



The Messenger

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost ~ July 7, 2024

The Christian's Summer in the Church's Season

Summer isn't in full enough swing to feel *long* yet—vacations, 4th of July, “dog days” of a sweaty August are yet to come—but the Christian Church finds herself in the midst of the *Season of Pentecost* with all the “Sundays After ...” starting to pile up. This long season began back on May 26th (Holy Trinity Sunday) and has been relentless as we march through the not-so-originally named Sundays (the “5th Sunday After Pentecost” followed by, well ... the “6th Sunday After Pentecost”) as the weeks tick by. We'll take a breather from this long Pentecost cycle for festival days like Reformation (in October) and All Saints' (come November), but this long, long *Season of Pentecost* gives shape and form to our Christian lives for over half the year.

While the “Times of Christmas and Easter” self-evidently take us through the Life of our Lord Jesus (His conception, birth, suffering, death, resurrection and ascension), the *Season of Pentecost* has a different emphasis. While we still (and always) focus our attention on Christ's cross and life, during the *Season of Pentecost* we do it from the perspective *our life on earth as His Church*. In fact, this *Season of Pentecost* is often called “The Time of the Church” (cf. the Church Year mapped out on *Lutheran Service Book*, p. x).

Or, to put it another way, now that Jesus has come (“Time of *Christmas*”) and has redeemed us from our sins and destroyed death (“Time of *Easter*”), what should we *do*? We know there is nothing left to do for our salvation. Jesus has completed our deliverance from evil and graciously poured it over our heads in Baptism. Salvation complete! But still, the question, *Now what?* Like, why are we still here? After all, this world is anesthetized and corrupted rotten by sin. Death and disease are never very far away. Satan, though defeated, still prowls around (though only with his lies) to seduce us into giving up Christ and our faith. And the world—with its idol philosophies and pagan worldviews—continues mocking us, desiring only to silence and erase us. So why doesn't God simply deliver us into heaven *now*? Why this life of suffering from Baptism ... to the end of our lives on earth? Why this long, seemingly endless, *real life* “Season of Pentecost”?

Because there yet remains something left for you to do on earth. It does not concern *your* salvation. But it does concern the Gospel and the salvation of the person next to you. There are people all around you who refuse to worship, who refuse to be saved. Your loving task is to gently and persistently invite them to worship that they may behold God face-to-face in water, bread and wine; to literally touch God and draw eternal life from Him. To have God poured over them in water and into them in wine so as to be cleansed of the sin that separates us from God and life. Who will call your loved ones and neighbors into this deliverance?

And so we remain on earth after our baptisms ... in this long season. All of us--the sorrowing child, the teenager beset by social media plagues, the stressed and strained parent, the abused spouse, the aging grandparent and the lonely, aching homebound: All of us remain on earth as God's witnesses calling the people around them into the Faith, to gather in Christ. Not all are theologians or dynamic speakers, but we are all martyrs (*martyr* = witness!) who have picked up and carry our own crosses to follow Jesus in this life—crosses that keep driving us in our weakness back to Him for deliverance, peace and health.

The people God has put around you observe each week as all these Christian soldiers limp to the comfort of Christ's altar or await the pastors to bring Christ's cup to their home. We join their ranks as cross-carrying, tired and weary witnesses to Christ living in this “valley of sorrows” but already delivered from evil ... coming to feast on Christ and His Life that comes down from heaven. Not only let your neighbor *see* this in you, but invite them in. This is the long *Season of Pentecost*. This is the Life of the Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

St. Paul's Supper Club—5:30p.m. Wednesday

July 10—Applebee's (4510 N. Clinton St.)

July 17—Ziano's (10520 Maysville Rd.)

Please call the church office (423-2496) by noon the day of so we can make reservations.

Instruments for St. Paul's Band Program

Do you have a band instrument that you don't use anymore? Donate it to St. Paul's new band program! For questions or to donate, please contact Andrea Machemer at andrea.machemer83@gmail.com.

St. Paul's Lutheran School—Open Positions

Morning Before-School Childcare: Monday through Friday, 7:00 to 8:15 a.m.

Middle School Art Teacher: Three days per week from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact our principal, Andy Whirrett, at 260-424-0049 or email awhirrett@stpaulsfw.org.

Altar/Chancel Flowers

Reserve a date of your choice to order altar or chancel flowers in honor of an occasion or in memory of a loved one. The order book is located on top of the glass case in the narthex. The following dates are available: August 4, September 1, 29 and throughout 2024.

Payment of \$40.00 is due when you reserve a date. Please make your check out to St. Paul's Altar Guild and include the date that you reserved on your check. You may put your payment in the offering plate or mail it to the church at 1126 S. Barr Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. **Please be sure that your envelope is marked specifically for Altar Guild Flowers so that it does not get mixed in with the offering.** Be sure to pick up your flowers immediately after the service. Any flowers not picked up after the service will go to our shut-ins.

July 7 –Pentecost 7

Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis confront us with our own weakness. It even leads some to exclude embryos or incapacitated persons from humankind and execute them because of their weakness. Almighty God promises, "My power is made perfect precisely in your weaknesses." His grace radiates in human frailty, and the blessings He brings in every life more than make up for what we cannot.

