St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

November 22nd, 2026 Christ the King



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

November 22nd, 2026 ***Christ the King***

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WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SHARING THE PEACE

OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord God is our shepherd.

We are the people of God's pasture, the sheep of God's hand.

God will seek the lost, feed the hungry, and strengthen the weak.

But the proud and power-hungry will be fed with justice.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

With sincere and repentant hearts, let us name our sins against Christ and one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Sovereign God, we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm. You guide us toward right paths, but we refuse to follow where you lead. You love and feed and care for us, but we fail to love and serve others. Forgive us, merciful God, so that we may return to your fold and rejoice in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Lamb upon the throne. Amen.

However long we wander, however far we stray, God's steadfast love endures forever. Sisters and brothers, be assured: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

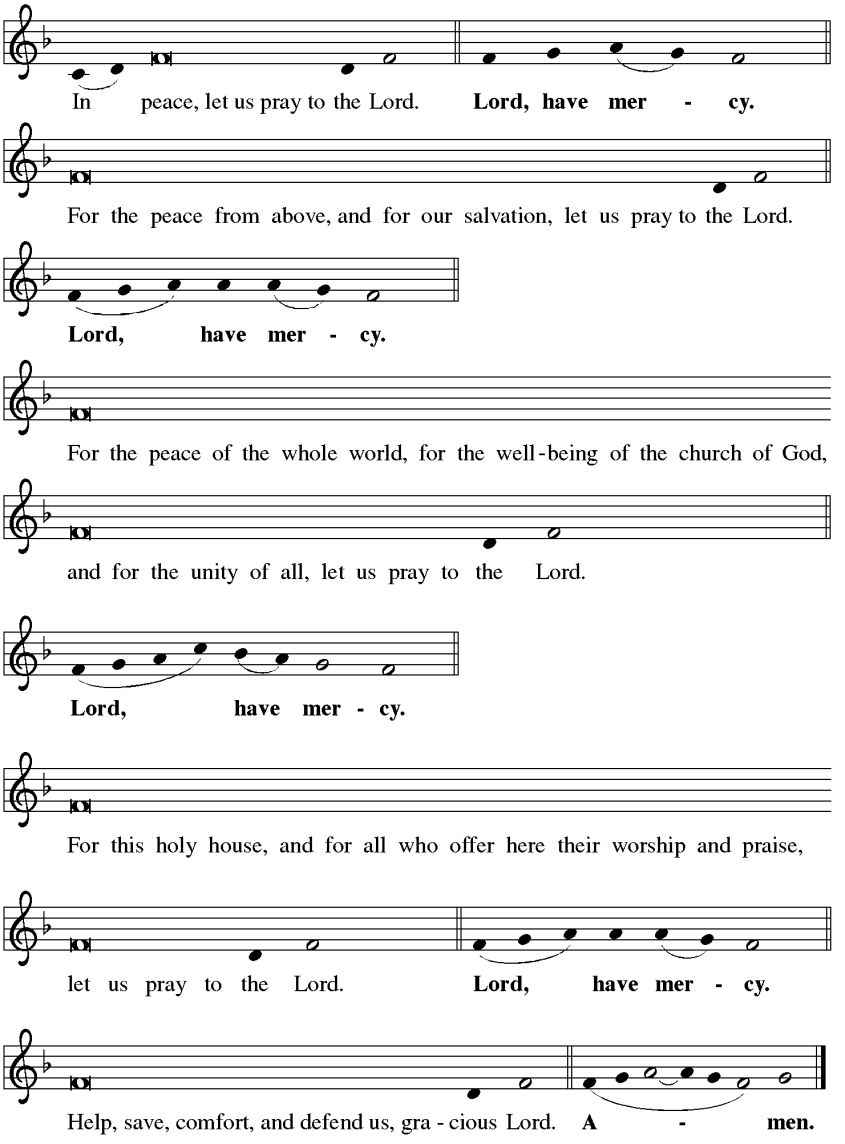
Thanks be to God! Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: #634 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

