

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 48 Issue 8

September, 2025

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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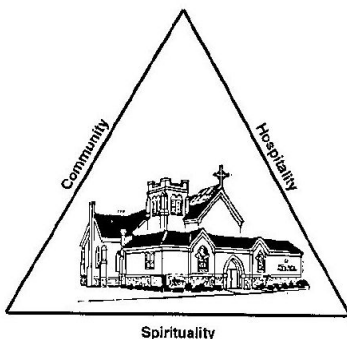
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Hello Everyone,

It is not Fall, but it is definitely in the air. Children are back to school, football season has begun, and there is an early morning chill in the air. By the time you read this, Labor Day will be in the rear-view mirror. We will be having a new member class in October. If you are not a member and would like to become one, please let the office or me know, and we will contact you with the times of the new member class. We usually meet 2 or 3 times as we discuss the church, Jesus, and how they relate to our faith. A little church history and what it means to be a United Methodist. I hope to see you in October, as we explore what membership at Elida St. Paul's means.

Thank you for all the prayers and support while Marla was in China for the past month on her educational mission trip. She is back in the Eastern Time Zone and teaching English to children in China online. She had a good trip, and some of you have asked if she is going to share her experience? Be looking for an announcement of a meal where Marla will share her experience, with some of the pictures she took, and will talk a little about the church in China today.

We are in the middle of the "Jesus and Me" sermon series that will end on the second Sunday of September, as we explore the 'woman at the well.' Then we will begin a sermon series titled "Afraid". We live in a world that reports to us all the trouble and strife in our society, but there is a positive message we should be listening to, which will help us cope with and overcome those fears. God in the Old Testament and Jesus in the New Testament told us to Fear Not. How can we live in our world today, when everything seems so bad? I hope you will join us as we explore what God and Jesus have to say about fear, and how we should live our lives today. Until then, I will see you at the store, at a ball game, working out, dealing with kids, and living life in God's mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

By learning you will teach;
by teaching you will learn.

—Latin proverb



**September 1
Labor Day**

Sunnydale House 5K

**Labor Day, September 1
8:30 AM**

We have been asked to man the watering stations in front of the church, and at the Fieldhouse parking lot. We will need volunteers to help with this mission to give out cups of water.

September 7

Coins for Communion to benefit
The Lima Samaritan House



Sunday, September 7

Last Sunday for collecting School
and Health Kits.

Kits assembly will be

Monday, September 15, at 10 AM

If interested in helping, please notify
the office or Janna Thompson.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



**Deadline: the 20th
of each month**

Christian Symbol

BURNING BUSH



In Exodus 3, God speaks to Moses from a bush that is burning but not consumed. When Moses asks what he should say if the Egyptians questions who sent him to lead the Israelites out of slavery, God states, "I AM WHO I AM." Centuries later, when people wonder who Jesus is, his answers hint at his divinity: "I AM the light of the world; I AM the good shepherd; I AM the bread of life" and, perhaps most profoundly, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). On Pentecost, God's Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles as fire. Thus the burning bush is a powerful symbol of God's presence echoed through time.

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is published by St. Paul's
United Methodist Church

Secretary	Gail Fessler
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Casey Rife
Custodian	Dave Decker

September 11
Patriot Day



Food Pantry Sunday
September 21

Canned Meats are needed

Thank you for your much
needed donations.

St. Paul's Book Club
Saturday, September 13
9:00 AM.

In the classroom beside the office

The book for discussion is:

***"The Silver Ladies
of Penny Lane"***

By Dee MacDonald



September 22
First Day of Fall

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



St. Paul's Choir will
return on Sunday
September 7

Thank You!

Director: Casey Rife

Piano Accompaniment:
Lois Cook

Our dedicated Choir
members

The Gift of Music

I wish to see all arts, principally music,
in the service of Him who gave and created them.

Music is a fair and glorious gift from God.
I would not forego my humble share of music.
Singers are never sorrowful, but are merry,
and they smile through their troubles in song.

