

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

September 6th, 2026 Fifteenth Sunday after
Pentecost



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

September 6th, 2026 Fifteenth 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.

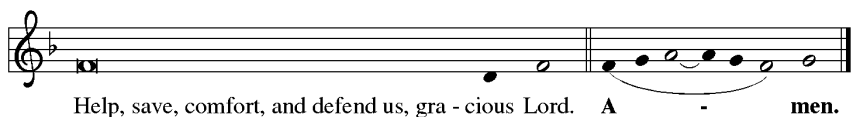
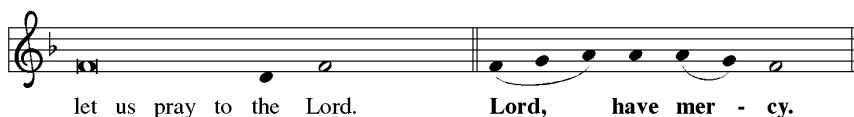
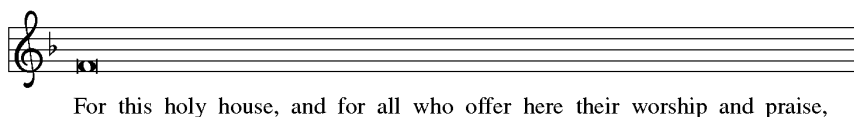
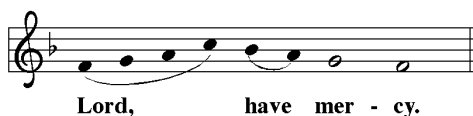
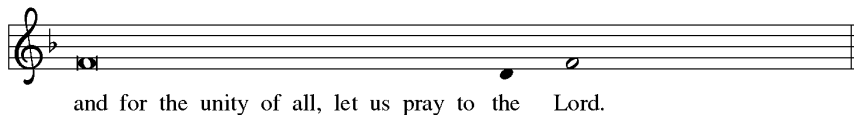
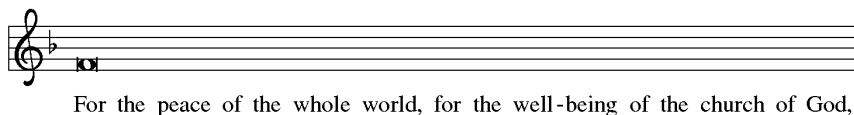
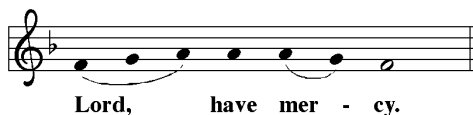
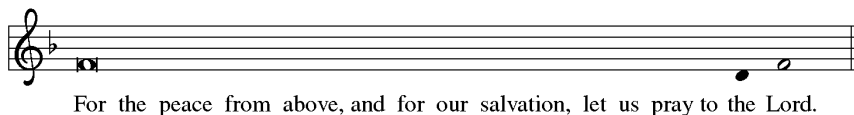
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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

GATHERING HYMN: #731 Earth and All Stars!

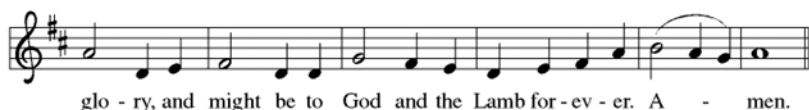
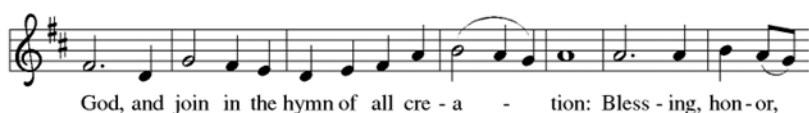
GREETING (p. 203)

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)



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC Verle Peterson

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14 (CEB)

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

¹ The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² "This month will be the first month; it will be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell the whole Israelite community: On the tenth day of this month they must take a lamb for each household, a lamb per house. ⁴ If a household is too small for a lamb, it should share one with a neighbor nearby. You should divide the lamb in proportion to the number of people who will be eating it. ⁵ Your lamb should be a flawless year-old male. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You should keep close watch over it until the

fourteenth day of this month. At twilight on that day, the whole assembled Israelite community should slaughter their lambs. ⁷ They should take some of the blood and smear it on the two doorposts and on the beam over the door of the houses in which they are eating. ⁸ That same night they should eat the meat roasted over the fire. They should eat it along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Don't eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over fire with its head, legs, and internal organs. ¹⁰ Don't let any of it remain until morning, and burn any of it left over in the morning. ¹¹ This is how you should eat it. You should be dressed, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. You should eat the meal in a hurry. It is the Passover of the Lord. ¹² I'll pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I'll strike down every oldest child in the land of Egypt, both humans and animals. I'll impose judgments on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood will be your sign on the houses where you live. Whenever I see the blood, I'll pass over you. No plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴ "This day will be a day of remembering for you. You will observe it as a festival to the Lord. You will observe it in every generation as a regulation for all time.

