

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

# The Cost of DISCIPLESHIP

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 250 \* 205 West Jefferson Street  
Cole Camp, MO 65325**

**"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."**

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*If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.*



Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

*please stand in body or spirit*

Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.  
**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God, **we are your stubborn children. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✙ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

#660

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*please be seated*

## First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15 - 20

<sup>15</sup> See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup> loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Reading

Psalms 1

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**<sup>6</sup> For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

## Second Reading

Philemon 1 - 21

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup> to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup> I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. <sup>8</sup> For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup> yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. <sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*please stand in body or spirit*

Gospel Acclamation

"Let the Whole Creation Cry"

#876 vs. 2

Gospel

Luke 14:25 - 33

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup> Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*please be seated*

Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

*please stand in body or spirit*

Hymn of the Day

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

#798

Blessing of Little Blessings Preschool

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

## Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*please be seated*

Offering

*please stand in body or spirit*

Offertory

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

#188

## Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Words of Institution

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*please be seated*

## HOLY COMMUNION

At the Altar

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine  
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.  
Red wine or white grape juice is available.

Our first table for Holy Communion this morning will be for those who do  
not wish to climb the stairs. Please watch for direction from the ushers.

### Communion Hymns

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"	#810
"Earth and All Stars"	#731
"Take My Life, That I May Be"	#685

*please stand in body or spirit*

### Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.....O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and  
appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our  
possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### Blessing

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food  
to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen**

Sending Hymn	"O God beyond All Praising"	#880
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### Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

**Thanks be to God.**

# “NEW LIFE FOR ALL PEOPLE”



**Welcome:** Come as you are — weary or joyful, hopeful or unsure. Here, in God's house, we are met with grace. May worship today draw us closer to the heart of Jesus and the peace of God's presence.

*We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!*

**In Our Prayers:** “Unspoken prayer concerns”, Randy Oelrichs, Susan Kyle, Nathan Vanderlinden, Ron Eickhoff, Gordon Ives, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman, Scott Cash, Judie VonHolten, Greg Ives, and Kyle Luetjen.



Bredlee & Jessica Stillfield (friends of Melisa Balke), Harold Brown (father of Donnie Brown), Kylie Simon, Hazel Karstons, Ashley Campbell, Susan Canfield, Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Larry Haase (brother-in-law of Gene Beckman), David Mobely (brother-in-law of Randy Healan), Stacy Morrison (friend of Teresa Viebrock), Joyce Jones (sister of Connie Gerken), Kris Barnes (friend of Julie Cronin), Joe Campbell, Liz Smart, Cliff Eckhoff, Carmilla Swaim and husband (friends of Debbie Eckhoff), Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan) and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).



**Nursing Home:** Vern Dean Bohling: *Ambrose*. Marie Viebrock & Florence VonHolten: *GSCC*.

**Military:** Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: Lt. Col. Ron Poe, Major Joseph Strathman, Rank E3 Jensen Hamilton (son of Matt & Isabel Hamilton and grandson of Judie VonHolten), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen) and Capt. Ashlie Colston (daughter of Jon Beckman).





**Prayers:** If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.



*Thank You!*



**Thank you, Thank you** - to all who helped bring our church float, "The Road Home", down the parade route this past weekend. **THANK YOU** to the many ladies who sorted, pleated and fluffed the many flowers. You gals were so willing when the appeal was sent out to drop things at home and come to help with flowers. **THANK YOU** to Greg and Phillip for both working on the float frame and, in particular, covering the "Little Blue Truck" with cardboard, and Cody Mullins, who helped with gridding the cardboard. **THANK YOU** to Dennis, Pastor Stephen, and Gale for all the work done in *building the frame for the truck* (awesome!!!), the lighting, and the sound effects. It was the *work of many hands* to get this float completed!! **Thank you!!!**

**Fair Stand:** The food stand will be taken down **today** at 1:00pm



**One Stitch at a Time:** The Sewing Group will meet on Monday, **September 8th** at 9:00am in the Gathering Space. Everyone is welcome to join the sewing group.

