

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Through the month of **JULY** we will again gather School kits supplies to send with the quilts to enable children to participate in their learning.

We have 60 backpacks sewn. They will be in the back of the sanctuary. Please take and fill with the school supplies and return to the church during the month of July. Thank you.

LWR School Supplies Shopping List

(All items need to be new)

4-70 sheet notebooks of wide-or-college-ruled paper. NO loose leaf paper.

1-30 centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other. **Hard rulers only please**

1-Pencil sharpener

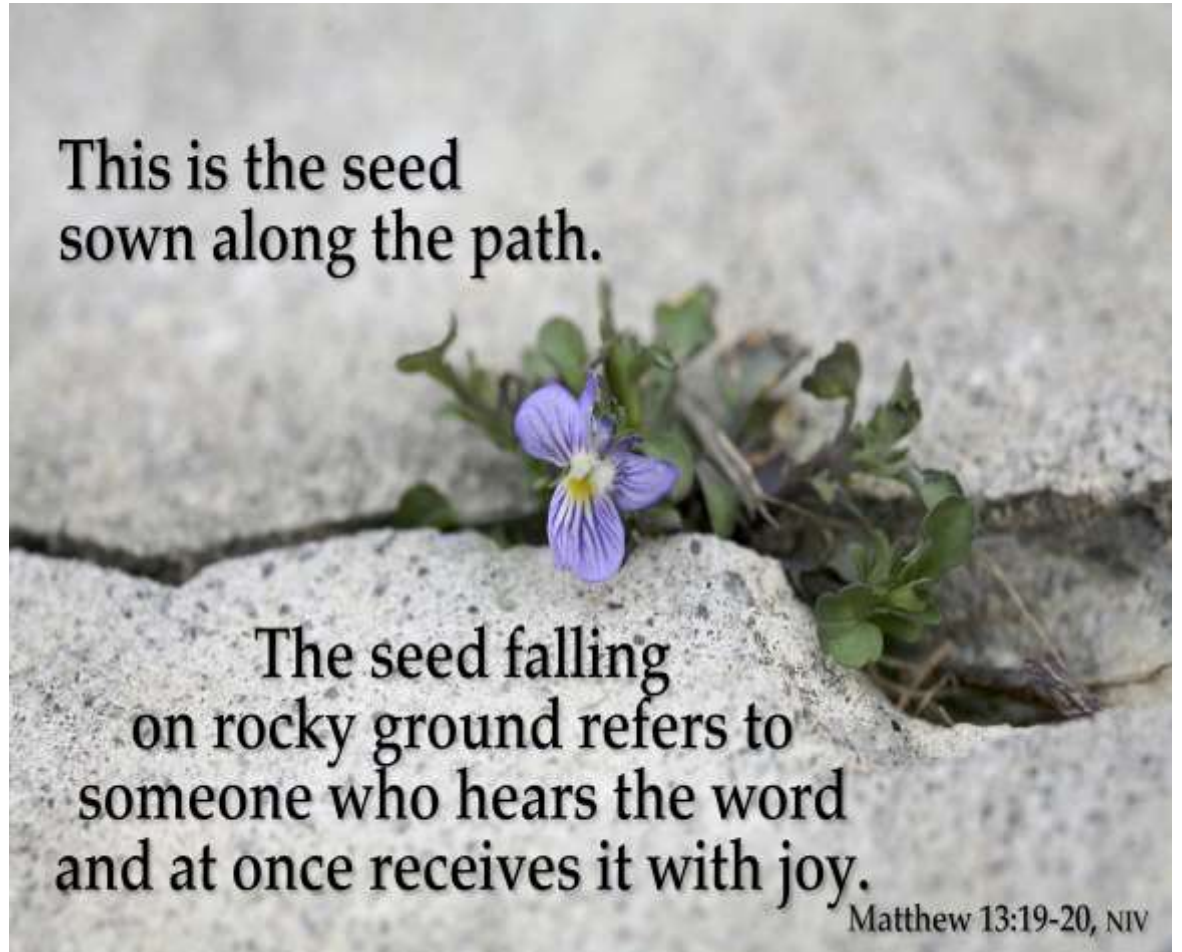
1-Eraser (2 1/2inches)

1-BLUNT pair of scissors

5-UNSHARPENED #2 Pencils with erasers

5-Black or Blue ballpoint pens (No ink gel)

1-Box of 16 or 24 count crayons



**Sunday, July 12, 2026
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

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815-625-3069

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www.stpaulsterling.com

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Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

Prelude

"It Is Well with My Soul"

arr. James M. Stevens

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, whose compassion endures forever.

