



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
18th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 21, Year A
October 1, 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.

	<p><i>The angels are dancing again...</i></p> <p>Listen carefully, you just might hear the angels dancing on the roof!</p> <p>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!"</p>
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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

Instrumental

Processional

Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness

Hymnal 492

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

Cantor: Daniel Smithson

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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-8

The response appointed for this morning is a portion of Psalm 25. We will read it verse by verse. I will read the odd-numbered verses. The congregation is invited to read the even-numbered verses.

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**2 Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

3 Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.

**4 Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

**6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

7 Gracious and upright is the LORD;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

**8 He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

Gradual Hymn

Day by day, dear Lord

Hymnal 654

All stand as able to sing.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

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 entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them,

“Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

The Sermon

Drew Darby

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.

¹ universal; all embracing

² Relating to the Apostles, following their teachings

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.

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

O Way, Through Whom Our Souls Draw Near

Searle Wright

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

Instrumental

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

Before thy throne, O God, we kneel

Hymnal 574

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

Instrumental

Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

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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	Lectors:	Tim & Kathy Helms
Chalice:	Miles Sexton	Ushers:	Dan Wakelee & Sally Weimer
Altar Guild:	Louise Bretz, Roger Crow & Susan Talmadge	Flower Guild:	Sarah Lamola & Tegan Jones
Cantor:	Daniel Smithson	Welcome Greeter:	Ernie Fickerson
Video Production:	Woody Bretz	Lock-up Team:	Miles Sexton



Sun. 10/8 Blessing of the Animals

Sun. 10/15 Family Picnic at Arroyo Verde Park

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

Prayer Intentions for the Week of October 1, 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, Barb, Noel, Pam, Brycen, Tegan, Margaret, Carrie, Jan, Dave, Jay, Roger, Nan, 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:

- + Twelve step programs of recovery and healing; especially Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at St. Paul's
- + Our local public and private hospitals, and the health care professionals who serve us
- + 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 Wiaaso*, Ghana
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Temple Beth Torah, the Islamic Center of Oxnard, Ventura Seventh Day Adventist Church*

IN MEMORIAM

Leta Croxen, 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

St. Paul's Announcements October 1, 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.

ST. PAUL'S Enews
announcements, enrichment, encouragement
Because faith isn't just for Sundays!

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

Today at
ST. PAUL'S

and after church today...

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



Today is the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In this week's scripture, we'll hear how Jesus responds when his authority is questioned. We'll also hear the Parable of the Man with Two Sons - one promised he would but he didn't, the other said he wouldn't but he did. Join us as we learn about the authority with which Jesus acts. We are each called by that authority to serve in the name of Christ and make the world a better place. 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.

ST. PAUL'S 2023 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN
Rooted in Abundance
GIVING TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH WE LOVE

Annual Giving Campaign...

Week 3 – 10/1

If you've already pledged, thank you!

If you haven't, please fill in a pledge card. We appreciate it!

We ask everyone for a pledge to support St. Paul's through the coming year. With your help we can keep the church going and growing.

Thank you for your support!

Thank you!
YOUR PLEDGE at WORK

Because of your generosity...

Ways your Pledge Makes a Difference - #3 Music Ministry

Our beautiful and inspiring music lifts our spirits and connects us with God. Your pledge helps us to provide wonderful music as an important part of our worship experience.

Thank you!

Frequently Asked Questions
FAQ

Why should I pledge instead of just giving?

Making a commitment in advance enables us to come up with a budget and plan for the coming year. We are grateful for every gift. In order to do responsible fiscal planning, we need to have an idea of how much will be donated in the coming year so we can prepare and make commitments regarding staff, facilities and programs. [Click HERE for more information.](#)

 <p>BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS</p>	<p><i>Have fun and bring your pets for a blessing, or come for holy water to take home to them...</i></p> <p>Walk Up Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 8th 4-5pm in the parking lot at St. Paul's Ventura Bring your furry, feathered, and scaly friends (or a picture of them) and join us as we celebrate the life of St. Francis of Assisi with our Blessing of the Animals event. We bless animals, photos, ashes, people and stuffed animals. We even have "Blessings to Go Kits" you can take home for pets who don't travel well. All are welcome!</p>
	<p><i>Join us in serving the world in the name of Christ. Your generosity if appreciated.</i></p> <p>REACH FOR PAWS! – FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER Let's Reach! for Paws and bless all of our animal friends! Fill a red REACH bag and return it to church or the office by the end of the month. The wish list is canned pet food, pet treats, blankets (no comforters, please), pill pockets, slip leads (a type of leash), laundry detergent, paper towels, trash bags, donations for vet bills (tax deductible), donations for any of these items (checks can be written out to St. Paul's with "homeless pets" in the memo field), a "fur" ever home!</p>
	<p>Family to Family on Monday, October 16th. The way that we provide our monthly meal will be changing in October and we need your help. During the past several years many churches, including St. Paul's, have distributed sack lunches instead of serving meals at the Family to Family kitchen. The city is pushing all groups to return to serving inside the dining room (which is what Family to Family's permit allows). To do this, we need people who can help serve on the third Monday of each month. If you are able to help for a few hours please contact the church office (805)643-5033 or office@saintpaulsventura.org.</p>
	<p><i>Do you enjoy experiencing God in nature?</i></p> <p>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 Arroyo Verde Park. We will meet at noon at the parking lot just beyond the play area near the back of the park. Plan to join us!</p>
	<p>Book Club – Monday, October 2nd at 5:30pm on Zoom The First Monday Book Club is open to all. Our next selection is <i>The Ride of Her Life: The true story of a woman, her horse and their last chance journey across America</i> 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</p>
	<p>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!</p>
 <p>This QR Code takes you straight to our Giving Page</p>	<p><i>"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7</i></p> <p>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!</p>