



St. Paul Weekly Newsletter for July 21st, 2024

Revelation: “Silence is Golden.”

When our life seems overwhelmed with chaos and terror, gloom and doom, Jesus is Lord of that and promises to meet us in it. When we're blown to the periphery and find ourselves far off center, stop. **Be still, and listen for God.** When we scatter as a natural response to circumstances beyond ourselves, stop and listen for God. Listen for God calling us to run to him and cling to him. When we're overwhelmed with whatever it is that causes fear, we need to stop and be still. Be still and silent and listen for God. This Sunday is our second week in the book of Revelations, we find ourselves in Revelation 8. The seventh seal is opened. The text says, “there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.” This Sunday we're going to explore what's going on in God's throne room as we worship together.

Last Sunday

Worship Attendance:

We need your help! Working towards our goal of 50 in worship weekly!

Updates for our faith family:

Please be aware that Pastor Dave has been called to serve for **jury duty** for the months of July and August. His ability to answer phone calls and to be available depends on if he is actively serving at the time. Please leave a message and he will return your call as soon as possible. This will also affect church office hours for July and August.

Flowers are in celebration of Dan & Debbi's 42nd Anniversary (7/23/24)!

Nadene Ellsworth's daughter Tania has let us know that her mom is now ready for visitors if anyone from the church would like to visit. Please make sure you are in good health (no colds) and keep the visit to about 30 minutes. Please contact Tania to set up a time at 907-654-4904.

Looking for active or retired Coast Guard members to work the **Welcome Aboard Fair** on the Coast Guard Base, August 24, 2024, 2:00pm-5:00pm. Need you to sit at our table where we will provide brochures and answer any questions Coast Guard members may have. Please contact Pastor Dave to serve in this welcoming ministry.

Please make a note that we are no longer receiving **email** from our GCI address. Please bookmark stpaulkodiak@gmail.com as our correct address.

Moments for Mission July

St. Paul Lutheran Church recently received a Thank you from **Kodiak Christian Retreat Center** for our Mission fund donation of \$1599.42. Kodiak Christian Retreat Center board supports the carrying out of **Camp Woody events**. This time of year, this might include organizing and carrying out day camps and overnight camps for K – high school children at Camp Woody. Their letter stated, “We are encouraged by your support and donation.” The funds, “ will be used in our scholarships so camp can be accessible to all who desire to attend.” We are a blessed people to be able to support others as we continue to serve a faithful Lord and Savior.

Bressman International also called Pastor Dave to thank our congregation for Mission Support funds of \$817.67 This organization received international Mission funds. Blessman International works in South Africa with “Children and young adults, sharing God’s love and eternal hope through faith formation and programs to feed hungry children, foster food-secure communities, and offer dignity through basic water and sanitation.” Their work began in 2001 and continues with school, farms, churches in areas near Limpopo province of South Africa. More information on Blessman International can be found on their web site blessmaninternational.org.

St. Paul Lutheran Church continues their Mission funds distribution into the 2nd Quarter of our program year. If you have mission partners you would like to see supported or are interested in being part of this quarters fund distribution please contact – Mary Ann Kondro 907-518-1704 or Pastor Dave, 907-486-3632

This Week at St. Paul

Friday, July 19th

5:30pm – **LifeGroup adult Bible study** in the “Lounge Room” in Springhill Hall. All are welcome members and friends of St. Paul.

6:30pm – **AA meeting** in the Fireside Room.

Saturday, July 20th

Pray for our Sunday worship services.

Pray for who you will invite to attend church with you.

Sunday, July 21st

10:00am – **Worship**. We worship in Springhill Hall; use the side door that faces the church building.

11:00am – Fellowship time after worship.

11:15am -- **LifeGroup adult Bible study**.

Wednesday, July 24th

7:00am – **Prayer breakfast** in Springhill Hall. Gather to pray for our church, for our community, and for lifting up the needs of others. Anyone is welcome to cook! Setup for breakfast begins at 6:00.

For more information contact Bill Barker at whbarker40@gmail.com.

Friday, July 26th

5:30pm – **LifeGroup adult Bible study** in the “Lounge Room” in Springhill Hall. All are welcome members and friends of St. Paul.

6:30pm – **AA meeting** in the Fireside Room.

Special Fellowship Events

- ❖ July 28: National Chicken Wing Day.
- ❖ August 4: National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
- ❖ August 25: National Banana Split Day

Ongoing Fellowship Opportunities

- ❖ Start your Sunday rest with fellowship time after Sunday worship.
- ❖ LifeGroup, our adult Bible study class, meets after worship. There is also a LifeGroup meeting on Fridays at 5:30; contact Pastor Dave for more information. LifeGroup study sheets are available.
- ❖ Early birds are welcome at our Wednesday prayer breakfasts in Springhill Hall. Breakfast is served at 7:00. Anybody is welcome to cook! For details, contact Bill Barker at whbarker40@gmail.com.
- ❖ If you want to join our book club, contact Lynn Devlin at jldevlin@gci.net. All are welcome.
- ❖ Volunteers are welcome to assist with worship services! Let Pastor Dave know or email the church office at stpaulkodiak@gmail.com.
- ❖ If you would like to provide flowers for the altar in celebration of a special time in your own or someone else’s life or to mark a memorial, add your name to the flower chart on the wall or let Debbi Canavan know at dcanavan@gci.net.

