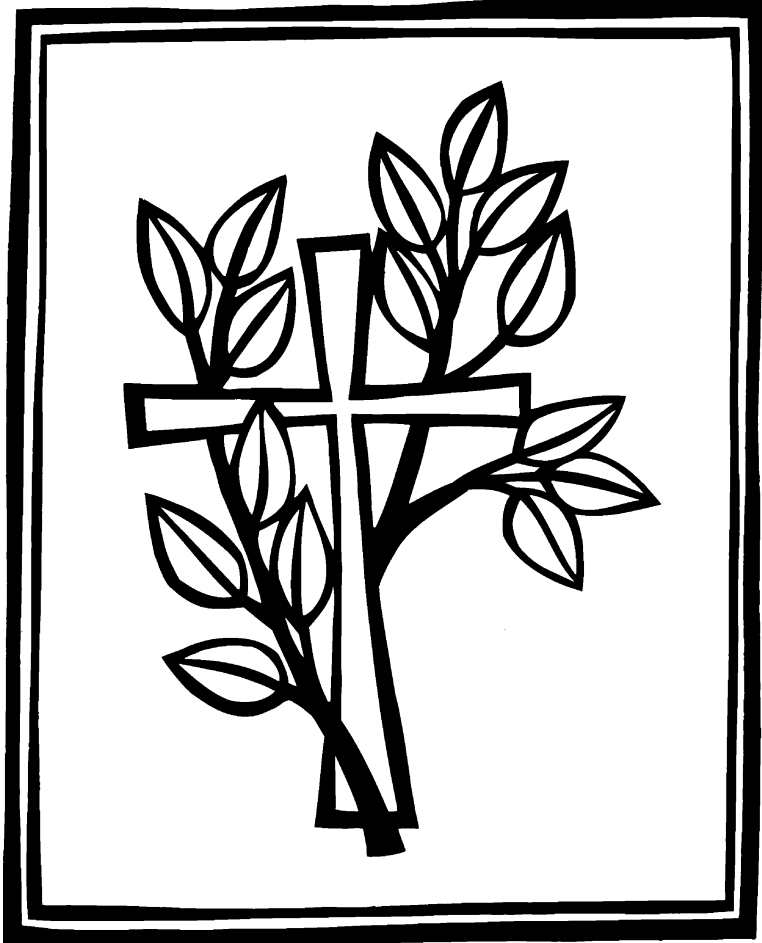


# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026      Fourteenth Sunday after  
Pentecost



# SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

*August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026      Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

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## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SHARING THE PEACE**

