



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 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. Hebrews 1:1-2

Sunday, July 5th: Church Attendance: 18

Contributions: General Fund 7/5: \$ 1,374.00

Total: \$ 1,374.00

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, July 12th, Worship Service 9 a.m. with communion

Tuesday, July 14th, Prayer Shawl 12:30 p.m.

Birthdays: 18-Doris Thate. **No Wedding Anniversaries.**

If anyone has been missed let the office know.

In our prayers: Lillian Weinreich; 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.



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.

Contribution statements for the period Jan 1, 2026 THRU Jun 30, 2026, are in your Church Mailbox.

Catching People Alive

“Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men” (Luke 5:10b, ESV).

Jesus calls all His people, His *whole* church, to “catch people alive” using the net of the Gospel. He does not rely on so-called experts or “successful” preachers. He actually utilizes sinners—all of us—to bring others into the boat of His church.

In Luke 5:1-11, Jesus got into a fishing boat in order to teach God’s Word to a crowd eager to hear Him. When He had finished teaching, Jesus instructed Simon Peter to “put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch” (Luke 5:4, ESV). Professional fisherman Peter objected at first, but then did the Lord’s bidding. “And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking” (Luke 5:6, ESV).

This miracle confronted Peter with an absolute truth: he was not worthy! He was a sinner. So, he fell to his knees and confessed: “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord” (Luke 5:8b, ESV). Then Jesus absolved Peter and gave him a new vocation: “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men” (Luke 5:10b, ESV).

Just as Peter had the word from Jesus to let down his net, we also have God’s word and command to work in our callings and bear witness to Jesus in those various callings. When we fall short—in trusting Jesus or in bearing witness to Him—we also rely on His word of forgiveness in the Absolution. As Jesus called, forgave, and commissioned Peter, He also calls, forgives, and commissions us to “catch people alive” by bringing them into the boat of His church.

Jesus uses both pastors and lay people. Dr. Gene Edward Veith wrote that “pastors, whose calling is specifically to preach the Gospel, to feed Christ’s sheep and to study and teach God’s Word, will be particularly blessed when they realize that in their ministry Christ is ministering through them” (*God at Work*, 127). Regarding lay people, Veith wrote: “Lay people are especially positioned to reach people outside the church, by virtue of their secular vocations, which put them in contact with people who would never darken the door of a church” (*God at Work*, 127).

Prayer:

“How clear is our vocation, Lord, When once we heed Your call: To live according to Your Word And daily learn, refreshed, restored, That You are Lord of all And will not let us fall. “In what You give us, Lord, to do, Together or alone, In old routines or ventures new, May we not cease to look to You, The cross You hung upon— All You endeavored done.” (LSB 853:1, 4)

In Christ’s service,
Rev. Randy K. Asbury
Second Vice President