Community Service

- ❖ St. Paul volunteers cook for the Kodiak Area Mentorship Program and the Brother Francis Shelter. To sign up or for more information, contact Karen Winkler at 907-942-1315 or karenwinkler2014@gmail.com.
- ❖ St. Paul’s Kim Miller Fund provides fuel oil to households in need in partnership with Petro Marine Services. To make a tax-deductible donation to the Fund, make a contribution to St. Paul and include a note that it is for the Kim Miller Fund.

Spiritual Growth

- ❖ **LifeGroup**, our adult **Bible study** class, meets after worship and Fridays at 5:30pm.
- ❖ **Prayer Breakfast** meets Wednesday’s at 7:00am (come at 6am to help cook).
- ❖ Christian faith is strengthened when we make it an “every day” practice that involves daily moments of reflection and listening for God. If you would like a suggested course of personal study and prayer during the week, see the handout “Daily Walk on the Rock” on the same table as the LifeGroup study sheets and bulletins.
- ❖ **Worshiping** weekly is something we get to do. We worship every Sunday at 10:00am and other special times.

Spiritual growth exercise for the week of July 18, 2024 – Practicing Silence

Let's make next week an application of silence.

Monday, 22nd : For 30 minutes of silence, find a quiet place to call God's throne room. Sit for 30 minutes in silence, and simply listen. In order to prepare for what you might hear, go back and read the passage from Revelation 8:1-5. Then just close your eyes and listen for God's Holy Spirit to speak through these words to you.

Tuesday, 23rd : For 30 minutes of silence, go back into the presence of God, and this time quietly name your fears. All of them. Quietly speak them out loud; name them and give them to God. God will meet you in your fears and provide a way through them.

Wednesday 24th : For 30 minutes of silence, take a piece of paper or a journal with you and write down how God has met you so far in the week. Look back and acknowledge God's faithfulness and take that with you into the rest of the day.

Thursday 25th : For 30 minutes of silence, find a new venue. Explore a quiet place to walk. Walk a trail, go to a park, go somewhere quiet, and just walk or sit and listen for God to remind you of his faithfulness.

Friday 26th : For 30 minutes of silence, pray for the specific needs of someone you know who is struggling. Be specific about how you are asking God to meet him or her in those needs. Let your heart be filled with gratitude for how God has both worked and will work in that person's life.

Saturday 27th : For 30 minutes of silence, find a dark place, light one candle, and focus on the light of Christ in your life and the difference that makes from day to day.

Please share with someone else how God has meet you during these times of silence.

Going Deeper- Revelation 8

Revelation is filled with visions, symbolism, ritual and tradition. The seven churches that Revelation was written for would recognize the message in the symbolism, ritual and tradition. Much of it connected with their practice of worship and religion, as well as their history of oral tradition to pass the Word along. Revelation can bring us a message of hope.

Chapter 8 introduces us to the seven angel trumpeters. The number seven represents completeness. Creation took seven days; there were seven feast days of remembrance; Revelation refers to seven churches, seven seals, seven bowls, and seven angels with seven trumpets. The angel trumpeters are present to provide intercession with God on our behalf.

The Lamb – Jesus – holds the scroll and opens each of the seven seals one at a time, because each has a judgment message to deliver. Each message seems more gruesome than the last. With the opening of the seventh seal, there is silence in heaven for about half an hour. This seventh message will provide “the most severe judgment of God on a wicked world.”

Isn't it interesting that time is referred to in this way? I wonder, what does half an hour mean to God? These special agents of God are holding trumpets they will sound to announce God's final judgment. Another angel appears with a censer for incense to accompany the prayers offered to God during this time of silence. This offering was practiced daily by the Old Testament priests. Verse 4 tells us that “the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God.”

Prayer is significant. It might be that we are living in this half hour of time to offer prayers to bring others to the Kingdom.

The silence is significant. We can think of it as a holy hush, a time in which heaven holds its breath, a time for prayers of the faithful. It might be that the heavens are silent because we are given this time to recognize God's Kingdom. The incense is significant. It is symbolic of worship and intercession to the Lord.

This reading should remind us that God uses our prayer and worship to accomplish his purpose. Prayer changes us, and therefore the world. We cast our cares on him, pray for the lost, pray for God's glory, pray for strength to ask for help and for grace in times of temptation, pray for God's will to be done and his Kingdom to come. We are called to pray without ceasing in our half hour of time!

Lord, the message in Revelation is hard for us to understand, but we do understand that you ask us to worship together and pray without ceasing. Let each of us remember that we glorify you through prayer, and that we are surrounded by your angels offering incense as our intercessors. Amen.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Please Pray for Health and Healing for...

