



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

July 19, 2026
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. 1 John 4:18

Sunday, July 12th: Church Attendance: 25
Contributions: General Fund 7/12: \$ 5,990.98
General Fund 7/15: \$ 400.00
Total: \$ 6,390.98

For all spiritual needs please call an elder.
Aaron Kirchhoff 816-799-6144
Cory Brown 816-510-9975
Dan Martin 816-529-2283

Happening this Week...

Sunday, July 19th, Worship Service 9 a.m.
Thursday, July 23rd, Church Council 7 p.m.

Birthdays: 22-Rachel Oetting; 23-Amy Ford, Horst Jeske; 24-Doug Mackey. **No Wedding Anniversaries.** 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 from the Altar Guild in thanksgiving to God for all his blessings here at St. Paul Lutheran.

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.

I will be out of the office July 27th through August 10th. Thank you. Becky

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.

Perfect Righteousness

“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:20, ESV).

How many commandments can you break at one time with one sin? We might remember King David’s unholy incident with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11–12). In that one nefarious episode, David coveted another man’s wife (Tenth Commandment), committed adultery (Sixth Commandment), committed murder (Fifth Commandment), and even besmirched Uriah’s reputation (Eighth Commandment). Most of all, David failed to trust God and despised His Word (First and Third Commandments).

How many commandments might you break at one time with one sin-filled episode? We do well to remember James 2:10 (ESV): “For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.”

Jesus gives all of us a wake-up call when He says: “Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” He also says: “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matt. 5:20, 48, ESV).

We might convince ourselves that, somehow, we can actually climb the ladder of Commandment-keeping and so enter God’s rule and reign. But Jesus is *not* laying down the gauntlet or outlining a challenge to be accepted with bravado. Rather, He is putting up a brick wall knowing full well that we will crash into it at full speed.

Jesus speaks of exceeding righteousness and being perfect so that we will despair of ourselves. His ultimate goal is to draw us to Himself. He did not come to “abolish the Law or the Prophets”; He came “to fulfill them” (Matt. 5:17, ESV)—for us and for our salvation. When He came into this fallen world, taking on our flesh and walking in our shoes, He kept every iota and dot of God’s Law. *His* righteousness truly does exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. When Jesus hung lifeless on the cross and then rose again on the third day, the Law and the Prophets were fulfilled.

This changes everything! “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21, ESV). Christ’s perfect righteousness is His gift freely given to you through faith. Now your righteousness *does* exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. Now you *are* perfect even as your Father is perfect. Now you may live as God has created and redeemed you to live.

Prayer: “We thank You, Christ; new life is ours, New light, new hope, new strength, new pow’rs. This grace our ev’ry way attend Until we reach our journey’s end” (LSB 562:6).

In Christ’s service,

Rev. Randy K. Asburry
Second Vice President
Missouri District