

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



JULY 26, 2026

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

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AS WE GATHER – THE SON OF GOD HAS REDEEMED US FOR HIMSELF WITH HIS HOLY AND PRECIOUS BLOOD –The Lord our God has chosen us to be “his treasured possession,” not because of any strength in us, but solely “because the LORD loves” us (Deut. 7:6–8). He is faithful, and He “keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments” (Deut. 7:9). He has searched for us and found us in love, and He has bestowed on us “great value” by the great price that He has paid on the cross (Matt. 13:45–46). In His joy, He has redeemed us by His cross and gathered us into His kingdom by the Gospel. Now we are “hidden in a field,” covered by the cross and subject to the persecution of the world (Matt. 13:44), not for destruction, but “to be conformed to the image of his Son” (Rom. 8:29). Since we “are called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28), and because Christ Jesus died, rose again and lives to intercede for us “at the right hand of God” (Rom. 8:34), there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from “the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:39).

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING I P. 151-166

PRESERVICE MUSIC

OPENING HYMN “IN THEE IS GLADNESS” 818

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠ P. 151

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT PSALM 105:2-6; ANTIPHON: V. 1

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!**

Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

**Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually!**

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

**O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

**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.**

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; 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

DEUTERONOMY 7:6-9

⁶“You are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

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 8:28-39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:44-52

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ**

NICENE CREED

p. 158

HYMN OF THE DAY “FROM GOD CAN NOTHING MOVE ME” **713**

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in your Mercy,

C **Hear our Prayer.**

In Our Prayers:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| + Andy Birkholz | + Bonnie Mueller |
| + Phyllis Ernst | + Angela Litzau |
| + Scott Christenson | + Sonya Clausen |
| + Cheryl Lueck | + Dan Gueningsman |
| | + Maya Radtke |

OFFERING

✠ 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

“THY BODY, GIVEN FOR ME, O SAVIOR”	619
“LORD, ‘TIS NOT THAT I DID CHOOSE THEE”	573
“THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION”	644

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE P. 164

COLLECT/BENEDICTION P. 166

CLOSING HYMN “ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS ” 821

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

<u>Attendance Last Week</u> Sunday: 117	<u>Organist:</u> Lynn Mueller
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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. VBS SET-UP NIGHT– Wednesday, July 29 at 6:30 p.m. All VBS helpers and any youth and adults who love to decorate are invited to join us in making our education wing into a Tropical Trek!!

2. VBS/CAMP OMEGA – It's time to get registered now!! Invite neighbors and friends to join us! Forms are available on the table in the Lower Narthex or on our church website. VBS/Camp Omega will be held August 3-7.

3. 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.

4. 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 TODAY July 26th. Payment can be made to the church office.

5. THRIVENT- We invite you to consider supporting our church projects through Thrivent Choice Dollars and Thrivent Action Teams. Your contributions will aid in a variety of initiatives designed to enhance our community and strengthen our faith. Whether it's supporting outreach programs, our church or launching new ministries, your help can make a significant impact. If you're interested in contributing, signing up to lead a Thrivent Action Team or learning more about how you can assist, please reach out to Julie Dial. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated and will help us in our mission to serve and uplift our community. Thank you for considering partnering with us in these meaningful endeavors!

6. SERVENT NEEDED –The Cemetery Committee is looking for one congregation member to join the committee as a member at large. Please contact Fred Holasek (320-405-7903) or Chip Hentges (952-200-3176) if interested.

7. SAVE THE DATE – Rally Sunday September 13th, "Lift High the Cross". Join us for our exciting new Sunday School curriculum!

8. THANK YOU – Stewardship committee would like to thank Paul Logelin for his help (trailer/driving) with our church parade float for Prairie Days. We also thank the Barlau family and Pastor Bliss for being on the float and throwing candy

9. THANK YOU – The Lester Prairie Days Committee would like to thank St. Paul's members Gaylen Schoenfeld, Jim Hvlaka, Audrey Litzau, Patsy Schauer, and Shirley Minnick for taking a shift in the burger stand. We appreciate all of the volunteers that helped out over the weekend in so many ways. We wouldn't be able to provide a fun festival without the support of our community. Thank you!

10. OFFICE HOURS –Pastor Barlau and Pastor Bliss will be out of the office on Fridays. Pastor Barlau and Pastor Bliss will be out of the office Sunday, July 26 (after service) until Wednesday, July 29th for Continuing Education.

11. SCHEDULE – *August 2* ~ Ushers: Kent Landin, Steven Dietel, Larry Roth; Acolytes: B. Mike, L. Schauer; Greeters- Jim Klaustermeier; Flowers: Jane Holasek; Altar Guild: Rachel Barlau, Megan Salden; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

Sun. July 26	9:00 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE. COMMUNION
Sun. July 26- Wed. July 29		Pastor Barlau and Pastor Bliss out of Office
Wed. July 29	Noon 6:30 p.m.	Deadline for Bulletin VBS Set-Up
Sun. Aug. 2	9:00 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION