



JOIN US FOR  
**SPLASH  
DAY**  
AUGUST 17th |

STARTS AT 10:30  
DIRECTLY AFTER SERVICE

FREE EVENT WITH SNACKS  
AND DRINKS AVAILABLE

**ACTIVITIES**

SPRINKLERS, WATER  
BALLOONS, CHALK,  
PLAYGROUND,  
TODDLER/BABY FRIENDLY  
WATER TOYS, AND MORE!

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1701 16TH AVE, STERLING, IL 61081



**“I came to  
cast fire on  
the earth.”**

**LUKE 12:49, ESV**

**Sunday, August 17, 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 August Children's offering will go to towards the shipping of the LWR School Kits that have been collected.

## Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Prelude

*"Awake, My Soul"*

Lani Smith

### Welcome/Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: 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

**All: 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. 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.**

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

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

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Gathering Hymn  
“Let the Whole Creation Cry”  
ELW #876



1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, “Glo - ry to the Lord on high!”  
2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,  
3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,  
Heav’n and earth, a - wake and sing, “Praise to our al - might - y king!”  
those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.  
and let chil - dren’s hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;  
Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;  
Pow’rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;  
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:  
sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.  
all who work and all who wait, sing, “The Lord is good and great!”  
“Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!”

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832–1916, alt.  
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

**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, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our**

**stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29**  
<sup>23</sup> Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup> Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup> I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed! I have dreamed!” <sup>26</sup> How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup> They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup> Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

**Psalm: Psalm 82**  
R: God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:  
**All: “How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?**  
R: Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;  
**All: rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked. R**  
R: They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.  
**All: Now I say to you, ‘You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;**  
R: nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.’ ”  
**All: Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.**

## Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



## Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup> “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

<sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Backpack Blessing**

P: O God of Wisdom, bless these backpacks, bags, and tools for schools and the students, teachers, staff, and workers who carry them. May they be for your service and give you glory. Help them carry their load and live out your love. In the name of Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

**Sermon**

“The Bad News About the Good News”

**Hymn of the Day**

*“O God, Whose Word Well-Planted”*

1 O God, whose word well-planted yields fruit a hundred-fold,  
2 O God of seed and harvest, of sun and soil and rain,  
3 O God, your final harvest of his-try's ancient field  
we praise your graces granted to those who sowed of old,  
at-tend the word we sow, lest its planting be in vain.  
will test with truth the proudest that human work can yield.  
who by their witness scattered good seed upon the soil  
Send showers of your Spirit, bright sunshine of your grace,  
Op-pression's blight will vanish, fair freedom's fruits increase;  
where others, reaping, gathered the harvest of their toil.  
that multitudes who hear it your gospel may embrace.  
and love and joy will flourish to clothe the earth with peace.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007  
Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952  
Text and music © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

