



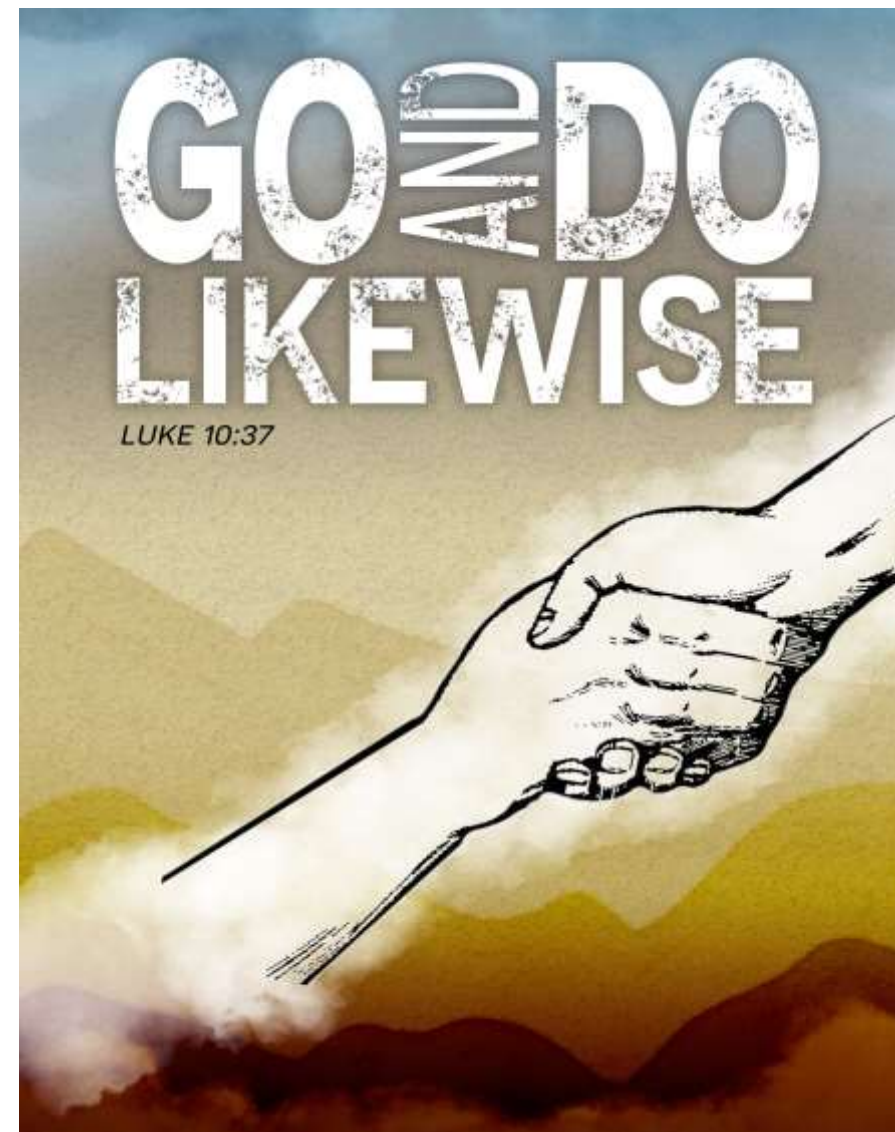
SCAN TO REGISTER  
OR VOLUNTEER



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, July 13, 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 July Children's offering will go to towards the purchase of supplies needed for LWR School Kits. Families are also invited to shop for the needed supplies or contribute monetary donations to be used to purchase the items. Grab an empty bag from the coat rack at the back of the sanctuary to take with you. The list of items is attached to the bags.

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)

## Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

### Prelude

*"How Great Thou Art"*

Hine

### 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  
“God Is Here!”  
ELW #526

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000  
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991  
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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, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:9-14  
<sup>9</sup>The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, <sup>10</sup>when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.  
<sup>11</sup>“Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup>It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ <sup>13</sup>Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ <sup>14</sup>No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,  
All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10  
R: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
All: My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.



R: Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**All: Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

R: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**All: Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

R: Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

**All: You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

R: You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

**All: All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

### Second Reading: Colossians 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup> To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup> In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup> because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. <sup>7</sup> This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup> and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may walk worthy

of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation



### Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>25</sup> An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup> He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" <sup>27</sup> He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to

Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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

**Children’s Message**

**Sermon**  
“Why Do We Call Him God?”

**Hymn of the Day**  
**“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”**  
ELW #708

*Refrain*



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show  
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent-ly wash-es their feet,  
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,  
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;  
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent-ly wash-ing their feet:

*Refrain*

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.  
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.  
Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin  
Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

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  
“I Need Thee Every Hour”  
Hawks/Lowry