TODAY IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

We welcome Amun-Ra LeMar Moore, son of Adidas & Ciera Moore, to the waters of Holy Baptism. We give thanks to our Lord that He continues to bless His church on earth.

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning Bible Study—10:45 a.m.

Today we begin a new adult Sunday School class on the Lord's Supper—join us for Studies in Holy Communion, our Lord's Service from His Altar. Meet in the south transept of the sanctuary.

Thursday Morning Bible Study—9:00 a.m.

Dr. Geoffrey Robinson teaches on Psalms at the District Office (1145 Barr Street).

Our Giving For June 30

Budget Envelopes	\$18,117.33
CLHS	\$35.00
Missions/Lutheran Heritage	\$281.73
Plate Offerings	\$491.65
School Income	\$3,269.67
Total Income	\$22,195.38
Gathering In Christ	\$10,199.66
Total of All Donations	\$32,395.04

Attendance Last Week

Sunday, June 30 ~ 9:30 a.m. 253

Serving This Week and Next

Sunday, July 7 ~

Altar Guild: *Liane Helmchen and Judy Helmchen*

Elder: *Trent Towne*

Ushers: *Dave Evans, Dan Ernst, Ethan Ernst, John Mader, Davis Dean, Tyler Germann, Adrianna Germann, Austin Germann*

Sunday, July 14 ~

Altar Guild: *Liane Helmchen and Judy Helmchen*

Elder: *Larry Koelper*

Ushers: *Craig Linnemeier, Tony Lardyell, Dale Doerffler, Dean Doerffler, Kurt Gutman, Dave Hawk, Mike Hawk, Chris Hawk*

Altar/Chancel Flowers

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Karl Davis, in loving memory of Maureen Davis.

July 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> <u>The Visitation</u>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> <u>Independence Day</u> Church Office - CLOSED	<i>5</i> Church Office - CLOSED	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 9am - Bible Study IN District Office 5:30pm - Elders Mtg 7pm - Council Mtg	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 9am - Bible Study IN District Office	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study	<i>22</i> <u>St. Mary Magdalene</u>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> <u>St. James the Elder,</u> <u>Apostle</u> 9am - Bible Study IN District Office	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>			

PRAY

without ceasing

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

Gathering In Christ:

† *God's continued blessing of our "Gathering In Christ" building project.*

Thanksgiving:

† *For Amun-Ra Moore, son of Adidas and Ciera Moore, baptized today.*
† *For Rev. Joel Springer, nephew of Carolyn Bobay, on his ordination at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Springfield, Illinois.*

For Those Who Mourn:

† *For the family of Sean McMullen, father of Scott McMullen, who has been given the gift of eternal life.*

Ongoing Chronic Concerns:

† Susan Balsamo-Furniss	† Michael McWilliams
† Harris Beck	† Joan Messmann
† Jim Berning	† Todd Moore
† Bob Demaree	† Mary Mundt
† Eugene & Carolyn Falkenstern	† Barbara Nelson
† Gloria Hamer	† Sara Nordling
† Dennis Harmeyer	† Juan Perez
† Mary Hathaway	† Ron Rastl
† Lonni Helmchen	† Andrew Scholes
† Jerry Huitt	† Wanda Schweyer
† John Huitt	† Fred Scott
† Roy Huitt	† Amanda Seeger
† Ruth Huitt	† Sam Suarez
† Juanita Jefferson	† Denise Trentadue
† Karen Johnson	† Mark von der Lage
† Mark Knoblauch	
† Kelly Kochensparger	
† Jodi Kreiger	
† Diane Lewis	
† Gail Ludvigson	
† John Mader	
† James Maier	
† Leah Maier	

Comfort, Health, and Recovery:

† Joanne Engstrom
† Terry Harmeyer
† Pam Johnson
† Dennis Jordan
† Eleanor Marine

Our Homebound Members:

† Neva Aldridge
† Joan Badders
† Marilyn Berning
† Myra Carrier
† Mary Ann Cordes
† Phoebe Fett
† Rodney Hall
† Jan Leffel
† Lois Meyer
† Ernestine Morrison
† Larry Murphy
† Esther Pinnow
† Leona Puff
† Carolyn Reincke
† Susan Schamberg
† Walter Schroeder
† Rev. Ralph Seilaff
† Dorothy Taylor
† Mary Weick
† Sharon Williams

Serving in the Armed Forces

† KiVuan Edwards
† Cierra Germann
† Rev. Brian Hamer
† Zachary Harmeyer
† Jasmine Jackson
† Austin Kerr
† Courtney Linnemeier
† Sharia Macon
† Jamara Moore-Chambers
† Rev. Joshua Schiff
† Brandon Screeton
† John Sheaffer Jr.
† Ryan Sheaffer
† Brandon Skalicky

Happy Birthday This Week:

† Barbara Nelson ~ July 10
† Anne Bruick ~ July 13

* Pray for these saints throughout the week.

Please submit prayer requests by calling the church office at 260.423.2496 ext. 310