



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Stewardship Sunday

Proper 20, Year C

September 18, 2022 at 10:15 a.m.

Service offered both in-person and online

Online Bulletin

Welcome! Sunday Services are offered each week at 10:15am. You have the option of attending in-person or online at: www.StPaulsVentura.org/live, www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura, www.Facebook.com/SaintPaulsVentura.

***We ask your patience and thank you for your understanding** - Masks are required in the church at this time because many of those who attend services are especially vulnerable to COVID-19. A limited number of seats on the street side of the church are available for those who prefer or require some extra distance. Thank you for your cooperation. You are a living example of what LOVE looks like, and we appreciate your kindness.*

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.

Our Sunday School program (for children ages 2 years-grade 5) begins at 10am. Children are invited to join Miss Bailey 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.

The best way to keep up with our upcoming events and latest protocols 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 church office.

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.



The angels are dancing again...

Listen carefully, you just might hear the angels dancing on the roof!

When things heat up, the beams in our beautiful church ceiling expand and creak. No worries! It's just part of this wonderful building's charm. For years, some of our members have said to each other, "Listen, the angels are dancing on the roof again!"

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of Carl Helms, Jr. by Kathy and Tim Helms.

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

Ad libitum-Allegretto-as libitum from Oboe Sonata, Op. 166
Allison McKay, Oboe

Camille Saint-Saën

Processional

On this day, the first of days

Hymnal 47

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

Today's Cantor: Daniel Smithson

Opening Salutation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355

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

People **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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, v. 4

Hymnal 390

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Please be seated for the reading of scripture.

A reading from the first letter to Timothy.

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all -- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 113

The response appointed for this morning is Psalm 113. 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 Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord;
praise the Name of the Lord.

**2 Let the Name of the Lord be blessed,
from this time forth for evermore.**

3 From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the Name of the Lord be praised.

**4 The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.**

5 Who is like the Lord our God, who sits enthroned on high
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

**6 He takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes.**

7 He sets them with the princes,
with the princes of his people.

**8 He makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children.**

Gradual Hymn
All stand as able to sing.

Help us, O Lord, to learn

Hymnal 628

Holy Gospel
Remain standing and face the Gospel.

Luke 16:1-13

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Susan Bek

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Nicene Creed
All stand as able and together say

BCP p. 358

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the Church of God, that it may be filled with people dedicated to love, generosity and truth.

May your light guide us and shine through us.

For the leaders of our nation, and the leaders of all nations; that the work they do may benefit all people. **May your light instill within them the desire to act justly and work for peace.**

For blessings on all human endeavors, and for the just and proper use of all you have created.

May we be the instruments through which you reach out to the world.

For the sick in body, mind or spirit, especially *(The People may add their own petitions either silently or aloud)*. **May your light bring hope and healing to all who suffer.**

For all who have died, and for those who grieve, especially *(The People may add their own petitions either silently or aloud)*. **May light perpetual shine upon them.**

Celebrant

O God, in your infinite generosity, you have created a world filled with resources to sustain all your children. Stir the generosity within each of us so that these resources may be shared. Inspire us when we step out from this place so that we may shine as the Light of Christ to the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray, **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.**

¹ universal; all embracing

² Relating to the Apostles, following their teachings

Recognition of the Production Team

This morning we recognize and offer our thanks to everyone who serves in this important ministry.

The Production Team is made up of dedicated volunteers who help to create the beautiful online services we livestream each week. Some members have dedicated many hours to figuring out how to make this project work – researching how other churches do what they do, selecting and installing equipment, and creating the slides and resources you see pop up on the screen. Other members serve on a rotating schedule to operate the software and make the live edits as the service is presented. We are grateful to all the volunteers and give thanks for a generous bequest left by Judy MacGregor that makes this project possible.

Please join us in thanking all these dedicated ministers for the important work they do!

You are invited.

If you're interested in how the production process works, we invite you to join us the chapel following today's service. We'll show you the equipment and give a brief presentation on how it all works. We look forward to sharing it with you!

