



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 16, Year A

August 27, 2023 at 10:15 a.m.

Service offered both in-person and online

Welcome! Sunday Services are offered each week at 10:15am. You have the option of attending in-person or online at: www.StPaulsVentura.org/live, www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura, www.Facebook.com/SaintPaulsVentura.

Safety Protocols –Because some among us are at higher risk and continue to want some additional distance, we've reserved the chapel side of the sanctuary for those with masks. Masks are optional on the Loma Vista side. We hope this will make it possible for everyone find a place in the church where they can feel safe and comfortable. Thank you for your understanding. You are a shining example of what LOVE looks like.

Whether this is your first visit, or you have been a member for years, we're glad you're here! This bulletin is designed to guide you through the service. We invite you to sing, pray and read along with us through the service. The words in bold are the ones we'll all say together. The best way to keep up with everything that's going on at St. Paul's is to subscribe to our Email Newsletter. If you don't receive it and would like to be added to the list, please come see us at the Welcome Table or contact the office.

By tradition, The Episcopal Church offers Holy Communion to all baptized persons. If you are not baptized, but wish to receive, we invite you to participate fully in the opening part of the service, called the Ministry of the Word, hearing God's word and reflecting on your life, enabling you to come to the table for communion, if you so choose, with a heart prepared to receive. We hope that if you feel touched by the word and sacrament and wish to learn more about the life-giving power of the Spirit of the Risen Christ, you will contact the church office to inquire about participating in Holy Baptism.

Our Sunday School program (for children ages 2 years-grade 5) begins at 10am. Children are invited to join Miss Cassidy and Miss Wendy to hear a Bible story and enjoy fun and engaging activities related to that story. Children return to the church to join their families for Eucharist.

Once again, welcome! We're glad that you're worshiping with us. Let us know if you have any questions, prayer requests or need the services of a priest. We are always glad to hear from you. Meanwhile, know that you are in our prayers. We wish you all a very safe and blessed week.



The angels are dancing again...

Listen carefully, you just might hear the angels dancing on the roof!

As things heat up, the beams in our beautiful church ceiling expand and creak. No worries! It's just part of this wonderful building's charm. For years, some of our members have said to each other, "Listen, the angels are dancing on the roof again!"

Today's flowers are given through the generosity of your pledge.

If you'd like to arrange for flowers given in memory or thanksgiving, please contact the church office. Thank you!

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Rock of Ages
O Store Gud/O Great God*

*arr. Seth Bingham
arr. Dale Wood*

Processional

I come with joy to meet my Lord

Please stand as you are able at the sound of the bell.

Hymnal 304
Cantor: Sophia Cotsis

Opening Salutation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355

Celebrant

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

O bless the Lord, my soul, v. 1-2

Hymnal 411

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the reading of scripture.

As Episcopalians, our custom is to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest Holy Scripture. You are invited to do so right here in your bulletin.

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 138

The response appointed for this morning is Psalm 138. We will read it responsively, breaking at the asterisk.

1 I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;

3 For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

4 When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.

- 5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- 6 They will sing of the ways of the LORD, *
that great is the glory of the LORD.
- 7 Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.
- 8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
- 9 The LORD will make good his purpose for me; *
O LORD, your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

Gradual Hymn

Take my life, and let it be

Hymnal 707

All stand as able to sing.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

Remain standing and face the Gospel.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

All stand as able and together say

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic¹ and apostolic² Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom.

Server

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Father, we pray for your holy Church:

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble and all who suffer in mind, body and spirit, especially *(The People may add their own petitions either silently or aloud.)* Let us pray to the Lord;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest especially *(The People may add their own petitions either silently or aloud.)* Let us pray to the Lord;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

¹ universal; all embracing

² Relating to the Apostles, following their teachings

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Celebrant

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth; Mercifully accept the prayers of your people and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession

BCP p. 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is observed.

Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Blessing of the Water

The children are invited to come forward and stir the water as it is blessed.

God our Father, your gift of water brings life and freshness to the earth; it washes away our sins and refreshes us as we continue on our journey of faith. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of Creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus was baptized. Bless this water in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



Blessing of Backpacks and New Beginnings

Anyone else who would like to receive this blessing is invited to come forward.

God of wisdom and grace, as we make our way into the Fall season, many of us are making changes big and small. Be with us as we encounter the excitement and challenges ahead.

We give thanks to you for new beginnings of every kind and ask your blessing on all those who are transitioning to new jobs, new homes, new ministries, new projects, new relationships, and new phases of life.

We ask your blessing on schools and classrooms.

Thank you for the teachers, students, administrators, and staff who fill them each day. We are grateful for the gift of education, and we pray for those who do not have this opportunity.