All: Amen.

P: Let us bring every burden to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

All: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

ELW #533”



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolek, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

GREETING

P: The grace of our risen 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: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live

according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Special Music – Harper Halverson

“2nd Menuet de L’Arlesienne”

by Georges Bizet

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 65:1-2, 9-13

R: You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

All: To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.

R: You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

All: You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

R: You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

All: May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.

R: May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.
² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth

grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!”

¹⁸ “Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

Children’s Message

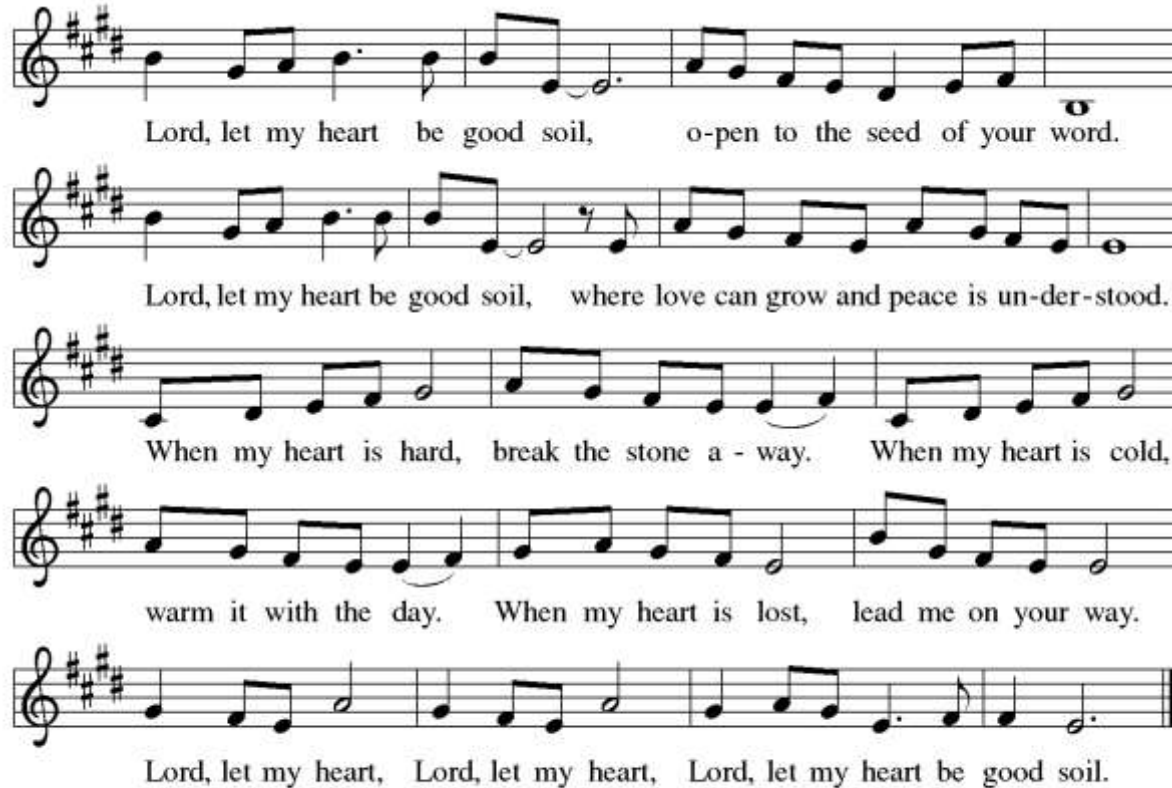
Sermon

“Let Anyone with Ears Listen

Hymn of the Day

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

ELW #512



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. 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: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

P: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

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.

