



WELCOME!

TO St. Paul Lutheran Church

*In the Name of the Triune God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit...
There is hope and joy to be found
in the midst of God's gathered people!*

SUNDAY, JULY 23RD
7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING SONG: #611 *"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"*
HYMN OF THE DAY: #779 *"Amazing Grace"*
COMMUNION: #483 *"Here is Bread"*
SENDING SONG: #661 *"I Love to Tell the Story"*

FIRST READING 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

"WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE" ALL: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 51:1-15 (THE MSG) (READ RESPONSIVELY)

GENEROUS IN LOVE—GOD, GIVE GRACE!

Huge in mercy—wipe out my bad record.

SCRUB AWAY MY GUILT,

soak out my sins in your laundry.

I KNOW HOW BAD I'VE BEEN;

my sins are staring me down.

YOU'RE THE ONE I'VE VIOLATED, AND YOU'VE SEEN

it all, seen the full extent of my evil.

YOU HAVE ALL THE FACTS BEFORE YOU;

whatever you decide about me is fair.

I'VE BEEN OUT OF STEP WITH YOU FOR A LONG TIME,

in the wrong since before I was born.

WHAT YOU'RE AFTER IS TRUTH FROM THE INSIDE OUT.

Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life.

SOAK ME IN YOUR LAUNDRY AND I'LL COME OUT CLEAN,

scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life..

SECOND READING: ACTS 9:1-9

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

"WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE" ALL: Thanks be to God!!

SUMMER SERMON SERIES: Adventures through Acts

This summer in worship we are going to take a closer look at the Acts of the Apostles - the stories that take place after the Ascension of Jesus and the foundations of the early Christian movement (first known as 'The Way'). Read ahead! You'll find Acts right after the Gospel of John and before Paul's letter to the Romans in the New Testament.

(7/16) Whatcha reading? [Romans 5:6-11; Acts 8:26-40]

(7/23) Just Call Paul [2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Acts 9:1-9]

(7/30) New Dreams & New Connections [Titus 3:3-8; Acts 10:9-16, 34-36]

(8/6) The 1st Synod Assembly [Galatians 3:23-29; Acts 15:1-11]

(8/13) Revealing the Unknown [1 Timothy 1:12-17; Acts 17:16-34]

(8/20) Paul's Mission Map [1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Acts 18:1-20]

(8/27) Sharing Good Goodbyes [Philemon 3-7; Acts 20:28-38]

(9/3) Let It Be Known [2 Timothy 3:10-17; Acts 28:23-30]

Miss a week? Go to www.sinibaldo.wordpress.com and stay connected.

TODAY'S COMMEMORATION

Birgitta of Sweden, *renewer of the church*, died 1373

Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.