

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

124 MAPLE STREET NORTH

LESTER PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA

(320) 395-2573

Pastor Barlau: Cell (612) 394-6224

Pastor email: pastorbarlau@gmail.com

www.stpaulp.org

OPENING HYMN “MAY WE THY PRECEPTS, LORD, FULFILL” 698

✠ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠ P. 203

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT PSALM 147:1-5; ANTIPHON: V. 6

The Lord lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

**Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**

The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

**He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.**

He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.

**Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.**

**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 lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

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.

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . . ²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

PSALM 91:11; 103:1

He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

EPISTLE

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4, 14-18

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own

interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P. 205

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 21:23-27

P The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

P. 206

HYMN OF THE DAY "LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD" 655

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in your Mercy, **G** 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; 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

- | | |
|---|-----|
| “ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS’ NAME” | 549 |
| “LORD, WHOSE LOVE THROUGH HUMBLE SERVICE” | 848 |
| “DRAW NEAR AND TAKE THE BODY OF THE LORD” | 637 |

NUNC DIMITTIS

P. 211

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

P. 212

CLOSING HYMN “FORTH IN THY NAME, O LORD, I Go” 854 (T: 405)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Attendance Last Week

Sunday: 185

Bible Study: 29

Sunday School: 52

Organist:

Lynn Mueller

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. 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).

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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!

5. 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. To date we have received \$860.00 towards this matching fund. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution so that we can finish off the stained-glass portion of this campaign.

6. 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.

7. 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.

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. 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!

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. APPRECIATION MONTH – Stewardship would like to remind everyone that October is Church Worker Appreciation Month. Please help us show our church workers how much we

appreciate them! There will be a table in the upper narthex with a place to put items for Pastor Barlau and our Administrative Assistant Amanda Streufert. Feel free to leave a note or card of appreciation for them and Stewardship will make sure they get them. Either bring your own card or use the blank ones provided on the table. We are fortunate to have such dedicated people serving the Lord with us!

14. ENDOWMENT – To the Members of St. Paul’s Congregation: It’s that time of the year again when the Church Council begins to discuss how to allocate the undesignated earnings of the Endowment Fund for 2026. If you have suggestions as to how these funds could best be used, please contact a council member by November 1st. (Keep in mind, according to our policy, the proceeds cannot be used for General Expenses.)

15. SCHEDULE – *October 4* ~ Ushers: 1st Service: Paul Logelin, Jim Hoof; 2nd Service: John Lange, Doug Hecksel, Nathan Ide; Acolytes: 1st Service: W. Schauer, J. Schauer; 2nd Service: C. Bebo, J. Barlau; Greeters- 1st Service: Chip & Corbey Hentges, 2nd Service: Wayne & Tanya Mathews; Flowers: Lois Raduenz; Altar Guild: Erin Herrmann, Christin LaMott; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

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
Mon. Sept 28	Noon	4 th Grade Release Time Class
Tues. Sept 29	6:30 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL AND ALL SAINTS WORSHIP SERVICE
Wed. Sept 30	Noon 2:55 p.m.	Deadline for Bulletin 5 th /6 th Grade Release Time Class Confirmation Class
Thurs. Oct. 1	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Preschool Music Class Bible Study
Fri. Oct 2	5:30 p.m.	Wedding Rehearsal
Sat. Oct 3	2:00 p.m.	Wedding
Sun. Oct 4	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION Sunday School/ Bible Study WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION