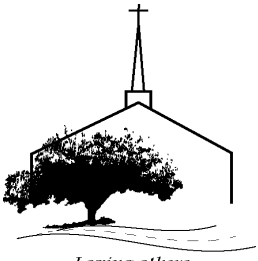


**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship**



*Loving others
into the Love of Christ*

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday School & Bible Class
9:15 a.m.**

**Our Church Infant/Toddler
Nursery is available during
the 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
hour, and during our
10:30 a.m. Worship.**

Church office
254.799.3211

On the Web
www.splcwaco.com

Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Brian Hesse
pastorhesse@splcwaco.com

Vicar
Rory Fry
VicarFry@splcwaco.com

Deaconess
Dcs. Suzanne Krahn
dcskrahn@splcwaco.com

Organist/Music Dir.
Steve Randolph

Administrative Asst.
Cindy Byrd
wecare@splcwaco.com

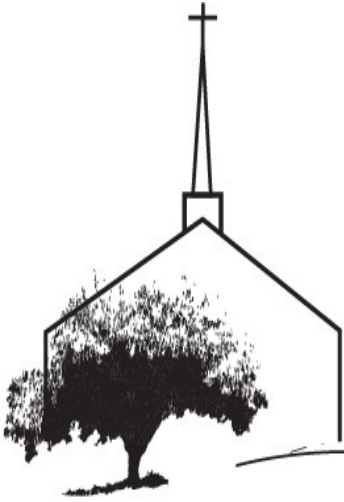
**Use your smartphone camera
to download our church app:**



Follow us on Social Media:



Ephesians 3:19



St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Church on the Highway

Loving others into the Love of Christ

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ July 28, 2024

“Be thoughtful - be silent - be reverent; for this is the house of the Lord. Before the service, speak to the Lord; During the service, let the Lord speak to you; After the service, speak to one another.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME! We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May God bless you as we gather before the throne of heaven. Please take a moment to complete a **“Registration Card”** (located in the hymnal rack). We utilize these cards to have a proper soul-accounting for worship, to keep our member records up-to-date, to collect prayer requests and/or updates, and as a means of communication of other needs through the office and pastoral staff. Please place your completed card in the offering plate or hand to an usher following the worship service.

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE: We offer childcare for infant and nursery age children **during our 9:15 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class hour and our 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship service.** We also offer a weekly **children’s bulletin**, quarterly devotion books and activity bags for children during our worship located as you enter the Narthex (please return all items to the activity bag after worship and return to the hooks on your way out of worship).

REMEMBER OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN PRAYER:

The weekly prayer list is shared via email every Monday and Friday. If you are not receiving emails through Constant Contact, please contact the church via email: wecare@splcwaco.com.

FLOWERS were placed on the altar today to the glory of God by Henry & Amanda Bush in celebration of their daughter Terah’s 5th birthday and in thankfulness for the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon their growing family.

AS WE GATHER

Sometimes the brightness of the day we are experiencing can affect how we perceive the space in which we are worshiping. A bright, sunny day can lift our spirits; a dark, cloudy day can have the opposite effect. Throughout the pages of Scriptures, God is associated with brightness and light. His setting of the rainbow in the heavens, recorded in the book of Genesis, is a symbol of God's promises to His faithful people. Images mentioned in our hymns also attest to the powerful brightness of God, as in "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright" (LSB 874), written by Ambrose of Milan in the fourth century. Whether a day has sunny skies or dull clouds or even rainbows, the very presence of God among us brings an eternal brightness to our time of worship.

ORDER OF DIVINE WORSHIP

(Please silence your cell phones and mobile devices during our worship time.)

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND WELCOME

HYMN, 809: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

- 1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Refrain

Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

Vicar: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Vicar: I will go to the altar of God,

People: to God my exceeding joy.

Vicar: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination

Vicar: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Vicar: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone, my Hope is found, He is my Light, my Strength, my Song;
This Cornerstone, this Solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease,
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe.
This gift of love, and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save;
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God, was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground, His body lay, Light of the World by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth, in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands, in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His, and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry, to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of Man, can ever pluck me from His hand, (PAUSE)
'Til He returns, or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand;

Here in the power of Christ - I'll stand!

Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend;
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SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Vicar: Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, the protector of all who trust in You, strengthen our faith and give us courage to believe that in Your love You will rescue us from all adversities; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 9:8–17

⁸ God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 3:14–21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 6:45–56

Vicar: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁵Immediately [Jesus] made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, ⁴⁹but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” ⁵¹And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵²for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. ⁵⁴And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him ⁵⁵and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

Vicar: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY, 715: "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"

1 Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee.
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

2 As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will
When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

3 When at last I near the shore
And the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me,
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."

Text: Public domain

SERMON: "STRENGTHENED"

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostle's Creed

People: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Vicar: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Vicar: For the whole family of God in Christ Jesus, that we may be strengthened with power through His Spirit in our inner being; that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith; and that we may be rooted and grounded in love, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Vicar: For the Church, that our Lord, who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, would be glorified in His Church and in Christ Jesus; that He would ground us in love; and that He would give us a faith rooted in Christ's promises and strength to comprehend with all the saints His love that surpasses all knowledge, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Vicar: To the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that He would bless our families even as He blessed Noah, bringing forth new life under His promises, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Vicar: For our country, that the Lord of might would spare us and future generations from wickedness; for our leaders, that by God's blessing they would rule according to His good pleasure; and for God's protection over our armed forces, police and all public servants, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Vicar: *For all of those that we name in the quietness of our hearts...* that they would trust the One sent to heal and make whole, receiving from Him health for body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Vicar: Father in heaven, You name every family in heaven and on earth. We give thanks for our brothers and sisters in Christ who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors. Preserve us in the faith so that Christ might dwell in our hearts richly until that day when we join them around Your throne; for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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 forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

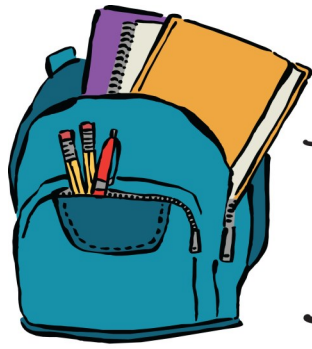
Vicar: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN, 919: "Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

- 1 Abide, O dearest Jesus,
Among us with Your grace
That Satan may not harm us
Nor we to sin give place.
- 2 Abide, O dear Redeemer,
Among us with Your Word,
And thus now and hereafter
True peace and joy afford.
- 3 Abide with heav'nly brightness
Among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us
From error's gloomy night.
- 4 Abide with richest blessings
Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom
Grow daily through Your Word.
- 5 Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.
- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

Text: Public domain



Blessing of the Backpacks

All students are encouraged to bring their backpacks with them on Sunday, August 11, for a special blessing for the 2024-2025 school year during our Sunday morning worship services.



School Supplies Collection August 11, 2024

We will be collecting school supplies that will benefit the LaVega Primary and Elementary schools. Every year children start the school year without the necessary supplies they need. We want to help these children get off to a great start for the school year by providing the much needed supplies. **The school supplies will be collected/blessed during our worship on Sunday August 11, 2024.**

The specific supply list from the schools is available at the Main Entrance and the Sunday School Entrance. Each campus has also requested a few 'additional' items that are **ALWAYS** needed on campus.

Please feel free to help with these needs as you are able. If anyone is interested in doing a Thrivent Action Team to purchase these items, we would ask that you only order children's t-shirts and those be donated as well. If you need help with starting an action team or have questions on this process, please contact Brandon Kubitza.

Please pray for the students, teachers, and staff as they prepare for a new school year.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 28 - AUGUST 4, 2024

MEN'S CLUB BLOOD DRIVE, TODAY, JULY 28, 2024: Carter Blood Care will set up the Blood Drive Bus in the parking lot, if you have not signed up for a donation time, please see David Wolfe or Don Savage, or step out to the blood drive bus for availability.

MEMBER PHOTO WALL: We are beginning to re-instate our member photo wall in the office wing. We plan to use the photos taken for the church directory last year. If you would prefer that we use the previously submitted photo for your family, or if you would prefer to NOT BE INCLUDED in the member photo wall, please contact the church office **by Sunday, August 4**. If you have any questions, please feel free to see Lana Harrington or call Cindy in the church office, 254.799.3211.

YOUTH TRIP PRESENTATION: Everyone is invited to join the Youth Group in the Albers Family Life Center at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, August 4, as they share their experiences from the July Youth Trip to San Antonio. Refreshments will be served by the youth group.

MEN'S CLUB MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP AND MEETING: The St. Paul Men's Club will have their monthly meeting on Monday, August 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. They will meet at El Conquistador Mexican Restaurant in Bellmead for a time of discussion and fellowship. If you are interested in attending or would like to learn more about the Men's Club, please contact John Banta (contact information available in the church office).

FALL CHOIR REHEARSALS begin on Wednesday, August 14, at 6:15 p.m. We will start working on Fall anthems, as well as Christmas music. If you are interested in singing with the choir, we would love to have you join us! You do not need to have a great voice or have experience singing in a choir. Please contact Steve Randolph (contact information available in the church office) for more information or with any questions.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION AND PARENT MEETING: All students in grades 5-8 and their parents are encouraged to attend a brief orientation and meeting on **Wednesday, August 28, 2024** at 6:00 p.m. in the Albers Family Life Center. Pastor Hesse will go over the material and requirements for this year's term. If you have any questions, or are unable to attend, please contact Pastor Hesse in the church office.

CALL FOR DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY: During a special called Congregation Meeting on Sunday, June 30, a unanimous vote from the congregation was finalized to extend a Divine Call to Joshua McNamara to serve as the Director of Youth and Family Ministry for the St. Paul family. Please remember in your prayers Joshua, Erin, Ezra, and Kaleb McNamara and their family; as well as his current congregation of Epiphany Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas, as they consider this Call. If you have any questions about this Divine Call please contact Pastor Hesse or Bill Dube.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We are in need of volunteers to help during worship through management of the sound system. If you feel that this is a task you could really enjoy and serve the St. Paul family, please see Jeremy Lange or one of the Elders. We are specifically in need during the 8:00 a.m. worship time, during the noon and evening Lenten/Advent worship services, and for special services such as funerals and weddings.

THANK YOU:

- Marvin & Mary Wanda Dutschmann extend their heartfelt thanks to John Banta for the installation of a new ramp at their home. The addition of this ramp will help tremendously with Marvin's ability to be more mobile and home without the risk of falling. The love and support of the St. Paul family is continually overwhelming...we are so blessed!

Classes for All Ages

Please join us for Sunday School and Bible Classes at 9:15 a.m.

Adult Bible Study (Albers Family Life Center)

Join us for a study in the Old Testament book of Judges. Together we learn God's cycle for dealing with the chaos in our lives still today.

ASK PASTOR HESSE: Outside Pastor Hesse's office you will find a box to place any questions that you would like Pastor Hesse to answer during the Adult Bible Study class on Sunday mornings.

Men's Bible Class (classroom behind the Parish Hall)

This class is studying, *The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament*. This Bible study works through all 39 books of the Old Testament and identifies crossovers between New Testament themes and ideas.

Ladies Bible Class (Conference Room)

This class is studying, *God's Provision in a Wilderness World* by Lindsay Hausch. This book will lead you through the Book of Exodus as the Israelites wander through the wilderness, pointing you to what God wants you to know and apply to your own life. Our culture is a wilderness where our effort to satisfy our needs with things of this world leaves our hearts empty and aching for more. Every day, no matter where you wander, God invites you to take time in His Word and recenter your heart on Him. God's provision for you is personal. He meets you where you are. And He gives you what you need.