### **OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✠ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

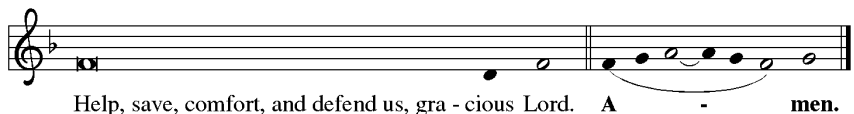
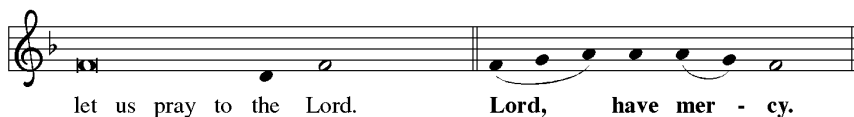
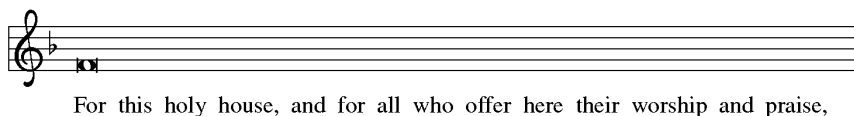
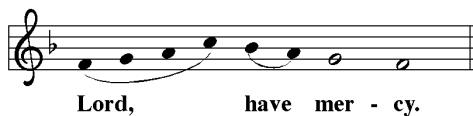
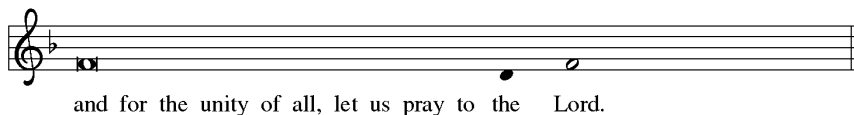
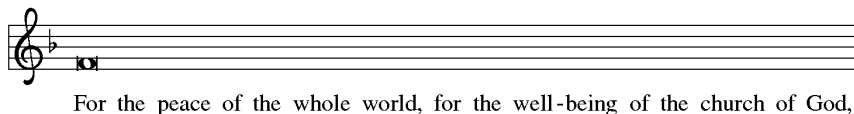
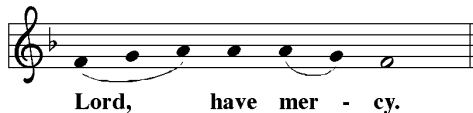
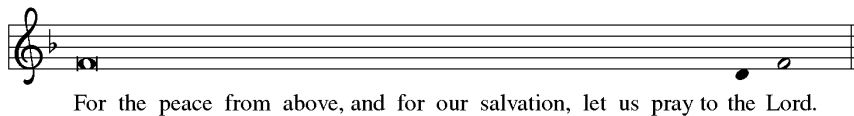
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: #655 Son of God, Eternal Savior**

**GREETING (p. 203)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**KYRIE (p. 138)**



## CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 140)



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**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.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC Al Melvie

### First Reading: Exodus 3:1-15 (CEB)

*Moses experienced the call of God when God appeared to him in a bush that burned but was not consumed. When Moses expressed his unworthiness, God promised to be with him. When Moses objected that people would demand to know God's name, God revealed his personal name, Yahweh (I am who I am), or the Lord. Israel discovered God's true identity when God took them out of Egypt.*

<sup>1</sup> Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. <sup>2</sup> The Lord's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up.

<sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses said, "I'm here."

<sup>5</sup> Then the Lord said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." <sup>6</sup> He continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> Then the Lord said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. <sup>8</sup> I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. <sup>9</sup> Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. <sup>10</sup> So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

<sup>12</sup> God said, "I'll be with you. And this will show you that I'm the one who sent you. After you bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup> But Moses said to God, “If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they are going to ask me, ‘What’s this God’s name?’ What am I supposed to say to them?”

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, ‘I Am has sent me to you.’” <sup>15</sup> God continued, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, Abraham’s God, Isaac’s God, and Jacob’s God, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me.

**Psalm: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b (CEB)**

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord;  
call upon his name;  
make his deeds known to all people!

<sup>2</sup> **Sing to God;**  
**sing praises to the Lord;**  
 **dwell on all his wondrous works!**

<sup>3</sup> Give praise to God’s holy name!  
Let the hearts rejoice of all those seeking the Lord!

<sup>4</sup> **Pursue the Lord and his strength;**  
 **seek his face always!**

<sup>5</sup> Remember the wondrous works he has done,  
all his marvelous works, and the justice he declared—

<sup>6</sup> **you who are the offspring of Abraham, his servant,**  
 **and the children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

<sup>23</sup> That’s how Israel came to Egypt,  
how Jacob became an immigrant in the land of Ham.

<sup>24</sup> **God made his people very fruitful,**  
 **more powerful than their enemies,**

<sup>25</sup> whose hearts God changed so they hated his people  
and dealt shrewdly with his servants.

<sup>26</sup> **God sent Moses his servant**  
 **and the one he chose, Aaron.**

<sup>45b</sup> Praise the Lord!