**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**

P: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

P: O God,

**All: Your mercy is great.**

P: Confident in God’s presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

**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

*"How Firm a Foundation"*

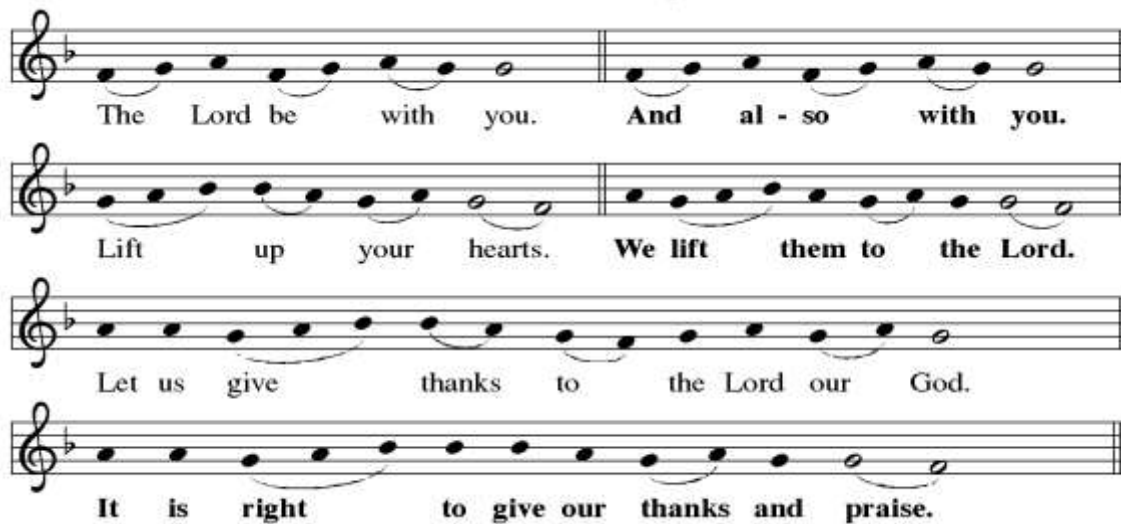
arr. C.E. Walz

### Offering Prayer

P: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

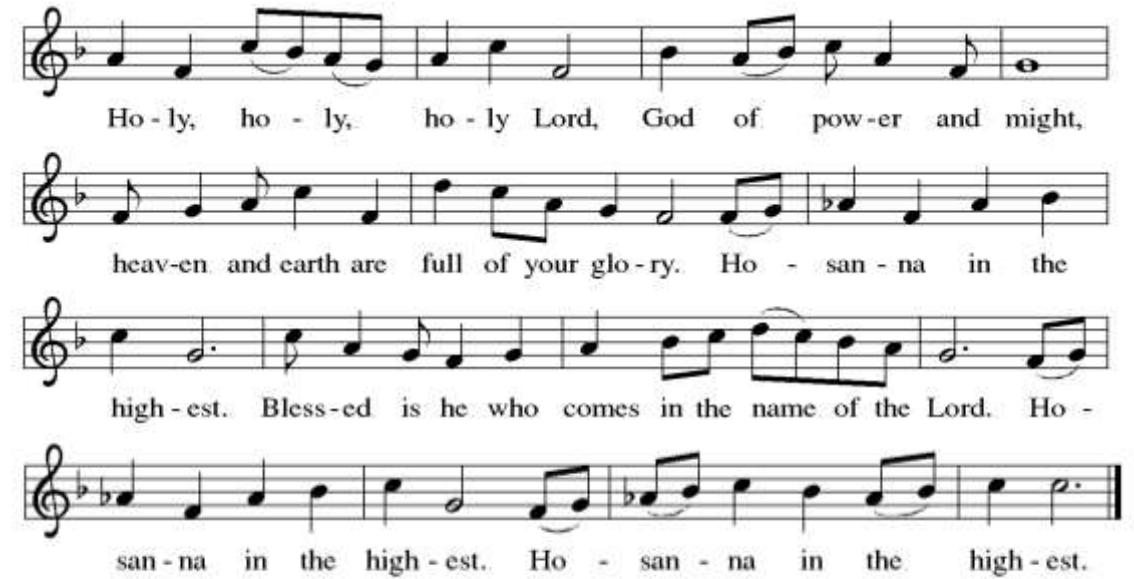
**All: Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving



P: 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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: The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Communion

Communion Music

“Lamb of God”

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

“Come, Let Us Eat”

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

“Lord, My Strength”

Dean Krippachne

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

“The Lord Now Stands Us Forth”

ELW #538

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.  
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain  
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus’ name;  
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923  
Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America  
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

## **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

*“One Pure and Holy Passion”*

Mark Altrogge

**Coffee Fellowship** will be served following worship hosted by Carolyn Duncan and Bev Graunke. All are welcome!

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

**Placing our confidence** in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of our loved ones, we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of John Carrillo. John passed away on August 8. John is David Carrillo’s grandfather.

*May God’s presence bring you comfort and peace.*

## **Worship Assistants:**

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – David Carrillo

Acolytes – Arians family

Greeters – Nancy Beck, Greg Zeigler

Ushers – Diane Yoeckel, Donna Kendall

Reader – Bev Julien

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Communion Assistants – Nancy Beck, Greg Zeigler

Altar Guild – Debbie O’Brien, Diane Yoeckel

## **Musicians:**

Julie Woessner

Dawn Zeigler

## **Next Week – August 24**

### **Worship Assistants**

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Stacey Avelar

Acolytes – Avelar family

Greeters – Janie Billings, Susan Kuehl

Ushers – Dan Dir, Ruben Garcia

Reader – Greg Zeigler

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Communion Assistant – Janie Billings

Altar Guild – Debbie O’Brien, Diane Yoeckel

Coffee Fellowship – David Carrillo

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