



St. Paul's UMC of Odessa
Reaching Up Reaching In Reaching Out
Pastor Linda Ray, 406 Main Street, Odessa, DE 302-378-2420
www.stpaulsodessa.org, CCLI 11305346 and Streaming Lic. 21184487

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 15, 2024, 8:30 AM, Livestreaming and ASL

WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

GATHERING MUSIC AND PHOTOS: Mark Holden - Photographer & Curator, Gail Garner – ASL Interpreter

GATHERING WORDS:

Liturgist- Brian McNelis

Leader: Beloved, the voice of Wisdom calls to us from the street corner, the grocery store aisle, the noisy dinner table, and the quiet places of our hearts. Will you listen?

All: Yes, with God's help, we will listen!

Leader: Wisdom calls to us with hard truths, showing us where we've strayed in our hearts and as a community and urging us back onto God's path. Will you follow?

All: Yes, with God's help, we will follow!

Leader: Wisdom's call persists through the twists and turns, the rough patches, the barely discernible paths forward, and the moments we feel completely lost. Will you hold onto Wisdom wherever she takes you?

All: Yes, with God's help, we will hold onto Wisdom!

Leader: Then Beloved, let us worship God together as we cling to wisdom on our journey along the path of salvation paved with God's love.

All: Yes! Let us worship God together!

PRAISE AND WORSHIP:

He Has Made Me Glad

Black Hymnal 2270

*OPENING PRAYER: (all praying): **O God, your Wisdom speaks in our streets, cries out from our intersections, and calls our names. O God, we long for your love, for your wisdom, for your grace. We long for the words of your mouth, when we cannot find our own. We long for courage to speak and sing your blessings. We pray for the wisdom to keep silent rather than speak words of harm. Be our vision, O God, and our voice. And may our mouths proclaim your praise. Amen**

WORDS FOR YOUNG METHODISTS:

How Great Is Our God Chorus 2x

Green Hymnal 3003

Brian McNelis shares a blessing with our children!

PASS THE PEACE: (safely share words and signs of blessing)

I Love You With The Love Of The Lord

Words and Music by Jim Golbert. CCLI Song #10130

I love you with the love of the Lord, yes, I love you with the love of the Lord. I can see in you the glory of my King, and I love you with the love of the Lord.

FIRST LESSON: *Proverbs 1:20-33* (CEB)

Wisdom shouts in the street;

in the public square she raises her voice.

²¹ Above the noisy crowd, she calls out.

At the entrances of the city gates, she has her say:

²² "How long will you clueless people love your naïveté,

mockers hold their mocking dear,

and fools hate knowledge?

²³ You should respond when I correct you.

Look, I'll pour out my spirit on you.

I'll reveal my words to you.

²⁴ I invited you, but you rejected me;
 I stretched out my hand to you,
 but you paid no attention.
²⁵ You ignored all my advice,
 and you didn't want me to correct you.
²⁶ So I'll laugh at your disaster;
 I'll make fun of you when dread comes over you,
²⁷ when terror hits you like a hurricane,
 and your disaster comes in like a tornado,
 when distress and oppression overcome you.
²⁸ Then they will call me, but I won't answer;
 they will seek me, but won't find me
²⁹ because they hated knowledge
 and didn't choose the fear of the Lord.
³⁰ They didn't want my advice;
 they rejected all my corrections.
³¹ They will eat from the fruit of their way,
 and they'll be full of their own schemes.
³² The immature will die because they turn away;
 smugness will destroy fools.
³³ Those who obey me will dwell securely,
 untroubled by the dread of harm."

GOSPEL LESSON: *Mark 8:27-38* (CEB)

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸ They told him, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets." ²⁹ He asked them, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." ³⁰ Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead." ³² He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. ³³ Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

³⁴ After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. ³⁵ All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. ³⁶ Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? ³⁷ What will people give in exchange for their lives? ³⁸ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father's glory with the holy angels."

One: May this story inspire us all. **ALL: To walk in the way that leads to life**

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* Black Hymnal 2120

THE MESSAGE: "Holding On To Wisdom" Pastor Linda Ray

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*You may speak aloud your joys and concerns.*)

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY REMINDERS

THE OFFERTORY: Today's **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **9/15/24 UMCOR for US Disaster Rsp. Relief.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all praying): We long for wisdom, O Lord, but prefer that it be our own. We turn away from the ideas of others and ignore the possibility and promise that come from life together with you. Most of all, we drown out your gift of Wisdom as she seeks to get our attention, for we believe that we know better or would prefer to decide where we make her welcome. Forgive us, loving God. Bring an end to the self-righteousness that ignores you, and awaken us anew to the Wisdom that comes only from you. Show us how to walk in your ways and listen to your promise each and every day. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Pastor Linda Ray
Communion Server – Brian McNelis
Communion Setting 2257-a

Reader 2 (singing) :The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Reader 2: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Reader 2: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Reader 1: 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. Your Spirit came upon prophets and teachers, anointing them to speak your Word. And so with your people on earth and the great company of heaven we praise you as we join their unending hymn:

Communion Setting 2257-b

ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Reader 2: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. At his baptism in the Jordan your Spirit descended upon him and declared him your beloved Son. With your Spirit upon him Jesus turned away the temptation of sin. Your Spirit anointed Jesus 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. Jesus 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, baptizing us with the Holy Spirit and with fire, as on the Day of Pentecost.

(Lifting the bread) On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, 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.”

Reader 1: (Lifting the cup) When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the 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:

Communion Setting 2257-c

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Reader 2: 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 Holy 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, Holy God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Reader 2: Let us join our hearts and voices in the prayer that God continues to teach us:

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

COMMUNION SONG: *Here Is Bread, Here Is Wine* Black Hymnal 2266
(The congregation will come forward to partake of the bread and cup.)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SERVICE

CLOSING MUSIC: *I Love to Tell the Story* Red Hymnal 156

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Brian McNelis

Audio/Video: Charlii Miller, John Littell, John Cate, Carlotta Cline, Garrett Ray

Communion Officiant/Server: Brian McNelis

Musicians: Duane Dillard – Minister of Music

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor	lindaray@vaumc.org	(540) 207-1787
Bonnie Valeski, Admin. Asst.	bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org	(302) 378-2420
Alice Mullins, Financial/Treasurer	stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org	(302) 293-9956
Duane Dillard, Minister of Music	duanedillard@gmail.com	(443) 593-2470
Thomas Maloney, Director of Music	thomaseamaloney@gmail.com	(914) 450-0095
Jin Kyung Seo, Organist/Accompanist	jinksblue@gmail.com	

ANNOUNCEMENTS - THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday 09/15 Worship Services 8:30AM and 11AM Livestreaming and ASL, Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:45AM, Fall Kickoff Potluck after 11AM Service
Monday 09/16 Trustees Mtg. 6:30PM
Tuesday 09/17 ODB, Cub Scouts 6PM, Leadership Mtg. 6:30PM
Wednesday 09/18 TOPS Mtg 5:45 PM, Bells Rehearsal 6PM, Choir Rehearsal 7PM
Thursday 09/19 10AM Prayer and Praise Group, PFLAG 6PM
Friday 09/20
Saturday 09/21 AA Mtg 7PM

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR! POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP SEPTEMBER 15th will be after the 11:00AM service. This will be our Fall kickoff and want everyone to join in. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall for donations of food. You can contact Janet Miller or Kenzel Messick with any questions.

LATEST FINANCIAL NEWS: If you there is a need for reimbursement, the **Committee Chairperson will need to complete a Disbursement Voucher**, list the account number, attach any receipts, and submit within 14 days; this is the best practice for auditing purposes. Once completed, place the Disbursement Voucher with receipts directly into the Treasurer/Financial black box which is hanging on the wall, on the landing leading up the stairs, to the church office. Disbursement Voucher forms are located in the mail bin outside the church office. Billing and reimbursement checks are sent out Tuesdays of each week. Thanks so much, Alice Mullins, Treasurer

CYBER SECURITY: An FYI, Pastor Linda's email has been hacked several times in recent weeks. Pastor Linda does not get a copy of these, so is unaware of the situation unless you bring it to her attention. Here are some basic guidelines to follow when evaluating an email from Pastor Linda:

1. The only email that Pastor Linda uses is LindaRay@vaumc.org . To check the source of the email, hover with your mouse, over Pastor Linda's name and the email will appear.
2. Pastor Linda will respond to your emails as individuals but does not usually send emails to individuals.
3. Pastor Linda's regular schedule for church-wide emails is to send one on Friday or Saturday. If there are items that need addressing, she may send group emails at other times.
4. The subject line for her email correspondence is always 'Church Family Check-In'.
5. Pastor Linda will never ask individuals or groups for gift cards, money or do anything discreetly.
6. If in doubt, do not open the email or respond but instead, reach out to Pastor Linda.

Pastor Linda has reported this activity to the tech support folks in the Virginia Annual Conference and this office has made our local tech support persons aware of this activity. Pastor Linda has begun to send the Church Family Check-In emails using BCC/blind copy to further protect your emails. Pastor Linda apologizes for this and appreciates your willingness to be helpful and responsive.

BIRTHDAYS: September 15 – Julianna Ashley, Joyce Nickerson; September 16 – June Glass; September 17 – Tanner Martin, Serena Pizzadili, St. Jerome Reeves; September 18 – Kaitlyn Whitmer; September 19 – Victoria Dahn, Linda Sydnor; September 20 – Mitch Fawcett, Sarah Pulling, John St. Jean; September 21 – Sam Moore Sr.

ANNIVERSARIES: September 15 – David & Carol Sheats; September 16 – Leonard & Sibyl Pompeo; September 20 – Diane & Blain Shoun; September 21 – Al & Jessica Schrum

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. You can also email Bonnie in the Church Office at bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org.