Water is sprinkled on the people and the symbols of their new beginnings with the following words.

For each of you, may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest upon you and remain with you this day, this year and forevermore. Amen.

And may these backpacks, book bags, and other symbols carry your blessing as we carry them out into the world. Amen.

The Peace

All stand as they are able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Please be seated.

Blessings for Birthdays, Anniversaries and Other Special Occasions

Liturgy of the Table *Holy Communion*

Offertory Sentence

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.



*Thank you for your donation, and for your pledge.
Your generosity is appreciated!
We look forward to doing great things in the name of Christ
with whatever you are able to give.*

Offertory

Fantasia

W. A. Mozart

Presentation Hymn

Please stand as you are able.

The Doxology

Hymnal 380 v. 3

The Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Santo, santo, santo

W785

Santo, santo, santo	Holy, holy, holy
Mi corazon te adora!	My heart, my heart adores you!
Mi corazon te sabe decir:	My heart is glad to say the words:
Santo eres Senor.	You are holy Lord.

You are invited to stand, sit or kneel as is your custom.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob, Leah, Rachel, Bilhah and Zilpah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.
AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Spiritual Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not all together in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.

The Invitation

This is the Banquet of the Lord.
It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.
So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little,
you who have been here often, and you who have not been here long,
you who have tried to follow, and you who fear you have failed.
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.
It is his will that those who want him should meet him in this holy way.

For in-person worshipers: Wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome at communion. Our custom is to stand or kneel at the altar rail to receive the Eucharist. If you are unable to come forward but would like to receive, please let an usher know and we will bring communion to you.

The Common Cup will be offered on the right side of the altar rail.

Intinction (dipping) will be offered on the left (Loma Vista) side.

Regardless of which side you are sitting on, when you come forward, please go to whichever side is offering the wine in the way you prefer to receive it.

Those receiving by intinction are asked to help themselves to a small paper cup.

Please tell the priest if you prefer a gluten-free wafer.

You may also choose to return to your seat without receiving the wine.

Be assured that it is a sufficient experience of communion.

If you'd like to come forward but would prefer not to receive,
please cross your arms over your chest and the priest will offer you a blessing.

Suggestion: Before or after Communion, see the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) pp. 833-834. You'll find some wonderful prayers there. Online worshipers can find it at www.bcponline.org

Communion Music

Andante, Op. 105, No. 4

Friedrich Burgmüller

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

African-American Spiritual

1. He's got the whole world in His hand, He's got the whole world in His hand,
He's got the whole world in His hand, He's got the whole world in His hand.
2. He's got you and me sister in His hand...
3. He's got you and me brother in His hand...
4. He's got the pretty little baby in His hand...
5. He's got everybody here in His hand...

Post Communion Prayer:

Please stand or kneel as you prefer.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

When the Eucharist is being taken out to those who are sick or shut-in, we will pray together.

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we share one bread, one cup. Amen.

Blessing

May the peace which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest upon you and remain with you this day and forever more. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

The Church's one foundation, v. 1-3

Hymnal 525

Please stand as you are able and turn to face the cross as it passes by.

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Fanfare and Trumpet Tune

Arr. David Lasky from the Partita on St. Anne

**A note about this morning's prelude: The hymn originated in Sweden when Pastor Carl Boberg was caught in a sudden thunderstorm. After the lightning and the rolling thunder had passed, he said he heard "the birds sing sweetly in the trees," and stanza after stanza poured from his awestruck heart. English missionary Stuart hine translated (from the Swedish) three of Boberg's stanzas into English and added a fourth, comprising the text we sing today. The familiar Swedish folk tune, perhaps given the name O STORE GUD when chosen to accompany this text, is Swedish for "O Great God." --Barbara Seaborn*

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Check out next Sunday's readings at www.lectionarypage.net

Please join us in thanking those who served today, including:

Server:	Roger Crow	Lector:	Ralph Armstrong & Bridget Wareham
Chalice:	Kay Armstrong	Ushers:	Steve Jones
Altar Guild:	Louise Bretz & Pam Klebaum	Flower Guild:	Lisa Cross
Cantor:	Sophia Cotsis	Welcome Greeter:	Joanne Wakelee
Video Production:	Patrick VanHorn	Lock-up Team:	Greg Jackson

Prayer Intentions for the Week of August 27, 2023

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury	Our Clergy: Susan Bek, Dick Swanson
Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop	President Joseph Biden, Congress, Federal Courts
John Taylor, Bishop Diocesan	Governor Gavin Newsom, Legislature, State Courts

HEALING IN BODY, MIND & SPIRIT:

Bert, Mary Morgan, Lisa, Andy, Susan, Tessa, Gino, Barb, all refugees, first responders, and everyone affected by COVID-19, gun violence, natural disaster, poverty, and injustice.