Music makes people kinder, gentler,
more staid and reasonable.

I am persuaded that after theology,
music is the only art capable of affording peace
and joy of heart ... the devil flees before
the sound of music almost as much as
before the Word of God.

—Martin Luther

Hymn History

Grace Greater than Our Sin

“Then Sings My Soul” Book 3, By Robert J. Morgan

1911

On the bookshelves in my office is an old volume I picked up many years ago in an antiquarian bookstore—*Fifty Mission Heroes Every Boy and Girl Should Know*. It's as informative for adults as for youngsters, and I've gleaned a lot of personal inspiration (and sermon illustrations) from these fifty profiles of men and women like John Elliot, Bartholomew Ziegenbald, David Brainerd, William Cary, Alexander Duff, Adoniram Judson, David Livingstone, Agnes Agnew, and all the rest.

Only today did I realize the author of that book is also the author of this hymn—Julia Harriette Johnston. She wrote about messengers, and sang about their message.

Julia was born in Salineville, Ohio, of good stock. Thirteen of her immediate relatives had been clergymen, and both her mother and grandmother were poets. When she was six, her family moved to Peoria, Illinois, where her father became a pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. Julia lived in Peoria the rest of her life, and spent over four decades as a superintendent of the younger children's Sunday school department and as a worker and teacher in the nursery.

For twenty years she served as president of the Presbyterian Missionary Society of Peoria, which had been founded by her mother. Julia also served as vice president for the Presbyterian Board of Missions for the Northwest. She wrote children's Sunday school lessons for a major publisher, authored several books for children, and churned out about five hundred hymns, many of them Sunday school songs for children. Only “Grace Greater than Our Sin” is widely sung today. But consider the chorus of Julia's hymn “Saving Grace”. In it, Julia wrote that when her pilgrim song is over and she stands “on yonder shore” her theme will still be—grace!

I wish I knew the exact circumstances under which Julia Johnston wrote her hymns. But a glance of her biography tells us her passions—children, missions, music, and most of all grace—saving grace, marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that is greater than all our sin.



Poem

He Giveth More Grace

By A. J. Flint

But He giveth more grace. James 4:6

*He giveth more grace when burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase;
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.*

*When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,
Our Father's full giving is only begun.*

*Fear not that thy need shall exceed His provision,
Our God ever yearns His resources to share;
Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing—
The Father both thee and thy load will upbear.*

*His love has no limits, His grace has no measure,
His power no boundary known unto men;
For, out of His infinite riches in Jesus,
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.*

Seasons of Change, Signs of Grace

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22, NASB).

As autumn begins, we watch the world transform before our eyes. Leaves change color, the air turns crisp, and a new rhythm settles in. In these seasonal shifts, we are reminded of God's faithful hand over all of creation.

Genesis 8:22 assures us that the cycles of nature—seedtime and harvest, summer and winter—are part of God's ongoing promise. Each season speaks of His order, care, and presence. Autumn, in particular, invites reflection. Just as the trees release their leaves, we are called to let go of what no longer serves us and make space for renewal.

This season also marks a return to routines—school schedules, church programs, and community events. As we step into new responsibilities or revisit familiar ones, may we do so with gratitude and trust. God is not only present in the harvest but in the quiet letting go.

Let this autumn be a time to embrace God's steady rhythm, find beauty in change, and rest in His faithful promises that never cease—even as the world around us shifts.