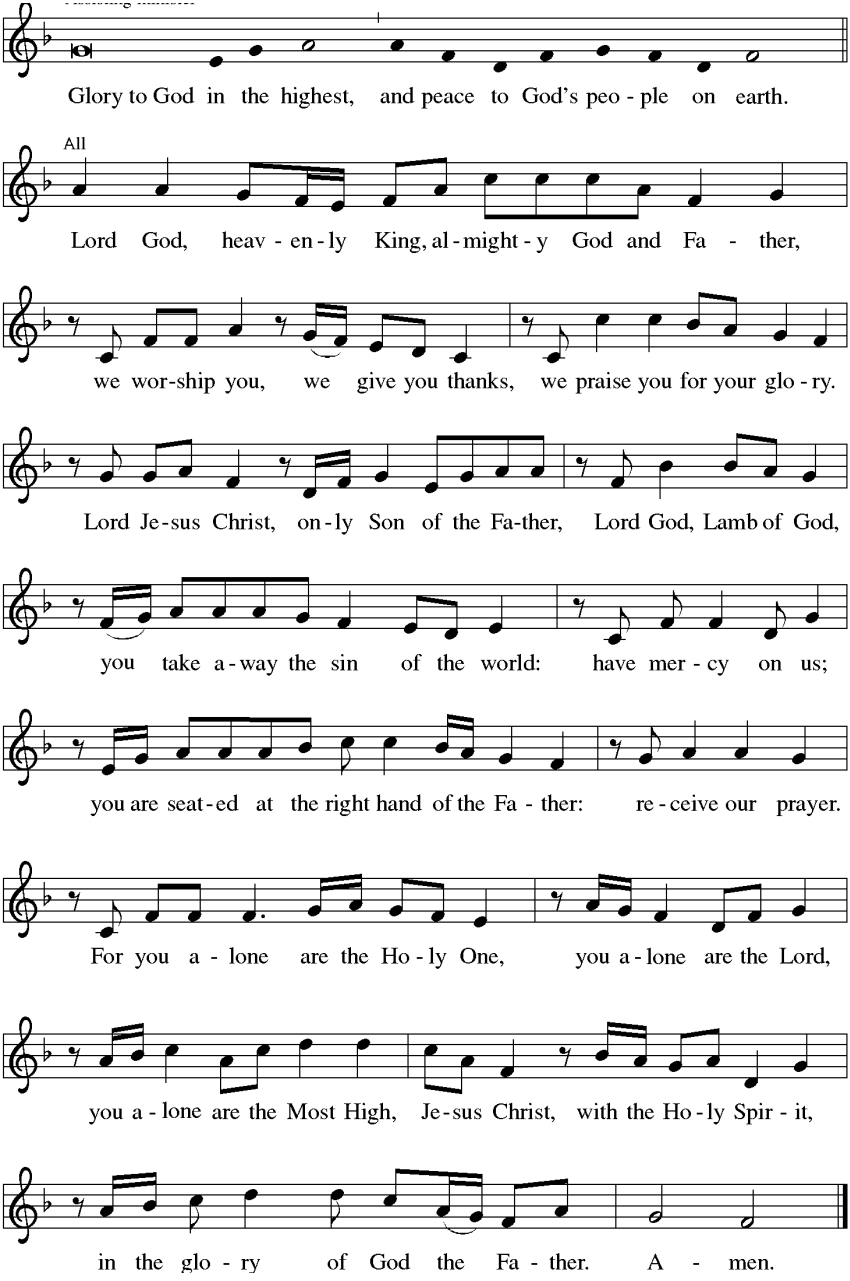
GREETING (p. 138)

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)


In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 139)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of majesty, you love us with an everlasting love and show us the way to justice and peace. In Jesus Christ you have reconciled the whole world to you and claimed us as your own,

that we may live as his body on earth and, with all the saints, enter into your glory on the last day. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC St. Paul's Choir "Hail the Day of Christ's Appearing"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, open your Word. Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, that our eyes may be enlightened and we may know the hope to which we have been called; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (CEB)