Offering

“The Church's One Foundation”

Samuel S. Wesley

Offering Prayer

P: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

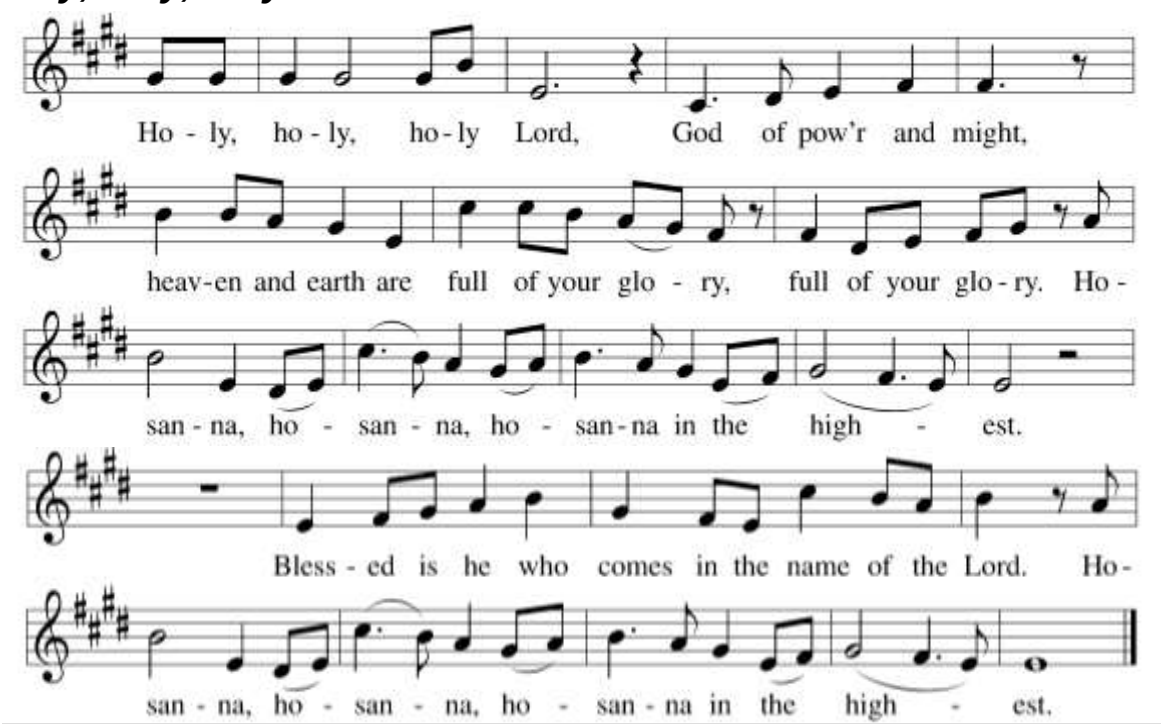
All: We lift them to the Lord.

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. 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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, 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: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

Communion

“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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Music

“Break Now the Bread of Life”
Lathbury/Sherwin

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.
Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
All: Amen.

Blessing

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
All: Amen.

Sending Song
“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”
ELW #547

The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and folk-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some lines having two parts (1 and 2) indicated by numbers. The lyrics are: 1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con-fess-ing, 2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing to God ev-er-liv-ing, the peo-ple of our God from this dwell-ing take leave. the tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face— The sup-per is end-ed, Oh, now be-ex-tend-ed our faith ev-er shar-ing, in love ev-er car-ing, the fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve. em-brac-ing God's chil-dren, the whole hu-man race. The seed of Christ's teach-ing, re-cep-tive souls With your feast you feed us, with your light now reach-ing, shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all. lead us; u-nite us as one in this life that we share. Your grace shall in-cite us, your love shall u-nite us Then may all the liv-ing with praise and thanks-giv-ing to work for your king-dom and an-swer your call. give hon-or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
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Dismissal

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“On Our Way Rejoicing”

Frances R. Havergal

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Maggie Villafuerto, Richard J., Melinda, Callahan McCallister, Brock Woessner, Lori Dewey, the Woodworth family, Michelle Klinger, Matt Friel, Sandy Julifs, Mike, Dylan Wescott, and Phyllis Jacobson.

Worship Assistants:

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Dawn Waite

Acolytes – Altar Guild

Greeters – Dan Dir, Bev Graunke

Ushers – Ann Beswick, Gary Fields

Reader – Ann Beswick

Sound – David Carrillo

Communion Assistant – Ann Beswick

Altar Guild – Audrey & Cathy Cox

Musicians:

Live:

Julie Woessner DeJonge

Harper Halverson

Recorded:

Dawn Zeigler

Next Week – July 19

CommUNITY VBS Worship at Grandon Civic Center

9:30 a.m.

***In case of inclement weather, worship will be held at Bethel
Reformed Church in Sterling.***