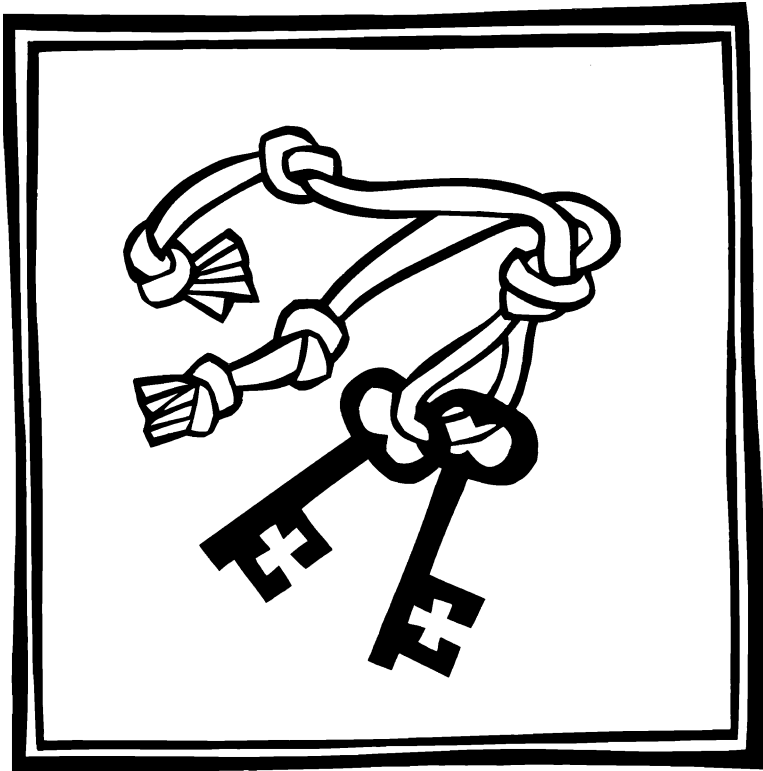


St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

August 23rd, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after
Pentecost



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

August 23rd, 2026 Thirteenth 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.

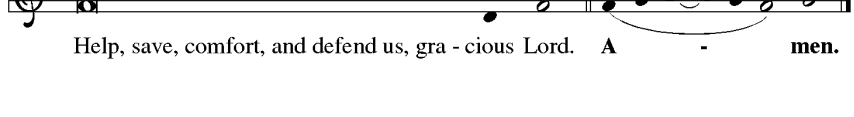
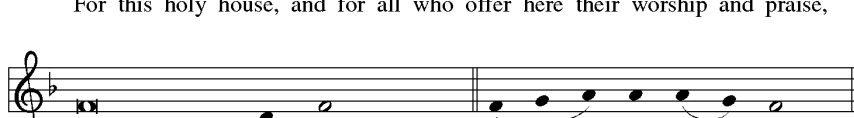
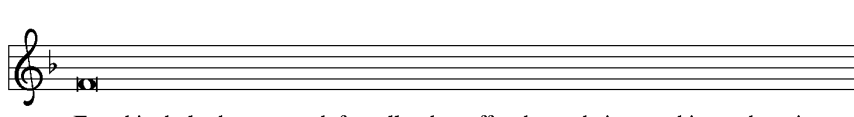
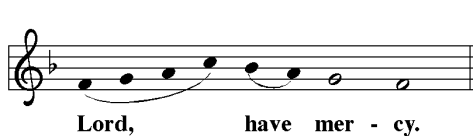
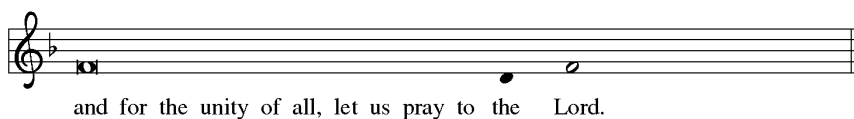
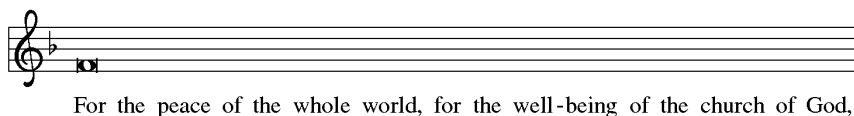
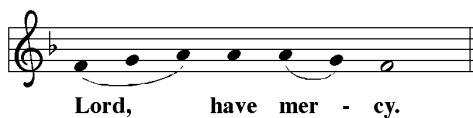
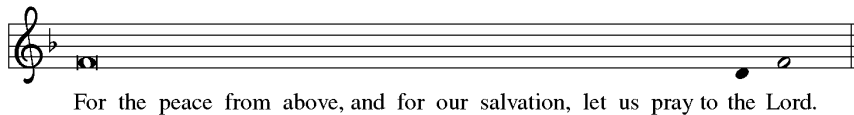
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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