PRAYERS FOR: David Dudgeon, Dorothy Dudgeon, Carolyn Akin, Jonathan Brooks, Mary Ingram's friend Maureen, John Guy, Maria Gregors, Levi Schrum and family, Marilyn Hendershot, Dennis Downes, Jeffrey & Cheryl Martin, Nancy- sister of Alice Rizzo, Ethan Porter, George, Dylan Green, Blain Shoun, Kevin Quiveors – Al Calbazana's brother-in-law, Thomas Maloney's mother, John Littell, Faye Taylor's nephew Matthew Smith, and Brenda Shaffer's nephew, Scott, Mindie, and Bo Pleasanton, Ellen McMichael and Norman Parks, Sarah Bosworth, David Sheats, Alice Mullins' brother -Clarence Brooks, Diane Shoun's sister-in-law, Amanda Branlund, who is going through cancer treatment, Keith Brady who was in a recent bad auto accident and has a traumatic brain injury, Terry Sweeney, Michael Whitehead who is doing better but still grateful for prayers, Barbara Apigian, Dan Moore, Angela Christian for her mother Mala, Matthew Sheats, Kathy Golden, Rev. Cheryl Jensen, Sue Austin, Frank Hartenstein - Beth O'Grady's father waiting on medical tests, friend of Karen Ellis, , Georgiana Fennemore, Michael Stanley, Ann Raymond.

YELLOW HAT COLLECTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

9/01/24 National Donate Gift For Life (Nancee Bleistine)

9/08/24 El Ayudante Child, Yesprin

9/15/24 UMCOR for US Disaster Rsp. Relief

9/22/24 Alzheimer Research (Linda Sydnor)

9/29/24 Deaf Awareness Sunday (Gail Garner)

Please make sure ALL checks are made payable to St. Paul's UMC, including checks for the Yellow Hat missions, writing the organization's name on the memo line.

All donations are collected, recorded, entered in the system, and deposited into the Church's operating account on a weekly basis. Also, on a weekly basis, a check is mailed to the specified yellow hat organization for the total amount collected.

It is very important that donations be placed in the offering plate, yellow hat or mailed to St. Paul's UMC. You are also welcome to drop off donations in the black box on the wall just inside the side door to

the Church, making sure it is secured in an envelope with your name on the front. This is to guarantee acknowledgement of your donations when the yearly contribution statement is sent for tax purposes. Thank you all for your continued support for St. Paul's as we are growing in our faith through generosity. *Alice Mullins, Treasurer*



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)

MISSIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

WEEKLY GATHERINGS – CHURCH BUILDING

OFFICE HOURS Tuesday -Thursday, 9 AM-2 PM

- Cub Scouts –Tuesdays 6-8 PM
- TOPS Meeting – Wednesdays 5:45 PM.
- St. Paul's Prayer and Praise Group Ministry – Thursdays 10 AM @Carole Harmon's Home
- St. Paul's Handbell Rehearsal – Wednesdays 6 PM.
- St. Paul's Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays 7 PM
- AA Meeting – Saturdays 7 PM

MONTHLY GATHERINGS

- Finance Meeting – 2nd Monday 6:30 PM
- Trustees Meeting – 1st Monday 6:30 PM
- SPRC Meeting – 4th Thursday 6:30 PM

- Leadership Meeting – 3rd Tuesday 6:30 PM
- PFLAG Meeting – 3rd Thursday 6:30 PM
- Reconciling Ministries – TBD

Adult Bible Study will resume Sunday, September 15, 2024 at 9:45AM.

Children’s Sunday School will resume Sunday, September 15, 2024 at 9:45AM.

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 at bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org 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 Ellie Leuliette.

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.

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 iluvbrmuda@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. Volunteer Opportunities can be found at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COE4FAEA82CA3F5CF8->

volunteer. 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>. **On-line Training Coming Soon!**

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 and other items that are needed on a regular basis. Donations can be dropped off on Tuesday from 9:15 to 11:30AM

- 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)
- Gallon size zip-loc bags
- Lg black garbage bags
- Cans of soup

Thank you for any and all kindness!

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. These items are especially needed right now in our food pantry, though all donations are gladly accepted with the inventory being low now.

Currently we are really low on personal hygiene products as well as some food items:

- 1. Bottled water**
- 2. Toilet paper, Toothpaste, Soap, Shampoo & conditioner**
- 3. Peanut butter & jelly (medium size)**
- 4. Pasta sauce**
- 5. Tuna/Tuna Helper**
- 6. Hamburger Helper**

These non-perishables are needed to keep our pantry stocked:

Chef Boyardee, beef stew, Spam ,pancake mix/syrup, snacks - cookies, crackers etc.

ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS ALWAYS A NEED FOR ADULT SIZED DISPOSABLE DIAPERS AS WELL AS FOR BABIES/CHILDREN IN SIZES 4, 5, AND 6, AND WIPES. WE HAVE NUMEROUS MOMS WITH BABIES AND TODDLERS WHO TAKE THEIR MONEY FOR FOOD AND BILLS TO BUY THEM.

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.