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

11 The Lord God proclaims: I myself will search for my flock and
seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out the flock when some in
the flock have been scattered, so will I seek out my flock. I will
rescue them from all the places where they were scattered during
the time of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will gather and lead them
out from the countries and peoples, and I will bring them to their
own fertile land. I will feed them on Israel's highlands, along the
riverbeds, and in all the inhabited places. 14 I will feed them in
good pasture, and their sheepfold will be there, on Israel's lofty
highlands. On Israel's highlands, they will lie down in a secure
fold and feed on green pastures. 15 I myself will feed my flock and
make them lie down. This is what the Lord God says. 16 I will seek
out the lost, bring back the strays, bind up the wounded, and
strengthen the weak. But the fat and the strong I will destroy,
because I will tend my sheep with justice.
20 So the Lord God proclaims to them: I will judge between the fat
and the lean sheep. 21 You shove with shoulder and flank, and with
your horns you ram all the weak sheep until you've scattered them
outside. 22 But I will rescue my flock so that they will never again
be prey. I will even judge between the sheep! 23 I will appoint for
them a single shepherd, and he will feed them. My servant David

will feed them. He will be their shepherd. [24] I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David will be their prince. I, the Lord, have spoken.

Psalm: Psalm 100 (CEB)

[1] Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!
[2] Serve the Lord with celebration!
Come before him with shouts of joy!
[3] Know that the Lord is God—
he made us; we belong to him.
We are his people,
the sheep of his own pasture.
[4] Enter his gates with thanks;
enter his courtyards with praise!
Thank him! Bless his name!
[5] Because the Lord is good,
his loyal love lasts forever;
his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.

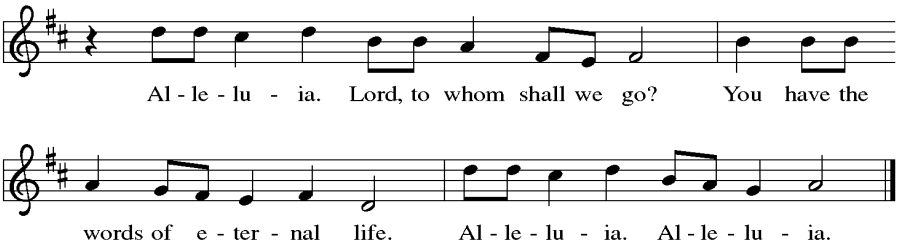
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23 (CEB)

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

[15] Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that [16] I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. [17] I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. [18] I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, [19] and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. [20] God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, [21] far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power,

any power that might be named not only now but in the future.
22 God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of
everything in the church, 23 which is his body. His body, the
church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 142):



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

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46 (CEB)

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "Now when the Human One comes
in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his
majestic throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered in front of him.
He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates
the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right side.
But the goats he will put on his left.
34 "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who
will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that
was prepared for you before the world began. 35 I was hungry and
you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I
was a stranger and you welcomed me. 36 I was naked and you gave
me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in
prison and you visited me.'
37 "Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when
did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a
drink? 38 When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or
naked and give you clothes to wear? 39 When did we see you sick
or in prison and visit you?'

40 “Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you
have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of
mine, you have done it for me.’
41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Get away from me, you
who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has
been prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 I was hungry and you
didn’t give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn’t give me
anything to drink. 43 I was a stranger and you didn’t welcome me. I
was naked and you didn’t give me clothes to wear. I was sick and
in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’
44 “Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or
thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn’t do
anything to help you?’ 45 Then he will answer, ‘I assure you that
when you haven’t done it for one of the least of these, you haven’t
done it for me.’ 46 And they will go away into eternal punishment.
But the righteous ones will go into eternal life.”
After: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE
SERMON “Stewards of the King”
HYMN OF THE DAY: #434 Jesus Shall Reign

APOSTLES’ CREED (p. 105)
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

In gratitude for the immeasurable gift of Jesus Christ, let us bring our tithes and offerings to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC St. Paul's Choir "He Is a Mighty Lord"

Offering Song: 186 Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Prayer: Holy God, use us, and these gifts, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and honor your presence in all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 208)

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

Now the grace of Christ surround you, the love of God astound you, and the Holy Spirit keep you, this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN #855 Crown Him with Many Crowns

INVITATION TO THE ASSEMBLY

Leader: Siblings in Christ, over the past four weeks, we have reflected on all that God has entrusted to our care. We began by remembering the saints who went before us—those who founded St. Paul's in 1896, those who raised the walls of this building in 1960, and all the faithful hands who taught our children, tended our gardens, poured the coffee, and welcomed the stranger. We stand today on the foundation of their faithfulness.

