

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



JULY 12, 2026

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

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AS WE GATHER – THE PREACHING OF THE WORD OF CHRIST BEARS THE GOOD FRUITS OF FAITH AND LOVE – As “the rain and the snow come down from heaven” and “water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout” (Is. 55:10), so the Word of God accomplishes the purpose for which He speaks it, granting joy and peace through the forgiveness of sins and producing the fruits of faith and love in those who are called by His name. Christ Jesus, the incarnate Word, has established the name of the Lord as “an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off” (Is. 55:13). He opens our ears to hear, our minds to understand and our hearts to believe His Word, lest the evil one come and snatch it away. He thus transforms our rocky hearts into good soil, which clings to the Gospel and “indeed bears fruit” (Matt. 13:23). He is Himself the firstfruits of all who “have received the Spirit of adoption as sons” (Rom. 8:15). Thus being “led by the Spirit of God,” we are not afraid, but we cry out in faith to our Father in heaven (Rom. 8:14–15). For as we suffer with Christ, the beloved Son, so shall we “also be glorified with him” (Rom. 8:17).

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING I P. 151-166

PRESERVICE MUSIC

OPENING HYMN “OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY” 901

✠ CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION ✠ P. 151

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT PSALM 103:15-19; ANTIPHON: V. 8

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children’s children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

KYRIE

P. 152-153

HYMN OF PRAISE "THIS IS THE FEAST"

P. 155

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 55:10-13

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

EPISTLE

ROMANS 8:12-17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P. 156

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

P The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. . . .”¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and

does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ

NICENE CREED

P. 158

HYMN OF THE DAY “ALMIGHTY GOD, YOUR WORD IS CAST” 577

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in your Mercy,

G Hear our Prayer.

In Our Prayers:

+ Andy Birkholz

+ Phyllis Ernst

+ Scott Christenson

+ Bonnie Mueller

+ Angela Litzau

+ Sonya Clausen

+ Dan Gueningsman

+ Maya Radtke

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

P. 159

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠ P. 160-164

The Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His true body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation, to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Our Lord Jesus invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any

refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us (Matt. 26:26-28; 1Cor. 11:23-29; Matt.6:15).

We practice closed communion. Why? (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Because our Lord says those who eat and drink His body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. If not yet instructed, in doubt, or holding a confession differing from that of the LCMS, you are lovingly asked not to commune at this time. Pastor is happy to make an appointment to discuss adult catechesis or questions you have regarding the Sacrament of the Altar.

Examination Questions: Please prepare by asking yourself — Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior from sin? Do I believe that I am receiving the body and blood of Christ along with the bread and wine? Will I try, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live a more God-pleasing life?

Prayers for “Before communing” and “Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament” are printed on the front cover of the hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE”	802
“SENT FORTH BY GOD’S BLESSING”	643
“COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING”	686

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE	P. 164
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COLLECT/BENEDICTION	P. 166
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CLOSING HYMN “FAITH AND TRUTH AND LIFE BESTOWING”	584
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

<p><u>Attendance Last Week</u> Sunday: 76</p>
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<p><u>Organist:</u> Lynn Mueller</p>

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. HYMNAL SALE – Are you interested in purchasing a Lutheran Service Book for yourself or as a gift? Concordia Publishing House is currently offering hymnals for \$20.00 each. A sheet is on the table in the Upper Narthex if you would like to order. Deadline to order is July 26th.

2. BLOOD DRIVE – The Lester Prairie High School and Community Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, July 15th from 1:00-7:00 PM at City Hall. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter LesterHS to schedule an appointment.

3. POOLSIDE PLATES – St. Paul is helping sponsor poolside plates on Wednesday, July 15th. Meal is served at the Picnic Shelter at the 2nd Avenue Park from 12:00-1 pm (or until gone!). This is a free meal for any kid under age 16 in Lester Prairie.

4. SANDWICH MINISTRY – Join us for our monthly sandwich making event on Thursday, July 16th at 8:30 a.m. We meet in the church basement.

5. QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING – Plan ahead to attend the next Quarterly Voters Meeting on **SUNDAY, July 19th**. The meeting is set to begin at 10:00 AM (following the church service). All communicant members who have reached legal voting age are welcome to attend! Minutes from the last Quarterly Meeting are available on the table near the elevator for you to review.

6. HELP NEEDED – The Lester Prairie Days Committee is looking for 6-8 helpers to work the Burger Stand on Saturday, July 18th from 10:30am-1pm. Burger stand workers will help with grilling burgers, assembling the burgers, taking tickets, and working the ice cream machine. If you are able to help out, please contact Amy Meyer at 320-223-4442. In addition to the burger stand shift, helpers are needed for set-up, take-down, and to help with the kids' activities. If you are able to help, visit our website at lpprairiedays.weebly.com or contact Amy for more information.

7. YOUTH NIGHT – Sunday, July 19 6:00-9:00 PM for Grades 5-12. Meet at the Church for Supper at 6:00 PM SHARP! We will eat and then head to the pool. We will come back to the church after the pool for Bible Study.

8. VBS/CAMP OMEGA – registration is open. Forms are available on the table in the Lower Narthex or on our church website. VBS/Camp Omega will be held August 3-7.

9. LWML MEETING – All women are invited to join us for fellowship in God's creation (Jane's backyard - 1502 185th St, LP) on Monday, August 3rd at 6:30. There will be a short meeting followed by good conversation and light refreshments.

10. THANK YOU – to everyone who came to the Hog Roast Dinner. Also a big thank you to Randy and Bonnie Rehmann and Patsy Schauer for all your help and also everyone that helped serve the meals. Thank you all!

11. TABLES – New basement tables have arrived! Since we were able to purchase a full pallet of tables, some tables in the Education Wing were also replaced, at no additional cost.

12. THANK YOU – to all who helped with the new basement table project! The old tables and oldest chairs were donated to congregation members, the City of LP, and the boat storage. We appreciate all who helped take out and bring in tables!!

13. SCHEDULE – *July 19~* Ushers: Brendan Feltmann, Jim Klaustermeier, Don Hoof; Acolytes: B. Thompson, M. Schauer; Greeters- Chip & Corbey Hentges; Flowers: Shirley Minnick; Altar Guild: Kim Dressler, Karissa Rasset; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

Sun. July 12	9:00 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMMUNION
	10:00 a.m.	Elders Meeting
Mon. July 13	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Wed. July 15	Noon	Deadline for Bulletin
Thurs. July 16	8:30 a.m.	Sandwich Ministry
Sun. July 19	9:00 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION
	10:00 a.m.	Quarterly Voters Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Night (Grades 5-12)