THOSE ENDURING A LONG-TERM ILLNESS:

Penny, Phil, Lynn, Audrey, Dennis, Maria, Baby Z, Carol, Rachel, Dave, Linda, Virginia, Michelle, Sheila, Jeanice, Kevin, Susan, Debbie, Vivian, Ulrich, Christian, Kristi and Helen.

IN THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY:

Drew Darby, his wife Anna, and their family.

FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON:

- + The spiritual, physical and moral development of our children and youth; the children, youth, and adult leaders of our Sunday School, Youth Group, Boy Scout Troop 179, La Famiglia Preschool, KinderMusik, Pulse Drumming and Ventura Charter School for Arts and Global Education
- + The Vestry's leadership that our parish's mission may be accomplished. Our 2023 vestry members and officers are Grace Dunlevy (Senior Warden), Jordan Daniels (Junior Warden), Peter Anderson (Treasurer), Lori Burke (Clerk), Kathleen Crookston, Lisa Cross, Tim Helms, Greg Jackson, Sarah Lamola, Kathy Loest, Daniel Smithson, Wendy VanHorn, Bridget Wareham, and the Rev. Susan Bek (Rector).
- + U.S. Armed services personnel serving around the world and wounded warriors cared for in medical centers and those returned home

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- + Our partners in the Diocese of Los Angeles: *Hillsides-the Episcopal Home for Children*, Pasadena; *Neighborhood Youth Association*, West LA.; *Holy Family Services*, Ventura County.
- + Our World Mission Companions: *the Cathedral Church of the Ascension, in the Diocese of Wiawso*, Ghana
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Unitarian/Universalist*, *Center for Spiritual Living*, *An Lac Mission (Buddhist)*, *Mormon Church*

IN MEMORIAM

Esther McClain and all those we love but see no longer.

Parish prayers for healing are listed for one calendar month but can be renewed if needed. Please contact the church office to add or extend a prayer request and to let us know how things are going.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff



The Rev. Susan Bek, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Assisting
Kara Craven, Parish Administrator
Dr. Felix Eisenhauer, Music Minister
Tara Eisenhauer, Choir Director
Sara Edwards, Organist
Joseph Wareham, Sexton

St. Paul's Announcements August 27, 2023

Thank you for joining us today! Please contact the church office for more information. God bless you!

We invite you to join us again next Sunday.



Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church!

Whether you're new, visiting or have been a member for years, we're so glad you joined us today. **A warm welcome to you!**

Our Sunday services are available online and in-person. Please let us know if we can do anything to support you on your spiritual journey.

We're always happy to hear from you!

We invite you to come back soon.



This is a brief overview of our weekly announcements. To learn about everything going on at St. Paul's and to receive weekly encouragement and ways to build up spiritual strength, please see our E-newsletter. If you don't receive it, please let us know. We'd be happy to add you to the list! You can reach us by emailing office@saintpaulsventura.org



**and after
church today...**

Please join us in welcoming our guest priest today, the Reverend Canon Greg Larkin



Today is the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost And the Blessing of the Backpacks and New Beginnings

In this morning's gospel lesson, Jesus asks the disciples who people say that he is. They answer him. Then he asks, but who do you say that I am. Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah. The Son of the living God." Come explore this question with us and come up with your own answer. Who do you say that Jesus is? Come hear amazingly beautiful music, inspiring scripture, and an uplifting message of hope and love. Come to church and get inspired!



Join us for Coffee Hour

In-person worshippers are invited to join us in Kahler Hall (just down the stairs) for a cup of coffee, or tea and some refreshments. This gives us the chance to sit and chat with one another. In the church, we call this fellowship. It's one of our favorite parts of being on this journey of faith together.



Recognizing School Teachers and Staff in our Neighborhoods

During Coffee Hour today we will wrap gifts for teachers and staff as we REACH out to bless them in their important work. You are invited to help us wrap the treats.

Here's how it works:

1. Members of St. Paul's have contacted local schools to determine the number of treats we'll need to give one to every member of their staff.
2. They purchased treats.
3. Together we will wrap them after church with a message of thanks and blessing.
4. They will later drop them off at the school office...and continue to keep these people and the important work that they do in their prayers throughout the school year.

