

A Celebration of Aging



Honoring Life's Journey

A Celebration of Aging

October 11, 2026

9:30 a.m.

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in Heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the Mediator of a New Covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better Word than the blood of Abel.

Hebrews 12:18–24

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the Body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread . . . For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, “This is My Body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, “This Cup is the New Covenant in My Blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 11:23–29

Who receives this sacrament worthily? Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.

Luther’s Small Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar

Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass; for the Mass is retained among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved . . . For ceremonies are needed to this end alone: that the unlearned be taught what they need to know of Christ . . . The people are accustomed to partake of the Sacrament together, if any be fit for it, and this also increases the reverence and devotion of public worship. For none are admitted except they be first examined.

Augsburg Confession XXIV: Of the Mass

A Welcome to Our Visitors

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad that you have joined us this morning to receive from our gracious God and to offer Him your prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. If this is your first visit to St. Paul, or you have never received the Lord’s Supper from Pastor, we ask that you speak with him or one of the elders before receiving Holy Communion. Children and adults who are not permitted to the Sacrament of the Altar may come forward and cross their arms against their chest to indicate they would like to receive a blessing at the rail. We offer gluten free wafers, please advise Pastor Ermeling as he comes by during communion.

As We Gather

Today is just another day in the life of each person, but each day is very important to each one of us. Today we want to celebrate the fact that God has blessed all of us with another year of life and many of our members with many years. Today we thank God for the process of aging.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Stand

Opening Hymn

Refrain

We have seen the years,
We have seen the years.
Thank You, Heavenly Father,
Thank You for our years. *Repeat*

- 1 Singing in the morning,
Singing songs of gladness;
And again at noontime
To our Lord and King.
Singing in the evening
As the day is ending;
We shall go on singing
Songs of love and praise. *Refrain*

We Have Seen the Years

(Tune: "Bringing in the Sheaves")

- 2 We are known as seniors
Young and old folks too;
This makes us most special,
As we'll prove to you.
Life's a special blessing
Childhood through the year;
Even though youth's over,
We are not in tears. *Refrain*
- 3 Do not be discouraged,
As the years go by;
You are loved most dearly,
Apple of His eye.
When He comes to call you
To live with Him above;
Thank Him most sincerely,
Thank Him for His love. *Refrain*

Invocation

P We worship the God of all ages.

ALL: the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Introduction

P Today we honor everyone who had a birthday during the last twelve months, especially those who reached the Biblical age for maturity.

C The length of our days is seventy years – or eighty, if we have the strength." *Psalm 90:10*

P We focus our attention on what God does with our aging.

C We seek direction so that we may grow older with meaning and hope.

P As God's people we seek to make the most of life at all ages. We affirm these articles of faith . . .

Men: Life at any and every age can be meaningful and fulfilling.

Women: Life can be a time for learning and productivity.

ALL: Life can be faced with the knowledge that God continues to offer faith, courage, and hope in Jesus Christ.

✠ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠

Call to Worship

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Silence for personal reflection and confession.

ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature your enemies. Over the years, months, and days of our lives we have let you down many times. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ have mercy on us and forgive us.

P As a servant of the God who honors people of every age, it is my joy as your brother in Christ to share this good news: as a result of your faith in the life, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus, you are forgiven.

C We give thanks to the God of all people of all ages. Amen.

Prayer for the Day

P Come, let us worship the Lord, our God.

Men: For we are the flock of His pasture.

P We are children of His family.

Women: We are the people of His promise.

P Our God is deeply concerned about the maturity of His people. He called us to "grow up in every way in Christ." (Eph. 4:15)

ALL: Accept, O Lord, the willing praise of our hearts and teach us Your way. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

(Tune: "Herr Jesu Christ, Meins" LSB 704, 1 sts.)

Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire,
And with new life my soul inspire.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

ALL: Lord God, heavenly Father, look with mercy upon Your family. Guide and direct us along life's pathway so that we may grow and mature gratefully and gracefully through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

P God speaks to us and we listen.

C Recalling God's mighty acts in history, we find meaning for our daily lives and hope for our future.

