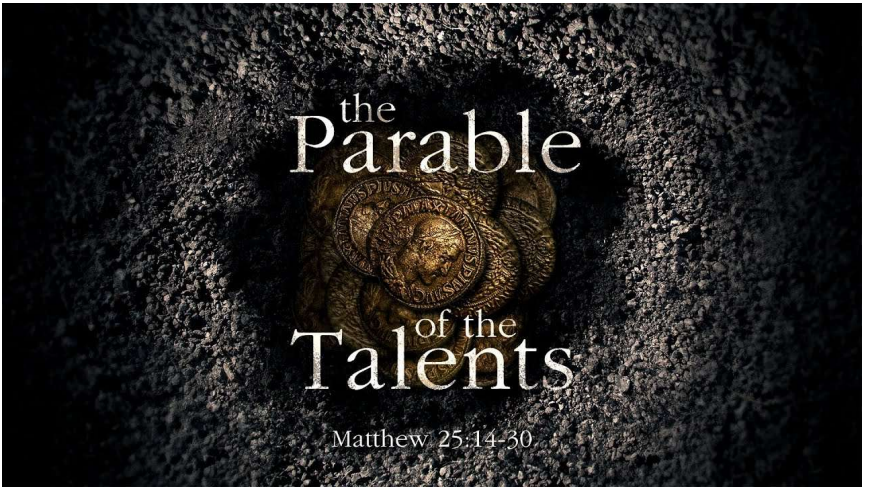



**Sunday, November 15, 2026**
**25th Sunday after Pentecost Lectionary 33, Year A**
*Walk With Us As Disciples of Christ!*

# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Child Development Center and Pre-School

**LCMC**

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor
(812) 259-2530 Email: pastor@stpaultaylor.com

Open, Organist
Jason Richter, Office Manager
401 West Seventh Street
Taylor, Texas 76574
Email: office@stpaultaylor.com
Office Phone: (512) 352-2327
Office Hours: 8am-1pm Mon -Thur; Closed on Friday

**Website: www.stpaultaylor.com** **Online Giving Portal:**

Follow us at Facebook.com/stpaultaylor
SUNDAY RADIO BROADCAST
KRXT 98.5 FM at 12:00pm
St. Paul Church does take pictures and videos which will be posted on their Social Media and Web Page.

# St. Paul Lutheran Church

*WALK WITH US AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST!*

*Welcome!*

As we can be helpful to you, we look forward to doing so. If you would like the pastor to contact you, please mark that on the Record of Fellowship or call the church office.

We ask that the Record of Fellowship be filled out (members and visitors) so that we will have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

We Remember in Prayer

**(Please call or email the church office to remove anyone from the prayer lists.)**

**Our Members:**

**Larry Robbins, Casey Anderson, Carol Wilson, Diane, Mark Lindell, Kent Safarik.**

**Our Shut Ins:**

**Shirley Evans, Olin Tiemann, Wandeen Sakewitz, Glenn Minzenmayer, Aileen Bunge, Mary Miller, David Kuempel, Gloria Bartosh, Carol Lantzsch, Inez Sladek, Grace Bulgerin, Geraldine Steger, Lomis Weber, Lisa Cox.**

**Our family, friends, and loved ones:**

Roger Wilson, Teresa Talley, William Shelton, Joe Gamez, Dave Martinka, Andrea Carrizales, Richard, Glynda Vanecek, Rick Mosley, Don Williams, Bill Cody, Randel Duelm, Alan Debus, Robert Harty, Jack Dismukes, Calvin and Rosalie Jechow, Sandra Milner, Dora Brittian, Ryan Richey, Mary Perez, Rob Randig, Gayla Lantzsch, Tommy Harrison, Walter Moldenhauer.

**WELCOME**
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## INTRODUCTION

*Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.*

## 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,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,
**we confess that we have trusted in our preparation**
**instead of your invitation.**
**We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.**
**We trust the voice of our shame and fear,**
**which keeps us from entering fully**
**into relationship with you and others.**
**We are not awake to the coming of your reign.**
**Rouse us and rescue us,**
**that we may enter into your joy.**
**Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.
**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG** "On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand" P. 437

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.**

### *KYRIE - PG. 165*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.
**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.
**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
**Amen.**

### *THIS IS THE FEAST - PG. 169*

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**
**Alleluia, alleluia.**
**This is the feast of victory for our God.**
**Alleluia, alleluia.**

1 **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,**
**whose blood set us free to be people of God.**
**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,**
**and honor, blessing, and glory are his.** *Refrain*

2 **Sing with all the people of God,**
**and join in the hymn of all creation:**
**Blessing, honor, glory, and might**
**be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.** *Refrain*

3 **For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.**
**Alleluia.** *Refrain*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
**Amen.**

## WORD

**First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

*Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.*

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at hand! The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.
14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.
17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12**

*So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)*

1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**
**from age to age you are God.**
3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
**and like a watch in the night;**
5 you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
**in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
7 For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
**and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
9 When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;**
**yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**
11 Who regards the power of your wrath?