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

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 -



**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 This Feast of Love”**

Musical notation for the hymn "In This Feast of Love" in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the staff. The hymn is a three-part setting with three verses. The first verse is: "1 In this feast of love, in this"; the second verse is: "2 In this bread and wine, in this"; the third verse is: "3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us". The lyrics continue: "feast of love, Lord, you share your bread and O wine, you have promised, peace, O Lord; fill us with the blood and your body, Jesus, Lamb of God. Lord, to be with us, Lamb of God divine. joy of your Spirit, ever-living Word." The hymn is by Jarkko Maukonen, tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954. The music is by TÄSSÄ PÖYDÄSSÄ, Jarkko Maukonen; arr. Mark Sedio. Text and music © 2017, 2020 Jarkko Maukonen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*“Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast”*  
Wesley

**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.

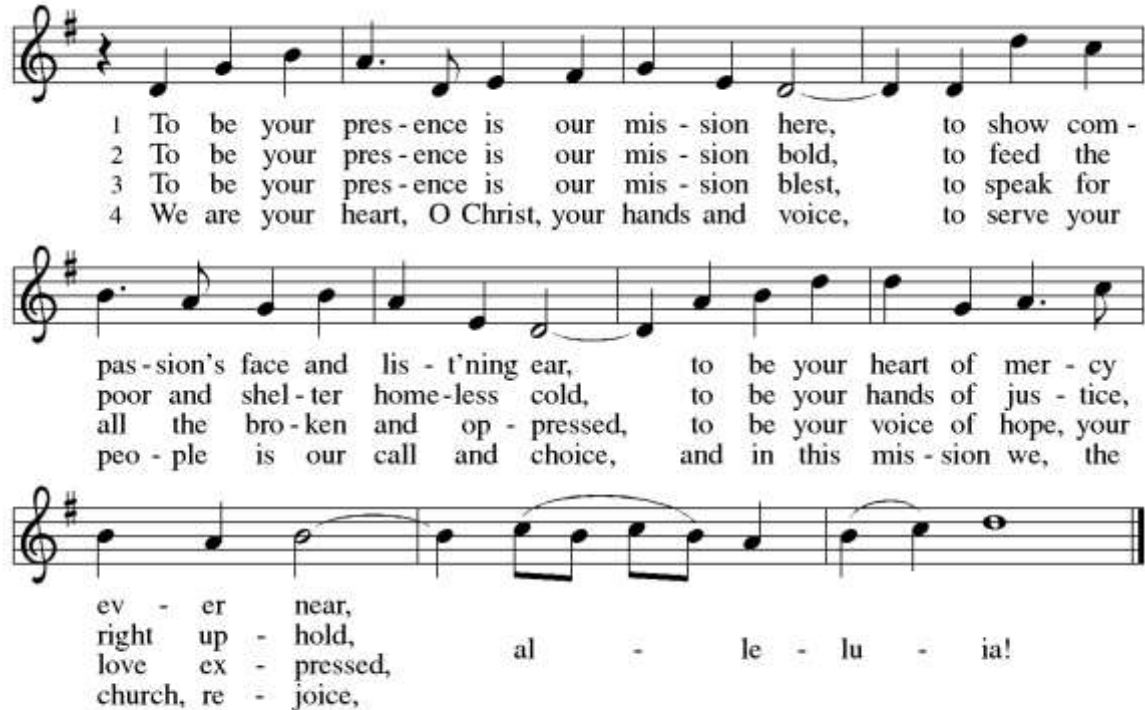
**All: Amen**

**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**  
**“To Be Your Presence”**  
ELW #546



1 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion here, to show com-  
2 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion bold, to feed the  
3 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion blest, to speak for  
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your

pas-sion's face and lis-t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer-cy  
poor and shel-ter home-less cold, to be your hands of jus-tice,  
all the bro-ken and op-pressed, to be your voice of hope, your  
peo-ple is our call and choice, and in this mis-sion we, the

ev-er near,  
right up-hold,  
love ex-pressed,  
church, re-joice,  
al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939  
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924  
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**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**

*“I Know Whom I Have Believed”*

Whittle/McGranahan

**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.

**Coffee Fellowship** will be served following worship this morning hosted by David Carrillo.

**Worship Assistants:**

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters – Susan Kuehl, Dan Dir

Ushers – Nancy Beck, Carolyn Duncan

Reader – Carolyn Duncan

Sound – David Carrillo

Communion Assistant – Lily Segura

Altar Guild – Janie Billings, Susan Kuehl

**Musicians:**

Maureen Marrindino

Julie Woessner

**Next week – July 20**

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – David Carrillo

Acolytes – Arians family

Greeters – Bev Graunke, Nancy Eilers

Ushers – Diane Yoeckel, Keith Peugh

Reader – Keith Peugh

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Communion Assistant – Greg Zeigler

Altar Guild – Janie Billings, Susan Kuehl

Coffee Fellowship – Nancy Eilers

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