



St. Paul's United Methodist Church of Odessa
Reaching Up Reaching In Reaching Out
Pastor Linda Ray
406 Main Street Odessa, DE 302-378-2420
www.stpaulsodessa.org

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 18, 2022, 9:00 AM Service with ASL Interpretation and Virtual Worship
WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

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WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

PRELUDE

Instrumental

Duane Dillard
Mark Holden, Photographer & Curator

*CALL TO WORSHIP * *Indicates please stand in body or in spirit*

One: You are far more talented than you give yourself credit for.

Many: Be faithful in what you have been given, and God will bless you with more.

One: But be unfaithful in what you have been given, and God will take it away.

Many May we, who are asked to give an accounting of our talents, be found faithful.

*OPENING HYMN

All Hail King Jesus
He Has Made Me Glad

Black Hymnal 2069
Black Hymnal 2270

*OPENING PRAYER (all praying): **Holy God, gather us into your presence, as we come to worship this day. Transform us into your people through the mighty power of your Spirit. Rescue us that we may become instruments of mercy and grace. Renew us with your fiery Spirit. Love us with your endless patience. Shelter us with your amazing grace. Cleanse us with your refiner's fire and make us whole. For this grace and mercy, we are more than grateful. Amen**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Awesome God 2x

Black Hymnal 2040

Our God is an awesome God; he reigns from heaven above with wisdom, pow'r, and love. Our God is an awesome God!

Brian McNelis shares a blessing with our children!

FIRST LESSON: *Jeremiah 8:18-9:1*

18 No healing, only grief; my heart is broken. 19 Listen to the weeping of my people all across the land: "Isn't the Lord in Zion? Is her king no longer there?" Why then did they anger me with their images, with pointless foreign gods? 20 "The harvest is past, the summer has ended, yet we aren't saved." 21 Because my people are crushed, I am crushed; darkness and despair overwhelm me. 22 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then have my people not been restored to health? 9 If only my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, I would weep day and night for the wounds of my people.

SECOND LESSON: *1 Timothy 2:1-7*

2 First of all, then, I ask that requests, prayers, petitions, and thanksgiving be made for all people. 2 Pray for kings and everyone who is in authority so that we can live a quiet and peaceful life in complete godliness and dignity. 3 This is right, and it pleases God our savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5 There is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, the human Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a payment to set all people free. This was a testimony that was given at the right time. 7 I was appointed to be a preacher and apostle of this testimony—I'm telling the truth and I'm not lying! I'm a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Give Thanks

Black Hymnal 2036

*GOSPEL LESSON: *Luke 16:1-13*

16 Jesus also said to the disciples, "A certain rich man heard that his household manager was wasting his estate. 2 He called the manager in and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give me a report of your administration because you can no longer serve as my manager.' 3 "The household manager said to himself, 'What will I do now that my master is firing me as his manager? I'm not strong enough to dig and too proud to beg. 4 I know what I'll do so that, when I am removed from my management position, people will welcome me into their houses. 5 "One by one, the manager sent for each person who owed his master money. He said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 He said, 'Nine hundred gallons of olive oil.' [a] The manager said to him, 'Take your contract, sit down quickly, and write four hundred fifty gallons.' 7 Then the manager said to another, 'How much do you owe?' He said, 'One thousand bushels of wheat.' [b] He said, 'Take your contract and write eight hundred.' 8 "The master commended the dishonest manager because he acted cleverly. People who belong to this world are more clever` in dealing with their peers than are people who belong to the light. 9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves so that when it's gone, you will be welcomed into the eternal homes. 10 "Whoever is faithful with little is also faithful with much, and the one who is dishonest with little is also dishonest with much. 11 If you haven't been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 If you haven't been faithful with someone else's property, who will give you your own? 13 No household servant can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

One: May this story inspire us all.

ALL: To walk in the way that leads to life.

THE MESSAGE

"Debts are Tossed"

Pastor Linda Ray

*RESPONSE TO THE WORD "The Apostles' Creed" Traditional Version Red Hymnal 881
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, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy, catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

*GLORIA PATRI

Red Hymnal

HYMN OF INVITATION

I Surrender All vs. 1-4

Red Hymnal 354

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Linda Ray

Heavenly Father, you have given us riches beyond measure. We can only return a fraction of what we owe you; but we ask, Lord, that you will bless our offerings and help us to use them wisely in your service and to your glory. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

Today's **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **Alzheimer Research (Linda Sydnor)**.

