

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



OCTOBER 4, 2026

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

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LESTER PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA

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PRESERVICE MUSIC

OPENING HYMN "IF YOUR BELOVED SON, O GOD" 568

✠ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠ P. 151

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT PSALM 118:22-24 ANTIPHON: V. 1

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.**

This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**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, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

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.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 5:1-7

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

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 3:4B-14

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may

share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P. 156

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 21:33-46

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³³[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.” ⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard

his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them.
⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ

APOSTLES' CREED **P. 159**

HYMN OF THE DAY **"O LOVE, HOW DEEP "** **544**

SERMON

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 |
| + Cheryl Lueck | |
| + Pastor Arndt | |
| + Joshua and Megan Artmann | |

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

“LORD JESUS, THINK ON ME”	610
“CHRIST, THE WORD OF GOD INCARNATE”	540
“MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN”	430
“O JESUS, BLESSED LORD, TO THEE”	632
POST COMMUNION CANTICLE	P. 164
COLLECT/BENEDICTION	P. 166
CLOSING HYMN “CHRIST IS OUR CORNERSTONE”	912

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

<u>Attendance Last Week</u> Sunday: 185 Bible Study: 29 Sunday School: 52	<u>Organist:</u> Jane Holasek
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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. GOD’S BLESSINGS** to Joshua Artmann and Megan Salden who were united in marriage yesterday.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.

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. To date we have received \$2,005.00 towards this matching fund. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution so that we can finish off the stained-glass portion of this campaign.

5. 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.

6. 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!

7. 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.

8. PUMPKIN CARVING – October 31 Pumpkin Carving—Do you need a Jack-o'-lantern for your front porch? Come to church from 1-3p.m. Families are welcome. We have plenty of pumpkins, but you can bring your own. If you need someone to carve a pumpkin for you we will have extra people willing! We will be judging and revealing on Sunday our top 3 pumpkins

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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!

12. 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.)

13. SCHEDULE – *October 11* ~ Ushers: 1st Service: Peter Feltmann, Cameron Mogenson, Duane Litzau 2nd Service: Joey Schauer, Jack Schauer, Brandon Schmidt; Acolytes: 1st Service: B. Thompson, E. Christen; 2nd Service: C. Bebo, T. Herrmann; Greeters- 1st Service: Dan & Tina Heiraas, 2nd Service: Brett & Darlene Schmidt; Flowers: Lois Raduenz; Altar Guild: Erin Herrmann, Christin LaMott; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

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
Mon. Oct 5	Noon	4 th Grade Release Time Class
Wed. Oct 7	Noon 2:55 p.m.	Deadline for Bulletin 5 th /6 th Grade Release Time Class Confirmation Class
Thurs. Oct. 8	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Preschool Music Class Bible Study
Sun. Oct 11	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.