**The Little Blessings Preschool:** Our preschool begins its new year on Tuesday, **September 9th**. It will be staffed by Annette Vogel and Winter Dieckman. Annette is a certified teacher with many years experience in preschool and early childhood. Winter is a helper in our daycare and has previous experience in both preschools and daycares. To round out our staff, we are looking for a ***volunteer/s to assist in the classroom on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings***. If interested, please contact Rhonda Schlesselman or Janice Gerken.



**Meeting:** Council will meet on Wednesday, **September 10th** at 6:00pm.

**Health Care:** The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **September 11th** from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.

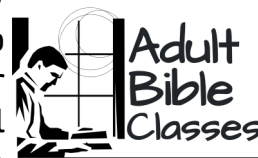


**Free Yoga Class:** Every Monday at 6:30 PM at St. Paul's in the Fellowship Hall, a free yoga class will be offered. Thanks to new local doctor and certified Yoga instructor, Stephanie Schirding, for offering her time! This is a beginner's class.



**Sunday School & Confirmation:** A new year of Christian Education begins here at St. Paul's on Sunday, **September 14th**. Children in preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will meet in the classrooms in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday at 9:00 am. Youth in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade will meet with Pastor Stephen in a location TBD each week at 8:45 am. And the adult Sunday School class will meet in the Chapel each week at 9:00 am. We hope you'll take advantage of one of these classes so that you can continue to grow in your faith!

**Adult Class:** According to King Solomon and Proverbs, only an unwise person stops learning--the more effort we put into hearing and learning, the more we gain a better understanding and wisdom. This fall the Adult Sunday School class will be studying the Book of Proverbs and will strive to increase our learning and understanding of this book that reveals God's perspective on life showing what He values and how He desires for us to live. Please join us in the chapel each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. beginning on **September 14th** to dive into this book of wisdom. Just bring a Bible and be ready for some great discussion. Hope to see many of you there.



**Circle:** The Esther Circle will meet in the home of Rhonda Schlesselman on Monday, **September 15th** at 7:00 pm.

**Senior Sunday:** On Sunday, **September 21st** we will be celebrating Senior Sunday. This is in recognition of all our members who have at least reached their 75th birthday. We will be celebrating during service and then immediately afterwards there will be a carry in lunch. The meat, potatoes and drinks will be provided. We are asking everyone (**except the honored guests**) to bring a couple of side dishes such as salads, vegetables and/or deserts. We hope everyone will be able to attend.



**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

<b>Sunday, September 7:</b>	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion at the Altar
	1:00pm	Take down Fair Stand
<b>Monday, September 8:</b>	9:00am	Sewing
	6:30pm	Yoga
<b>Wednesday, September 10:</b>	6:00pm	Council
<b>Thursday, September 11:</b>	8:00am	BCHD
<b>Saturday, September 13:</b>	5:30pm	Casual Worship Service
<b>Sunday, September 14:</b>	8:45am	Confirmation
	9:00am	Sunday School & Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations

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**~ \* ~ Coming Events ~ \* ~**

**September 14 ..... Christian Education Begins**  
**September 20 ..... No Casual Worship**  
**September 21 ..... Senior Sunday**

# Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers .....	The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister .....	Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist.....	Lois Viebrock
Pianist.....	Jeannette VonHolten
AV Technicians.....	Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk
Altar Guild .....	Susan Goosen & Debbie Vaughan
Ushers.....	Melinda Strathman, Head Usher
	Nicholas Dieckman, Mark Oelrichs, Randy Schlesselman & Steve Triplett



## Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ September 7, 2025

Assisting Minister.....	Anne Goosen
Communion Assistants .....	At the Altar
Reader.....	Lynn Schear
Children's Sermon .....	Pastor Stephen Zeller
Acolytes.....	Miranda Gerken & Jace Tinney
Flowers .....	Arlene Schlesselman



## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ September 14, 2025

Assisting Minister.....	Janice Gerken
Communion Assistants .....	Tara Anderson & Bill Viebrock
Reader.....	Logan Jackson
Children's Sermon .....	Paul Fuelling
Acolytes.....	Lauren Jackson & Kelsey Viebrock
Flowers .....	Mary Balke