



St. Paul
Children's
Ministry

Sunday School

Grades K-7

SUNDAYS
10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

SEPTEMBER 14TH –
MAY 31ST

1701 16th Ave, Sterling, IL 61081
Email: gabby@stpaulsterling.com

The poster features a large red flower in the top left corner, a yellow circle, and three thick, curved lines in green, yellow, and red on the right side. There are also green leaves and a yellow tulip at the bottom right.



**Sunday, August 31, 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.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

pastormark@stpaulsterling.com

1701 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081

815-625-3069

Church email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

www.stpaulsterling.com

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

"More Like Jesus"

Ligertwood, Ligertwood, Stanfill, Younker

Welcome/Announcements

Temple Talk

Chrissy Zollinger

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.

Gathering Hymn

“Gather Us In”

ELW #532

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,
van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.
Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,
we shall a-rise at the sound of our name,
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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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 God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great,

^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 112

R: Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

All: Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

R: Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

All: Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

R: It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

All: For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

R: They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

All: Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.

R: They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

All: The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹Let mutual affection continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Luke 14:1; 7-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 14th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." ¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“In the Singing”

ELW #466

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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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: Hear us, 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

“This Is Christ’s Body”

Anne Krentz Organ

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: 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.

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”

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

“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.

“Broken for Me”

arr. Mimi Farra

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

“Thank You, Lord”

1 Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord, thank you,
2 Been so good, been so good, been so
3 Been my friend, been my friend, been my
4 Love you, Lord, love you, Lord, love you,

Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.
good, I just want to thank you, Lord.
friend, I just want to thank you, Lord.
Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.

Text: Traditional
Music: THANK YOU, LORD, Traditional

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”

Traditional South African

Coffee Fellowship will be served following worship hosted by David Carrillo. All are welcome!

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

Worship Assistants:

Presider – Pastor Janet Wold

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – David Carrillo

Acolytes – Arians family

Greeters – Nancy Eilers, Bev Graunke

Ushers – Keith Peugh, Nancy Beck

Reader – Keith Peugh

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Communion Assistants – Nancy Eilers, Nancy Beck

Altar Guild – Debbie O’Brien, Diane Yoeckel

Musicians:

Live:

Linda VonHolten

Recorded:

Mont Cessna, drums

Dawn Zeigler, keyboards

Next Week – September 7

Worship Assistants

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Chrissy Zollinger

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters – Donna Kendall, Diane Yoeckel

Ushers – Tim Zollinger, Mel Johnson

Reader – Tim Zollinger

Sound – David Carrillo

Communion Assistant – Tim Zollinger

Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall

Coffee Fellowship – Nancy Eilers

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