

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

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OPENING HYMN “HARK, THE VOICE OF JESUS CALLING” 827

✠ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠ P. 203

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT PSALM 116:12-13, 15-16; ANTIPHON: V. 17

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the Lord.

**What shall I render to the Lord
for all his benefits to me?**

I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.

**Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his saints.**

O Lord, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have
loosed my bonds.

**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.**

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the Lord.

KYRIE & GLORIA IN EXCELSIS P. 204

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before
You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in
Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word;
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 55:6-9

⁶“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

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

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14, 19-30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . . ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and

that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P. 205

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 20:1-16

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

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

P. 207

HYMN OF THE DAY “SALVATION UNTO US HAS COME” (vs. 1-5) 555

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “SALVATION UNTO US HAS COME” (vs. 6-10) 555

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

In Our Prayers:

+ Andy Birkholz	+ Bonnie Mueller
+ Phyllis Ernst	+ Sonya Clausen
+ Scott Christenson	+ Dan Gueningsman
+ Chester Dammann	+ Maya Radtke
+ Atticus Aldrich	+ Elva Kjenstad

OFFERING

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠ P. 208-210

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; 1 Cor. 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

"FOR ME TO LIVE IS JESUS"	742
"THINE THE AMEN, THINE THE PRAISE"	680
"LORD OF GLORY, YOU HAVE BOUGHT US"	851
"THY WORKS, NOT MINE, O CHRIST"	565 (T: 912)

NUNC DIMITTIS P. 211

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION P. 212

CLOSING HYMN "LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS" 738

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Attendance Last Week

Sunday: 151

Bible Study: 22

Sunday School: 45

Organist:

Jane Holasek

Acknowledgement:

+ A memorial for Dennis and Luaine Rolfzen was received in the amount of \$100.00 for the Windows of Faith Campaign.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. SPAM EMAIL ALERT – If you receive an email from "Pastor" requesting a proposal, etc, please note that this is a SPAM email. Do not click on any links. If you have questions, please contact the church office.

2. ITEMS AVAILABLE – As a major cleaning of the Sunday School rooms is taking place, many excess items are available for congregation member. Please view the items on the tables by the coat racks and take what you can use.

3. CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE – Our initial draft of the directory (pictures, pages and roster) has been submitted to Universal Church Directories for the first print! We hope to receive the first printed version within 2-4 weeks for our review. Once we review/approve, then it'll go to final printing of the actual books and we should receive those within 2 to 3 weeks after we've approved. We're almost there. Stewardship would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and especially, their patience!

4. WINDOWS OF FAITH MATCHING GIFT – We have received a generous offer from a member who is willing to match up to \$5,000 in new donations to the Windows of Faith campaign. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution so that we can finish off the stained-glass portion of this campaign.

5. BIBLE STUDY – The Book of Beginnings will be held on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. This bible study will be led by Pastor Arndt and Pastor Barlau.

6. PORK CHOP DINNER BENEFIT for Scott Christenson hosted by the Lester Prairie Fire Department on Saturday, October 10th from 11am - 1pm at the Lester Prairie Fire Station. Tickets sold in advance, with a limited number of walk up tickets available. Please see members of the fire department for tickets, Steve Dietel, Keith Christen, Jim Hoof, Shadd Dial, or Calvin Dial.

7. SERVICE UPDATE – The St. Michael and All Saints Worship Service will be held on Tuesday, September 29th at 6:30 p.m. (Update from September Lamplighter calendar).

8. PRESCHOOL MUSIC CLASS will be meeting the first 4 Thursdays in October from 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the Music Room. We welcome parents and kids infants through age 5 to join us for fun and active musical activities! Please invite a friend from the area to join us too! Taught by Jane Holasek (320) 224-1742.

9. CONFIRMATION STUDENTS/PARENTS- Please check your emails! An email was sent out last week (to whatever email address was listed on the sign-up sheet) with the link to sign-up for Acolyting. Deadline to sign-up is September 23rd, otherwise you will be scheduled by the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact Admin. Assistant Amanda (stpaulslp@embarqmail.com, 320-395-2573).

10. TRUNK OR TREAT will be on Friday, October 30th from 4:00-6:00 pm in our church parking lot! (This coordinates with the business event downtown.) Sign-up is in the lower narthex, or you may email Jane Holasek at jfholasek@gmail.com by Oct. 18. See more information in the October Lamplighter or contact Jane. We'll help you! Join us for this fun out-reach event on October 30th!

11. ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY – Our next highway clean-up date will be Sunday October 25. EVERYONE 12 and older is welcome to help with this service project. We will meet at church at 12:30 PM to watch the safety video, then carpool out to our clean-up site.

There is a permission slip that needs to be filled out by a parent if volunteers are between 12 and 17. These will be available for you that day. Per MN DOT rules, children under 12 are not allowed to help with ditch clean-up.

12. PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION – The nominating committee will be contacting members to serve on the various boards/positions. Please give this request prayerful consideration. Thank you from the Nominating Committee.

13. WINTER GEAR COLLECTION – We will be collecting new and gently-used KIDS winter gear (coats, hats, mittens) for the Marie Sandvick Center. A box will in the Lower Narthex until October 15th.

14. SCHEDULE – *September 27* ~ Ushers: 1st Service: Adam Birkholz, Todd Ruschmeyer, Jacob Ross, Fred Holasek; 2nd Service: Mike Lee, Gary Kosek, Ben Schulteis, Mavrik Kosek; Acolytes: 1st Service: A. Kosek, W. Schauer; 2nd Service: M. Vazquez, A. Vazquez Greeters- 1st Service: Gaylen Schoenfeld, 2nd Service: Mike & April Lee Family; Flowers: Patsy Schauer; Altar Guild: Jennifer Mallak, Barb Kegler; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

Sun. Sept 20	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION Sunday School/ Bible Study WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION
Mon. Sept 21	Noon	Deadline for Lamplighter 4 th Grade Release Time Class
Wed. Sept 23	Noon 2:55 p.m.	Deadline for Bulletin 5 th /6 th Grade Release Time Class Confirmation Class
Thurs. Sept 24	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Sun. Sept 27	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	WORSHIP W/ CONT LINE COMM Sunday School/ Bible Study WORSHIP W/ CONT LINE COMM