

St Paul's Ripples July and August 2026

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus!

We continue our journey through Genesis with Abraham's Family. The action shifts from Abraham to Issac, then to Jacob and finally, Joshep and his brothers. Here is a synopsis and a reading guide:



On the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, we join Abraham's servant charged to find Issac a wife (Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 – we only read part of the story in worship. Read the whole chapter – it's a great story!) The servant meets Rebecca at the well and brings her back to Issac. They marry and Rebecca becomes pregnant with twin sons. But before we get there, read **Genesis 22:20-23:20** to learn about Sarah's death. Some tradition holds that she died from heartbreak when Abraham and Issac went into the wilderness to sacrifice Issac. This tradition says she dies before she learns that God provided a lamb and Issac returned safe and sound. Continue by reading **Genesis 25:1-19** to wrap up Abraham's story. Abraham marries again – some tradition say Keturah is another name for Hagar!). After having more children with Keturah/Hagar, Abraham dies with both Ishmael and Issac at his side.

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, we learn about Rachel's pregnancy (Genesis 25:19-34), Rachel has a tough time of it as Essau and Jacob's sibling rivalry begins with them having a knock down drag out in the womb. Esau sells his birthright to Jacob for a pot of stew – a bad bargain! Continue the story by reading **Genesis 26:1-28:9**. Isaac continues to travel and makes a treaty with the Philistines. Esau takes Hittite wives, much to his family's dismay. Rachel and Jacob collude to trick Isaac into giving the firstborn's blessing to Jacob, which infuriates Esau. For his protection, Jacob flees to the relative safety of his uncle Laban's.

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Jacob spends the night at Bethel, where he dreams of angels going up and down a ladder and receives the promise of God's protection and the continuation of the covenant God made with Abraham (Genesis 28:10-19a). You'll have plenty of time to read **Genesis 28:19b-36:43** as we take a break from hearing about Jacob's adventures while Mother Lauren and Bishop Jonathan are here. This is really good stuff, starting with Jacob and Rachel's meet-cute. There's scheming, deception, an epic wrestling match with God, rivalry between the sister-wives and so many sons!

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, we meet Joseph of the amazing technicolor dream coat (Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28) Read **Genesis 37-50:26** to get the whole story, plus an interesting interlude with Judah, his sons and the long-suffering Tamar who has to resort to deception to force Judah to keep his obligation to her. (By the way, Judah is the one through whom the promise continues).

Genesis is such good reading! I love how God is present in the lives of these VERY flawed people, working to bring salvation even when the characters seem intent on confounding God's plan. Take July and August to get to know Isaac and Rachel, Jacob/Israel and his wives Leah, Rachel, Zilpah and Bilhah and the brood of sons (and one daughter) that become the tribes of Israel. Enjoy your summer reading!

Peace, Mother Ramona

July and August Skipping Stones

Like skipping stones in God's hands, may we create ripples in our lives and the lives of those in our community!

Pub Theology and Coffee, Tea and Theology is on July 15. Pub theology is at 7 pm at the Bank Saloon, on the corner of 4th and Main. Coffee, Tea, and Theology: Meets at the church, July 15. Everyone is welcome. This month we're talking about the Book of Common Prayer, the Church, and the Anglican Communion (*Episcopal Questions, Episcopal Answers*, Sections Six to the end). Come with questions!

Faith, Life and Other Questions: will meet from 9am-noon July 20-24. All youth are welcome to attend

Picnic on the Patio: July 1 and August 5 (the first Wednesday of each month. Grilling starts at 5:30pm, eating starts at 6pm. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. The main dish and beverages are provided. Everyone is welcome – invite a friend! The final Picnic on the Patio for the summer is on September 3rd.

Mother Lauren is worshipping with us and meeting with the Vestry on July 26. She will be preaching. There will be breakfast after worship

Bishop Visitation: Bishop Jonathan is visiting on August 2. He will be preaching and presiding at eucharist and confirmation. There will be a meal after worship in his honor.

Mass in the Grass August 23. We will worship at Pioneer Park at 10 and have a potluck after worship. Bring a lawn chair and a dish to share!

Vestry: The next vestry meeting is July 26th after coffee fellowship.

Mother Ramona's June Schedule: Mother Ramona will be on vacation from June 29th to July 5th and then taking continuing education July 6-11th. In August, she is serving at the Standing Rock parish on August 16th.

Weekly events

Monday: Office hours as SDSU will resume in September

Tuesday:

Mother Ramona's office hours

1st & 2nd Tuesday – 3-6pm at Kool Beans

3rd Tuesday – 1-4pm at Chocolate

4th Tuesday – 1-4pm at Cottonwood on Main

5th Tuesday – 11-2 at Mission Coffeehouse

Wine and Word will resume in the fall.

July 15: Coffee, Tea, and Theology – 3pm at St Paul's

Pub Confirmation – 7:00pm at the Bank

Sunday Coffee and refreshments after worship in Thorburn Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Mother Ramona's contact information: pastorramona@gmail.com, 605-850-8482 (cell phone)

Website: stpaulsbrookings.org St Paul's email: stpaulsbrookings1879@gmail.com