

Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

316 South Mountain Blvd.,
Mountain Top, PA
August 30, 2020

13th Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 AM Service

Rev. Michele D. Kaufman

Church: 570-474-6616

Cell: 570-881-2371

Schyler Kelsch-Organist

PLEASE TUNE TO RADIO STATION: 98.3

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind”

**God of tempest, God of whirlwind,
as on Pentecost descend!**

**Drive us out from sheltered comfort;
past these walls your people send!**

**Sweep us into costly service,
there with Christ to bear the cross,
there with Christ to bear the cross!**

**God of blazing, God of burning,
all that blocks your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ’s living Body,
let your flaming Spirit surge!
Where deceit conceals injustice,
kindle us to speak your truth,
kindle us to speak your truth!**

**God of earthquake, God of thunder,
shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder,
for earth’s healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us;
make us one in Christ our Lord,
make us one in Christ our Lord!**

**God of passion, God unsleeping,
stir in us love’s restlessness!
Where the people cry in anguish,
may we share your heart’s distress.
Rouse us from content with evil;
claim us for your kingdom’s work,
claim us for your kingdom’s work!**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



S204a

1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for-ev-er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a-lone, to you we call;

Might-y God of all cre-a-tion, Fa-ther of sur-pass-ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav-ior, you have come from heav'n a-bove;
Ho-ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

we ex-alt you, we a-dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir-it, in the Fa-ther's splen-dor bright.

Saints and an-gels bow be-fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re-store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in-her-it, glo-ry be to God on high!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P: O God, we thank you for your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow his commands; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

THE PSALM

Psalms 26:1-8

The psalm for the day is read responsively

¹Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

²**Test me, O Lord, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes;

I have walked faithfully with you.
⁴I have not sat with the worthless,
 nor do I consort with the deceitful.
⁵I have hated the company of evildoers;
 I will not sit down with the wicked.
⁶I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,
 that I may go in procession round your altar,
⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
 and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
⁸Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
 and the place where your glory abides.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 12:9-21

THE ALLELUIA

Alleluia. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes | of our hearts, * so that
 we may know the hope to which | God has called us. *Alleluia.* (Eph. 1:17, 18)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT Matthew 16:21-28

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

(At the conclusion of the reading, please respond...)

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”
**In the cross of Christ I glory,
 Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time;**

**All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.**

**When the woes of life o’ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me,
Lo! It glows with peace and joy.**

**When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.**

THE 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

P: Trusting in the renewal of all things through Christ’s death and resurrection, we pray for the church, those in need and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

Following each petition, "Lord in your mercy...please respond "Hear our prayer."

(The Prayers conclude with...)

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

(Please share the peace with those in the car with you, wave to your neighboring car or let everyone know we're here and honk your horn!)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

*(If you are baptized and believe in the presence of Christ, you are invited to join us.
Please follow Pastor's instructions)*

THE BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN

"Lift High the Cross"

Refrain:

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (Refrain)**

**All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. (Refrain)**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou has promised, draw us all to thee. (Refrain)**

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! (Refrain)**

POSTLUDE

SUNDAY WORSHIP IS THE CALL OF GOD TO BRING SPECIAL HONOR TO HIS NAME. WELCOME TO THE "FAMILY OF BELIEVERS". In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord, welcome to St. Paul's this morning. May your experience of worship and fellowship with us refresh and ready you for the coming week.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ARE DEDICATED "TO THE GLORY OF GOD" in memory of Leon "Bud" Whitaker's birthday on 9/5 from Leeann and Merilee. Happy Birthday Dad!

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR: DJ Bianco, Franck Bielecki, Kari Stewart Bonczewski, Austin Bowman, Lois Burge, Betty Cauchi, Kim Collum, Jay Crandall, Claire Daley, Al Drum, Florence Drum, Carol Duffy, Bob Dunlap, Evelyn Evans, Bob Flynn, Eileen Garinger, Robert Gasper, Marion Hildebrand, Joyce Hocko, Pat Hoovler, Matt Howton, Ian Hunter, Mary Beth Innamorati, Craig Jacobs, Ruth Jakubowski, Alice Kershinski, Janice Krzywicki, Amy Maher, Dale Major, Jon Martineau, Andrea Martz, Dolores Marzocco, Wayne Mast, Shari Meister, Mary Alice McCloskey, Cheryl Myers, Tony & Sandy Nargoski, Midge Oldziejewski, Andrew Richner, Virginia (Ginger) Rinehimer, Jill Roskowski, Steven Reeves, Michele Reed, Diane Rosa, Cathy Ruitter, Bob Rushworth, Andrew Ruth, Dale Scott, Carl Schultz, Joe Seymour, Stephen Shaffer, Robert F. Shultz, Joanne Stevens, Ruth Thomas, Matthew Walker, Audrey Weaver, Charlotte Weiss infant granddaughter of Paul & Karen Ann Kowalczyk, Patti Williams, Karen Wise, Loretta Z

IN ADDITION TO THOSE HAVING HEALTH PROBLEMS we ask that you pray for all the men, and women who are serving in the Armed Forces. Matthew Hewson, Wayne Kaufman, Richard Mester, Patrick Murphy, Bella Napersky, Brandon Passman, Anthony Porrecha Jr., Christian Yurkanin.

