



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

September 21, 2025
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:8

Sunday, September 14th: Church Attendance: 37
Bible Class no count
Contributions: General Fund September 14th: \$434.00
General Fund September 14th: \$400.00
Total: \$834.00

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, September 21st, Worship Service 9 a.m. with communion
Bible Class 10:15 a.m.

Picnic at Ascension, 4 p.m. Fellowship and eat around 5 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23rd, Prayer Shawl 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 24th, Happy Bottom's volunteer event 10 a.m. at 303 W 79th St

Friday, September 26th, Bible study with Pastor Stolle at Ascension 10 a.m.



Birthdays: 26-Joshua Hart, Brock Oetting. **Wedding Anniversaries:** 21-Cory & Hillary Brown; 26-Kyle & Lisa Fonseca. If anyone has been missed let the office know.

In our prayers: Max Hoefer (husband of Jan Holsten); Larry Weinreich; Paul Williams (cousin of Lonnie & April Causey); Marlys & Gale Blalock (sister & brother-in-law of Doris Foley); Missouri District President Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan; Susan (sister of Dave Beck); Dave Beck; Wayne Rundle, cancer has returned (brother of Linda King); Horst Jeske; Rhonda (daughter of Lillian & Larry Weinreich's daughter); Linda King; Bev Garr.

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

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

Those that who have cancer.

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

Our Shut-ins:

Linda Loges; Norman Morton.

The flowers on the Altar today are given by Cory and Hillary Brown in honor of their 29th anniversary. Happy anniversary to you both.

On behalf of the Merle Kirchhoff Family, we would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone for their prayers, cards, and support after his passing. We are blessed to have such a loving and supportive church family. Aaron, Ruby, Phyllis and Kenny Lee

LUMA thank you to the leaders and members of LUMA Auxiliary for the 2024-2025 year of service in our communities.

We bundled 9, 600 diaper at Happy Bottoms and enjoyed lunch at KC Bier.

This year we are going back to Happy Bottoms this Wednesday, September 24th starting at 10 a.m. at Happy Bottoms 303 W 79th St Kansas City, MO 64114. They need 20 volunteers. Any questions call Cindy at 816-373-0712. They always need baby wipes and diapers.

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"For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory," (2 Cor. 1:20, ESV).

Do you remember a time when God said "no" to you? I do! It was a painful period in my life. I had been fervently praying for God to change a particular situation, but His answer was "No." After much prayer and reflection on God's Word, I realized that His "Yes" is "Yes" and His "No" is "No," and I finally let it go. It wasn't easy, but after grieving, I was able to thank God because I know He knows what's best for me. I eventually acquiesced to His will, knowing that Father knows best.

St. Paul understood this clearly. When Paul asked God to remove the thorn in his flesh, he pleaded three times, but God's answer was a resounding "no!" God said, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness," (2 Cor. 12:9b, ESV).*

Over the years, I've come to understand that when God says "yes" or "no," it doesn't just affect me personally. He considers how that "yes" or "no" will impact everyone around me, whether positively or negatively, because it will affect more than just me. So, God answers in a way that brings Him glory. This perspective has helped me look at my requests to God less selfishly and consider *"others more significant than yourselves," (Phil. 2:3b, ESV).*

Just like in St. Paul's case, God always has our ultimate good in mind. He will remove false gods from our hands, not because He is cruel or unwilling to give us our desires, but because He knows better than we do. His "no" is always merciful and just, even when it hurts. He is for us, fighting against what keeps us from Him (Rom. 8:31). He knows our hearts can only be truly satisfied with Himself (John 4:14) and will not tolerate being second in our lives. He knows there is great strength in our weakness because it's in those times that we cling to Him most fervently.

I pray today that if God has said "no" to you, it's because He loves you, not because He's angry or punishing you. He may be moving you from point A to point B, knowing the final outcome that will bring Him the most glory. So, hold on and wait patiently on the Lord ... because after God's "no" often follows God's "yes"—a blessing greater than we could have imagined if He had said yes in the first place. Peace in Jesus!

Prayer - Lord, thank You that we can stand on Your promises. Thank You that what You have promised us in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, You will do! Amen!

In Christ's service,
Rev. Richard S. Cody
Fourth Vice President, Missouri District