If you are graciously contributing to the weekly designated yellow hat, kindly have your checks/cash submitted to the church prior to that Sunday or obviously placed in the yellow hat during the Sunday service. This makes recording those contributions into the system flow more smoothly each week. Thereafter, one check can be made payable to the designated organization and then we can move to the next week. Thank you all for your continued generosity towards this important mission. Alice Mullins, Treasurer

OFFERTORY HYMN

As We Break the Bread

Choral Anthem

*THE DOXOLOGY Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Red Hymnal 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Linda Ray

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Holy One, in the midst of life's travails, be once more the balm in Gilead that makes the wounded whole; become for us the healing balm that heals the sin-sick soul. For we are weary in body and tired in soul, as we strive to live faithfully as children of light, children who are wise in the ways of your kingdom. Too often, we neglect the talents you give us, and act less shrewdly with your true riches than others do with the dishonest wealth of this world. As you search our hearts and ways, may we be found faithful in a little, that you will entrust us to be faithful in much. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor Linda Ray
Officiant Server – Ellie Leuliette

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: 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.

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

(Lifting and breaking the bread) On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave God thanks, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

(Lifting the cup) When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to his disciples, and said "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

All: AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

Pastor: Let us join our hearts and voices in the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father, which 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory Forever. AMEN.

(The congregation will come forward to partake of the bread and cup.)

Pastor: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

WE GO IN THE SPIRIT!

SENDING HYMN

Living for Jesus

Black Hymnal 2149

*BENEDICTION

Found by God, may you go now to help others find their way. Loved by Christ, may you go now to share Christ's love with the world. Blessed by the Spirit, may you go now to bless others with mercy and grace. **Amen.**

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Brian McNelis

Audio/Video: Charlii Miller & John Littell

Communion Officiant/Server: Ellie Leuliette

Ushers: Ellie & Dick Leuliette, John & Patti Harmer, June Stemmler, John Harmon, Denis Shaffer, Laura Widger

Musicians: Amy Brown. Director of Music Ministry, Duane Dillard, Minister of Music

ASL Interpreter: Gail Garner

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor

Bonnie Valeski, Admin. Asst.

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Amy Brown, Music Ministry Director amyrowebrown@gmail.com (480) 677-0910
Duane Dillard, Minister of Music duanedillard@gmail.com (443) 593-2470

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S:

Sunday 9/18	Worship Service @9:00 AM
Monday 9/19	N/A
Tuesday 9/20	Cub Scouts 6-8 PM, Leadership Mtg 6:30 Hybrid
Wednesday 9/21	TOPS Mtg @ 6:00, Handbell Rehearsal @ 6:00, Choir Rehearsal @7:10
Thursday 9/22	Prayer & Praise Team Mtg @ 10:00 AM
Friday 9/23	N/A
Saturday 9/24	AA Mtg @ 7:00

PRAYER REQUEST BOX is available in the Narthex along with the prayer request cards. Just complete the form, fold, and drop in the box on the corner shelf located at the second set of doors into Fellowship Hall.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY will convene Mondays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 9:00 at the Church. Bring your Bible and a friend. You will be fed. We will continue and hopefully finish the study of Hebrews.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES will continue to be one service at 9:00 AM. The Worship Arts Committee and Leadership will be meeting with Pastor Linda to determine whether we stay with one service or begin again with the traditional two Worship Services. A decision will be forthcoming by October 1. Thank you for your continued understanding and patience.

MEALS NEEDED – KENZEL MESSICK

The family of Kenzel Messick is thankful for any meals that can be donated during her recovery. To donate, go to takethemameal.com Name: Messick PW: 2700



ST. PAUL'S
United Methodist Church of Odessa
Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out

St. Paul's Mission Statement

Reaching Up to praise God in vibrant worship

God calls us to live out our discipleship grounded in Christ's awakening us to the glory and majesty of God in all creation, and we respond together by worshiping God with our gratitude and praise. Standing or lifting our hands high are both ancient postures of worship, and so our dance of discipleship involves reaching up with our hearts, souls, and bodies, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.
Psalms 100:4-5 (NRSV)*

Reaching In to deepen our spiritual walk with Christ

Christ accepts us as we are, and then calls us to follow him and learn from him, growing in our spiritual walk-through practices the church calls spiritual disciplines: prayer, fasting, meditation, studying God's Word, individually and with others. As we grow in the knowledge of God, we discover more about the extraordinary plans God has for our lives.