-SERVICES WILL BE HELD THROUGH SEPTEMBER 6th AT 9AM & 10:30 AM. * STARTING SEPTEMBER 13th OUR SERVICES WILL BE AT 9AM AND THE SECOND SERVICE WILL BE AT 11AM. FOR THOSE UNABLE TO JOIN US, PASTOR HAS BEEN RECORDING SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND WEBSITE WWW.STPAULSMTTOP.COM

-THE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS WILL BE ON THURSDAYS IN SEPTEMBER STARTING SEPTEMBER 3rd FROM 3:00-7:00 PM. FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT GET OUT OR ARE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE OR CONTACT PR. KAUFMAN AT 570-443-0832. WE HAVE SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE OFFERED TO ASSIST THOSE IN NEED.

-PLEASE NOTE: THE FOOD BANK CONTINUES TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD TO CLIENTS EVERY FRIDAY USING SAFE DISTANCE PRACTICES. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DROP OFF DONATIONS AT THE CHURCH, PLEASE DO SO ON FRIDAYS 9AM-NOON. DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, AND APPRECIATED.

-ON THURSDAYS, BIBLE STUDY HAS RESUMED IN THE PARISH HALL AT 1:00 P.M. TABLES HAVE BEEN SET UP TO ALLOW FOR PARTICIPANTS TO "SOCIAL DISTANCE."

-WE ARE HAPPY TO SHARE THAT ST PAUL'S MINI LIBRARY (FREE BOOK EXCHANGE) HAS BEEN INSTALLED IN THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH NEAR THE STEPS TO THE PLAYGROUND. IT IS AVAILABLE TO BOTH MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY TO TAKE A BOOK TO READ OR DROP OFF BOOKS YOU HAVE ALREADY READ.

-TODAY!!! 1ST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS WILL BE HELD TODAY FOLLOWING THE 2ND SERVICE. CLASS WILL BEGIN AT 12:30. IF STUDENTS WISH THEY CAN BRING THEIR LUNCH.

-WE WILL ONCE AGAIN OFFER HEALING SERVICES ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH (BARRING ANY RESTRICTIONS) OUR NEXT SERVICE WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020. AS WE WILL BE IN THE SANCTUARY YOU ARE ASKED TO WEAR A MASK. WE WILL TAKE ALL THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS. FOLLOWING THE SERVICE, YOU ARE INVITED TO REMAIN FOR LUNCH, BUT WE ASK THAT EVERYONE PROVIDE THEIR OWN.

-ATTENTION YOUTH!!! WE WILL HAVE A MEETING THIS THURSDAY SEPT. 3RD AT 6PM PIZZA WILL BE PROVIDED!

-WE WILL BE HAVING A DRIVE THRU CHICKEN BBQ, SEPTEMBER 12TH, PICK UP 11AM-5PM

COST \$10.00. MEAL INCLUDES: 1/2 CHICKEN, BAKED POTATO, CORN ON THE COB, COLESLAW OR APPLESAUCE & DESSERT. PLEASE CONTACT KEVIN & TJ SCOTT TO RESERVE YOUR DINNER AT 570-868-7368, OR STOP BY THE DAY OF TO GRAB A DELICIOUS MEAL!

-OUR MONTHLY MOVIE NIGHT WILL BE ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH AT 6:30 PM. WE WILL WATCH "THE OTHER SIDE OF HEAVEN." EVERYONE IS WELCOME. SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE PRACTICED.

- EVERY YEAR THE ELCA APPOINTS A DAY ENCOURAGING MEMBERS OF CONGREGATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN "GOD'S WORK-OUR HANDS DAY," THIS YEAR IT IS SET FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH. I AM ENCOURAGING MEMBERS THIS YEAR TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING WORLD HUNGER BY ASKING FOLKS TO SPONSORS INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE WILLING TO WALK OR RIDE A FEW MILES FOR WORLD HUNGER. SPONSORS CAN PLEDGE A CERTAIN AMOUNT PER MILE OR A FLAT DONATION, EITHER WAY IS FINE. MONIES WILL BE COLLECTED AND TOTALED AND THOSE MONIES WILL HELP SUPPORT THE WORLD HUNGER APPEAL. SPONSOR FORMS ARE AVAILABLE. PARTICIPANTS ARE ASKED TO SELECT A DATE, CALCULATE THE DISTANCE, COLLECT THE MONIES AND TURN THEM INTO PASTOR BY SEPTEMBER 30TH. WE MAY ATTEMPT TO SCHEDULE A DATE TO WALK TOGETHER. WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO HONOR "GOD'S WORK-OUR HANDS".

-ON SEPT. 26TH PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF MUSIC AT A FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT! MUSICAL ACTS INCLUDE PASTOR STEPHEN PERILLO & THE NEPA PRAISE BAND, MIKE LEWIS, AND JAMES HARVEY WITH THINK OF THREE BAND. THIS CONCERT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL HAVE REFRESHMENTS AND BAKED GOODS FOR SALE. PLEASE BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET.

-WE WILL BEGIN COLLECTING PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS FOR THE MCKINNEY MEDICAL CLINIC IN WILKES BARRE. WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF BODY WASH, SOAP, SHAMPOO, RAZORS, ALCOHOL FREE MOUTH AND SOCKS. A COLLECTION BIN WILL BE LOCATED AT THE ENTRANCE OF CHURCH SERVICES FOR YOU TO PLACE YOUR ITEMS. WE WILL BE SUBMITTING A THRIVENT GRANT TO MATCH EVERY ITEM YOU DONATE!