

GOSPEL: LUKE 12:32-40

³²Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ³⁵Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. ³⁹But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

PSALM 33: 12-22

¹² Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage. ¹³ The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind. ¹⁴ From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth— ¹⁵ he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds. ¹⁶ A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. ¹⁷ The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save. ¹⁸ Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, ¹⁹ to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. ²⁰ Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield. ²¹ Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. ²² Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Pray for these we know to be in need of resolution, healing, support and comfort:



The Cisneros family; Ivy & John Conklin; Austin Marsh; Ewalani Odachi; Brian Kurihara; George Aspeitia; Jim Gagne; Shanna Childers; George Quezada; Ed Sais; Celia Torres; Carol & Larry Sullivan; Ray's sister, Margarita; Maxine Miller & her son, Leonard; Tim Sang; Aki Fukui; Lilly Fukui; Karri Padilla; Susan & Gene Ramirez; Margarete Schwall; Millie Powell; Seth, who is living on the streets of LA; Harrison and Elana, as they recover from broken feet; Meher Montessori School; all who are affected by COVID; for those who face discrimination; for those who are traveling, may they have safe journeys; for churches, may our hearts and doors remain open for those who wish to share the Good News; for our country, our military and first responders; watch over those who are affected by the war in Ukraine. May all families be reunited and let there be a peaceful resolution; for the families of the victims of mass shootings. May God be with them as they grieve for their loved ones.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost August 7, 2022

"You must also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." Luke 12:40

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Sunday Service at 9:30 AM

2009 South Garfield Avenue, Monterey Park, CA 91754

Phone: (323) 721-0840 - Email: stpaulsmpk@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook @stpaulsmpk or our website stpaulsmpk.org

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am

While LA County has formally rescinded the masking order as of 3/4/22, masks are still being recommended for use in public settings, such as our worship space. For the safety of our at-risk members and our current visiting pastor, please wear a mask and maintain social distancing for the time being.

If you have forgotten a mask, we do have extras, in both adult and kid sizes, in the Narthex.

News and Needs

- **The Lord's Supper**, our sharing of the bread and wine as Jesus invites us to do, is open to all who accept the presence of Jesus in this simple meal. We continue to use pre-filled communion chalices for a sanitary, safe, and traditional communion experience. We rejoice in our opportunity to join together in praise and thanksgiving to God. Newcomers among us are invited to participate in every aspect of our worship. Any questions? Please ask.
- **We welcome Pastor David Berkedal as regular preacher and worship leader at St. Paul's.** Pastor Berkedal will be working on **Thursdays, from 10:00 am. to 4:00 pm.** in Monterey Park to help us develop the congregation's ministry and outreach as we move out of the global pandemic. He and his wife, Rev. Sally Welch began a Youtube Channel, "Streams of Living Waters" at the beginning of the pandemic to provide connection and encouragement and an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be Christian during times of isolation. Each video has been matched with a podcast on their "Living Water Radio" channel and a blog entry on "Words of Living Water." You may send an email to Pastor Berkedal at dberkedal@gmail.com for links to all three or visit our website (stpaulsmpk.org).
- **Coffee Hour & Fellowship will be held in the lounge following today's service.** To get to the lounge from the sanctuary, please exit the glass doors at the back, go through the glass doors on the right and straight ahead to the open door of the lounge. Today's refreshments are provided by the Mitchell family. Just a reminder that there is a sign-up sheet in the lounge with many vacant spaces. In an effort to have everyone enjoy coffee hour, please sign up for a date.
- **The church building is getting a "facelift"** - We are in the process of having the outside of our building painted. Please excuse any related painting items or blocked areas during this process. It should be completed prior to the opening of the Meher Montessori School in early September.
- **Iglesia Adventista Interamericana** - Lead by Pr. Benedicto Alvarez, they will be worshipping in our Sanctuary on Saturdays and Tuesday evenings beginning August 13. Pr. Ben has a Spanish speaking congregation, who have been displaced due to the repurposing of their current building, which is owned by Alhambra Unified School District. We have initially agreed to provide them space for three months, to allow time to see if the arrangement is a "good fit" for all.
- **Thank you to everyone who contributed to Catalyst SGV's Hygiene Kit drive!** Thanks to some generous donations, we have enough supplies to make kits for four families in the Montebello or Alhambra School Districts.

FIRST READING: GENESIS 15:1-6

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' ²But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' ³And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' ⁵He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 11:1-3, 8-16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." ¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



Birthdays in August:

- **Christina Cisneros (August 8)**
- **Bjorn Landberg (August 12)**
- **Luis Madrigal (August 30)**



God's work.
Our hands.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is on September 11, 2022. If you have any ideas for things we could do as a congregation, please send Elizabeth an email (stpaulsmpk@gmail.com) or leave a note for her with Jo Anne Mitchell or Jean Sais. She will make a list for Council to review and discuss.