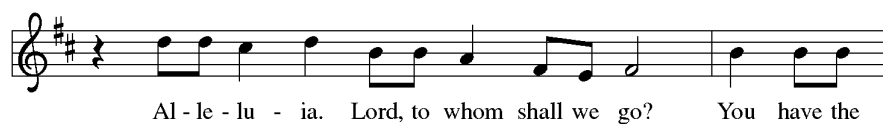
**Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21 (CEB)**

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to*

overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

<sup>9</sup> Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. <sup>11</sup> Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! <sup>12</sup> Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home. <sup>14</sup> Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them. <sup>15</sup> Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. <sup>16</sup> Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. <sup>17</sup> Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good. <sup>18</sup> If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. <sup>19</sup> Don't try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. It is written, *Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back, says the Lord.* <sup>20</sup> Instead, *If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head.* <sup>21</sup> Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Before:* The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28 (CEB)**

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”*

<sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and legal experts, and that he had to be killed and raised on the third day. <sup>22</sup> Then Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him: “God forbid, Lord! This won’t happen to you.” <sup>23</sup> But he turned to Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan. You are a stone that could make me stumble, for you are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup> All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them. <sup>26</sup> Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? <sup>27</sup> For the Human One is about to come with the majesty of his Father with his angels. And then he will repay each one for what that person has done. <sup>28</sup> I assure you that some standing here won’t die before they see the Human One coming in his kingdom.”

*After:* The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON “The ‘Who Am I?’ and the Great ‘I AM’”**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY: #798 Will You Come and Follow Me**

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**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 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**

Each petition concludes: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### **OFFERING**

**Offering Song: #186 Create in Me a Clean Heart**

**Offering Prayer: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 145)**

**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.**

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: #656 Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

**CHARGE: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

# SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN

**August 30th, 2026**

**Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

When Moses encounters God in the burning bush, he is sent to Pharaoh despite his insecurities and shortcomings. 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.

### **For those who need healing in body, mind, or spirit:**

|                      |                  |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Julie Love           | Eunice Sondrol   | Judy Luettjohann |
| Darleen Jackson      | Katie Bakken     | Julian Bertils   |
| Marlo Moren          | Evie Gunderson   | Nancy Eia        |
| Mike Ophus           | Loiland family   | Trevin Monahan   |
| Nash Erdman          | Stuart Hanson    | Mark Peterson    |
| Glorrayne Casmey     | Lucile Torkelson | Delores Sandager |
| Carol Chaffee        | Kari L Trudeau   | Mary Ann Knotek  |
| Leah Knotek Ellefson | Luanne Devos     |                  |

**For our missionaries:** Steve & Kelly Solheim  
City of Joy Rwanda

**For our servicemen:** Brandon Johnson      D.J. Brace

***Please keep them in your prayers this week.***

If you have prayer requests, please contact the church office at 218 281-3638 or our prayer chain coordinator, Marian Bakken: (h) 218-281-1584, (c) 218-275-3143, [marianbakken@gmail.com](mailto:marianbakken@gmail.com).

## MISSION

### To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people

1214 University Avenue – Crookston, Minnesota 56716

Website: [stpaulscrookstonmn.com](http://stpaulscrookstonmn.com)

[facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn](https://facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn)

Phone: 218-281-3638

Email: [stpauls@midconetwork.com](mailto:stpauls@midconetwork.com)

Ministers

St. Paul's members

Council President

Anna Peterson

Pastor

Rev. Curt Peterson

Organist

Mary Ann Knotek

Webmaster

Anna Peterson

Treasurer

Betty Arvidson

Financial Secretary

Kathie Barnes

Custodian

Marilyn Flateland

Administrative Assistant

Tammy Frohlich

### THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!

Ushers

Marlys Demarais and Paulette Wagner

Scripture Reader

Kathy Normandin

Offering Counters

Kathie Barnes and Candace Brouse

Altar Guild

Paulette Wagner

Fellowship

Livestream

Anna Peterson

### SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE TEAM

Our upcoming servers are the **Super-Duper September Team!**

PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD to fill in days that  
you can serve. **Thank you** very much!

