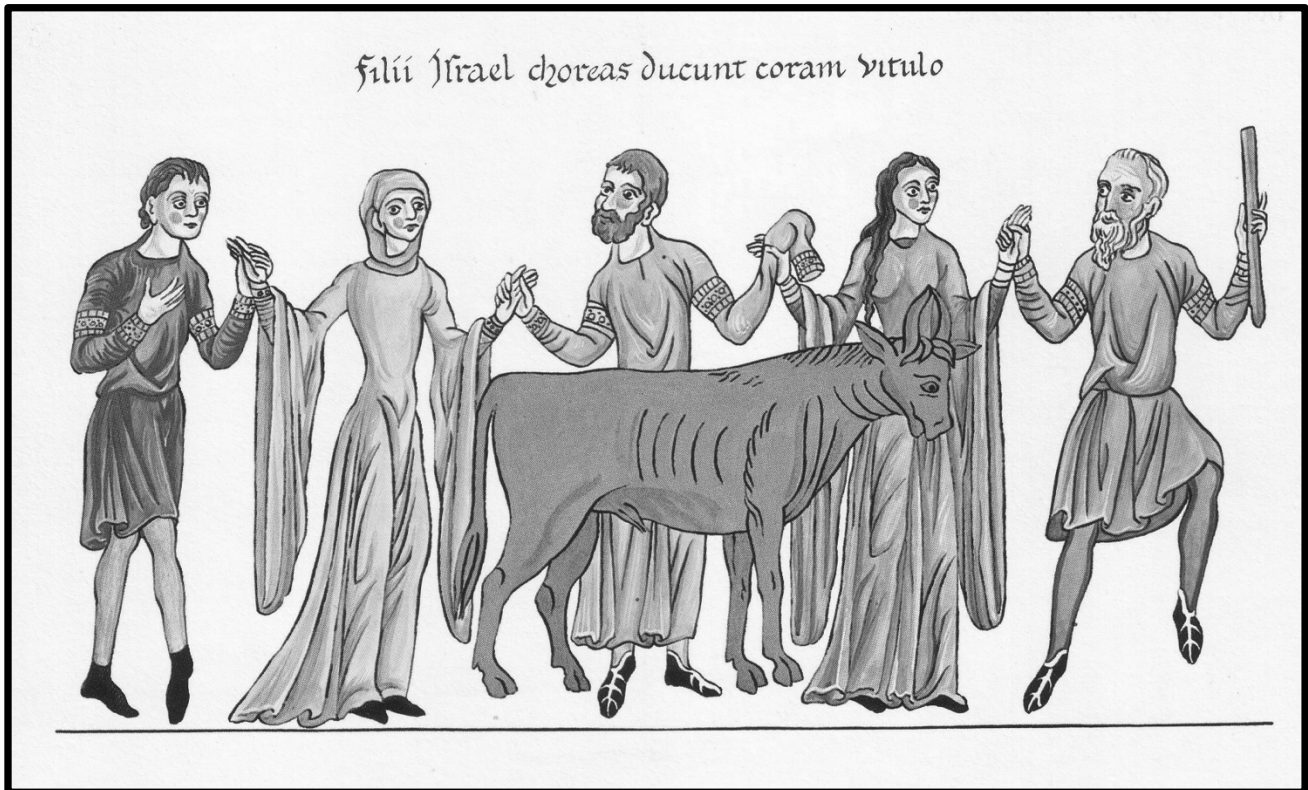


# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

*Gathering at St. John's Episcopal Church  
1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL 33764*

**Sunday, October 11, 2026  
Lectionary 28, Year A**



Herrad, of Landsberg, Abbess of Hohenburg,  
approximately 1130-1195.

The Dance of the Golden Calf from the Hortus Deliciarum,  
from Art in the Christian Tradition,

a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.  
<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/55985> [retrieved October 8, 2026].

## **Welcome**

### **Prelude: His Eye Is On The Sparrow - Martin**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
who pours love into our hearts  
and healing upon the earth.

**Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,  
let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,  
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness  
in the world and in our own hearts.  
Creation groans from overuse.  
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.  
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.  
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.  
Turn our hearts back to you.  
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.  
Renew us to live as your holy people,  
following the way of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Hear this good news:

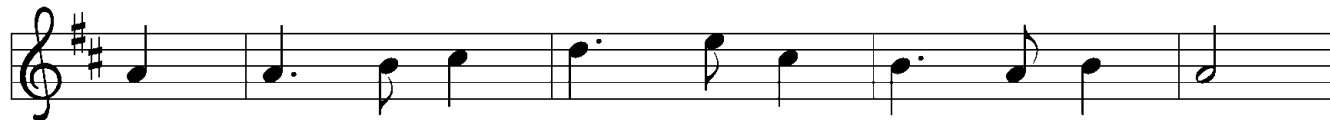
We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ,  
in whom there is no condemnation,  
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.  
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: We Praise You, O God - ELW 870



1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;  
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;  
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.  
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;  
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,  
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.  
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.  
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882–1963

Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

## Prayer of the Day

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **First Reading: Exodus 32:1-14**

*After Israel sinned by worshiping the golden calf, Moses interceded with God to spare Israel, lest the Egyptians conclude that God had evil intents in the exodus. Moses reminds God of the promises God made to Israel's matriarchs and patriarchs.*

A Reading from the book of Exodus.

1 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." 2 Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me." 3 So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. 4 He took these from them, formed them in a mold, and cast an image of a calf, and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" 5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." 6 They rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel.

7 The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; 8 they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " 9 The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. 10 Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

11 But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " 14 And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23**

Reader: Hallelujah! Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.

**ALL: Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord  
or proclaim in full God's praise?**

Reader: Happy are those who act with justice  
and always do what is right.

**ALL: Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have for your  
people, and visit me with your salvation;**

Reader: that I may see the prosperity of your elect and be glad with the  
gladness of your people, that I may glory with your inheritance.

**ALL: We have sinned as our forebears did;  
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.**

Reader: They made a bullcalf at Horeb  
and worshiped a molten image;

**ALL: thus they exchanged their glory  
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.**

Reader; They forgot God their Savior,  
who had done great things in Egypt,

**ALL: wonderful deeds in the land of Ham,  
and fearful things at the Red Sea.**

Reader: So you would have destroyed them,  
had not Moses your chosen  
stood in the breach, to turn away your wrath  
from consuming them.

## Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

*Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.*

1 My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Gospel Acclamation

WORD OF GOD

[U] 974

## Listen to the Word

Lis-ten to the word that God has spo-ken; lis-ten to the One who is

*Optional accompaniment*

close at hand; lis - ten to the voice that be - gan cre - a - tion;

lis - ten e - ven if you don't un - der - stand.

## **Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14**

*Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2“ The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet. ’5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet. ’10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11“ But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12 and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe? ’And he was speechless.

13 Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ’14 For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Sermon: Pr. Pam Wellons**

## Hymn of the Day: Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways - ELW 772



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

## Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Please respond to each invocation:* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

## Sign of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Please be seated.*

### OFFERING

All that we have, physically and spiritually comes from God.  
Our offering, of time, talent and treasure is a response to our awareness  
that God is the creator of all things and that we are redeemed  
through life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.  
Your support of this ministry and the faith life of this community is appreciated.

### Hymn: All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly - ELW 461



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.  
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth-er, Je-sus Christ is liv-ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993  
Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825  
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com)  
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## Offering Prayer

God of creation,

**you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.**

**All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

## Dialogue:

The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you**

Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Please respond:

...Come, Holy Spirit.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

*We believe that Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus. In this sacrament we are invited to have a personal experience of Christ's presence. This is the Lord's table. All who desire to be in relationship with Christ are welcome to receive.*

We receive communion using bread and wine. If you need to receive a gluten free host, please ask the communion minister. For those who prefer to receive grape juice rather than wine you will find white grape juice in the center of the trays as communion is given. If you have a question, please ask the minister as you receive. The bread and wine should be consumed here in the church before you return to your seat. If for some reason, you are unable to consume either the bread or wine please bring what was not consumed to the ushers or the pastor as soon as the service is completed.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Hymn: Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song - ELW 808



*1* *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*  
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;  
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,  
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



*Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an-non-cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,*  
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:  
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.  
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.  
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



*car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:*  
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.  
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.  
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



*Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.*  
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.  
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.  
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931  
 Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community  
 Text and music © 1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus  
 Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville

## Hymn: Blessed Assurance - ELW 638



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

## Prayer after Communion

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

## Announcements:

## **Blessing**

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,  
in the body of Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances  
through the interceding of the Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**If you didn't pick up the October Newsletter last week, please do so today. It is also found at the bottom of the first page of our website.**

Doris Hanson's Funeral - Tuesday, November 10 - 11:00 AM

We would like to have lunch in the hall after, since no family will be in attendance, we will need a committee to plan, set up and clean up. If you would like to help, please Gene Binion me after today's service.

On Wednesday, October 21 - 13 days before the mid-term elections, the Spirituality Center will offer a contemplative communion service, titled An Evening of Prayer for our Nation and the World. Please invite friends and neighbors to join us for this evening of quite prayer.

