



SCAN TO REGISTER  
OR VOLUNTEER



CommUNITY VBS invites you to this amazing, **FREE** 5-day event from **Sunday, July 20 to Thursday, July 24** at **Immanuel Lutheran Church (501 8th Ave, Rock Falls, IL)**! We'll start with a free dinner for students and volunteers at **5:30 PM**, then we'll have music, crafts, science experiments, games, and Bible adventures from **6-8 PM**!

True North is for students age 4 to just finished 5th grade. Adults and older students are invited to volunteer!

After True North, join us on **Sunday, July 27 at 9:30 AM** at **Grandon Civic Center** for a VBS Worship Service!



**Sunday, June 1, 2025**  
**9:00 a.m.**

## Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

### St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

### Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion

10:15 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

### Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

### Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

### Children's Offering

The children's offering for the month of June will support Cledy's House of Hope: A Legacy Women's Sober Living Home

Located in Rock Falls, IL, Cledy's House of Hope is a 42-bed recovery residence for women, designed to honor the legacy of Cledy Rumley, a devoted mother and champion of hope. This safe, structured, and supportive environment is a sanctuary for women committed to rebuilding their lives in sobriety.

Cledy's House of Hope welcomes women from all over the world who meet strict eligibility requirements. Residents must actively participate in a recovery program and demonstrate a commitment to personal growth and accountability.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

[pastormark@stpaulsterling.com](mailto:pastormark@stpaulsterling.com)

1701 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081

815-625-3069

Church email: [stpaulsterling@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulsterling@comcast.net)

[www.stpaulsterling.com](http://www.stpaulsterling.com)

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

### Prelude

*“Blest Be the Tie That Binds’ with ‘Make Us One’”*

Carol Cymbala

### Welcome/Announcements

P: Welcome to Worship today!

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**All: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

P: In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

**All: Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

P: Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**All: make us one as you are one.**

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**All: make us one as you are one.**

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**All: make us one as you are one.**

P: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**All: Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn

#### ***“Hello ,Everybody”***

*Refrain*



Words and Music: Traditional

### Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

**All: O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### First Reading: Acts 16:16-34

<sup>16</sup> One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.” <sup>18</sup> She kept doing this for many days. But Paul,

very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup> When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews <sup>21</sup> and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.” <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup> They answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” <sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup> He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 97

R: The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

**All: Clouds and darkness surround the LORD, righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.**

R: Fire goes before the LORD, burning up enemies on every side.

**All: Lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.**

R: The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth.

**All: The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD, and all the peoples see your glory.**

R: Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before the LORD, all you gods.

**All: Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD.**

R: For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

**All: You who love the LORD, hate evil! God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**

R: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.

**All: Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name.**

## Second Reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

<sup>12</sup> "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

<sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

<sup>16</sup> "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

<sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

<sup>20</sup> The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## Gospel: John 17:20-26

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 17<sup>h</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus prayed:] <sup>20</sup> "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them,


and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,  
**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**


**Children’s Message**

**Sermon**  
Pastor Harold Grafe

**Hymn of the Day**  
**“Blessed Assurance”**  
ELW #638




1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,




Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915  
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

**Graduate and Faith Formation Leader Recognition**

**Academic Achievements**  
AJ Avelar: Challand Middle School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion  
Austin Petty: Dixon Middle School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion  
Lillyanna Reyes: Rock Falls Middle School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion  
Walker Bartel: Oregon Middle School – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion  
Jackson Mager: Sterling High School  
Paige Reitzel: Sterling High School  
Hunter Bartel: Oregon High School  
Amy Zeigler: Augustana College, BA in Math and English. She will attend the University of Iowa College of Law this fall.

P: Let us pray together:  
**All: God of wisdom, bless these graduates. May the lessons they learned and the legacy of their accomplishments be blessed to be a blessing. Amen.**

**Faith Formation Leaders:**

Susan Bartel	Melissa Arians	Stacey Avelar
Mary Ordean	Julie Woessner	Ashley Platz
David Carrillo	Chad Arians	Gabby Law
Dawn Zeigler		

**BLESSING:**  
P: Let us pray together:  
**All: As these leaders have been a blessing to our children and to our church so bless these them and their families. Amen.**

**Nicene Creed**  
P: Trusting in Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, let us profess our faith through the words of the Nicene Creed:

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

P: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*Each petition ends with these words:*