Sit

Old Testament

Psalm 71:5,9; Proverbs 20:29

(God's people have the call to pay attention to what senior adults can share with them in terms of their faithfulness, wisdom, and hope.)

⁵For you have been my hope, O Sovereign Lord,
my confidence since my youth.

⁹Do not cast me away when I am old;
do not forsake me when my strength is gone.

The glory of young men is their strength,
gray hair the splendor of the old.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to the God of all people of all ages.

Song of the Day

Another Year is Dawning

(Tune: "Munich" LSB 523, 3 sts.)

- 1 Another year is dawning:
Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee;
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.
- 2 Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face;

- Another year of leaning
Upon Thy loving breast;
Another year of trusting,
Of quiet, happy rest.
- 3 Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love;
Another year if training
For holier work above.
Another year is dawning:
Dear Father, let it be,
On earth or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee. Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 92:1-2; 12-15

P It is good to give thanks unto the Lord.

Men: To sing praises unto His name;

Women: To thank Him for His loving kindness in the morning, and His faithfulness at night;

P The righteous will flourish like a palm tree.

Men: Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.

Women: They still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming,

ALL: "The Lord is upright; He is our Rock, and there is not wickedness in Him."

Epistle

Romans 8:18,28,38-39

(God's people must learn to adjust to change and know that God is always with them.)

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Stand

Alleluia & Verse

- P** Alleluia, I will praise the Lord all my life.
- C** I will sing praises to my God as long as I live. Even when I am old and gray, I will declare His marvelous deeds. Alleluia!
- P** Please stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:13-16

(God's people have the call to be the salt of the earth & the light of the world regardless of age.)

¹³You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to the God of all people of all ages.

Sermon

“What Is Aging?”

✠ RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD ✠

Hymn of Response Amazing Grace, Baptismal Grace (*Tune: “Amazing Grace” LSB 744, 3 sts.*)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Amazing grace, Baptismal grace,
I'm in God's family.
God's faithful leading I can trace;
His love and care I see. | God's Spirit keeps me in His fold,
With hope and strength endued. |
| 2 Though outwardly I'm growing old,
I'm inwardly renewed. | 3 My purpose here on earth I know,
To care, to share, to love;
And when I pass from earth below,
I'll enter joys above. |

Creed

- P** God is the Almighty Father, the maker of heaven and earth, and He leads me to say...
- C** I BELIEVE IT!
- P** Jesus is God's only Son, our Lord, and He leads me to say...
- C** I BELIEVE IT!
- P** Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, and He leads me to say . . .
- C** I BELIEVE IT!
- P** Jesus descended into hell, rose again on the third day, ascended into heaven, and now sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, and He leads me to say . . .
- C** I BELIEVE IT!
- P** Jesus will come again from heaven to judge both the living and the dead, and He leads me to say . . .
- C** I BELIEVE IT!
- P** The Holy Spirit brought me into the Christian Church, the communion of saints, the family of God's loved and chosen people, and He leads me to say . . .
- C** I BELIEVE IT!
- P** The Holy Spirit assures and guarantees to me the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life, and He leads me to say . . .
- C** I BELIEVE IT!
- P** This is most certainly true, and God leads me to say . . .
- C** I BELIEVE IT!

CELEBRATION OF AGING

Blessing & Pledge

St. Paul "70s Club"

Douglas Cook
Kathleen Cook
Gary Moser
Wayne Bartels

Jan Stash
Pasty Hauptman
Vickie Hulteen

Dorothy Paxton
Edward Malsack
Anne Smith

St. Paul "80s Club"

Jim Rucker
Sharon Cook
Marcia Brant
Darrell Ahrens

Rev. Vernon Ermeling
Beulah Richards
Gary Haas

Charles Cook
Louise Ahrens
Nancy Nay

St. Paul "90s Club"