As one body in Christ with many different gifts, we have spent this month in prayerful preparation. Now, on this Christ the King Sunday, we step forward to participate in our Shepherd-King's ongoing work in the world—not burying what we have been given in fear, but investing our lives, our time, our talents, and our resources boldly for the sake of our neighbors.

LITANY OF THE ENTRUSTED

Leader: Our God is a generous and steadfast God, providing manna in the wilderness and sustaining us from generation to generation.

Assembly: What we have, we have received by God's grace.

Leader: For 130 years of ministry in this place, God has gathered a people at St. Paul's— from the pioneers of 1896 and the builders of 1960, to every saint who has served quietly in kitchen, classroom, chancel, and garden.

Assembly: We inherit their legacy and carry their mission forward.

Leader: Though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. To each of us, God has measured out a portion of faith and a unique gift to share: to prophesy in faith, to serve with devotion, to teach with wisdom, to encourage with warmth, to give with no strings attached, to lead with passion, and to show mercy with cheerfulness.

Assembly: Prepared to serve, we choose this day to offer our whole lives to the Lord.

Leader: Our Lord is a Shepherd-King who reigns not from a distant throne, but among the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, and the vulnerable. He entrusts us with abundant gifts—not to be hidden away, but to be shared boldly so that all may know the feast of God's love.

Assembly: As stewards of the King, we invest our gifts for the life of the world.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND TABLE GRACE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

You are invited to hold your Commitment Cards and Time and Talent sheets in your outstretched hands during the prayer.

Leader: Let us pray. Holy One, Holy Three, God of abundance, you bring grain from the earth and fruit from the vine, blessing us with your presence in mysterious and tangible ways. We give you

thanks for 130 years of faithfulness at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and for calling us to continue in your name through 2027.

As we bring these Time and Talent sheets and Commitment Cards before you, we ask that you bless them to your service. May they be outward signs of your inward work in us. May they become seeds that bring forth newness in this upcoming year— maintaining the spaces where we gather, sending our youth to camp to grow in faith, caring for the least of these, and proclaiming your good news to all.

Bless us now in our intentions, our hopes, and our generosity. And as we leave this sanctuary to gather around the tables in our fellowship hall, bless the food we are about to share and the hands that prepared it. May our celebration meal be a joyful foretaste of your eternal feast, where all are fed and all belong. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and our King.

Assembly: Amen.

THE ACT OF COMMITMENT & SENDING TO THE FEAST

Leader: Siblings in Christ, you are invited now to come forward. As you place your 2027 Commitment Cards and Time and Talent sheets into the box at the front of the sanctuary, let it be an act of thanksgiving and bold trust.

From here, please go directly through the side entrance into the fellowship hall, where our celebration lunch awaits.

Go in peace. Share your gifts boldly. Rejoice in the feast of the Lord!

Assembly: Thanks be to God!

SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN

November , 22nd, 2026 **Christ the King**

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

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

Julie Love	Darleen Jackson	Jim Erickson
Katie Bakken	Julian Bertils	Marlo Moren
Highland Branvold	Nancy Eia	Loren Sanderson
Trevin Monahan	Nash Erdman	Stuart Hanson
Mark Peterson	Glorrayne Casmey	Lucile Torkelson
Delores Sandager	Carol Chaffee	Kari L Trudeau
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	John Vallager and Connie Haller
Scripture Reader	Caillie Darco
Acolyte	Vincent Peterson
Fellowship	Stewardship Lunch
Altar Guild	Karin and Dave Danforth
Offering Counters	Kathie Barnes and Penny Blokzyl
Livestream	Judson Halland

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE TEAM

Thank you, **Remarkable November Team,** for being part of worship this month. Thanks to other parishioners for stepping up to help when needed!