P: Hear us, O God

**All: Your mercy is great.**

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**All: Amen.**

### **Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you!**

P: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

### **MEAL**

#### **Offering**

*"Borning Cry"*

stg. Robert A. Hobby

#### **Offering Prayer**

P: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

**All: Amen.**

#### **The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

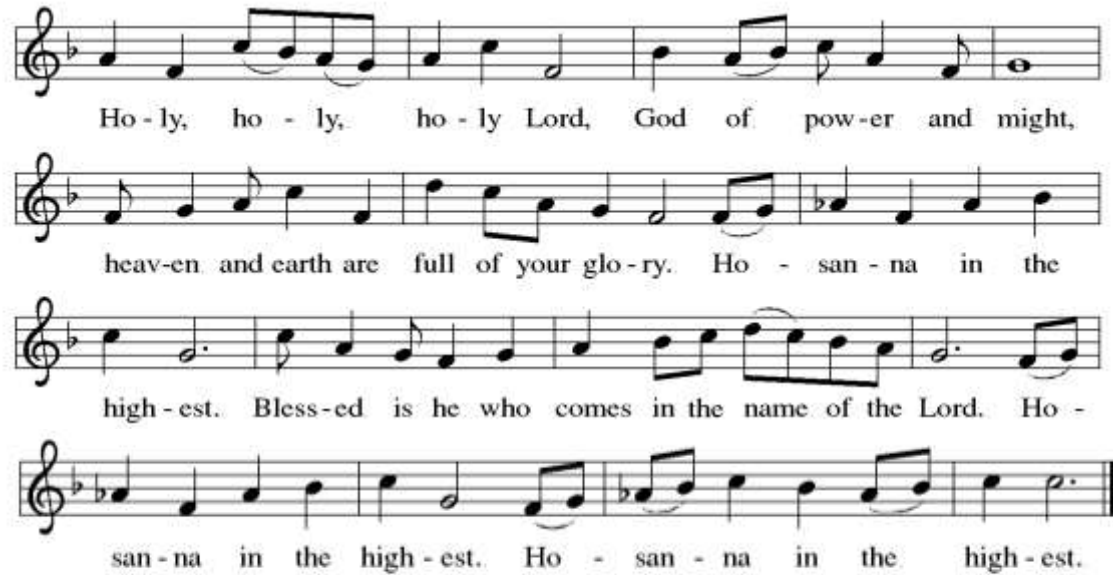
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### **Words of Institution**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; who, enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### ***“Holy, Holy, Holy”***



### **The Words of Institution**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

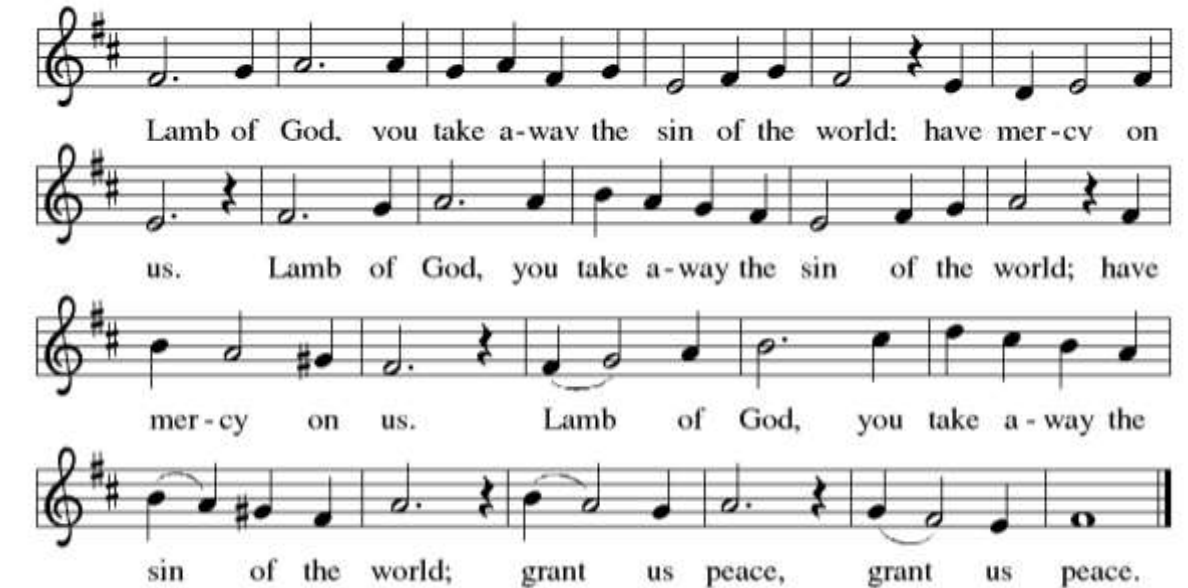
### **Invitation to Communion**

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

### **Communion**

#### **Communion Music**

#### ***“Lamb of God”***



#### ***“That Christ Be Known”***

Marty Schaefer

#### ***“Who Can Satisfy My Soul Like You?”***

Dennis Jerrigan

### **Prayer after Communion**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**All: Amen.**

P: Let us pray.

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

**All: Amen**

**Blessing**

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.  
**All: Amen.**

**Sending Song**

**“Go, My Children with My Blessing”**  
ELW #543

1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love’s bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son’s sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it’s pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own.”  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.  
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional  
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

**Dismissal**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
P: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.  
**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

*“This Little Light of Mine”*  
arr. J. Bert Carlson

**We Remember in Prayer;** those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Sandy Julifs, Mike, Lori Dewey, Debbie Dybinski, Bev Julien, Dylan Wescott, Dianne Miller, Ken & Sharon Mager, Phyllis Jacobson, JoAnn Garcia, Barb Lenn, Betty Steinke, Larry Wahler, and Lila Edeus.

**Worship Assistants:**

Presider – Pastor Harold Grafe  
Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean  
Acolytes – Ordean family  
Greeters – Audrey & Cathy Cox  
Ushers – Janie Billings, Donna Kendall  
Reader – Marilyn Geiger  
Communion Assistant – Greg Zeigler  
Sound – Greg Zeigler  
Altar Guild – Audrey & Cathy Cox

**Musicians:**

Julie Woessner  
Dawn Zeigler

**Next week – June 8**

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Greg Zeigler  
Acolytes – Arians family  
Greeters – Susan Kuehl, Nancy Eilers  
Ushers – Ruben & JoAnn Garcia  
Reader – JoAnn Garcia  
Communion Assistant – Chad Arians  
Sound – Bradyn Arians  
Altar Guild – Audrey & Cathy Cox  
Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*