

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

RALLY Day

SEPTEMBER 13TH

10:15-11:30

Join us as we kick-off the start of the Sunday School Year! Families will register their children for Sunday School while the kids get to play and celebrate. We will have snacks and treats, games, and the bounce house available for students and families.



1701 16TH AVE. STERLING, IL

CONTACT MISS GABBY WITH ANY QUESTIONS

GABBY@STPAULSTERLING.COM



Sunday, August 30, 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

This morning's children's offering will go the Rock River Valley Barbershop Chorus who is providing music during worship.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

pastormark@stpaulsterling.com

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Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Prelude

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

stg. David Lasky

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.

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

All: Amen.

L: Let us bring every burden to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: 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.

L: 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
“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”
ELW #818

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the
paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly
help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.
Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray together:

All: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Reading: Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope;

be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.
¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Message of Story and Song
Rock River Valley Barbershop Chorus

Prayers
L: Holy God, you call to us and you hear our prayers. Walk with us in the wilderness of life and guide us on every step of the way.
God of Mercy and Love,
All: Hear our prayer
L: Grant your peace from above to all the world for our salvation
God of Mercy and Love,
All: Hear our prayer
L: Watch over your church and help us work towards the unity of all.
God of Mercy and Love,
All: Hear our prayer
L: Nourish your creation and give us wisdom and compassion to be creators and caretakers with you,
God of Mercy and Love,
All: Hear our prayer

L: Protect public servants, advocates and agencies, and all who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection

God of Mercy and Love,

All: Hear our prayer

L: Heal the sick and suffering, and give freedom to the prisoner.

God of Mercy and Love,

All: Hear our prayer

L: Send your loving grace to all who need it, especially those we name out loud or in our hearts.

All: Hear our prayer

L: We give all our prayers to you, O loving lord.

All: Amen

Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

L: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

Offering

Special Music

Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray, Loving God,

All: 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. Amen.

L: Gathered into one, by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

Sending Song
“Faith of Our Fathers”
ELW #812



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
2 Faith of our moth - ers, dar - ing faith, your work for Christ is
3 Faith of our sis - ters, broth - ers too, who still must bear op -
4 Faith born of God, oh, call us yet, bind us with all who



fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
love re - vealed, spread - ing God's word from pole to pole,
press - ion's might, rais - ing on high, in pris - ons dark,
fol - low you, shar - ing the strug - gle of your cross



when - e'er we hear that glo - rious word. Faith of our fa - thers,
mak - ing love known and free - dom real. Faith of our moth - ers,
the cross of Christ still burn - ing bright. Faith for to - day, O
un - til the world is made a - new. Faith born of God, O



ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.
ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.
liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.
liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, st. 1, alt.; Joseph R. Alfred, b. 1947, sts. 2–4
Music: St. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain
Text sts. 2–4 © Joseph R. Alfred, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

Benediction
Special Music

Dismissal
L: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude
“Here On Jesus Christ I Will Stand”
Kwake Yesu Nasimama

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Craig Green, Tricia M., Ken & Stephanie, Maggie Villafuerto, Richard J., Callahan McCallister, Brock Woessner, Lori Dewey, Michelle Klinger, Matt Friel, Sandy Julifs, Mike, and Phyllis Jacobson.

Coffee Fellowship will be served following worship this morning hosted by Nancy Eilers. All are welcome!

Worship Assistants:
Rock River Valley Barbershop Chorus
Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Greg Zeigler
Acolytes – Arians family
Greeters – Audrey & Cathy Cox
Ushers – Diane Yoeckel, Donna Kendall
Worship Leader/Reader – Greg Zeigler
Sound – Bradyn Arians
Altar Guild – Janie Billings, Susan Kuehl

Musicians:
Live:
Rock River Barbershop Chorus
Linda VonHolten
Recorded:
Dawn Zeigler

Next Week – September 6

Worship Assistants:

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters – Bill & Carolyn Duncan

Ushers – Ruben & JoAnn Garcia

Reader – Bill Duncan

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Communion Assistant – Janie Billings

Altar Guild – Ann Beswick, JoAnn Garcia

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*