"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
John 8:31-32 (NRSV)

Reaching Out with acts of love and compassion

Here's where it all comes together! Assured of God's eternal love, strengthened by the grace and knowledge of Christ, we are ready for the Holy Spirit to kindle a fire in our lives, gifting us for the labor of love God has prepared for us to accomplish. Having fallen in love with God, we love and serve our neighbors.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."
Matthew 25:40 (NRSV)

Current list of Committees, Chairs and Members as of 05/2022

Pastor	Rev. Linda Driver Ray
Ministry Candidate	Min. Adrienne Dillard
Lay Leadership	Janet Miller, Melissa Brooks, Mark Holden
Church Leadership Co-Chairs	Steve Johnson & Cathy Blanco
Trustee Chair	Charlii Miller
Trustee Committee	Charlii Miller, John Littell, Lynda Lambert
	Rev. Linda Driver Ray (Ex-Officio), Barbara
	Lynn Manlove, Don Mueller, John Cate,
	Cathy Blanco, Steve Johnson
SPRC Chair	Rick Pulling
SPRC Committee	Rick Pulling, Nancee Bleistine, Ellie Leuliette,
	June Stemmler, Janet Miller, Rev. Linda Driver Ray
	(Ex-Officio), Joy Littell, Cathy Blanco, Steve Johnson
Finance Chair	Vacant/Hap Bonham – Interim Chair
Treasurer	Alice Mullins
Finance Committee	Hap Bonham, Angela Christian, Carolyn Stanley
	Rev. Linda Driver Ray (Ex-Officio), Sandy Urstadt,
	Ann Baker, Alan Martin, Melissa Brooks
Worship Arts Committee	Barbara Lynn Manlove, Ellie Leuliette
	Nancee Bleistine, Janet Miller
Missions	Sue Holden, Dawn Buckworth, Sandy & Bob
	Urstadt, Charlotte Miller, Nadine Johnson
	Karen Ellis, Patti & John Harmer, Barbara
	Bonham, Joy Littell, Mark Holden, Nancy Judd,
	Ann Newswanger

Please contact Bonnie Valeski at bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org with any changes or additions

MISSIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

WEEKLY GATHERINGS – CHURCH BUILDING

OFFICE HOURS Tuesday -Thursday, 9AM-2:00PM

- Boy Scouts –Discontinued until Fall
- Cub Scouts –Tuesdays 6-8PM, beginning Sept. 20th
- TOPS Meeting – Wednesdays 6 PM.
- St. Paul’s Prayer and Praise Group Ministry – Thursdays 10 AM
- St. Paul’s Handbell Rehearsal – Wednesdays at 6 PM in the Music Room
- St. Paul’s Choir Rehearsal – Wednesday at 7:10 PM in the Sanctuary
- AA Meeting – Saturdays 7 PM

MONTHLY GATHERINGS

- Finance Meeting – 2nd Monday 6:30 PM
- Trustees Meeting – 2nd Tuesday 6:30 PM
- SPRC Meeting – 4th Thursday beginning Sept. 22nd, 6:30 PM via Zoom
- Leadership Meeting – 3rd Tuesday 6:30 PM
- PFLAG Meeting – 3rd Thursday 6:30 PM
- Reconciling Ministries – 2nd Thursday, 6:30 PM, beginning in September

Reconciling Ministries Informational Meetings

The purpose of the Reconciling Group, is to create opportunities to engage in dialogue, build relationships and advocate for the LGBTQIA community. So it is clear, the Reconciling Group’s Mission is informational and to supply a forum to discuss and advocate for the LGBTQIA community. This group has no authority to make changes in Policy. Policy changes can ONLY be done by the General Conference. The Reconciling Group meets via Zoom the Second Thursday of the month at 6:30, our next meeting is September 8th, via Zoom - <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77700823122?pwd=R1ZMcFV0cGMrNmF1WjJhVTlSRmVKdz09>

Our guest presenter is Rev. Patti Ravilious who will bring the group up to date on the latest news, both locally and internationally, regarding the United Methodist Church on this topic, and she will also share a bit of the history of how and why the UM Church got to this point. Please join us - Mark Holden.

Upcoming Yellow Hat Schedule for September 2022:

<http://www.stpaulsodessa.org/VANCOOnlineGiving>

9/25/22 Deaf Awareness Sunday (Gail Garner)

Men's Bible Study

Mondays October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 9:00 at the Church. Bring your Bible and a friend. You will be fed. We will continue and hopefully finish the study of Hebrews.

Adult Bible Study Fall date of resumption will be announced by October 1 with a mass email to everyone and bulletin announcement.

Flowers for Worship

If you are interested in honoring a loved one with flowers at the altar on a particular Sunday, we are asking you to contact Alicia Blackwell, from Wildflowers by Alicia to place your order. Alicia can be reached at (302) 593-9884. Also, please email the church office so we make sure the information is added in the bulletin.

Compassionate Card Ministry

The Compassionate Card Ministry is made up of 20 dedicated members of our congregation who create hand-made cards and encouraging messages to those in our directory, within our congregation, those on our prayer lists and others who are brought to our attention. Our purpose is to spread kindness and love to others through uplifting and personalized sentiments on hand-made cards. If you are not in our directory and would like to be

added to our list, or if you know someone who would benefit from the blessing of a card, please contact Nancee Bleistine, nbleistine@yahoo.com or 609-217-1924.