Caillie Darco Ron and Susan Hann
Carol Solheim

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7,17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

Readings for November 29th, 2026 1st Sunday of Advent

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, November 22 ***Christ the King***
8:45 am **Sunday School/Adult Bible Study**
10:00 am **Worship**
11:00 am **Stewardship Celebration Lunch**

Monday, November 23
8:30 am **LWR Quilting**
6:30 pm **Church Council meeting**

Tuesday, November 24
7:00 am **Men's Coffee Fellowship**
7:00 pm **AA**

Wednesday, November 25
NO SENIOR QUILTING
7:00 pm **Thanksgiving Eve Service**
(Followed by fellowship with delicious pumpkin desserts!)

Thursday, November 26 Thanksgiving Day
Thanks be to God for all He has given us!

Friday, November 27
Pastor's Day off **Church office closed**

Sunday, November 29 ***1st Sunday of Advent***
8:45 am **Adult Bible Study/NO SS**
10:00 am **Worship**
11:00 am **Fellowship**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

November 15th, 2026 **Attendance: 68**

Our gifts towards Budget:	
Sunday Envelopes	$2,969.35
Loose Offering	$ 19.00
Over and Above Benevolence	$ 10.00
Gen. Treas/No Benevolence	$ 200.00
Other (non-budget) Receipts:	
Improvement Fund	$ 35.25
Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:	$4,675.42
Total received towards Budget	$3,198.35
Total (non-budget) Receipts	$ 35.25
Received	$3,233.60

Thank you, Church, for sharing your time and talent with our church! We are blessed because of you!



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 November 1st or contact Tammy in the office and she can provide a copy.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

THIS WEEK IN FAITH FORMATION

This morning in Sunday School, our kids explored the joyful story of **Mary Visiting Elizabeth** (*Spark Story Bible*, Luke 1:39–56). We learned how Mary hurried to share her exciting surprise with her cousin Elizabeth, how Elizabeth's baby leaped for joy at the sound of Mary's greeting, and how Mary sang a song of praise celebrating how God keeps promises and blesses us. Families, ask your kids at home: *When you have exciting news to share, how do you tell your family and friends?*

A huge thank you to all the youth and adult leaders who participated in our **Common Grounds Gather and Go** event on Wednesday, November 18! It was a wonderful evening of traveling from church to church—starting with supper at Trinity, playing games at Our Savior's, singing worship songs at Freedom Church, enjoying desserts right here at St. Paul's, and wrapping up with a message at Harvest Church. Thank you for coming together in fellowship and following Jesus as a community!

Upcoming Faith Formation Dates:

- **Wednesday, Nov. 25:** No Confirmation (Thanksgiving Break)
- **Sunday, Nov. 29:** No Sunday School (Thanksgiving Break)
- **Wednesday, Dec. 2:** Confirmation resumes with a night of decorating the fellowship hall for Advent and Christmas.
- **Sunday, Dec. 6:** Sunday School resumes; Christmas program rehearsals begin!
- **Saturday, Dec. 12 (10:00 AM):** Christmas Program **Dress Rehearsal**
- **Sunday, Dec. 13:** Final run-through during Sunday School, followed by the **Christmas Program during worship**!

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Question for Reflection

How would it change you to see the face of Christ in every stranger you meet?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of all creation, I greet your new day with thanksgiving and praise. Do not let me neglect the needs of those I meet today, and keep me faithful to your ways, for I want to live for you. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, Lord, for the gifts and challenges of this day. Where I failed to do your will, forgive me. Grant me peace throughout this night, and if I should die, welcome me into your glory with all the saints in light; in Jesus' name. Amen.

THANKSGIVING DINNER



Cathedral's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be on Thursday, November 26th, at Cathedral, 702 Summit Avenue, Crookston. Please call 218-281-5727 to reserve your traditional Thanksgiving meal. There is no charge for the meal. Drive-through**, take-out meals** will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Buffet-style, in-house serving will be from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. *Everyone welcome!*

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your kind words and your sympathy during this difficult time. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and prayers, know that you have been a real source of strength and peace. As most of you know my sister, Millie, passed away on October 15th. She was put to rest in Bygland Lutheran Church Cemetery. Roger passed away peacefully at home on October 16th. Roger donated his body to Mayo for research. When the research is complete, the burial will be at Ringsaker Lutheran Church Cemetery in North Dakota. Roger's full obituary and video will be available online.

