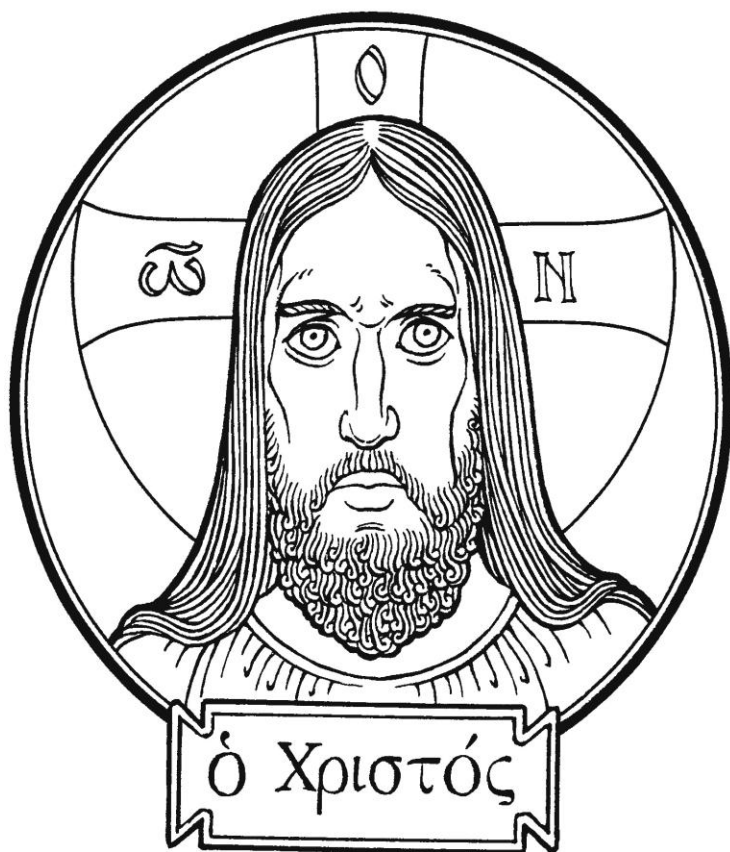


THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



AUGUST 23, 2026

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

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AS WE GATHER –THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD –
Jesus asked His disciples: “But who do you say that I am?” (Matt. 16:15). The question is also put to us: Who do you say that He is? Flesh and blood do not reveal this to us, but by the ministry of the Gospel, the Father in heaven reveals His Son to us on earth, who has become flesh and suffered death for our salvation. Thus, we believe and confess that He is “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt. 16:16). As He died for our transgressions and was raised for our justification, He looses us from all our sins and preserves our life within His Church, against which even “the gates of hell shall not prevail” (Matt. 16:18-19). His salvation is forever, and His righteousness “will never be dismayed” (Is. 51:6). He comforts us with the Gospel in His Church, so that “joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song” (Is. 51:3). Therefore, “according to the measure of faith that God has assigned” (Rom. 12:3), we also offer ourselves “as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God” (Rom. 12:1) through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING III P. 184-202

OPENING HYMN “O HOLY SPIRIT, ENTER IN ” 913

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

P. 184-185

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT PSALM 2:6-7; 117; ANTIPHON: PSALM 115:18

But we will bless the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!

**As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.**

I will tell of the decree:

The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”

**Praise the Lord, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!**

For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise
the Lord!

GLORIA PATRI

P. 186



G Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

KYRIE

P. 186

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

P. 187-189

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

G And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 51:1-6

¹"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. ³For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴"Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a

garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

PSALM 34:9, 19 ALT.

Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing! Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

EPISTLE

ROMANS 11:33-12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵"Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. ¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P. 190

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 16:13-20

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

G **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise be to Thee, O Christ**

NICENE CREED

P. 192

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“BUILT ON THE ROCK”

645

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in your Mercy, **G** **Hear our Prayer.**

<u>In Our Prayers:</u>	
+ Andy Birkholz	+ Bonnie Mueller
+ Phyllis Ernst	+ Sonya Clausen
+ Scott Christenson	+ Dan Gueningsman
+ Cheryl Lueck	+ Maya Radtke

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

P. 192

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠ P. 194-199

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. If you would still like to come forward to receive a blessing, please signify so by crossing your arms.

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

“I KNOW MY FAITH IS FOUNDED”	587
“YOUR TABLE I APPROACH”	628
“ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS”	662

NUNC DIMITTIS P. 199

COLLECT/SALUTATION P. 201

BENEDICTION P. 202

CLOSING HYMN “CHRIST IS OUR CORNERSTONE” 912

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Attendance Last Week
Sunday: 108

Organist:
Lynn Mueller

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. WINDOWS OF FAITH UPDATE – Currently we have received approximately \$58,000 out of the \$78,000 need for this project. Windows in the Education Wing have been replaced. Trim work will be completed on these windows soon. Stained glass windows will be repaired as money is available. A reminder that you can contribute to this project at any time. See the display in the Upper Narthex for more information, and for special offering envelopes. (You may also use your regular envelopes and indicate “Windows of Faith”)

2. CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION – 7th and 8th Grade will meet on Wednesday, August 26 at 7:00 pm.

3. RELEASE TIME – Release time will be starting up with the new school year. This will be for grades 3-6. Registration will take place at the Lester Prairie Public School Open House on Tuesday, August 25th from 4:00-7:00 PM and by contacting Pastor Barlau.

4. SUNDAY SCHOOL – Registration is now open for Sunday School. Please visit our Facebook page or website to find the link to register.

5. JOINT WORSHIP – Worship service on Sunday, September 6th will be held at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lester Prairie at 9:00 AM. There will be NO service at St. Paul that day.

6. LWML – It's time to collect items for School Kits that will be sent to Orphan Grain Train to distribute to kids who need them. The following are items requested by OGT. They ask not to deviate from this list. There is a sample kit on the LWML table. Light weight back packs (new or gently used). Spiral notebook (70 sheet), Pencils, Pens (like Bic), Construction Paper, 24 Count Crayons, 12" Ruler, Glue Sticks, Child Scissors, Eraser, 12 Count Colored Pencils, Pencil Sharpener, Single Pocket Folder. Place items in the bin below the table. You may also donate cash and we'll purchase the items.

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

8. MEETING – LWML invites all women to join us on Monday, September 14 at 6:30 in an education classroom. There will be a Bible study and coins (mites) will be collected for missions. A donation will be given from the treasury to Lutheran Bible Translators and Vicar Alex Nelson who is currently serving a congregation in Green Bay.

9. SERVANTS NEEDED to visit our senior members who are not able to regularly join us in the pews on Sunday mornings. All that's needed is a little time and conversation. If you are interested or would like more information, contact April Lee, alakelee@gmail.com, Jane Holasek, jfholasek@gmail.com, or the church office.

10. USHERS NEEDED- We are in need of ushers for both services throughout the year. If you sign up to usher, you will be assigned to help during 3 set months out of the year, for whichever service you prefer for generally 2 times a month. ANYONE who has been confirmed is able to help. If interested, please call Head Usher Jim Klaustermeier (320) 395-2387.

11. SCHEDULE – *August 30* ~ Ushers: Kent Landin, Steven Dietel, Larry Roth; Acolytes: B. Mike, A. Kosek; Greeters- Jerome Herrmann; Flowers: Jane Holasek; Altar Guild: Rachel Barlau, Megan Salden; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

Sun. Aug 23	9:00 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMMUNION
Tues. Aug 25	4:00-6:00 p.m.	LP School Open House (Release Time Registration)
Wed. Aug 26	Noon 7:00 p.m.	Deadline for Bulletin Confirmation Orientation and Acolyte Training
Sun. Aug 30	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP Endowment Committee Meeting