

SAINT PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Fleetwood, Pennsylvania
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 30, 2017

GATHERING PRAYER

Almighty God, you who continually call your people to yourself, draw us by the power of your Holy Spirit into such a binding relationship that we may faithfully follow you all the days of our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

INTROIT

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*” (see insert)

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us share signs of Christ's peace with one another.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CENTERING

PRELUDE “*Lobe Den Herren*” (*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*)
 Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665 (arranged by Mark Hayes)
(Congregation Standing)

Pastor: We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: (singing) Amen!

Pastor: Blessed are all who fear the Lord,
 Who walk in the way of the Lord.

**All: We will eat the fruit of our labor;
 Blessings and prosperity will be ours.**

Pastor: Your family will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
 Your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

**All: The people of God are blessed when they worship God.
 May the God of Zion bless us this day.**

Pastor: May the peace of Christ be with you.
 May the love of God be made known to all.

**All: May the love of God rain down upon us.
 May our worship be pleasing to God most high!**

-Psalm 128; adapted

All: (singing)

*Behold a Sower! from afar
 He goeth forth with might;
 The rolling years His furrows are,
 His seed, the growing light;
 For all the just His word is sown,
 It springeth up alway;
 The tender blade is hope's young dawn,
 The harvest, love's new day*

(Forrest Green)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM(10:25)

(see page 7)

PENITENCE

Pastor: Come, people of God, with repentant hearts. Let us make ready the soil of our very being in order to receive the grace of a loving and forgiving God.

All: Gracious God, Gardener of our lives. You are the one who has sown the good seeds in our very soul. But we have been disobedient to your ways. We have allowed the weeds of mistrust, discontent, greed and selfish pride to overtake the good in our lives. Pull the weeds of our sin and burn them before us this very day. Send your angels among us to protect us from the evil that tempts us.

Silence

Pastor: God's forgiveness is worth more than any treasure we may find. God's grace is more precious than diamonds or pearls.

All: We give your thanks, Redeeming God, for seeking us out and saving us. Thank you for planting us in the rich soil of your everlasting love!

All (singing)

*Shine forth, O Light, that we may see,
 With hearts all unafraid,
 The meaning and the mystery
 Of things that Thou hast made:
 Shine forth, and let the darkling past,
 Beneath Thy beam grow bright;*

*Shine forth, and touch the future vast
With Thine untroubled light.*

PWM

Pastor: Let us say again what it is that we believe.

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He arose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.

(The congregation may be seated.)

WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON TEXT Genesis 29:15-28

EPISTLE Romans 8:26-39

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Bless, O Lord we pray Thee, This Thy Holy Word. Help our hearts remember
what our ears have heard. Amen.*

SPECIAL MUSIC (8:55 & 10:25) "God be with You" William Tomer
Greta Ertel, Organ Jill Haley, Piano

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Gloria (Congregation Standing)

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen
(Congregation May Be Seated)

SERMON "Fighting Through the Adversity"
(Congregation Stands)

RESPONSIVE HYMN "I Must Tell Jesus" No. 486
(Congregation May Be Seated)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our Prayer, O Lord. Incline your ear to us, and grant
us Thy peace.*

GIVING

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY "Grosser Gott, Wir Loben Dich" (Holy God, We Praise Your Name)
from the Katholisches Gesangbuch, c. 1774
(Congregation Stands)

DOXOLOGY (singing)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SENDING

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN "Surely No One Can Be Safer" No. 487

THE BENEDICTION

THREE FOLD AMEN

CHIMES

THE POSTLUDE "Recessional on "Ein feste Burg" (A Mighty Fortress)
Martin Luther, c. 1527

MISSION STATEMENT

As Followers of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves to:

- Enthusiastically proclaim and teach God's love through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Share God's love with neighbors near and far.
- Live as a Christian community of hope, acceptance, and encouragement in a rapidly changing world.

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S

- If you are visiting and would like to know more about St. Paul's please fill out the visitor's card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. One of our pastors will contact you.
- There are assisted listening devices for the hearing impaired available at the sound board in the rear of the church.
- **Adult Sunday school is held at 9 a.m. - Generations Class in the Lounge off the Narthex. Also, Adult Bible Study is held Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings. See Announcement sheets in the bulletin for details.**
- Children are always welcome in our worship space (as are the joyful noises that they sometimes add). For those moments when it might be needed, we do have a nursery room in the rear of the church that anyone with younger children is welcome to use. The room is equipped with a speaker that will allow you to continue enjoying the service. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.
- Activity bags for children can be found on a rack in the Narthex.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(For the week of July 30, 2017)

The **Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Chad and Holly Walter in honor of their 11th wedding anniversary.

The **Bulletins** are sponsored by Ed and Marsha Newcomb

The **Upper Room Publication** for this month is sponsored by Michael and Barbara Werner

Coffee Time Sponsor: Dawn and Kerry Kachel

Ushers: 8:55 a.m. – Stephen Maurek, Cindy Rothenberger, Christoph Snyder, Mike Werner

10:25 a.m. – David Balmer, Jack Creswell, Ian McKinney, Chris Vojtasek

Readers: 8:55 a.m. – Sandy Dugan **10:25 a.m.** – Jack Creswell

Acolytes: 8:55 a.m. – Ethan Raudenbush and Jonathan Maurek

10:25 a.m. – Michaela Ernst and Jaiden Valick

Attendance: July 23, 2017 8:55 a.m. – 96 10:25 a.m. – 52

June	Income	Expense	Difference
General Acct	\$29,900.06	\$50,144.68	-\$20,244.62
Other Accts	\$ 7,470.00	\$12,224.96	-\$ 4,754.96
Year to date			
General Acct	\$198,330.99	\$238,360.81	-\$40,029.82
Other Accts	\$ 67,223.05	\$ 57,406.91	\$ 9,816.14

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (10:25 A.M.)**

Everett Allen Logsdon

Son of Andrew and Codi Logsdon

WELCOME**ADDRESS****QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS****CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, the congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, who are witnesses and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

People: **We promise our love, support, and care.**

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

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

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: **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.**

PRAYER OF BAPTISM**ACT OF BAPTISM****PRAYER FOR THE CHILD**