Mary Howard

Prayer to Honor the Aging

- P** Heavenly Father, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
- C** Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts with wisdom.
- P** You have blessed each of us with additional days and You have blessed our society with more older adults than ever before.
- C** Encourage us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- P** You have given many older adults good health and abundant energies.
- C** Guide them to never retire from demonstrating Christian love to family and friends, church and community.
- P** Bless the ministry of all organizations and agencies who aid older adults.
- C** Help us to continue to support them with our prayers and service.
- P** You indeed are the strength of our hearts and portion forever.
- C** We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Offering

Offering Prayer

Life Is Ours, a Gift from Jesus

[Sung during the offering]

(Tune: "Children of " LSB 725, 3 sts.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Life is ours, a gift from Jesus,
Life that blesses, life that frees us.
Children of the Father's pleasure,
We now share our Savior's treasure. | Why should He, God's glory sharing,
Die for us, God's love not sparing? |
| 2 Once in sorrow He was crying,
On a cross our Lord was dying. | 3 Oh, the answer is the treasure!
It brings joy beyond all measure.
Jesus dies new life to nourish,
Jesus lives that life might flourish. |

Sending Benediction

P We have been shaped, nurtured, and equipped by the Holy Spirit.

C We are prepared to go out into the world to grow old gracefully and gratefully.

P May the warmth of God's love surround you. May the gift of God's grace encourage you. May the sense of God's presence give you purpose for living.

C Amen.

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

Jesus Still Loves Me

(Tune: "Jesus Loves Me " LSB 588, 4 sts.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Jesus loves me, this I know
Though my hair is white as snow;
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him. <i>Refrain</i> | On through life, let come what may.
He'll be there to lead the way. <i>Refrain</i> |
| <i>Refrain</i>
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so. | 3 When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song,
Telling me in words so clear,
Have no fear, for I am near. <i>Refrain</i> |
| 2 Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go | 4 When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories been won,
He will take me home above,
Learn the fullness of His love. <i>Refrain</i> |

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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"To Shine Forth the Light of God's Love into Our World"

BULLETIN NEWS

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, October 4	9:30am	Divine Service	Sanctuary
	11:00am	Spanish Worship Service	Sanctuary
		Adult Bible Class	Irmer Hall
		Sunday School	Library
	12:30pm	Spanish Bible Study	Irmer Hall
Friday, October 9	6:30pm	Spanish Family Bible Study	Irmer Hall
Saturday, October 10	8:30am	CPR Class	Irmer Hall

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Twelve Weeks of Life-Changing Character Studies on Joseph

Week 12 – *How to Reach Your Greatest Potential in Life*

If you miss a Sunday, you can watch the recorded service on YOUTUBE at [St. Paul Lutheran Church Phoenix](#).

REVELATION BIBLE STUDY

The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon will begin a study this week on the Book of Revelation. You can listen on-demand at thewordendures.org, the LPR mobile app, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn and a podcast provider.

LET US PRAY FOR...

Please keep this list available for your daily devotions. *For prayer requests Church office (623) 846-2228, or email at info@stpaulslutheran-az.com. Prayer requests are removed after three weeks.*

IMMEDIATE CONCERN:

Wayne Bartels, recovering from surgery at Loma Village Health & Rehabilitation Center.

ON-GOING CONCERNS:

Dorothy Paxton – recovering from a fall.

Jorge Jimenez – fighting cancer

Nicholas Jimenez – health issues

Suzi Riley – health issues

Wayne Bartels – ongoing health issues

Jim Rucker – health issues

MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY ST. PAUL:

Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram and wife, Joan, serving in Japan.

PSWD Missions

PRAY FOR ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH/THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD:

The Rev. Vernen Ermeling and family

Sunday School teachers & children

Maryvale Preparatory Academy families & staff

The Rev. Ramón Cabrales and Deaconess Carmen

LCMS officers, congregations & schools

Achieve Academy families & staff

OUR NATION: For all elected and appointed public servants, and all who labor to maintain peace and order.

FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY *(members, friends, or relatives):*

Jackson Buffington (*Ahrens*), **Maxwell Buffington** (*Ahrens*), **Andy Smiley** (*Parker*)

OUR SHUT-INS: **Anne Smith**

Acknowledgments

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