Who rightly fears your indignation?
12 **So teach us to number our days**
**that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have
anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come
like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction
will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!
4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for
you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So,
then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who
sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the
day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of
salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord
Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.
11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - PG. 171***

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**
**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:14-30

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30**

*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves
and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one,
to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five
talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one
who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent
went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master
of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five
talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five
talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and
trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many
things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward,
saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His

master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ [26] But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

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

**Congregation**

**Children’s message**

**Sermon** Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

**HYMN OF THE DAY** **"COME AND SEEK THE WAYS OF WISDOM”** **P.971**
**FROM THE ACS SUPPLEMENT**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy,
**hear our prayer.**

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy,
**hear our prayer.**

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy,
**hear our prayer.**

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing and we remember our friends and family members before you. God, in your mercy,
**hear our prayer.**

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionary William in Kenya, serving with the Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Hands for Pine City Lutheran Church in Pine City, Minnesota. Today we also pray for Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Brenham, Texas. By your Holy Spirit, give them the strength of faith to answer your call to make disciples. God, in your mercy,
**hear our prayer.**

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy,
**hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
**And also with you.**
**Amen**

## 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.**

*The presiding minister continues:*
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . .

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY HOLY - PG. 173**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**
**Lord God of power and might,**
**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**
**Hosanna in the highest.**
**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**
**Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

**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.**

## COMMUNION

*Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line and at the altar rail.*

**LAMB OF GOD - PG. 174**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**
**have mercy on us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**
**have mercy on us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**
**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

**Prayer After Communion**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
Amen.

**SENDING SONG** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"
P.674

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
**Thanks be to God.**

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**OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **TODAY** | | | **Nov 15** |
| | | Congregational Meeting immediately following service | |
| 10:00 | - | Worship with Holy Communion - Sanctuary | |
| 11:00 | - | Sunday School, Brunch, Confirmation and Adult Education | |
| 12:00 | - | Radio Broadcast – KRXT 98.5 FM | |
| **MONDAY** | | | **Nov 16** |
| | | *Church Office Closed* | |
| 6:00 | - | Handbell Choir Practice - Sanctuary | |
| **TUESDAY** | | | **Nov 17** |
| | | *Church Office Closed* | |
| 9:30 | - | LCMC Pr Cluster Mtg - Rockdale | |
| 6:30 | - | Council Meeting – St. Paul House | |
| 6:30 | - | Cub Scouts 167 - Fellowship Hall | |
| **WEDNESDAY** | | | **Nov 18** |
| | | *Church Office Closed* | |
| 8:30 | - | Folding Bulletins | |
| 11:30 | - | Ruth Circle Birthday Lunch – Sirloin Stockade | |
| 1:30 | - | Prayer Time | |
| 2:00 | - | Pastpr's Bible Study – St. Paul House Conf Rm | |
| **THURSDAY** | | | **Nov 19** |
| | | *No Activities Scheduled/ Church Office Closed* | |
| **FRIDAY** | | | **Nov 20** |
| | | Newsletter Articles Due | |
| | | *No Activities Scheduled/Church Office Closed/Pastor's Day Off* | |
| **SATURDAY** | | | **Nov 21** |
| | | *No Activities Scheduled/Church Office Closed* | |
| **NEXT SUNDAY** | | | **Nov 22** |
| 10:00 | - | Worship - Sanctuary (Christ the King Sunday) | |
| 11:00 | - | Sunday School, Brunch, Confirmation and Adult Education | |
| 12:00 | - | Radio Broadcast – KRXT 98.5 FM | |

## Announcement




Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of their 29th wedding anniversary by John and Tracie Luna

### Serving Today

| | |
|---|---|
| Council Ushers: | Terry Richter, Don Artieschoufsky |
| Reader: | Randall Pick |
| Acolytes: | Sunny Paulsen, Rylen Burrow |
| Altar Flowers: | Luna |

### Serving November 22

| | |
|---|---|
| Council Ushers: | Rhonda Ochoa |
| Reader: | Chris Rohlack |
| Acolytes: | Jacob Gregory |
| Altar Flowers: | Open |

**There will be a congregational meeting today immediately following service to discuss and approve the 2027 Congregational Budget.**
**Copies of the budget are available in the Narthex.**

**********

**2027 Altar Flower sign-up chart is available in the Narthex**

**********

**The Thanksgiving Food Drive for Shepherd's Heart will be held at the St. Paul House Parking Lot today from 4:00 – 5:00 PM.**
**Turkeys, chickens, canned, dried foods, and monetary donations will be accepted.**
**The St. Paul Parking Lot is located across from 610 Fowzer Street.**

***Notes:***