

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

September 27th, 2026 Eighteenth Sunday after
Pentecost



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

September 27th, 2026 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

COPYRIGHT NOTICE: USED BY PERMISSION OF AUGSBURG FORTRESS UNDER LICENSE #SB168777

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SHARING THE PEACE

OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord who is our provider.

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

God brought us out of bondage and has made us free.

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

Glorious are the deeds of our God, and mighty are his acts.

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor, trusting in the promise of forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Almighty God, we have been wandering in the wilderness of sin.

We have complained in the face of your mercy. We have been selfish and conceited in the face of your sacrifice. We have not done your will. Teach us humility. Teach us gratitude. Infuse your spirit into our beings so that we might be reconciled to you.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

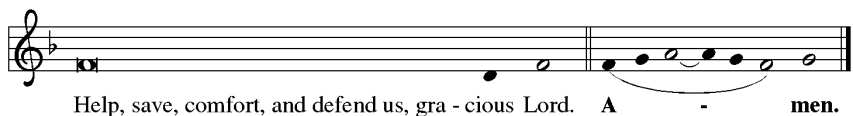
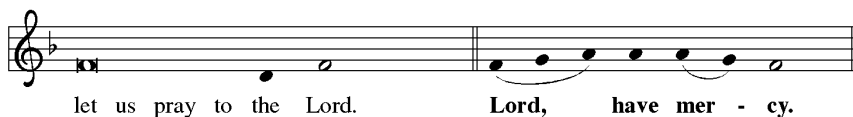
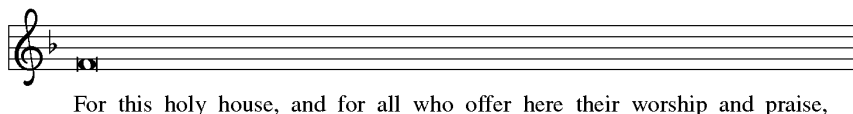
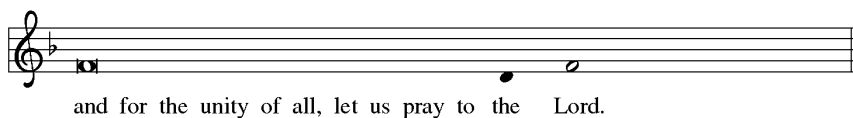
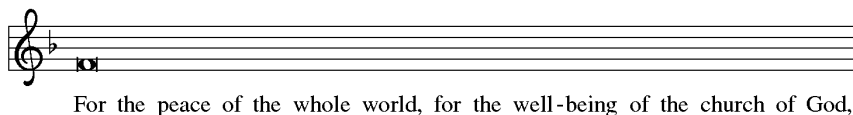
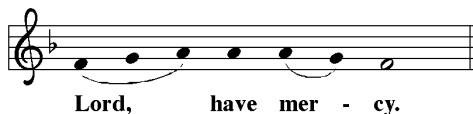
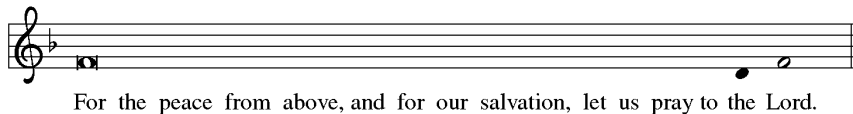
People of God, our sins are forgiven. The Lord is loving, and we are reconciled to God. Therefore, let us humble and surrender ourselves to the will of God for the glory of the Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: #520 Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

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)



All

Musical notation for the 'All' section, showing a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

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

Gracious God, we thank you for being ever present with us. We know that we are never alone. Your mercies have been faithful and rich. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we might do the work of your will. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC Sunday School “Peace like a River”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, fill us with your Spirit and humble our hearts so that we can hear your Word. Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7 (CEB)

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the Lord among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

¹ The whole Israelite community broke camp and set out from the Sin desert to continue their journey, as the Lord commanded. They set up their camp at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people argued with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses said to them, “Why are you arguing with me? Why are you testing the Lord?”

³ But the people were very thirsty for water there, and they complained to Moses, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?”

⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What should I do with this people? They are getting ready to stone me.”

⁵ The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of Israel’s elders with you. Take in your hand the shepherd’s rod that you used to strike the Nile River and go. ⁶ I’ll be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock. Water will come out of it, and the people will be able to drink.” Moses did so while Israel’s elders watched. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites argued with and tested the Lord, asking, “Is the Lord really with us or not?”

Psalm: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 (CEB)

¹ Listen, my people, to my teaching;
tilt your ears toward the words of my mouth.

² **I will open my mouth with a proverb.**

I'll declare riddles from days long gone—

³ ones that we've heard and learned about,
ones that our ancestors told us.