Cole and Kelli Bertils

Norma Hoppe

Emily Giannotti

Judy Gustafson

Dan and Brandi Halland

Connie Wilkens

Jeff and Ingrid Remick

Bob and Becky Cameron

**THANK YOU, August Team,** for your dedication this month!

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

Readings for September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

**Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9am- 2pm, and Tuesday 12-5 pm. Please leave a message after 2 pm on the answering machine/drop something in the mailbox (north side of building)/call ahead. Pastor Curt is usually in the building but may be out on other church business.**

**Worship via Facebook: [facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn](https://facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn)**

### ***Sunday, August 30***

**8:45 am  
10:00 am  
11:00 am**

### ***14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost***

**Adult Bible Study  
Worship  
Fellowship**

### ***Monday, August 31***

**8:30 am**

**LWR Quilting**

### ***Tuesday, September 1***

**7:00 am  
7:00 pm**

**Men's Coffee Fellowship  
AA Meeting**

### ***Wednesday, September 2***

**8:30 am**

**Senior Quilts**

### ***Thursday, September 3***

### ***Friday, September 4***

**Church office closed**

**Pastor's Day off**

### ***Sunday, September 6***

**8:45 am  
10:00 am  
11:00 am**

### ***15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost***

**Adult Bible Study  
Worship and Communion  
Fellowship**

# OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

**August, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**

**Attendance: 54**

**Our gifts towards Budget:**

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Sunday Envelopes             | \$2,564.02 |
| Loose Offering               | \$ 14.00   |
| Over and Above Benevolence   | \$ 10.00   |
| General Treas/No Benevolence | \$ 30.00   |

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Improvement Fund | \$ 10.00 |
| Food Shelf       | \$ 10.00 |
| Memorials        | \$ 20.00 |

**Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:**

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
|                               | \$4,675.42 |
| Total received towards Budget | \$2,618.02 |
| Total (non-budget) Receipts   | \$ 40.00   |
| Total Received                | \$2,658.02 |

| St. Paul's Lutheran Church           |  |  |  |                        |                       |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|------------------------|-----------------------|
| MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT: JULY     |  |  |  |                        |                       |
|                                      |  |  |  | Month                  | Y-T-D                 |
| Amount needed to meet budgeted items |  |  |  | \$ 20,260.17           | \$ 141,821.19         |
| <b>Receipts toward budget</b>        |  |  |  | <b>\$ 25,509.30</b>    | <b>\$ 130,230.21</b>  |
| Other receipts                       |  |  |  | \$ 3,181.75            | \$ 15,033.75          |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                |  |  |  | <b>\$ 28,691.05</b>    | <b>\$ 145,263.96</b>  |
|                                      |  |  |  |                        |                       |
| <b>Budgeted Disbursements</b>        |  |  |  | <b>\$ 14,192.05</b>    | <b>\$ 119,625.09</b>  |
| Other Disbursements                  |  |  |  | \$ 5,152.14            | \$ 12,649.80          |
| <b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>           |  |  |  | <b>\$ 19,344.19</b>    | <b>\$ 132,274.89</b>  |
|                                      |  |  |  |                        |                       |
|                                      |  |  |  | Income/Loss YTD        | <b>\$ 10,605.12</b>   |
|                                      |  |  |  | Due to Mission Support | <b>\$ (12,004.37)</b> |
|                                      |  |  |  | Net Income YTD         | <b>\$ (1,399.25)</b>  |

## SPECIAL MESSAGES

### **KICK-OFF FALL WITH RALLY SUNDAY**

Get ready for a wonderful year of learning and growing in faith! Sunday School officially begins on **Rally Sunday, September 13th**. Here is everything you need to know:

- **Sunday School:** Open to children age 4 through 5th grade.
- **Confirmation:** All 6th and 7th graders are invited to begin Confirmation this year.