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

August 3, 2025	60
August 10, 2025	52
August 17, 2025	86
August 24, 2025	65

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$4,644.58

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
August 3, 2025	\$4,877.37	\$600.00
August 10, 2025	\$3,842.09	\$1,526.09
August 17, 2025	\$12,555.00	\$105.00
August 24, 2025	\$1,051.98	\$90.00

Children's Church Attendance

August 3, 2025	9
August 10, 2025	6
August 17, 2025	11
August 24, 2025	15

Hospitality Cart

September 7, 2025	Harmon Family
September 14, 2025	OPEN
September 21, 2025	OPEN
September 28, 2025	OPEN

Flower Calendar

September 7, 2025	Lynda Evans
September 14, 2025	Myrna Metzger
September 21, 2025	Lavonne Segovia
September 28, 2025	Connie Mault

Communion Servers: September 7

Station #1:

Eric & Joella Stern

Station #2:

&

Daily Bible Readings

Monday 9/1

Psalm 79, 80, 2 Samuel 7:1-17
Acts 18:1-11, Mark 8:11-21

Tuesday 9/2

Psalm 78, 2 Samuel 7:18-29
Acts 18:12-28, Mark 8:22-33

Wednesday 9/3

Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120
2 Samuel 9:1-13
Acts 19:1-10, Mark 8:34-9:1

Thursday 9/4

Psalm 83, 85, 86
2 Samuel 11:1-27
Acts 19:11-20, Mark 9:2-13

Friday 9/5

Psalm 88, 91, 92
2 Samuel 12:1-14
Acts 19:21-41
Mark 9:14-29

Saturday 9/6

Psalm 87, 90, 136
2 Samuel 12:15-31
Acts 20:1-16, Mark 9:30-41

Sunday 9/7

Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67
2 Samuel 13:1-22
Romans 15:1-13
John 3:22-36

Monday 9/8

Psalm 89, 2 Samuel 13:23-39
Acts 20:17-38, Mark 9:42-50

Tuesday 9/9

Psalm 95, 100
2 Samuel 14:1-20
Acts 21:1-14, Mark 10:1-16

Wednesday 9/10

Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144
2 Samuel 14:21-33
Acts 21:15-26, Mark 10:17-31

Thursday 9/11

Psalm 105, 2 Samuel 15:1-18
Acts 21:27-36
Mark 10:32-45

Friday 9/12

Psalm 102, 107:1-32
2 Samuel 15:19-37
Acts 21:37-22:16
Mark 10:46-52

Saturday 9/13

Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108
2 Samuel 16:1-23
Acts 22:17-29, Mark 11:1-11

Sunday 9/14

Psalm 118, 145
2 Samuel 17:1-23
Galatians 3:6-14, John 5:30-47

Monday 9/15

Psalm 106, 2 Samuel 17:24-18:8
Acts 22:30-23:11, Mark 11:12-26

Tuesday 9/16

Psalm 120, 127, 2 Samuel 18:9-18
Acts 23:12-24, Mark 11:27-12:12

Wednesday 9/17

Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130
2 Samuel 18:19-23
Acts 23:23-35, Mark 12:13-27

Thursday 9/18

Psalm 133, 134, 135
2 Samuel 19:1-23
Acts 24:1-23, Mark 12:28-34

Friday 9/19

Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143
2 Samuel 19:24-43
Acts 24:24-25:12
Mark 12:35-44

Saturday 9/20

Psalm 104, 137, 144
2 Samuel 23:1-17, 13-17
Acts 25:13-27, Mark 13:1-13

Sunday 9/21

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
2 Samuel 24:1-25
Galatians 3:23-4:7, John 8:12-20

Monday 9/22

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 1 Kings 1:5-31
Acts 26:1-23, Mark 13:14-27

Tuesday 9/23

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11
1 Kings 1:38-2:4
Acts 26:24-27:8
Mark 13:28-37

Wednesday 9/24

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
1 Kings 3:1-15
Acts 27:9-26, Mark 14:1-11

Thursday 9/25

Psalm 18, 1 Kings 3:16-28
Acts 27:27-44, Mark 14:12-26

Friday 9/26

Psalm 16, 17, 22
1 Kings 5:1-6:1, 7
Acts 18:1-16, Mark 14:27-42

Saturday 9/27

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
1 Kings 7:51-8:21
Acts 28:17-31, Mark 14:43-52