4 We won't hide them from their descendants;

we'll tell the next generation

all about the praise due the Lord and his strength—

the wondrous works God has done.

¹² But God performed wonders in their ancestors' presence—
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

¹³ **God split the sea and led them through,
making the waters stand up like a wall.**

¹⁴ God led them with the cloud by day;
by the lightning all through the night.

¹⁵ **God split rocks open in the wilderness,
gave them plenty to drink—
as if from the deep itself!**

¹⁶ God made streams flow from the rock,
made water run like rivers.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13 (CEB)

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

¹ Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort in love, any sharing in the Spirit, any sympathy, ² complete my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, being united, and agreeing with each other. ³ Don't do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. ⁵ Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus:

⁶ Though he was in the form of God,

he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit.

⁷ But he emptied himself
 by taking the form of a slave
 and by becoming like human beings.
 When he found himself in the form of a human,
⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of
 death,
 even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore, God highly honored him
 and gave him a name above all names,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus everyone
 in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow
¹¹ and every tongue confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
¹² Therefore, my loved ones, just as you always obey me, not just
 when I am present but now even more while I am away, carry out
 your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ God is the one who
 enables you both to want and to actually live out his good
 purposes.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32 (CEB)

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³ When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and elders of the people came to him as he was teaching. They asked, “What kind of authority do you have for doing these things? Who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “I have a question for you. If you tell me the answer, I’ll tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things. ²⁵ Where did John get his authority to baptize? Did he get it from heaven or from humans?”

They argued among themselves, “If we say ‘from heaven,’ he’ll say to us, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶ But we can’t say ‘from humans’ because we’re afraid of the crowd, since everyone thinks John was a prophet.” ²⁷ Then they replied, “We don’t know.” Jesus also said to them, “Neither will I tell you what kind of authority I have to do these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons. Now he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’

²⁹ “‘No, I don’t want to,’ he replied. But later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ “The father said the same thing to the other son, who replied, ‘Yes, sir.’ But he didn’t go.

³¹ “Which one of these two did his father’s will?”

They said, “The first one.”

Jesus said to them, “I assure you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering God’s kingdom ahead of you. ³² For John came to you on the righteous road, and you didn’t believe him. But tax collectors and prostitutes believed him. Yet even after you saw this, you didn’t change your hearts and lives and you didn’t believe him.

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON “Gathered and Sent”

HYMN OF THE DAY: # 818 O Master, Let Me Walk with You

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

The works of the Lord are wondrous indeed. Let us offer back to God a portion of what has been given to us, for the glory of God's name.

Offering Song: #186 Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Prayer: O God, use these gifts to do your will in the world and prepare us for your coming kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. 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

May the God who is always near bless and keep you on your journey. Glory, honor, and praise be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: # 537 On Our Way Rejoicing

CHARGE: Beloved, let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus. Love the Lord and serve others for the glory of God.

Thanks be to God.

SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN

September 27th, 2026

18th Sunday After Pentecost

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Exodus, the thirsty Israelites wonder if God is with them, while God provides water and life in the desert. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy 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	Lowland 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	Loren Sanderson
Family of Dennis Kesler		

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

Becky and Bob Camerson

Scripture Reader

Emily Giannetta

Acolyte

Judson Halland

Fellowship

The Hallands

Livestream

Haddie Halland

OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVICE TEAM

Thank you to the upcoming Awesome October Worship Team!

Please take a moment to review the sign up calendar on the bulletin board; signing up early is helpful. THANKS A BUNCH!

Jean Ann Bienek

Mark and Nancy Bruggeman

Loren and Carol Johnson

Craig and Sue Laplante

Carol Solheim

Alvern Wentzel

Many thanks Super-Duper September Team! 😊

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalms 19

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matt. 21:33-46

Readings for October 4th, 2026

19th 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 27 18th Sunday After Pentecost

8:45 am	Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
10:00 am	Worship
11:00 am	Fellowship

Monday, September 28

8:30 am	LWR Quilting
6:30 pm	Church Council meeting

Tuesday, September 29

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

Wednesday, September 30

8:30 am	Senior Quilts
7:00 pm	Confirmation
7:00 pm	Choir practice

Thursday, October 1

Friday, October 2

Pastor's Day off	Church office closed
-------------------------	-----------------------------

Sunday, September 4 19th Sunday After Pentecost

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

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

September 20th, 2026

Attendance: 65

Our gifts towards Budget:

Sunday Envelopes	\$2,899.02
Loose Offering	\$ 45.00
Over and Above Benevolence	\$ 10.00
General Treas/No Benevolence	\$1,030.00

Other (non-budget) Receipts:

Improvement Fund	\$ 10.00
WELCA (Thrivent Choice Dollars)	\$ 993.00
Food Shelf	\$ 10.00

Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:

Total received towards Budget	\$4,675.42
Total (non-budget) Receipts	\$3,984.02
Total Received	\$1,013.00
	\$4,997.02

Thank you, Church, for the support you always provide!

