



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Stewardship Sunday

**16th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 19, Year A
September 17, 2023 at 10:15 a.m.**

Service offered both in-person and online

Online Bulletin

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 worshipping 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

The Mercy Seat

James Southbridge

Processional

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Hymnal 376

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

Cantor: Reid Edwards

Opening Salutation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355

*Celebrant
People*

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

Now thank we all our God, v. 1

Hymnal 397

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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

Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:8-13

The response appointed for this morning is a portion Psalm 103. We will read it verse by verse. I will read the even-numbered verses. The congregation is invited to read the odd-numbered verses.

8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

**9 He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

**11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

12 As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.

**13 As a father cares for his children,
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.**

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

All stand as able to sing.

Day by day, dear Lord

Hymnal 654

Holy Gospel

Remain standing and face the Gospel.

Matthew 18:21-35

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Canon Anthony Guillén

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

Gather us together, O God, that we might share the prayers, intentions, and thanksgivings of our community. We are generous with our gifts, because we are Rooted in Abundance.

I ask your prayers for the Church, for all who worship God this day. For our clergy, our diocesan leaders, and for our congregation. We pray especially for this season in which we celebrate our stories of leadership and our support for mission...

We are generous with our gifts of leadership,

Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

Leader: I ask your prayers for our Nation and all nations; for refugees fleeing climate change and war; for conflicts of resources and land; for lawmakers, peacekeepers, and informed citizens. We pray for a distribution of wealth that helps the poor and the marginalized...

We are generous with our gifts of peace,

Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

Leader: I ask your prayers for the sick, the lonely, the lost, and those who grieve. We remember those on our parish prayer list, and those we name now in silence or aloud...

We are generous with our gifts of healing,

Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

¹ universal; all embracing

² Relating to the Apostles, following their teachings

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who have died, those who are dying, and those who mourn. For those on our parish list, and for those we name now in silence or aloud...

We are generous with our gifts of support,
Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

Leader: I ask for your remembrances of thanksgivings and blessings, for we are given time, talent, and treasure to share with the world...

We are generous with our gratitude,
Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

Celebrant

Hear the prayers of your people, Creator God. May we who are blessed by so much wealth and wisdom, share our works with a world in need. **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.**

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

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:15,16



*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

Gott, deine Güte (O Lord, Thy Mercy)

*Ludwig von Beethoven
Arr. Philip Gordon*

Gott, deine Güte reicht so weit,
So weit die Wolken gehen,
Du krönst uns mit Barmherzigkeit
Und eilst, uns beizustehen.
Herr! Meine Burg, mein Fels, mein Hort,
Vernimm mein Flehn, merk auf mein Wort;
Denn ich will vor dir beten!

God, your goodness reaches so far,
as far as clouds float;
you crown us with mercy
and hurry to our aid.
Lord! My castle, my rock, my shield,
hear my plea, listen to my words;
for I will pray before you!

Presentation Hymn**Songs of thankfulness and praise, v. 1-2****H135***Please stand as you are able.***Prayer as the Plates are Received**

Celebrant All things come of thee, of Lord.
People And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing.

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus**Holy, holy, holy Lord****Hymnal S128***The service music can be found in the front of the hymnal.*

**Holy, holy, holy 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.**

Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, whether spiritually or actually, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **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 worshippers: 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 worshippers can find it at www.bcponline.org

Communion Music

Improvisation on the Day's Hymns

Felix Eisenhauer

Bless the Lord My Soul

Words: Psalm 103; adapt. Taizé Community

Music: Jacques Berthier

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." and "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Post Communion Prayer:

Please stand or kneel as you prefer.

Let us pray.

God of Abundance and Grace, by the provision of this feast, the Sacrament of our Savior, Jesus Christ, you have united us together in purpose and place. May we who have gathered and broken bread, now go out and share your living Word. Being rooted in Abundance, may we serve you with joy and steadfast faith, while bringing glory to your name and benefit to your people, through Jesus 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

Go forth for God; go to the world in peace

Hymnal 347

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

Dismissal

Celebrant
People

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

Postlude

Toccata on "Hymn to Joy"

Grimoaldo Macchia

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

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

Servers:	Drew Darby & Kara Craven	Lectors:	Judy Drew & Judy Gold
Chalice:	Christopher Craven	Ushers:	Wendy vanHorn & Eric Craven
Altar Guild:	Grace Dunlevy & Anna Darby	Flower Guild:	Anna Darby & Grace Dunlevy
Cantor:	Reid Edwards	Welcome Greeter:	Marcia Semple
Video Production:	Patrick VanHorn	Lock-up Team:	Kara Craven



Sun. 9/17 Make a Difference Sunday

How can we serve the Lord in the name of Christ?

Sat. 9/23 BBQ Line Dancing Fundraiser

Sun. 10/8 Blessing of the Animals

Sun. 10/15 Family Picnic at Foster Park

Sun. 10/29 Sunday School Halloween Party during Coffee Hour

Prayer Intentions for the Week of September 17, 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, Susan, Tessa, Gino, Barb, Noel, Pam, Brycen, Tegan, Margaret, all refugees, first responders, and everyone affected by COVID-19, gun violence, natural disaster, poverty, and injustice.