Sunday 9/28

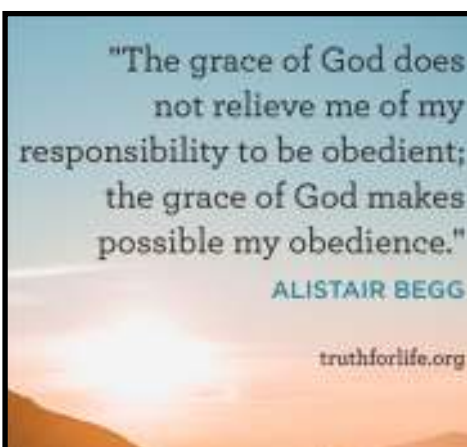
Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
1 Kings 8:22-30
1 Timothy 4:7-16, John 8:47-59

Monday 9/29

Psalm 9, 15, 25
2 Chronicles 6:32-7:7
James 2:1-13, Mark 14:66-72

Tuesday 9/30

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
1 Kings 8:65-9:9
James 2:14-26, Mark 14:66-72



National Night Out



National Night Out was held on Tuesday, August 5th, at the Elida Fieldhouse.

St. Paul's had a booth with a bouncy house for the children.

Thank You Volunteers!!



St. Paul's also supplied the National Night out with some tables and chairs.

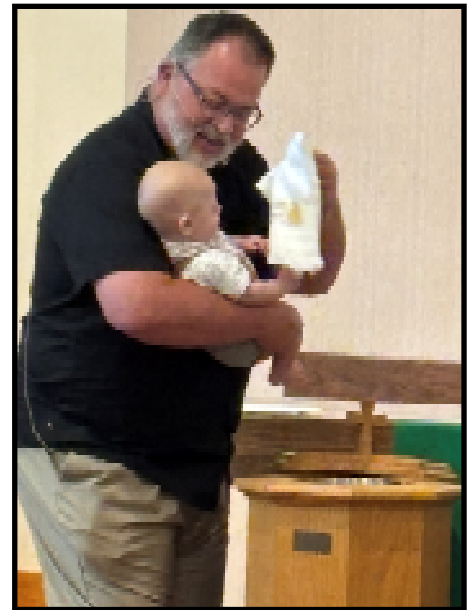


Baptism



Sunday, August 17

Baptism of Ridge Roy McAdams. The son of Alex and Stacy McAdams, Born April 10, 2025. Brother to Rylan, Merah, and Baylor. Grandson of Brent and Vicki McAdams and Great-grandson of Myrna Metzger, and Ron McAdams.



Introducing Ridge to the congregation!



Children

Stump the Pastor! August 17

The children bring in an item Sunday morning and place it in the box, on the front pew. During Children's Moments, Pastor Paul takes an item out of the box and does a mini-sermon about that item. If he is stumped and can't come up with a sermon, Pastor Paul owes the owner of the item a gift card.



Blessing of the Backpacks August 24



SUNDAY SCHOOL:

The children's Sunday school classes begin September 7

• Pre k to Kindergarten— led by Shirley Moser

• First Grade and up— with Marla Scannell and Slone Whetstone,
Classroom helpers are still needed!



Connecting With ...

Lena Whetstone participated in the Auglaize County Fair, July 27- August 2nd. Her Market Dairy steer, Bart, took 3rd in class in Open Show. Her Dairy feeder calf, Mervin, was 3rd in class in Open show and in Jr. Fair.

Congratulations!



Allen County Fair Cart Ministry

The Cart Shuttle at the Allen County Fair is a ministry that Westside UMC has been doing for several years now. Thank you Westside, for allowing St. Paul's to assist you with this ministry this year.



The People of St. Paul's

Thank You!

To all at St. Paul's UMC,

We all want to thank you for the beautiful wind chimes you gave to our family to celebrate our mom, Helen Staas. It was a wonderful way to remember her. Mom and Dad loved to sit on their porch watching the birds and listening to wind chimes.