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| Bill and Ann Barker and their son Erin | Those with addictions to alcohol and drugs |
| Kim Smead | The Hansen family |
| Amanda Barta | Rose and Mike Dolph |
| Emer Bajuclos | Jim Devlin |
| Joe and Mary Beth Symonoski | Bill Vogt and Karen Winkler |
| Linda Covert-Mosier | Baby Evie |
| Ross Omlid | The family and friends of Larry Ellsworth |
| Lena | Sharon |
| Denise York | The Vogel family |
| Ava | The Cuello family |
| The family of Sawyer Cipolla | Karin Stahlhut |
| Matthew | Chastity |
| Liane Dierich-Erwin | Amy & Eric |

The family and friends of Lynn Bash
Jerry
Tim
George and Dria Holloway
Laurie Johnson
Greg Culver
Sue Devers
The family of Darlene Wilson
Pat Scheider
Tony

The family and friends of Charlotte Ferris
Peace in the Middle East
Judy Starrett
George Lare and his family
Kyle Hannah
All fishermen and other seafarers
and the Coast Guard
Irelynn
Sherry Ball
Judy Main

If you would like to add or remove any name for prayer concerns, please contact the Church at the number and email given below or fill out a prayer request form in the church office.

Front Office Hours

The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Tuesday through Friday.

UNSUBSCRIBE: Send an email by [clicking here](#) and put "Unsubscribe from Newsletter" in the subject line.



Daily Walk on the Rock

July 21, 2024 Revelation 8:1-5; Psalm 62

READING RESOURCES: Revelation and the End of All Things by Craig R. Koester.

Monday

REVELATION 10

The purpose of this mighty angel is clear: to announce the final judgments on earth. What do you suppose his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land mean in contrast to the seal and trumpet judgments? What is the “mystery of God” (7; see also Romans 11:25-36, 16:25-27, and Ephesians 1:9-14)? John was stopped from revealing certain parts of his vision. Why? John is instructed to eat the scroll. It was sweet in his mouth, but bitter in his stomach. How has God’s word been both sweet and sour to you in your life?

Tuesday

REVELATION 11

What is John commanded to do in this passage? Why? Who will be measured, or protected, and why? What do the two indestructible witnesses represent? The beast from the pit makes war on the witnesses and kills them (7), but they are resurrected. What results from their death and their resurrection? What do you learn from this passage about being a witness? What part of living out your faith and witnessing to others has been toughest for you? Why? The seventh trumpet reveals that the kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord. What does that tell you about God’s power? Verses 15-18 tell us of God’s sovereignty. God will judge evil, reward faithfulness, and rule forever. Does this bring you hope or fear in your life right now?

Wednesday

REVELATION 12

Some scholars believe that the woman represents God’s faithful believers who have been awaiting the arrival of the Messiah, and the crown of 12 stars represents the 12 tribes of Israel, the nation that gave birth to the Messiah. The large red dragon has been interpreted as Satan, and the stars that fell to earth have been interpreted as the angels who fell with Satan. What do you learn here about conflict between the Christian church and demonic evil? When has Satan seemed very real to you? How do you overcome the powers of evil (12:11)? What do you need to become stronger for spiritual battle? (Also see Ephesians 6:11). We need not fear if we truly serve God, who alone brings us victory (Romans 8:34-39). Spend some time in prayer.

Thursday

REVELATION 13

Chapter 13 introduces us to two evil accomplices of Satan: the beast of the sea (1) and the beast of the earth (11). What is the source of power for these two beasts? “The whole earth” worships the beasts. What impact do each of these beasts have on Christians? How should they respond? Why? How are true government and true religion connected by these two beasts? What are some of the “beasts,” or idols, in your life? What tests your allegiance to God? How do we recognize false prophets? Pray that God would give you wisdom and discernment in these matters.

Friday

REVELATION 14

Following chapters 12 and 13, what comfort do you find in verses 1-5? What do the sights, sounds and emotions in these verses make you feel? Who is the Lamb, and who are the people following him? What is the essence of the eternal gospel proclaimed by the angel? What response is called for? By contrast, what message does the angel of doom spread (8)? Verses 14-16 present an image of judgment. Christ is separating the faithful from the unfaithful, just like a farmer harvesting his crops. This is a time of joy for Christians; it tells us that Christians should not fear the last judgment. Are you awaiting or fearing Christ’s return? Why? This is the day to be sure your values are right in line with God’s values. Decide today to produce fruit that will last forever.

Saturday

REVELATION 15

The seven last plagues are also called the seven bowl judgments. Why does John say these are the last plagues? Compare Moses’ song of deliverance from Egypt (Exodus 15: 1-18) with the song sung by those delivered from the beast (3-4). In verse 8, John sees the temple filled with the power and the glory of God. How does this passage make you feel? What mighty and great deeds has God done in your life for which you desire to praise him and thank him? Spend some time doing just that.

Sunday

PSALM 49

This psalm reminds us of the futility of worldliness: riches, pride, fame. You cannot take your possessions with you when you die, and they cannot buy you forgiveness. This psalm is echoed in Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 6:25-34. How do both teachings challenge your current lifestyle and your priorities? How can you avoid being like the “beasts?”