



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
17200 East 39th Street, Independence, Mo. 64055
Becky Reynolds Church Secretary
(Becky is in the office Monday-Friday 1-4 p.m.)
Email: secretary172stpl@comcast.net
Church Number: 816-373-5290

August 2, 2026
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32

Happening this Week...

Sunday, August 2nd, Worship Service 9 a.m.
Voters Meeting following Worship service
Becky out of the office through August 10th

For all spiritual needs please call an elder.

Aaron Kirchhoff 816-799-6144
Cory Brown 816-510-9975
Dan Martin 816-529-2283

Birthdays: 5-Cory Brown; 8-Jenny Moody. **Wedding Anniversaries:** 6-Larry & Bev Garr.
If anyone has been missed let the office know.

In our prayers: Lois Gravitt; Haley (Reifsteck) Sparks and baby Sparks; Jerry Martin;
Dan Martin; Horst Jeske

Missionary: Rev. Eric Stinnett and family--missionary work in Ethiopia

Those in Uniform: Sgt. Keighnan Forcum; Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Herrin, Staff Sgt. John Bodenhamer, Major Austin Gouldsmith, Grady Whiteman, Major Andrew Rossow

Those who have cancer.

Our Shut-ins: Linda Loges; Norman Morton, Lillian & Larry Weinreich

Please call the church office with prayer requests at 816-373-5290. Please leave a message if the phone is not answered.



The flowers on the Altar today are given by Hillary Brown, in honor of Cory's birthday. Happy birthday Cory!

Final service will be August 16th, 2026. 9 a.m. service, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. meal, 1 p.m. closing service.

If you know where you want to transfer your membership let the office know. You can email Becky at secretary172stpl@comcast.net or call the church office at 816-373-5290 and leave a message. The transfers will be completed after the final voters meeting November 15th which will take place at Ascension Lutheran Church.

The Gospel in Miniature

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 ESV).

John 3:16 is not a slogan; it is the Gospel in its purest form. Notice first the subject: *God*. The movement begins not with our love, our decision, or our improvement, but with His love. “For God so loved the world ...” The Greek *houtōs* does not merely describe intensity but manner—God loved in this way: He *gave*. And what did He give? “His only Son”—*ton huion ton monogenē*. The eternal, begotten Son is handed over into flesh, into suffering, into death.

This is pure grace. As Professor Emeritus Dr. Robert Kolb has often emphasized, the Gospel always comes as divine initiative. We do not climb up to God; He descends to us. Martin Luther called this verse *the Gospel in miniature*, declaring that it contains *the whole Bible* (*Weimar Ausgabe* 10/3:334). Here is the Father giving, the Son given, and the Spirit creating faith through that proclaimed Word.

And this giving is not wishful thinking. It is Incarnational and Sacramental. The Son is given into death on the cross, where perishing is swallowed by His atoning blood. But the same Son is given still—in the preached Word, in Holy Baptism, where we are buried and raised with Him (Rom. 6), and at the Altar, where His Body and Blood are given “for you.” As Professor Emeritus Dr. David Scaer noted, the atonement is not a distant event; it is delivered personally through the Means of Grace.

“Whoever believes in him.” Faith (*pisteuōn*) is not a human achievement, but a Spirit-worked trust created by the Gospel itself. Faith clings to Christ alone. The alternative is stark: perish or eternal life. Law and Gospel stand clearly. Apart from Christ, perishing is real. In Christ, eternal life is certain.

John 3:16 does not flatter us; it saves us. It does not point inward; it points to the Son lifted up. And whoever believes—whoever is brought to trust this crucified and risen Lord—has eternal life now. Not maybe. Not someday. Has. Now but not yet.

The Father gave His Son. The Son gave His life. The Spirit gives you faith. And eternal life is yours.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, we thank You for loving us in this way: giving Your only Son for our salvation. Grant us steadfast faith through Your Word and Sacraments, that we may cling to Christ alone and rejoice in the eternal life He has won for us; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Richard S. Cody

Fourth Vice President

Missouri District

Post May 20, 2026 Missouri District LCMS