*Thanks again,
from the entire family of Staas Children!*

Remember in Prayer

*Recovering from Surgery
or in the Hospital*

Greg Schade

*Those in Need of Healing,
Support, Strength &
Encouragement*

In the Military

Nathan Stewart

God's Left Hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

St. Paul's Vision Statement:

Is for the Elida community to be led to Christ through words and deeds enabling youth to have purpose, families to be nurtured and supported, and senior citizens to feel valued.

Our Biblical Purpose Statement:

Elida St. Paul's United Methodist Church exists as God's people embracing His grace through humble service to all.

Meetings

NO PPR

September 2, 2025
Trustees...7:00 PM

September 3, 2025
Worship Mtg.

No Ad Council/Finance

NO Missions

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir..7:00 PM

Sundays
Hospitality...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

Anniversaries

Chris & Kate Stengel
September 6

Josh & Lori Motzer
September 7

Greg & Barb Schade
September 7; 46yrs.

Tim & Katie White
September 8

Nick & Kim White
September 10

Jordan & Jacinda Fried
September 12

Eric & Joella Stern
September 12

Rick & Kara Woeller
September 17

Chris & Molly Przekora
September 19

John & Chelsey Cook
September 20

Norm & Mary Grigsby
September 20; 67 yrs.

Don & Mary Irvin
September 22; 63 yrs.

Mike & Becky Ellinger
September 25

September 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 Avery Chambers	2 Kathy White	3 Reggie McAdams	4	5 Gene Craft Casey Rife	6
7	8	9 Janet Grigg	10	11	12	13 John Kuenzli
14	15	16	17	18	19 Jordan Wyant	20
21 Merah McAdams Nathan Stewart	22 Oliver Fessler Shannen Vermillion	23 Amy Wyant	24 Troy Selover	25 Valerie Kuenzli	26 Carl Rabley	27 Alex McAdams Ann Stewart Juergen waldick
28	29 Rob Craft Bruce Kizer	30				

Featured Recipes

Chicken Taco Casserole

By Susan Nartker

Ingredients		Instructions
4 cups	Chicken, shredded	Mix all together Spray 9 x 9 pan. Bake covered at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes. Sprinkle more shredded cheese on top, 1/2 cup or so.
1 cup	Minute rice	
2 Tbl.	Taco seasoning	
2 Tbl.	Milk	
1 can	Corn, drained	
1 can	Rotel tomatoes	
1 can	Black beans, drained & rinsed	
1 can	Cream of Chicken	
To taste	Salt & pepper	
3/4 cup	Colby jack cheese, shredded	



Chicken Enchiladas

By Tracy Sdao

Ingredients		Instructions
2 cups	Chicken, shredded	Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine: 1 cup cheese, onions, chilies, salt, cumin, sour cream, and chicken. Set aside. Fry torts in oil. Put a little sauce in bottom of pan, Dip torts in sauce and place in bottom of pan, then layer mixture and torts. Cover with remaining cheese. Bake for 20 minutes.
2 cups	Sour cream	
1/4 cup	Green chilies	
1/2 cup	Green onion, chopped	
3/4 tsp.	Salt	
1/2 cup	Oil	
1 pkg	Cheddar Cheese, shredded	
3/4 tsp.	Ground cumin	
1 can	Enchilada sauce	
	Corn torts	

KIDZ KORNER



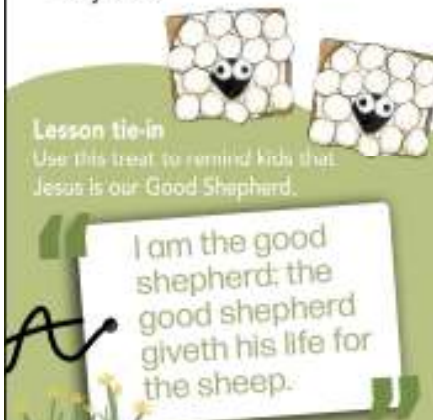
Create adorable sheep using graham crackers, marshmallows and a little imagination!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Mini marshmallows
- Large marshmallows
- Candy eyes or mini chocolate chips
- Black gel icing or mini Oreo cookie

What you do:

1. Spread white frosting or marshmallow fluff on each graham cracker square.
2. Stick mini marshmallows all over to make the sheep's wool.
3. Cut a large marshmallow in half and stick it near the top for the head.
4. Add candy eyes and a dot of black gel for the nose. Or use a mini Oreo cookie half for a more defined face.
5. Let kids decorate their sheep however they'd like!