### **Rally Sunday Details (Sept. 13th):**

- **8:45 AM – Early Start!** Please arrive promptly so we can practice our special song, *"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."* The children will be singing this during the worship service that morning!
- **Lesson & Craft:** Our first lesson will focus on how following Jesus means loving and serving our neighbors. We will put this into practice by decorating "thinking of you" cards to send to members of our church family.
- **After Worship:** Stick around! The Parish Fellowship Committee will be serving delicious **Root Beer Floats** to celebrate the start of the new year.

**Registration Information:** Please complete your registration forms before our first day. You can find the forms in the following places:

- In your email inbox
- On our church website
- In our Sunday School Facebook group
- At the church office

We can't wait to see you there and start a fantastic new year together!

## **CONFIRMATION IS STARTING SOON!**

We are excited to kick off another wonderful year of Confirmation! Due to our anticipated numbers, we are inviting all **6th and 7th graders** to begin their confirmation journey this year, and our **8th and 9th graders** to continue theirs.

### **Parent & Student Orientation:**

- **Wednesday, September 16th at 6:30 PM.**
- We will cover expectations regarding attendance, service projects, and worship notes, as well as introduce some exciting changes for our Youth Serve Sundays this year.

### **Regular Classes:**

- **Begin Wednesday, September 23rd (7:00 PM – 8:30 PM).**
- Some of our engaging topics this year will include the Church Calendar, Faith Life, and The End of All Things.

**How to Register:** You can find the registration form in your email, on the church website, or in the SPY Facebook group. You can also complete a form in person at orientation on the 16th.

**We can't wait to see you there!**

## **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

Stenshoel-Houske Funeral and Cremation Service is hosting a Grief Support Group on the third Monday of every month at the Crookston Public Library/Lake Agassiz Regional Library from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. The group is open to anyone; it is helpful for people in all stages of the grief cycle, to find a place where they can feel comfortable and be with people who understand what they are going through. The next gathering will be on **Sept. 21.**

## **SWO (SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION)**

- NWMN SWO is holding its **38<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**, September 18-19, 2026, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Crookston.

## **PARENT'S EDUCATION NIGHT EVENT**



**What: "Parent's Education Night":  
Healthy Eating for Busy Families!**

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>,  
at 6:30 pm. **Location:** St. Paul's Fellowship

Hall

Please join us for our next Parent's Education  
Night! We are thrilled to welcome guest  
speaker Rachel Rudolph, MS, RDN, LD,

Clinical Dietitian at Riverview Healthcare right here in Crookston.

Juggling school, sports, church, and other activities can make it challenging to find time for nutritious meals. Rachel will be sharing practical strategies and tips for feeding your kids healthy foods in the midst of your family's busy schedule. Her presentation will be followed by a Q&A session, giving you the perfect opportunity to ask your specific questions. Refreshments will be provided! We hope to see you there for this informative and helpful evening!

**Please spread the word to anyone and everyone!**

## **IMAGINE MORE: 2027 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING INTEREST MEETING**

### **Imagine More: 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering Interest Meeting**

Are you ready to "Imagine More"? All youth in 8th–12th grade (for the 2026-2027 school year) are invited to an informational meeting about the upcoming 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering!

This unforgettable event will take place right here in Minnesota, happening down in Minneapolis from June 28 through July 2, 2027. Come join us to learn what the gathering is all about and how we will prepare together as a group through upcoming fundraising events and dedicated devotional time.

### **Meeting Details:**

- **When:** Wednesday, September 16th at 7:30 PM (*Immediately following Confirmation orientation!*)
- **Where:** St. Paul's Fellowship Hall
- **Who:** 8th–12th graders and their families

*For more information, please contact Pastor Curt (218-281-3638).*

## **ST. PAUL'S WOMEN'S BOOK READ**

St. Paul's Women's Book Read has announced our Summer Read - "*Lone Dog Road*" by Kent Nerburn. We will discuss this book at our Fall Kick-off Gathering on September 20th, 2026. We extend a warm welcome to all who may be interested. Join us for lively discussions and Christian fellowship!