GATHERING HYMN: #770 Give Me Jesus

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, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 1:8—2:10 (CEB)

The brave Hebrew midwives defied Pharaoh to save many infants from death. When the mother of Moses placed him in a basket in the Nile, the daughter of Pharaoh found him, adopted him, and raised him. Moses' sister and mother also played crucial roles in this drama.

⁸ Now a new king came to power in Egypt who didn't know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, "The Israelite people are now larger in number and stronger than we are. ¹⁰ Come on, let's be smart and deal with them. Otherwise, they will only grow in number. And if war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and then escape from the land." ¹¹ As a result, the Egyptians put foremen of forced work gangs over the Israelites to harass them with hard work. They had to build storage cities named Pithom and Rameses for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they grew and spread, so much so that the Egyptians started to look at the Israelites with disgust and dread. ¹³ So the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites. ¹⁴ They made their lives miserable with hard labor, making mortar and bricks, doing field work, and by forcing them to do all kinds of other cruel work.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt spoke to two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah: ¹⁶ "When you are helping the Hebrew women give birth and you see the baby being born, if it's a boy, kill him. But if it's a girl, you can let her live." ¹⁷ Now the two midwives respected God so they didn't obey the Egyptian king's order. Instead, they let the baby boys live.

¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called the two midwives and said to them, "Why are you doing this? Why are you letting the baby boys live?"

¹⁹ The two midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because Hebrew women aren't like Egyptian women. They're much stronger and give birth before any midwives can get to them." ²⁰ So God treated the midwives well, and the people kept on multiplying and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives respected God, God gave them households of their own.

²² Then Pharaoh gave an order to all his people: "Throw every baby boy born to the Hebrews into the Nile River, but you can let all the girls live."

^{2:1} Now a man from Levi's household married a Levite woman. ² The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that the baby was healthy and beautiful, so she hid him for three months. ³ When she couldn't hide him any longer, she took a reed basket and sealed it up with black tar. She put the child in the basket and set the basket among the reeds at the riverbank. ⁴ The baby's older sister stood watch nearby to see what would happen to him.

⁵ Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, while her women servants walked along beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds, and she sent one of her servants to bring it to her. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. The boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. She said, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children."

⁷ Then the baby's sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Would you like me to go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

⁸ Pharaoh's daughter agreed, "Yes, do that." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I'll pay you for your work." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ After the child had grown up, she brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I pulled him out of the water."

Psalm: Psalm 124 (CEB)

¹ If the Lord hadn't been for us—
let Israel now repeat!—

² **if the Lord hadn't been for us,
when those people attacked us**

³ then they would have swallowed us up whole
with their rage burning against us!

⁴ **Then the waters would have drowned us;
the torrent would have come over our necks;**

⁵ then the raging waters would have come over our necks!

⁶ **Bless the Lord
because he didn't hand us over
like food for our enemies' teeth!**

⁷ We escaped like a bird from the hunters' trap;
the trap was broken so we escaped!