Lesson tie-in

Use this treat to remind kids that Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

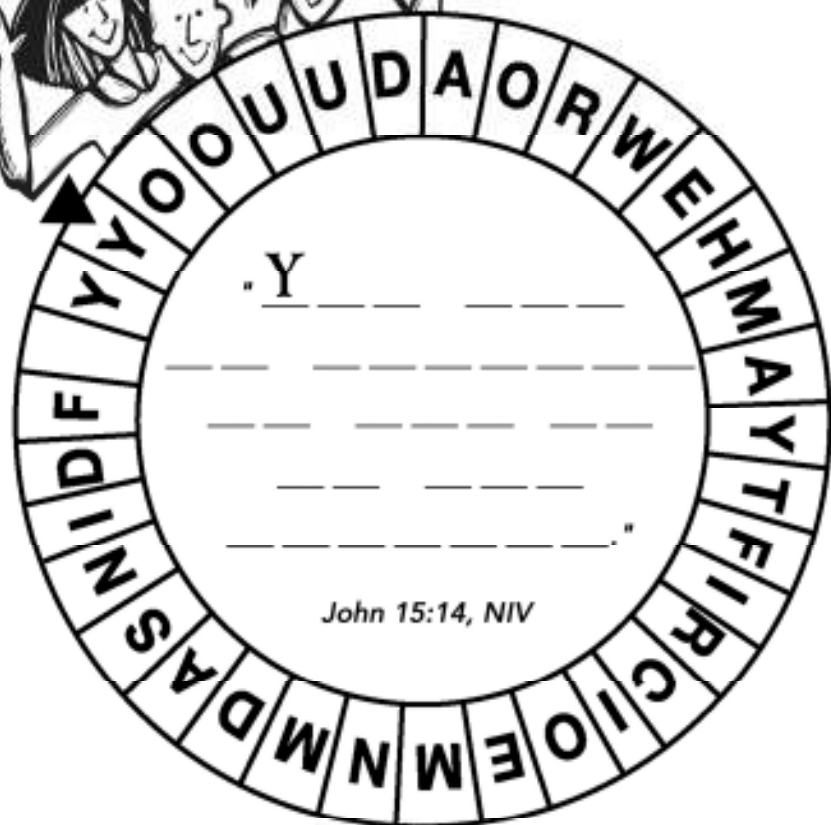


WHO WERE JESUS' FRIENDS?

Jesus spent a lot of time with his friends. Whom did Jesus consider his friends?



Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below.



John 15:14, NIV

Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Honoring the Gift of Work

The Bible affirms both the value and dignity of work. From the beginning, God placed Adam in the garden “to work it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15, ESV). In the fourth commandment, we are reminded not only to observe the Sabbath, but also to labor diligently throughout the week: “Six days you shall labor, and do all your work” (Exodus 20:9, ESV).

Work is more than a routine obligation; it is an opportunity to engage our God-given abilities in meaningful ways. Whether using our hands, minds, or hearts, we reflect the image of our Creator—bringing order, care, and creativity into the world.

Our labor allows us to contribute to the common good, find personal fulfillment, and practice faithful stewardship of the talents and strengths God has entrusted to us. As Paul writes, “We are God’s fellow workers” (1 Corinthians 3:9, ESV).

On this Labor Day, may we take time to recognize the blessing of work and celebrate those who serve, build, teach, lead, and labor with purpose and care.

—Author unknown