## **PRAYER AND PASTORAL VISITATION**

We would love to bless you in prayer or presence. Please contact Pastor Curt or the church office (218-280-3638) if you have a request, whether for yourself or someone else, or leave a written request in the offering plate.



Bear one another's  
burdens, and so fulfill  
the law of Christ.  
Galatians 6:2

## **CROOKSTON CARE AND SHARE CENTER'S DONATION ROOM AND NEW HOPE FOOD SHELF**

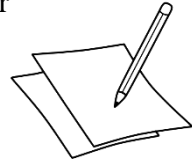
The Crookston Care and Share Center's Donation Room and New Hope Food Shelf is open every Monday and Wednesday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and every Friday from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. The donation room is open to anyone, and there is never a fee for any item. For more information or to donate, call **218-281-4382**.

## **KIT DONATION TIME**

Each year, our dedicated WELCA ladies put together school kits for Lutheran World Relief, thanks to the generous support of our church family. It is a wonderful time to begin purchasing supplies for the kits as school supply sales are beginning!

Each kit contains:

- 70-sheet spiral bound notebooks (4) wide or college ruled paper
- 30-centimeter ruler (or a ruler with both centimeter and inches)
- Pencil sharpener
- Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- #2 pencils (5) (unsharpened with erasers)
- Black or blue ballpoint pens (5) (no gel ink)
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 2 ½ inch eraser



Donations can be brought to the Fellowship Hall and placed in the tote on the welcome table.



**THANK YOU** in advance for your generous support every year!



# UPDATES

from the Synod

## SEPTEMBER 2026

This monthly insert is just one way to stay connected with what's going on in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. You'll find highlights of recent news, upcoming events, and ways our synod is walking together in ministry. We hope it helps you see the bigger picture of how God is at work through the Northwestern Minnesota Synod.

### UPCOMING EVENTS



Labor Day



Rethinking Rural  
Ministry Summit



EaND + NWMN Synod  
Youth Retreat

### RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

#### New! Creation in Christ Worship Resources

This September, congregations are invited to celebrate Creation in Christ, a new ecumenical observance centered on God's work of creation and our place within it. Check out the free worship resources provided by the ELCA.



### SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

#### Rethinking Rural Ministry

Rural and small-town congregations are not problems to be fixed—they are gifts to be celebrated.

Rethinking Rural Ministry is helping congregations discover what God is already doing in their communities and imagine their next faithful step with hope and curiosity. Through gatherings, workshops, practical tools, and shared learning, we'll explore the future of rural ministry together.



**First up:** Join us for the Rethinking Rural Ministry Summit on September 24 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom to share, listen, and connect with others serving rural communities.

## FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK

### A New Season

September brings a new rhythm to our congregations—Sunday school and confirmation begin again, fall ministries take shape, and familiar faces gather back around tables and in pews.

In the midst of all that activity, I hope we remember that ministry isn't measured only by what fills our calendars. It happens in relationships: in the conversations before worship, around kitchen tables, in classrooms and fellowship halls, and whenever we show up for one another.

As this new season begins, may we pay attention to where God is already at work—and have the courage to join in.

Blessings on the season ahead!  
— Bishop Bill Tesch

## PRAYER CORNER

God of new beginnings, bless our congregations as fall ministries begin.

Be with students, teachers, leaders, farmers, families, and all entering new seasons.

Give us courage for what is ahead and open our eyes to the ways you are already at work among us.

Amen.

## DID YOU KNOW?

When your congregation gives Mission Support, it doesn't stop at the synod office! Those gifts connect your congregation to ministries across Northwestern Minnesota, the ELCA, and around the world. Together, we can do more than any one congregation could do alone.

## SYNOD STAFF

Pr. Bill Tesch | Bishop

Pr. Genelle Netland | Associate to Bishop for Leadership

Dr. Lisa Sethre-Hofstad | Minister for Generosity

Rachel Haun | Office Administrator

Nick Stanley | Financial & Roster Administrator

Morgan Olson | Communications & Events

## STAY CONNECTED

NWMN e-news | updates