	<p><i>Join us in serving the world in the name of Christ.</i></p> <p>OUTREACH PROJECT – REACHING to Help the Homeless</p> <p>Last month we REACHED for Back to School. Thank you for all your support! <i>Your generosity is appreciated.</i></p> <p>This month we will collect items to help the homeless. These items will be donated through Family to Family. You can help by donating any of the following items: razors and shaving cream, dental floss, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner and shower gel, mouthwash, bug spray for mosquitos, sunscreen lotion, bath towels and washcloths, heavy socks, canned food, small & large dog food and cat food, notepads, pencils and journals, books & board games, individual trash cans, buckets, PPE - masks and gloves, and heavy blankets. Red REACH bags are available for your convenience. Thank you for helping us put our faith into action.</p>
	<p><i>Do you enjoy experiencing God in nature?</i></p> <p>Spirituality in Nature Group –Saturday, September 9, 2023</p> <p>Do you find God in nature? The goals of the Spirituality in Nature Groups are to explore nature to better understand what it means to be stewards of God's creation, and to strengthen our connection with the amazing natural world around us. We'll meet at 9 AM at the Rincon Beach Park (near Carpenteria). Plan to join us!</p>
	<p>Book Club – Monday, September 4th at 5:30pm on Zoom</p> <p>The First Monday Book Club is open to all. Our next book selection is <i>Solito</i> by Javier Zamora. A young poet tells the story of his harrowing migration from El Salvador to the United States at the age of nine. This is the One County, One Book selection for 2023 and the author talk will take place on September 30. The event will include a VIP reception with the author, and booths featuring vendors, non-profits, local authors and children's story time and will take place on the CSUCI campus. Details will follow. Zoom Information – Meeting ID: 751 8208 5503 Passcode: 1stmonday</p>
	<p><i>Invite everyone you know – especially those who at some time attended school or church at St. Paul's...</i></p> <p>Homecoming Sunday – September 10th</p> <p>Join us for our Fall kick-off as we celebrate the beginning of a new program year. It's time for the ministries that took some time off, or went on summer schedule, to be back in full swing again. We're encouraging everyone who's been away to come back and join in the celebration. Invite your friends, old and new, to join us too! We'd love to have everyone join us. All are welcome!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Service begins at 10:15am 11:30am All Star Hot Dog and Chili Bar in Kahler Hall <i>Bring a Friend and come join in the fun!</i></p>
	<p><i>We are all called to be faithful stewards of our many blessings...</i></p> <p>5-Week Workshop on Personal Financial Health begins Sept. 10th - 11:45am-12:45pm</p> <p>Join Financial Wellness Coach, Louise Bretz, for a free five-week workshop. Topics include: Addressing your motivations for wanting to change your money habits; getting to know your money; the power of planning your spending; how debt and credit work; saving and investing; managing risk through savings and insurance; legacy & benevolence. All are welcome. Pre-registration is highly encouraged. All are welcome!</p>
	<p>2024 Choir Pilgrimage Tour</p> <p>St. Paul's Choir is embarking on an adventure, a life-changing journey and YOU are invited! Learn about the choir tour and pilgrimage to Italy and Switzerland in 2024, why we are doing this, and how to support us to make this dream a reality go to https://sites.google.com/view/choirtour/home</p> <p>HOW YOUR DONATION CAN HELP</p> <p>Your donations will support the 2024 Music Ministry Tour & Pilgrimage and help to cover the cost of fundraising, as well as tour and travel expenses. Any remaining funds will support the music ministry in endeavors that may incur expenses beyond what the Music Ministry's regular budget can support. Examples would be tours, pilgrimages, performance opportunities that may have a fee, or expenses involved with traveling to sing at other venues/churches. When donating through PayPal or with a check, be sure to add the memo – for Choir Pilgrimage Tour. Thank you!</p>



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our Giving Page

"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Thank you for your generosity!

Donations may be made by cash, check, PayPal, or Text StPaulsVentura to 73256. You can also arrange online payments, click the "Give" button at office www.saintpaulsventura.org or use this QR code. Members give of their time through many ministries and share their talents through lots of volunteer opportunities. Please contact our clergy if you'd like to get involved in something new. Generosity involves the giving of time, talent and treasure. Thank you for all the ways you give of yourself! We look forward to doing great things with whatever you are able to share. Thank you!

BOOGIE, SHUFFLE and BARBEQUE BENEFIT



*Line Dancing with Woody & Louise
Santa Maria Style BBQ Dinner
50/50 Raffle • Kid's Games*

Saturday, September 23
4:30 pm–7:30 pm
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
3290 Loma Vista Road, Ventura

*Kick up your heels
for St. Paul's!*

Tickets

Adult—\$25
Senior—\$20
Family—\$60
Child—\$10

*Family ticket is for same
household family up to 2
adults, 4 children.
Ticket price does not in-
clude beer, wine or soda.*

*Make a reservation at
EVENTBRITE
by scanning QR Code*



*or contact St. Paul's Office
(805) 643-5033
office@saintpaulsventura.org*