Leviticus 1-6 highlights the five offerings of the Old Testament; a fresh way to view our own giving.

1. Burnt Offering: Voluntary offering of an entire animal symbolizing total **dedication** to God.
2. Grain (meal) Offering: Flour, oil and sometimes frankincense expressing **thankfulness and devotion**.
3. Peace Offering: Voluntary offering of part of an animal, celebrating **fellowship and communion** with God.
4. Sin Offering: Requirement of animal's blood, symbolizing **cleansing and restoration of holiness**.
5. Trespass (Guilt) Offering: Animal sacrifice and sometimes additional compensation, reflecting God's concern for **moral and relational integrity**.

Regarding our own giving as dedication, thankfulness, communion, cleansing, and restitution/integrity, to and with God, promotes a beautiful, holy, and humble approach to beholding our offering to God each week!

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

NEW TO WORSHIP: THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Starting this week, you will notice a brief prayer added before our scripture readings. This is called a *Prayer of Illumination*. Its purpose is simple: it is a prayer to ready our ears and our hearts to hear God's Word. Before the scriptures are read, we take this moment together to ask the Holy Spirit to open our minds and guide our understanding so we can truly receive what God is speaking to us today.

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 **Oct. 19**.

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.

GRIEF SHARE

GriefShare is a welcoming support group for people grieving the death of a family member or friend. Whether your loss is recent or happened years ago. Each meeting combines guidance from grief experts, along with honest conversations and encouragement from others who understand what you're going through. Concordia Lutheran Church in Fertile will start a **Griefshare group on September 29**, starting at 6:30 pm. Grief Share will run every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Contact Concordia Lutheran Church for sign-up or more information at (218) 945-6696.

FREE WORKSHOPS TO SUPPORT FARMERS IN TIMES OF STRESS

The MDA and partners in the Farm Suicide Prevention Campaign are offering free, two-hour workshops for people who live and work in agricultural communities. You don't need to be a mental health professional to participate. These workshops provide practical tools to recognize when someone may be struggling, start a caring conversation, and connect them with support.

QPR for Agriculture:



Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) for Agriculture teaches three steps anyone can take to recognize warning signs, have a supportive conversation, and connect someone at risk with appropriate care and resources.

- Oct. 01, 10 a.m.–noon, Fergus Falls
- Oct. 14, 10 a.m.–noon, Ada
- Oct. 22, 10 a.m.–noon, Thief River Falls

COMET:

Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory (COMET) teaches participants how to start a caring conversation with someone who seems sad, withdrawn, or not quite themselves. Participants use a seven-question guide to help someone move away from a potential crisis and toward wellness.

- Oct. 30, 10 a.m.–noon, Crookston

Register for QPR for Agriculture and COMET Workshops on Eventbrite

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/farm-suicide-prevention-campaign>

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/>

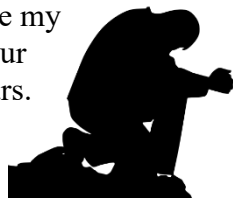
THIS WEEK IN FAITH FORMATION

Sunday School: This Sunday, our children are learning the story of Philip and the Ethiopian. The lesson covers how an angel directed Philip to travel down a hot, dry road where he met a man from Ethiopia reading a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Philip helped him understand the scriptures, sharing the good news that Jesus is the Son of God, which led to the Ethiopian man joyfully being baptized.

Wednesday Confirmation: This week, our youth will be studying the "Seasons Related to Christmas". Their lesson explores the church calendar, focusing on the meaning, liturgical colors, and traditions of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Students will discuss the anticipation and preparation of Advent, the Incarnation of Jesus during Christmas, and the celebration of Jesus as the "light of the world" during Epiphany.

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

- What does it mean to do the will of God? Has God ever shown up in the middle of your complaining? When have you been wandering in a “wilderness of sin”?
- **Household Prayer: Morning**
Dear God, thank you for this day. Guide my mind in your way and help me to do your will. All praise, honor, and glory is yours. Amen.
- **Household Prayer: Evening**
Dear God, thank you for providing for my needs. Thank you for always being with me. Keep me through the night and put a song of praise on my lips when I rise again. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.



SMORGASBORD

Bethany Lutheran in Red Lake Falls is hosting their 78th Annual Smorgasbord on Sunday, October 11th, from 11:30 am – 2:30 pm. The menu includes homemade Scandinavian favorites!

Delivery is available from 11:30-12:30 pm only. Please call ahead to schedule: 218-253-2589. Adults \$20.00; Children \$5.00.

Bethany Lutheran Church, 1315 6th St, NE, Red Lake Falls, MN