THOSE ENDURING A LONG-TERM ILLNESS:

Phil, Lynn, Audrey, Dennis, Maria, Baby Z, Carol, Rachel, Dave, Linda, Virginia, Michelle, Sheila, 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 ministry of Family to Family; all who volunteer and/or give financially to feed Ventura's hungry
- + U.S. Armed services personnel serving around the world and wounded warriors cared for in medical centers and those returned home
- + All who work, educate others, and pray to abolish the scourge of present-day slavery.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- + Our partners in the Diocese of Los Angeles Deanery One in Ventura County: *St. Columba's*, Camarillo; *Trinity*, Fillmore; *St. Andrew's*, Ojai; *All Saints'*, Oxnard; *St. Paul's/Emmanuel*, Santa Paula; *St. Francis'*, Simi Valley; *St. Patrick's*, Thousand Oaks
- + Our World Mission Companions: *the Cathedral Church of the Ascension, in the Diocese of Wiauso*, Ghana
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *First United Methodist, Trinity Lutheran, Our Lady of the Assumption churches and the Salvation Army*

IN MEMORIAM

Esther McClain, Chema 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

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St. Paul's Announcements September 17, 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 Anthony Guillén.



Today is the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In this week's gospel lesson, Jesus teaches the importance of forgiving our brothers and sisters from our heart. Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." Join us as we learn about the importance of forgiveness. 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 and Much More Today!

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.



Fair Trade Sales

St. Paul's is an Abolitionist Congregation, committed to ending the scourge of modern-day slavery. We sell fair trade products through the Equal Exchange to support farm cooperatives around the world giving farmers a fair price and a better future. Locally our sales support ending human trafficking through the Abolitionist Committee. Please stop by our table outside near the fountain to check out delicious chocolate, coffee and tea! Cash and checks accepted. Please see Joanne Wakelee or contact the church office with questions.



Family to Family

It's our turn tomorrow, September 18th, to help feed the hungry on the Avenue with Family to Family. We'll be packing lunches during coffee hour - all are invited to help!



Kicking off the Annual Giving Campaign...

Welcome to Make a Difference Sunday - 9/17

St. Paul's offers lots of ways to participate in the important work of serving the world in the name of Christ so that we can make a difference. We have monthly outreach projects, as well as opportunities to give to support various causes and even offer the chance to help pack lunches to help feed the hungry. This week we introduce our Annual Giving Campaign and ask for everyone in the church, whether you attend in person, or watch online, to pledge your support to St. Paul's through the coming year. With your help we can keep the church going and growing. **Thank you so much for all the ways you help make a difference and thank you for our support!**



Because of your generosity... Ways your Pledge Makes a Difference - #1 Operating Expenses & Staff

We've been able to keep the church running, paying our monthly bills, purchasing supplies, and producing bulletins, newsletters and promotions. You also make it possible for us to take good care of our dedicated staff. Over 133 years and still growing strong - **Thank you!**



Why do we have an Annual Giving Campaign?

St. Paul's is a pledging community, which means that the funds we need to operate come primarily by the generosity of financial commitments from our members. Some follow the biblical principle of tithing, giving ten percent of their income to the church, while others commit a lesser amount. Some give weekly or monthly while others make a one-time annual gift. Everyone is asked to give as they are able. Each financial pledge is a blessing and whatever you pledge is much appreciated! [Click HERE for more information.](#)



We are all called to be faithful stewards of our many blessings...

5-Week Workshop on Personal Financial Health continues today - 11:45am-12:45pm

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!



Join us in serving the world in the name of Christ. Your generosity if appreciated.

OUTREACH PROJECT - REACHING to Help the Homeless

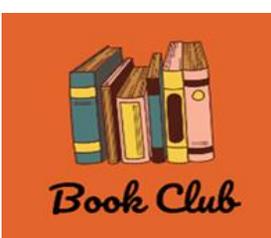
This month we will collect items to help the homeless. These items will be donated through Family to Family. You can help by donating any of the following items: razors and shaving cream, dental floss, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner and shower gel, mouthwash, bug spray for mosquitos, 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 in the Narthex for your convenience. Thank you for helping us put our faith into action.



Do you enjoy experiencing God in nature?

Spirituality in Nature Group - Sunday, October 15th

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. Join us for a family picnic after church at Foster Park (or Arroyo Verde if Foster Park remains closed). Plan to join us!



Book Club - Monday, October 2nd at 5:30pm on Zoom

The First Monday Book Club is open to all. Our next selection is *The Ride of Her Life: The true story of a woman, her horse and their last chance journey across America* by Elizabeth Letts. This is the incredible true story of a woman who rode her horse across America in the 1950s, fulfilling her dying wish to see the Pacific Ocean. Annie Wilkins was a sixty-three year old farmer from Maine when she embarked on her journey.

Zoom Information - Meeting ID: 751 8208 5503 Passcode: 1stmonday



2024 Choir Pilgrimage Tour

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>

HOW YOUR DONATION CAN HELP

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!

"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!



This QR Code takes you straight to our Giving Page

BOOGIE, SHUFFLE and BARBEQUE BENEFIT



*Line Dancing with Woody & Louise
Santa Maria Style BBQ Dinner
with all the Fixin's • 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 the same household family up to 2 adults, 4 children. Ticket price does not include 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*