Simply Loved, Nursery - Fourth Grade Students (classrooms)

Let's get back to the heart of what matters most! Simply help your kids love Jesus and each other. Every activity, song, and visual in Simply Loved is designed to help kids remember each lesson long after their children's ministry years. Simply Loved curriculum was created with the truth found in 1 John 4:7 in mind which says, 'Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.'

Enduring Faith, Fifth - Eighth Grade Students (classrooms)

This class is learning how to defend their faith and become prepared to state what they believe about the Bible and why. Thoughtful class discussions get students brainstorming about how to explain their faith to others, and bonus activities get students up and moving around, helping them practice teamwork skills as they work with other students.

High School and College Students (Youth Room)

This group will resume meeting on Sunday mornings in the Fall. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Hesse.

Other Bible Study Opportunities:

College Student Evening Bible Study/Fellowship

This group resume their weekly Bible study/fellowship in Fall 2024.

Ladies Bible Study Group in the Conference Room

This group meets in the Conference Room on the First and Third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. They are beginning a new study, *God is in the Laundry Room*. Inspired by the words of Jeremiah 29:13, this study reminds readers that the Lord can be found anywhere. Readers will be challenged to dig a little deeper, explore a little further, and make personal application of the passages to their lives.

Youth Confirmation/Catechesis Training and Music (grades 5-8)

All students in grades 5-8 and their parents are encouraged to attend a brief orientation and meeting on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Albers Family Life Center. Pastor Hesse will go over the material and requirements for this year's term. If you have any questions, or are unable to attend, please contact Pastor Hesse.

There's a place for EVERYONE to be immersed in God's Word and fellowship with other Christians!

MEETING AND ACTIVITY NOTICES FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 28 - AUGUST 4, 2024

SUNDAY, JULY 28 - Scripture Reading for today: Acts 13-14

8:00 a.m.: Worship in the Sanctuary
9:00 a.m.: Men's Club/Carter Blood Care Blood Drive (blood mobile in the parking lot)
9:15 a.m.: Adult Bible Classes (Albers Family Life Center)
9:15 a.m.: Ladies Bible Class (Conference Room)
9:15 a.m.: Men's Bible Class (classroom behind the Parish Hall)
9:15 a.m.: Simply Loved Sunday School (grades Nursery through 4th Grade, Music Room/classrooms)
9:15 a.m.: Enduring Faith Sunday School (grades 5-8, Music Room/classrooms)
10:00 a.m.: Beacon Committee Serving at Church Under the Bridge
10:30 a.m.: Worship in the Sanctuary

MONDAY, JULY 29 - Scripture Reading for today: 2 Kings 22-25

10:00 a.m.: Quilting Group (Parish Hall)
7:00 p.m.: AA/Al-Anon Meetings (Classrooms)

TUESDAY, JULY 30 - Scripture Reading for today: Obadiah

10:00 a.m.: Tri-Cities Ministries (Parish Hall/Classrooms)
12:00 p.m.: Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry (parking lot/building)
7:00 p.m.: AA Meeting (Classrooms)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31 - Scripture Reading for today: Jeremiah 1-2

12:00 p.m.: Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry (parking lot/building)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1 - Scripture Reading for today: Jeremiah 3-5

7:00 a.m.: Lawn & Building Maintenance
12:00 p.m.: Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry (parking lot/building)
7:00 p.m.: AA/Al-Anon Meetings (Classrooms)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2 - Scripture Reading for today: Jeremiah 6-8

7:00 p.m.: AA Meeting (Classrooms)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 - Scripture Reading for today: Psalms 82-84

TBA: Bush Family (Albers Family Life Center)
7:00 p.m.: AA Meeting (Classrooms)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 - Scripture Reading for today: James 1-2

8:00 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary
9:15 a.m.: Youth Trip Presentation (Albers Family Life Center)
10:30 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024

8:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....	86
Sunday School/Adult Bible Class.....	78/19
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship	142
Live Stream Sunday Worship.....	84