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

Prayer for Our Annual Giving Campaign

God of grace and abundance, you made us in your image and breathed in us the spirit of life. You have blessed us abundantly. Stir the generosity in our hearts and inspire us to give all that we can and, by your grace, may the gifts that we give become More Than Enough to meet the needs of your church for the coming year. Amen.

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

In Thee, O Lord

*Joseph Haydn***Presentation Hymn****O worship the King, all glorious above, v. 1-3****Hymnal 388***Please stand as you are able.***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 physically receiving it.

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 worshipers: wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome at communion. Our custom is to receive the bread in your open palm. Please tell the priest if you prefer gluten-free.

Once you have the bread, you may choose any of the following options:

1. **Return to your seat without receiving the wine.** *Be assured that this is a sufficient experience of communion.*
2. **Sip the wine, from the common cup,** *guiding the chalice gently with your hand. (This meets the current safety standards set by the Diocese of Los Angeles and our bishop because the wine contains alcohol, the chalice is silver or similar metal, and the surface is wiped and turned between communicants.)*
3. **Receive by intinction** (dipping) – *the Eucharistic Minister will dip your wafer into the wine for you. We must place it in your hand at this time and cannot place it in your mouth.*

***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.***

*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 worshipers can find it at www.bcponline.org

Communion Music

Etude 2

Philip Glass

Thank You, Lord

Felix Eisenhauer

Thank you, Lord, for these gifts, I give my - self to you.

Thank you, Lord, for these gifts, I give my - self to you.

Post Communion Prayer:

Please stand or kneel as you prefer.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through 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

God of grace and God of Glory

Hymnal 594

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

Gothic Toccata

David Hegarty

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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/Chalice:	Drew Darby and Kara Craven	Lectors:	Judy Gold & Judy Drew
Chalice Bearer:	Anna Darby	Ushers:	Wendy VanHorn & Eric Craven
Altar Guild:	Anna Darby & Grace Dunlevy	Flower Guild:	Anna Darby & Grace Dunlevy
Cantor:	Daniel Smithson	Welcome Greeter:	Julie Braithwaite
Video Production:	John Loest	Lock-up Team:	Rev. Susan



9/18	Ministry Recognition - Production Team
9/18	Acolyte Training
9/18	Fair Trade Sales after Church
9/25	Ministry Recognition - Readers and Lock Up Team
10/2	Blessing of the Animals 4-5pm in the parking lot at St. Paul's Ventura
10/2	Ministry Recognition - Ushers and Welcome Committee
10/9	Annual Bishop's Visit - Join us in welcoming the Canon to the Ordinary, Melissa McCarthy
10/16	Ministry Recognition - Small Group Leaders, Servers and Chalice Bearers
9/18	Fair Trade Sales after Church
10/16	Small Group Ministries Presentation at Coffee Hour
11/6	All Saints Day - Blessing of the Pledges; and Daylight Savings Time ends
11/20	Christ the King Sunday
11/27	First Sunday of Advent
12/10	St. Paul's Holiday Marketplace and Rummage Sale
12/11	Third Sunday of Advent and Parish Christmas Party and Holiday Marketplace
12/24	Christmas Eve - 4pm Family Service, 10pm Carols, 10:30pm Candlelight Service
12/25	Christmas Day - Sunday Service at 10:15am

Prayer Intentions for the Week of September 18, 2022

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:

Leta, Christian, Christina, Nathan and his family, Bryant, Ed, Barb, Mary, Matthew, Thomas, Vivian, Dave, Sharon, Bert, Joseph, Esther, Scott, Carol, Susan, Jon, Nadia, Jeff, Camille, Barbara, Kent, Spencer and her family, Tracy, all refugees, first responders, and everyone affected by COVID-19, gun violence, natural disaster, poverty, and injustice.

THOSE ENDURING A LONG-TERM ILLNESS:

Penny, Phil, Lynn, Audrey, Dennis, Maria, Baby Z, Carol, Amelia, Rachel, Dave, Kim, Linda, Virginia, Michelle, Sheila, Jeanice, Kevin, Susan, Ed, Debbie, Marcia and Ron.

IN THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY:

Drew Darby, his wife Anna, and their family.

AND PRAYERS OF LOVE AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR:

First Responders, Teachers, Administrators and School Staff, Children, Families, and those who live alone.

FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON:

- The ministry of Family to Family; all who volunteer and/or give financially to feed Ventura's hungry*
- U.S. Armed services personnel serving around the world and wounded warriors cared for in medical centers and those returned home*
- All who work, educate others, and pray to abolish the scourge of present-day slavery.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

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

IN MEMORIAM

Sam Lloyd, Tom Burke, Kent Colberg, Joe Cosgrove, Queen Elizabeth II 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
Nadia Becker, ASL Interpreter
Amy Schaffer, Director of Communications

3290 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, CA 93003 (805) 643-5033 e-mail: office@saintpaulsventura.org
Website: www.saintpaulsventura.org Twitter: @stpaulsventura Facebook: St. Paul's Ventura

St. Paul's Announcements September 18, 2022

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 this week. We're always happy to hear from you!

We invite you to come back soon.



This is a brief overview of our weekly announcements. To learn about everything going on at St. Paul's and to receive weekly encouragement and ways to build up spiritual strength, please see our E-newsletter. If you don't receive it, please let us know. We'd be happy to add you to the list! You can reach us by emailing office@saintpaulsventura.org



Kicking off the Annual Giving Campaign...

Welcome to Stewardship Sunday – 9/18

Today we introduce our Annual Giving Campaign. We ask everyone in the church to please pledge to support St. Paul's through the coming year. With your help we can keep the church going and growing.

Thank you for our support!

And after church today...

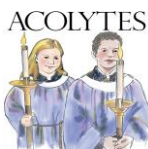


You can make a difference! Every purchase matters...

Fair Trade Sales – TODAY, 9/18 after church on the Fountain Patio

St. Paul's is an Abolitionist Congregation, committed to ending the scourge of modern-day slavery. We sell fair trade products through the Equal Exchange to support farm cooperatives around the world giving farmers a fair price and a better future. Locally our sales support ending human trafficking through the Abolitionist Committee. Please stop by our table outside near the fountain to check out delicious chocolate, coffee and tea! Cash and checks accepted. Please see Joanne Wakelee if you have questions. Next Fair Trade Sale Day: 10/19

Production Team Presentation – after service TODAY in the Side Chapel



Acolyte Training – after the service TODAY

We are very excited to welcome acolytes back to the altar. Acolytes need to be 7 years or older and able to enjoy participating in the entire service while serving at the altar. Training is required. Please contact the church office AND plan to join us for this important training. We look forward to serving with you!



In-Person Worshippers – You are Invited to Coffee Hour







We invite you to join us in Kahler Hall (just down the stairs) for a cup of coffee, tea, or water and 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. So, when you're available, please plan to join us.



6-Week Workshop on Personal Financial Health begins TODAY

11:45am-12:45pm in the Community Room (meeting room behind the kitchen).