With heartfelt thanks, Gladys Sondrol and Family

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Benedictine Living Community, Crookston, is inviting the community to pick an Angel off the tree to purchase a gift for a Villa resident. The Angel Tree will be at the Villa south entrance, door 2, on Monday, December 7th, and Tuesday, December 8th, from 9:00 am – 5:30 pm. Surprise a resident with what may be their only present on Christmas Day! Sponsored by Benedictine Living Community - Crookston Auxiliary.

"CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY"



Bygland Lutheran Church will be hosting their 25th Annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner, Bazaar, and Bake sale on Sunday, December 6th, 2026. Will be serving from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Cost: Adults - $20.00, Children 12 and under – free. Located 8 miles south of East Grand Forks on Highway 220.

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE TEAM

The **Dynamic December Team's** sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please take a look and sign up early! **Thank you** so much giving of your time!

Becky and Bob Cameron	Barb and Doug Erdman
Eric Erdman	Crystal and Pat Guzman
Anna and Mark Peterson	Dana Perreault

We really appreciate those who have signed up to serve on **Thanksgiving Eve!** 😊

Ushers:	Laurie Bruley and Connie Haller
Communion Server:	Paulette Wagner
Scripture Reader:	Emily Giannnetta
Acolyte:	

ST. PAUL'S YOUTH "TREE OF LIGHTS"

The Youth of St. Paul's are sponsoring a "Tree of Lights" this Christmas season. Everyone is invited to purchase a bulb(s) in honor or in memory of a loved one, or an event. Order forms are located on the table at the back of church, the tables by each door, and the church office. Please submit order forms and donations by December 13th. Thank you for supporting St. Paul's Youth!



JINGLE JAZZ BENEFIT CONCERT

Wesley United Methodist Church is hosting a Jingle Jazz concert with donations going to the Care and Share (Local shelter serving 8 NW MN counties). Local musicians will be performing Christmas jazz music for entertainment. Coffee and dessert will be served. Plan to attend this valuable event on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 7:00 pm. Call 218-281-3393 with any questions.

*701 Eickhof Blvd, Crookston, MN

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- Wednesday, **November 25th: Thanksgiving Eve. Service** at 7:00 pm. Fellowship with pumpkin desserts following service
- Saturday, **December 12th:** Sunday School Children's Program Rehearsal at 10:00 am.
- Sunday, **December 13th:** Sunday School **Children's Program** during worship
- Thursday, **December 24th: Christmas Eve. Service** at 5:00 pm
- Friday, **December 25th: Christmas Day Service** at 10:00 am

FAITH AND FAMILY 2026

FAITH, CHARACTER, AND COMPETITION

The UND Hockey program and Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is putting on a special event at their hockey game on **November 28th**. They are highlighting the importance of athletes' faith and commitment to God, and how they navigate during their busy season schedules while also staying true to their faith. There will be a pre-game meet up where the team chaplain and the leader of FCA will speak to the group. After the game, several FCA members/players will be available for questions, and to sign autographs. Join in at the Ralph Englestad Arena, Grand Forks, ND (1 Ralph Engelstad Arena Dr., University of ND), for the November 28th game against Lindenwood. The pre-game program starts at 4:30 pm, followed by the game at 6:00 pm. Scan the QR code for tickets and more information.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY AND CELEBRATION LUNCH

Today is Commitment Sunday! Thank you for your faithful generosity in sharing your time, talents, and treasures with St. Paul's. At the end of worship today, everyone will be invited to come forward and place their completed 2027 Financial Commitment Cards and Time and Talent Sheets into the box at the front of the sanctuary. *(Extra forms are available if you need one.)*

Immediately following worship, please join us for our Celebration Lunch! Come enjoy food and fellowship as we give thanks for God's abundant blessings and celebrate all the ways your generosity helps us share the good news of Jesus Christ, and love and serve our neighbors right here in Crookston and around the world.