Psalm: Psalm 149 (CEB)

¹ Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song;

 sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful!

² Let Israel celebrate its maker;

let Zion's children rejoice in their king!

³ Let them praise God's name with dance;

 let them sing God's praise with the drum and lyre!

⁴ Because the Lord is pleased with his people,

God will beautify the poor with saving help.

⁵ Let the faithful celebrate with glory;

 let them shout for joy on their beds.

⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their mouths

and a double-edged sword in their hands,

⁷ to get revenge against the nations
and punishment on the peoples,
⁸ **binding their rulers in chains
and their officials in iron shackles,**
⁹ achieving the justice
written against them.

That will be an honor for all God's faithful people.

Praise the Lord!

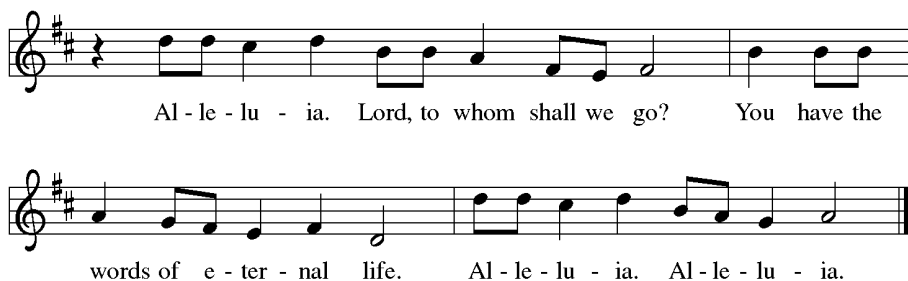
Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14 (CEB)

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸ Don't be in debt to anyone, except for the obligation to love each other. Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the Law. ⁹ The commandments, *Don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't desire what others have*, and any other commandments, are all summed up in one word: *You must love your neighbor as yourself.* ¹⁰ Love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law.

¹¹ As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. ¹² The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let's get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light. ¹³ Let's behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and obsession. ¹⁴ Instead, dress yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don't plan to indulge your selfish desires.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20 (CEB)

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you’ve won over your brother or sister. ¹⁶ But if they won’t listen, take with you one or two others so that *every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses*. ¹⁷ But if they still won’t pay attention, report it to the church. If they won’t pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. ¹⁸ I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there with them.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON “The Myth of the Bootstraps”

**HYMN OF THE DAY: #603 God, When Human Bonds Are
Broken (alt tune)**

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.

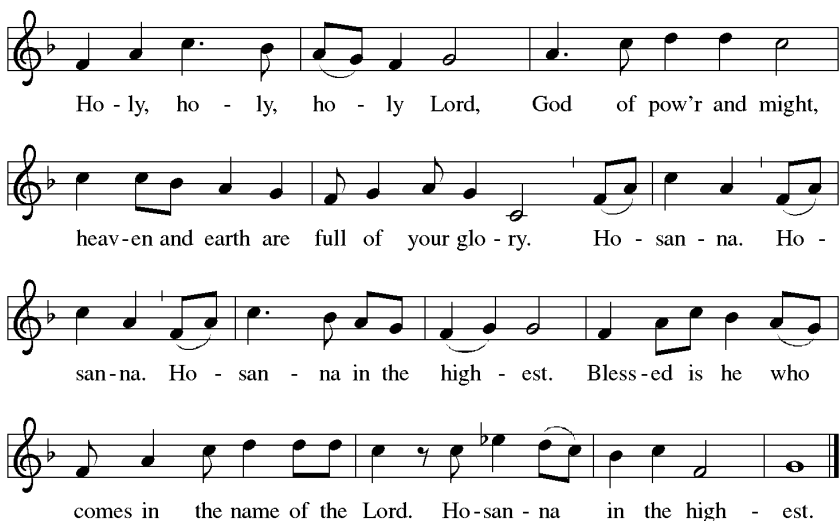
GREAT THANKSGIVING / HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 144)

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (p. 145)

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.