Prayer and Praise Group Ministry

Carole Harmon hosts a prayer circle, currently Thursday mornings at 10 AM - in person. Please contact Carole if you are interested in joining the group or have a special prayer request. You can also find prayer request cards and box on the corner shelf in the Narthex.

VANCO: Manage Your Giving Online

Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at www.stpaulsodessa.org and click on the VANCO Online Giving button to the left of the screen.
- 3) Click on the Link to Online Giving thru VANCO button, then
- 4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your RECURRING CONTRIBUTIONS.

Family Life

Sunday School Fall date of resumption will be announced by October 1 with a mass email to everyone and bulletin announcement.

Love Thy Neighbor Fund

Our "Love Thy Neighbor Fund" was created to help those in need in the MOT community. This fund may support a time in someone's life when he/she may need a little kindness and generosity to help endure and survive a challenging situation. If you can donate, please make checks payable to St. Paul's UMC and then write in the memo area it is for "Love Thy Neighbor Fund." Please note, this fund is SEPARATE from the Yellow Hat. Thank you, Love Thy Neighbor Committee

Deep Roots

Nadine Johnson & Karen Ellis continue to work with the "Deep Roots" mission. This group works with families who are disconnected through homelessness and provides transitional shelter and other services to families in need. They need your help as they continue to contact members of the church to help with making meals once a month feeding approximately 50+ individuals. Here's hoping you will be able to help us with this very important and necessary mission. Thanks so much! Contact Karen Ellis at iluybrmuda@gmail.com and Nadine Johnson at nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com

Our Daily Bread Food Donations

214 N Broad St, Middletown, DE 19709

Volunteers Needed – day and evening hours and different areas of need, filling bags, handing out meals, etc. Please consider a few hours of your time to help those much less fortunate. Contact Sue Holden, Missions Co-Chair, at 802-324-6167, susieq2951@aol.com, with any questions. Also, find information and volunteer sign-up forms on the website, <https://www.ourdailybreadmot.com>.

ODB is most thankful to all who donate either monetarily or in kind. Your generosity helps ODB feed those in our community who are facing food insecurity. Listed below are the items needed to stuff our side bags for this week and other items that are needed. Donations can be dropped off on Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

- Individual bottles of water
- Individual bags of salty snacks
- Individual packets of sweet snacks
- Individual fruit cups and/or applesauce
- Fresh fruit (apples, bananas, oranges)
- Boxes of breakfast cereal

- Boxes of mashed potatoes
- White bread
- Baked beans (large cans)

Thank you for any and all kindnesses!

Neighborhood House

Neighborhood House really appreciates St. Paul's ongoing support in so many ways. At this point, we are low on some items in the food pantry. So, for your next Pak-A-Sack collection we could use any of the following:

- Soup
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Cereal
- Tuna/Tuna Helper
- Tissues

Donations can be left inside the Church. We look forward to another great year working together to feed the hungry. Thanks to all, Marilyn Hendershot, Family Services Specialist, Neighborhood House, Inc.

PFLAG Meeting

Meetings are held at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month, presently via Zoom. Please join us if you would like to be supported or offer support and please spread the word to all corners of our communities. We are currently working on a system which will help youth who have been rejected by their parents, find families who will help them. Please contact Mark Holden, (Mark@maholden.com) or call 802-279-8100.

JOYS & CONCERNS: If you know someone, you'd like to add to our prayer list, please email the church office or visit the church website (www.stpaulsodessa.org) to complete a prayer request. **There is also a Prayer Box in the Narthex in which you can drop your completed request.** Please email the office when someone can be taken OFF the list. If you or a loved one needs a pastoral visit, please call or email the church office to schedule.

Prayers for: Noel Lukens; Mary Beth; Matthew Smith; Naomi Betts; Jerrod Bolline; Sue Holden's sister, Betsey Snipes; Bill Smith; Beth; Matt & Louise Latocha; Carol Myers; Darryl Dillard; Kathy Golden; Jessica Schrum and Family; Joyce, Aunt to Angela Christian; Dave Corby; Kenzel Messick; David Dudgeon; Kimberly, Ike Guessford; Theresa, sister to Estelle Peters, Pat Williams.

Birthdays: September 18 – Kaitlyn Whitmer; September 19 – Linda Sydnor; September 20 – Mitch Fawcett, Sarah Pulling; September 23 – Kenzel Messick, Gradaigh O'Hop, Lloyd Sheats

Anniversaries: September 20 – Diane & Blain Shoun; September 21 – Al & Jessica Schrum; September 22 – Jerry & Cathy Blanco