**Everything else is in the calendar in the back of the worship bulletin...**

# Hymn: Here On Jesus Christ I Will Stand - ACS 1024

*Refrain*



Kwa - ke      Ye - su   na - si - ma - ma,      ndi - ye  
Here on      Je - sus   Christ   I will   stand.      He's the



mwam - ba   ni   sa - la - ma.      Ndi - ye   mwam - ba   ni   sa - la -  
sol - id   rock   of my   life.      He's the   sol - id   rock   of my



ma,      ndi - ye   mwam - ba   ni   sa - la - ma.  
life.      He's the   sol - id   rock   of my   life.



1 There's no oth - er place I can hide till the  
2 It is not the work of my hands that has  
3 When my days on this earth are done, and I



storm that rag - es sub - sides. My voice cries to God from the  
washed a - way all my sins. I'm re - deemed, and all of my  
stand at God's ho - ly throne, my heart will not have an - y

*Refrain*



flood, and I'm saved be - cause of his blood.  
days, Je - sus Christ will be my heart's praise.  
fear; in Christ's righ - teous - ness I am here.

Text: Kenyan hymn; adapt. Greg Scheer, b. 1966

Music: KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA, Kenyan melody; adapt. Greg Scheer

Text © 2007 East African Annual Conference, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

English adapt. and arr. © 2007 Greg Scheer, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

## **October**

Friday - October 9 - Thursday - October 15 - Pr. Anne on Vacation  
Thursday, October 15 - Quilt Ministry - 9:00 AM  
Sunday, October 18 - Pr. Margarita's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday - in Tommytown  
Wednesday, October 21 - Contemplative Worship - TBA  
Sunday, October 25 - Reformation Sunday - 10:30

## **November**

Sunday, November 1 - Daylight Savings Time Ends - clocks back 1 hour  
Thursday, November 5 - Quilt Ministry - 9:00 AM  
Tuesday, November 10 - Doris Hanson's Memorial Service - 11:00 AM  
Wednesday, November 11 - Taizé Prayer - 7:15 PM  
Friday, November 13 - Council Meeting 10:30 on ZOOM  
Saturday, November 13 - Friday, November 20 - Pr. Anne on Vacation  
Tuesday, November 17 - Interfaith Thanksgiving Service  
Thursday, November 19 - Quilt Ministry  
Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving Day  
Sunday, November 29 - Advent 1

## **December**

Wednesday, December 2 - Holden Evening Prayer - 7:15 PM  
Thursday, December 3 - Quilt Ministry - 9:00 AM  
Saturday, December 5 - St. Paul's & St. John's Christmas Party  
Sunday, December 6 - Advent 2  
Wednesday, December 9 - Taizé Prayer - 7:15 PM  
Friday, December 11 - Council Meeting - 10:30  
Saturday, December 12 - Advent Retreat  
Sunday, December 13 - Advent 3  
Wednesday, December 16 - Grace Notes - 7:15 PM  
Thursday, December 17 - Quilt Ministry - 9:00 AM  
Sunday, December 30 - Advent 4  
Sunday, December 20 - Interfaith Light Labyrinth  
Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship & Dinner



## **St. Paul's Spirituality Center**

an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

# **An Evening of Prayer for Our Nation and World**

Wednesday, October 21 - 7:15 PM

Join us for a contemplative communion service  
as we reflect on God's Word,  
pray for peace and unity,  
and welcome all to Christ's Table.

St. Pauls Lutheran Church  
*gathering at St. John's Episcopal Church*  
1676 S. Belcher Rd, Clearwater, FL 33764

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

*Gathering at St. John's Episcopal 1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL*

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a Reconciling in Christ congregation, embodies God's love, and promise of salvation through faith in Christ by extending inclusion and welcome to all.*

We welcome the full, active participation of all who worship and minister with us. If you are interested in learning more about Jesus, God's life and action in the world and our lives, the Lutheran faith, or this congregation and how you can be more involved, please reach out to Pastor Anne.

Phone Number: 727- 446-7718

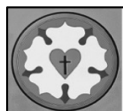
Email: [office@stpaulsclearwater.org](mailto:office@stpaulsclearwater.org)

Website: <https://www.stpaulsclearwater.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.paulslutheranchurch.clearwater.fl>



To reach Pastor Anne  
[pastoranneharman@gmail.com](mailto:pastoranneharman@gmail.com)



**St. Paul's Spirituality Center**  
an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Florida-Bahamas Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



From sundaysandseasons.com.

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