LAMB OF GOD (p. 146)

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Let us sing:



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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Each group at the altar rail will be dismissed with a blessing. Please give a family Communion card to an usher. Please follow the guidance of the ushers as you come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

**Distribution Hymns: #522 As We Gather at Your Table
#468 Around You, O Lord Jesus**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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: #543 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

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

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

Are you ready to "Imagine More"? All youth in 8th–12th grade are invited to an informational meeting about the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering!

The Gathering is happening in Minneapolis from 6/28-7/2, 2027. 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.

Join us Wednesday, September 16th at 7:30 pm to learn more.
For more information, please contact Pastor Curt (218-281-3638).

SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN

September 6th, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. In Exodus, the observance of the Passover reminds the Israelites how God saved their community from slavery, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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.

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

Jeff Remick and Judy Gustafson

Scripture Reader

Ingrid Remick

Communion Server

Ingrid Remick

Acolyte

Offering Counters

Kathie Barnes and Becky Nelson

Altar Guild

Barb Erdman

Fellowship

WELCA

Livestream

Anna Peterson

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE TEAM

Thank you, Super-Duper September Team, for filling in so many slots this month! There are just a few left to serve our services.

Thank you very much!

Cole and Kelli Bertils

Norma Hoppe

Emily Giannetta

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 14:19-31

Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

Readings for September 13th, 2026

16th 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, September 6 15th Sunday After Pentecost

8:45 am	Adult Bible Study
10:00 am	Worship and Communion
11:00 am	Fellowship

Monday, September 7

Labor Day	Church office closed
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Tuesday, September 8

7:00 am	Men's Coffee Fellowship
7:00 pm	AA Meeting

Wednesday, September 9

8:30 am	Senior Quilts
6:30 pm	Parent Education Night

Thursday, September 10

Friday, September 12

Pastor's Day off	Church office closed
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Sunday, September 13 16th Sunday After Pentecost ***RALLY SUNDAY***

8:45 am	Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
10:00 am	Worship
11:00 am	Fellowship
6:30 pm	Women's Book Read

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

August 30th, 2026

Attendance: 51

Our gifts towards Budget:

Sunday Envelopes	\$2,269.72
Loose Offering	\$ 140.00
Over and Above Benevolence	\$ 10.00
General Treas/No Benevolence	\$ 30.00

Other (non-budget) Receipts:

Improvement Fund	\$ 10.00
Food Shelf	\$ 20.00

Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:

	\$4,675.42
Total received towards Budget	\$2,449.72
Total (non-budget) Receipts	\$ 30.00
Total Received	\$2,479.72



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 August 30 or contact Tammy in the office and she can provide a copy.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

KICK-OFF FALL WITH RALLY SUNDAY

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

- **Sunday School:** Open to children aged 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 (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!

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!

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**.

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!

MN ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Minnesota program is free and provides benefits of up to \$1,400, plus additional support to respond to emergencies.

Who qualifies?

Both renters and homeowners can qualify. Eligibility is based on income and household size. For example, a family of four could earn up to \$73,969 annually and qualify to receive financial assistance with energy bills. The Energy Assistance Application is available online at:

<https://energy-assistance.web.commerce.state.mn.us/>

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!

FELLOWSHIP

The proceeds from Fellowship today, hosted by WELCA, will go to the Solheim ministry in Honduras.

WELCOME BACK! (AND CATCHING UP ON SUMMER GIVING)

As summer winds down and familiar fall routines return, we are so glad to see everyone gathering back together! If travels, lake weekends, or busy summer schedules kept you away from church recently, please know you haven't missed your chance to be generous.

Your ongoing financial support is vital to how we carry out our mission to *share the gospel of Jesus Christ with all people*. Your gifts enrich lives right here at home through Sunday School, Confirmation, Parents' Education Nights, meaningful worship, pastoral visitation, and lifelong faith formation. They also allow us to extend our hands outward, supporting community partners like Care and Share and Lutheran Social Services, as well as global missions like Lutheran World Relief and ELCA World Hunger. Thank you for faithfully catching up on your summer giving and supporting our shared calling!

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurts, habits, or hangups of any kind. The belief is that healing is possible and you don't have to walk through it alone. It is a safe, nonjudgemental place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our lives. Brochures are available on the table by the East door, or call: 218-277-0465.

SWO (SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION)

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

