



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, a rainbow arching from the top right to the middle right, and a yellow tulip in the bottom right. There are also green leafy branches on the left and right sides.



**Sunday, September 14, 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 September Children's offering will go to towards The Buddy Bag program. Last year they saw a big increase in participation and were able to meet the need thanks to generous donations. Last spring they were packing and distributing 160 bags each week! At a cost of approximately \$3.44 per bag currently, the costs add up quickly. Be assured that every penny donated goes only to the cost of purchasing the food. All administrative costs are covered separately.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

pastormark@stpaulsterling.com

1701 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081

815-625-3069

Church email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

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Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

"Amazing Grace"

stg. Joel Raney

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: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

All: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful and loving God, we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.

All: Amen.

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

ELW #807



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

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

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, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may

follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 32:7-14

⁷The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-10

R: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

All: Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

R: For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

All: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

R: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

All: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

R: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

All: Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

R: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

All: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 15th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?

⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling”

ELW #608

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!
par - don for you and for me.

You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

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: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

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

P: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
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

“There Is None Like You”

Lenny LeBlanc

Offering Prayer

P: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

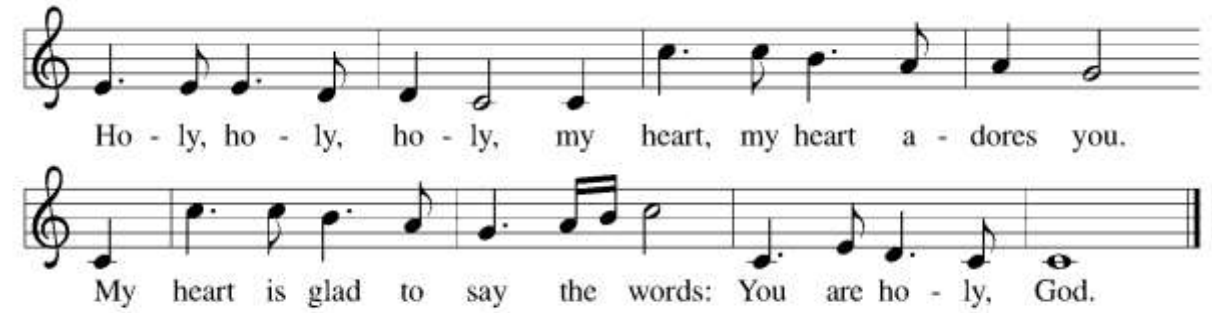
All: We lift them to the Lord.

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”



Text: Argentine traditional
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

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: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

Communion

Communion Music

“Lamb of God”

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

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

3 Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music © 1992 CPH Publishing

“Jesus Paid It All”
arr. Jim Lucas

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.

through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

All: Amen

Blessing

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

Sending Song

“Send Me, Jesus” with Children rhythm instruments

ELW #549

1 Send me, Je - sus; send me, Je - sus; send me, Je - sus; send me, Lord.

2 I am will-ing; I am will-ing; I am will-ing, will - ing, Lord.

Text: South African
Music: THUMA MINA, NKOSI YAM, South African

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Rick Founds

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, 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 Elizabeth Mascal
Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean
Acolytes – Arians family
Greeters – Audrey & Cathy Cox
Ushers – Gary Fields, John Renner
Reader – Greg Zeigler
Sound – Bradyn Arians
Communion Assistant – Chad Arians
Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall

Musicians:

Live:

Julie Woessner-DeJonge

Recorded:

Dawn Zeigler

Next Week – September 21**Worship Assistants**

Presider – Pastor Elizabeth Mascal
Opener/Head Usher/Closer – David Carrillo
Acolytes – Altar Guild
Greeters – Nancy Eilers, Susan Kuehl
Ushers – Nancy Beck, Carolyn Duncan
Reader – Carolyn Duncan
Sound – Braydn Arians
Communion Assistant – Nancy Beck, Nancy Eilers
Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall
Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*