	<p>Because of your generosity, St. Paul's was able to kick off a new program year. This is our 133rd year of mission and ministry here in Ventura. Because of your giving, the church will continue to offer weekly worship services, a wonderful Sunday School program, and a glorious Choir. You make it possible for us to hire staff, organize programs, and continue offering the programs associated with worship. We will be here (both in person, and online) every Sunday, ready to welcome members, newcomers, and visitors in the name of Christ. All this because you care enough to support the church. Thank you!</p>
	<p>We're up Tomorrow - MONDAY, September 19th <i>Please pray for the wonderful volunteers who will serve lunch to our hungry neighbors tomorrow. We appreciate your support and look forward to the time when we can serve inside and recruit more volunteers again.</i></p>
	<p><i>We appreciate your support!</i> A Great, Big THANK YOU! To everyone who supported our restaurant fundraiser this past week at Topper's Pizza Food, fun and it was a fundraiser for the church – what's not to like! We don't have the final amount yet, but they will be donating 20% of food and soft beverage sales. The income is especially welcome in this year when we're running a deficit budget. Every little bit helps! We appreciate your support and want to say thank you.</p>
	<p>Healing Service Offered – Wednesday mornings at 9am on Zoom Join us for an inspiring and uplifting service on Wednesday mornings on Zoom. All are welcome! Contact the church office for details.</p>
	<p><i>We're so excited...</i> The Gooden Center Renovation is Nearly Finished You're invited to the House Blessing – Friday, 9/30 at 7pm Park in the church parking lot. We'll gather in the Living Room for the brief service and enjoy some refreshments afterwards in the yard. We are so grateful for a generous bequest from Rod & Katie Weldon that made this project possible.</p>
	<p><i>Have fun and bring your pets for a blessing, or come for holy water to take home to them...</i> Walk Up Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 2nd 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, photo s, 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>Mark your calendar. Please plan to join us for this special event!</i> Sunday, October 9th at the 10:15am Service We will welcome a very special guest on Sunday, October 9th. Canon to the Ordinary, Melissa McCarthy, will preach and celebrate for us. Please join us for this special service and plan to stay after the service for a lovely reception in Kahler Hall.</p>
	<p>Small Group Ministries Presentation – Sunday, October 16 during Coffee Hour Small groups offer the opportunity to make deeper connections with God and one another, can help us to heal from the isolation and fear we've all experienced in recent years, and are a fun and important way to love and support each other on this journey of faith. More details are coming soon!</p>
	<p><i>Please invite your friends and plan to join us...</i> St. Paul's Holiday Market Fundraiser – Dec. 10, 11, & 12 Volunteers and Donations Needed Please mark your calendars and help us spread the word. Volunteers are needed. Please see sign up sheet at the Welcome Table or check out your Enews. Donations needed: Rummage Sale items and Kids shop items can be dropped off before and after church each Sunday beginning Nov. 6; Baked Goods can be dropped off on 12/10 and 12/11. Thank you so much!</p>

	<p>Check out this Week's Resources...</p> <p>To Help You Grow in Faith https://www.saintpaulsventura.org/growing-in-faith-sunday-and-everyday/ After an uplifting and inspiring Sunday service, we're sent out into the world to love and serve the Lord. It's wonderful, but there's so much more to living a faithful life than just going to church - so, we publish a list of weekly resources to help you grow in faith. Learn simple spiritual practices, get ideas for how to put your faith in action, receive a blessing to start off every week. You can also enjoy beautiful music, hear inspiring messages, and learn how to live a more fulfilling life.</p>
	<p>FAITH IN ACTION – September SUGGESTION of the Month This month consider joining with other Episcopalians urging Congress to act on Solitary Confinement. Join our call to establish a commission to study solitary confinement and provide humane recommendations for its reduction and reformation. You can find more information at https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/ and click on "Take Action."</p>
	<p><i>This time we're reaching out to those who have recently moved out of homelessness...</i></p> <p>September: REACH for a Way Out of Homelessness Turning Point Foundation's River Haven Project offers a path to hope and the promise of transitioning out of homelessness. Sheltered in tiny houses manufactured by Tuff Sheds and supported by case managers, residents receive job training, medical attention and drug, alcohol and mental health services. Red REACH bags with list of items requested are available for your convenience. Thank you for helping us put our faith into action. For more information, go to: https://turningpointfoundation.org/river-haven-housing/</p>
	<p>Special Donations Requested</p> <p>RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND: Donations to this fund are used at the Rector's discretion to help those in need. Because of our generosity, we have been able to help families who need assistance for a variety of reasons. Beautiful things happen because you care. Thank you!</p> <p>SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Donations to this fund are used to assist with theological education. It's also sometimes used to provide scholarship funds for disadvantaged children or adults. Now that we have a member seeking ordination, we will need funds to assist in their education. If you can help, we really appreciate it!</p>
 <p>This QR Code takes you straight to 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 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 give. Thank you so much!</p>
	<p><i>And now it's time for an...</i></p> <p>ASL Minute Learning to Sign One Sunday at a Time At St. Paul's we're learning Sign Language. Why? Because we enjoy learning and growing together, because it's a great way to explore the concepts and ideas of our faith, and because all are welcome here. The videos are posted to our YouTube channel. www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura Share it with your friends, maybe they'd like to learn something too!</p>

God bless you!