⁸ **Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

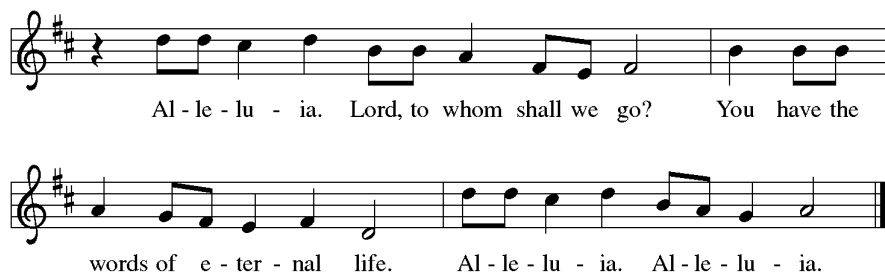
Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8 (CEB)

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹ So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. ² Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

³ Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. ⁴ We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. ⁵ In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. ⁶ We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. ⁷ If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. ⁸ If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20 (CEB)

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³ Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Human One is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

¹⁵ He said, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Then Jesus replied, "Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. ¹⁸ I tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it. ¹⁹ I'll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven." ²⁰ Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON "Subversive Hope on the Other Side of the Flood"

HYMN OF THE DAY: #597 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

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: #820 O Savior, Precious Savior

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN

August 23rd, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed. In Genesis we hear the power of God's grace and mercy as Joseph is reunited and reconciled with his brothers. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

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 Casmeay	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.

MISSION

To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people

1214 University Avenue – Crookston, Minnesota 56716

Website: stpaulscrookstonmn.com

facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn

Phone: 218-281-3638

Email: 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

Karin Danforth and Laurie Bruley

Scripture Reader

Kathy Normandin

Acolyte

Wendy Chen

Offering Counters

Kathie Barnes and Becky Nelson

Altar Guild

Paulette Wagner

Fellowship

Paulette Wagner

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 3:1-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

Readings for August 30th, 2026

14th 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

Sunday, August 23

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

13th Sunday After Pentecost

**Adult Bible Study
Worship
Fellowship**

Monday, August 24

**8:30 am
6:30 pm**

**LWR Quilting
Church Council meeting**

Tuesday, August 25

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

**Men's Coffee Fellowship
AA Meeting**

Wednesday, August 26

8:30 am

Senior Quilts

Thursday, August 27

Friday, August 28

Church office closed

Pastor's Day off

Sunday, August 30

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

14th Sunday After Pentecost

**Adult Bible Study
Worship
Fellowship**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

August 16th, 2026

Attendance: 50

Our gifts towards Budget:

Sunday Envelopes	\$2,894.35
Loose Offering	\$ 63.00
Over and Above Benevolence	\$ 10.00
General Treas/No Benevolence	\$ 230.00

Improvement Fund	\$ 10.00
Parsonage Siding Fund	\$ 1,000.00
Parish Fellowship	\$ 62.00

Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:

Total received towards Budget	\$3,197.35
Total (non-budget) Receipts	\$1,072.00
Total Received	\$4,269.35

The Council did not meet in July. The most recent Treasurer's Report was approved at the last Church Council meeting. You can review it in the bulletin or web bulletin from June 28 or contact Tammy in the office and she can provide a copy.



SPECIAL MESSAGES

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.**

SNOs (SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS)

- **“Sabbath at the Lake” Women’s Retreat**
SNO is hosting a women’s retreat on Tuesday, August 18th, at Trinity Point on scenic Maple Lake, Mentor, MN. The event will run from 8:45 am – 3:00 pm, featuring Marilyn Grafstrom from Roseau, MN, as special speaker.
- NW MN SNO is holding its **38th Annual Convention**, September 18-19, 2026, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Crookston.

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

PARENT'S EDUCATION NIGHT EVENT



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

Date & Time: Wednesday, September 9th,
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!

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**.

FINAL SUMMER SALAD LUNCHEON

Wesley United Methodist Church will have its Summer Salad Luncheons from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 27. Enjoy a variety of salads, homemade desserts, and beverages for \$13. Dine in or take out. The church is located at 701 Eickhof Blvd in Crookston.

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!