



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 22, 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

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Third Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

By Faye Lopez

"Amazing Grace" (My Chains Are Gone)

Words and Music by John Newton, Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio;

Arranged by Mary McDonald

Welcome/Announcements

P: Welcome to Worship today!

Confession and Forgiveness

P: All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God, you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life.

All: Amen.

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn
“We Will Glorify”

1 We will glo - ri - fy the King of kings, we will
2 Lord Je - ho - vah reigns in maj - es - ty, we will
3 He is Lord of heav - en, Lord of earth, he is
4 Hal - le - lu - jah to the King of kings, hal - le -

glo - ri - fy the Lamb; we will glo - ri - fy the
bow be - fore his throne; we will wor - ship him in
Lord of all who live; he is Lord a - bove the
lu - jah to the Lamb; hal - le - lu - jah to the

Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.
righ - teous - ness, we will wor - ship him a - lone.
u - ni - verse, all praise to him we give.
Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.

Text: Twila Paris
Music: Twila Paris; arr. David Allen
Text and music © 1982 Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing

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 Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 65:1-9

¹ I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, “Here I am, here I am,” to a nation that did not call on my name.

² I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices;

³ a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks;

⁴ who sit inside tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat swine’s flesh, with broth of abominable things in their vessels;

⁵ who say, “Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.” These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long.

⁶ See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their laps

⁷ their iniquities and their ancestors’ iniquities together, says the LORD; because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the hills, I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions.

⁸ Thus says the LORD: As the wine is found in the cluster, and they say, “Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it,” so I will do for my servants’ sake, and not destroy them all.

⁹ I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 22:19-28

R: But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.

All: Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.

R: Save me from the lion’s mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

All: I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

R: You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

All: For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

R: From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

All: The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

R: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

All: For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-29

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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: Luke 8:26-39

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 8th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶ Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"—²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

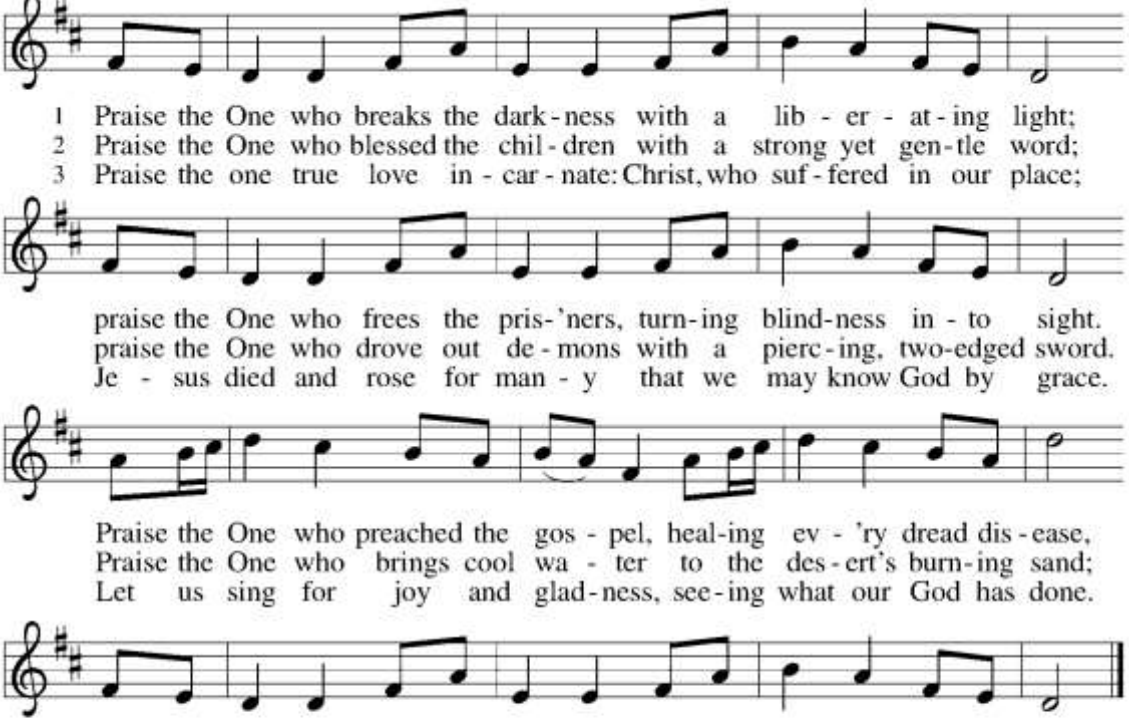
Children’s Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

ELW #843



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;

praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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Apostles Creed

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

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

P: God of grace,
All: hear our prayer.

P: Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our 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

“He Will Carry You”
Words and Music by Scott Wesley Brown
Arranged by John Purifoy

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”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Communion

Communion Music

“In the Singing”

1 In the sing-ing, in the si-lence, in the hands ex-pect-ant, o-pen,
2 In the ques-tion, in the an-swer, in the mo-ment of ac-cept-ance,
in the bless-ing, in the break-ing, in your pres-ence at this ta-ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal-ing, in the cir-cle of your peo-ple,

Refrain
Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931
Music: BREAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926
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“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”
Mary McDonald

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.
Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus’ name.

All: Amen

Blessing

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace.

All: Amen.

Sending Song

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

ELW #798

1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 “Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for the cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
my name, Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found, to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show, Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"
pray'r in you and you in me?"
mean in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: Scottish traditional
Text © 1987 Inna Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

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

“All Earth Will Sing Your Praises”

Words and Music by Paul Baloché

Arranged by Lyndell Leatherman

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Michael Harting celebrating this birthday, by Bev Julien.

Coffee Fellowship will be served following worship this morning hosted by Nancy Eilers. Everyone is welcome!

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

Worship Assistants:

Presider – Pastor Elizabeth Mascal

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Greg Zeigler

Acolytes – Altar Guild

Greeters – Carolyn Duncan, Bev Graunke

Ushers – Gary Fields, Dan Dir

Reader – Carolyn Duncan

Communion Assistant – Janie Billings

Sound – David Carrillo

Altar Guild – Audrey & Cathy Cox

Musicians:

Lori Attig

Julie Woessner

Next week – June 29

Rock River Valley Barbershop Chorus

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – David Carrillo

Acolytes – Altar Guild

Greeters/Ushers – John Renner, Diane Yoeckel

Reader – Greg Zeigler

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Altar Guild – Audrey & Cathy Cox

Coffee Fellowship – Nancy and her crew

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