

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

August 16th, 2026 Twelfth Sunday after
Pentecost



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

August 16th, 2026

Twelfth 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.

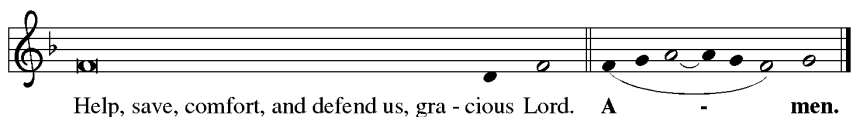
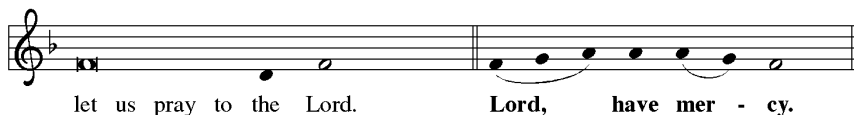
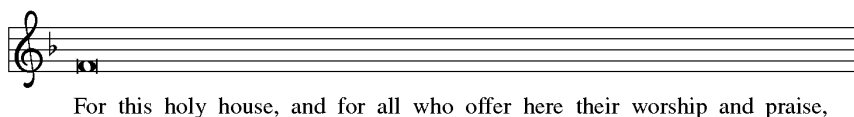
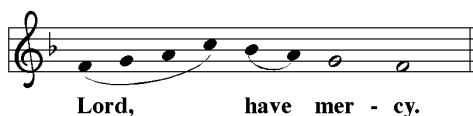
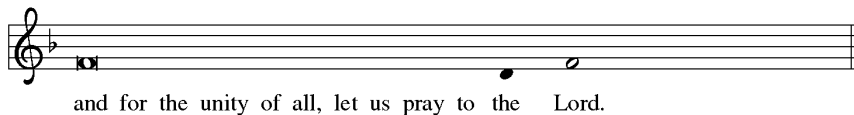
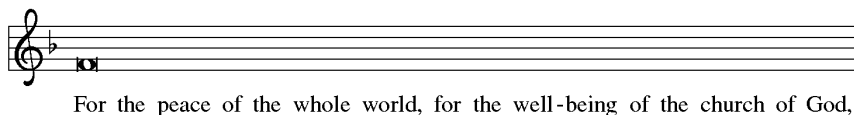
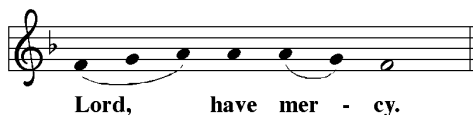
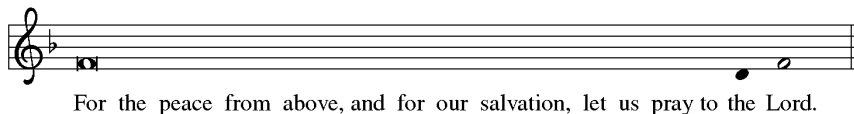
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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

GATHERING HYMN: 886 O, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

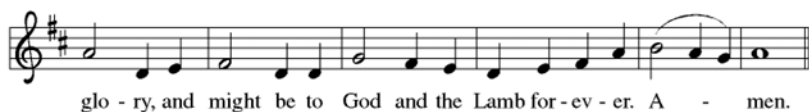
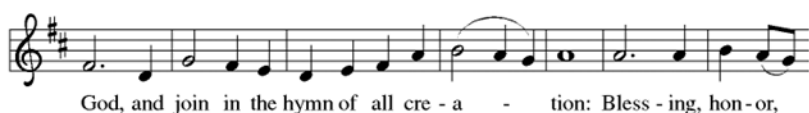
GREETING (p. 203)

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)





PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

First Reading: Genesis 45:1-15 (CEB)

Moved to tears by Judah's plea on behalf of Benjamin, Joseph declares, "I am Joseph!" and asks, "Is my father still alive?" Despite the brothers' evil intent, God used Joseph to preserve many lives at a time of famine.

[After Judah offered himself in place of his brother Benjamin,]¹ Joseph could no longer control himself in front of all his attendants, so he declared, "Everyone, leave now!" So no one stayed with him when he revealed his identity to his brothers.² He wept so loudly that the Egyptians and Pharaoh's household heard him.³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I'm Joseph! Is my father really still alive?" His brothers couldn't respond because they were terrified before him.

⁴ Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me," and they moved closer. He said, "I'm your brother Joseph! The one you sold to Egypt."⁵ Now, don't be upset and don't be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives.⁶ We've already had two years of famine in the land, and there are five years left without planting or harvesting.⁷ God sent me before you to make sure you'd survive and to rescue your lives in this amazing way.⁸ You didn't

send me here; it was God who made me a father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler of the whole land of Egypt.

⁹ “Hurry! Go back to your father. Tell him this is what your son Joseph says: ‘God has made me master of all of Egypt. Come down to me. Don’t delay.’ ¹⁰ You may live in the land of Goshen, so you will be near me, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and everyone with you. ¹¹ I will support you there, so you, your household, and everyone with you won’t starve, since the famine will still last five years.’ ¹² You and my brother Benjamin have seen with your own eyes that I’m speaking to you. ¹³ Tell my father about my power in Egypt and about everything you’ve seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” ¹⁴ He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his shoulder. ¹⁵ He kissed all of his brothers and wept, embracing them. After that, his brothers were finally able to talk to him.

Psalm: Psalm 133 (CEB)

¹ Look at how good and pleasing it is
when families live together as one!

² **It is like expensive oil poured over the head,
running down onto the beard—**

Aaron’s beard!—

which extended over the collar of his robes.

³ It is like the dew on Mount Hermon
streaming down onto the mountains of Zion,
because it is there that the Lord has commanded the blessing:
everlasting life.

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 (CEB)

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹ So I ask you, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! I’m an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God hasn’t rejected his people, whom he knew in advance.

²⁹ God’s gifts and calling can’t be taken back. ³⁰ Once you were disobedient to God, but now you have mercy because they were disobedient. ³¹ In the same way, they have also been disobedient because of the mercy that you received, so now they can receive mercy

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd near and said to them, “Listen and understand. ¹¹ It’s not what goes into the mouth that contaminates a person in God’s sight. It’s what comes out of the mouth that contaminates the person.”

¹² Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you just said?”

¹³ Jesus replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father didn’t plant will be pulled up. ¹⁴ Leave the Pharisees alone. They are blind people who are guides to blind people. But if a blind person leads another blind person, they will both fall into a ditch.”

¹⁵ Then Peter spoke up, “Explain this riddle to us.”

¹⁶ Jesus said, “Don’t you understand yet? ¹⁷ Don’t you know that everything that goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what goes out of the mouth comes from the heart. And that’s what contaminates a person in God’s sight. ¹⁹ Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adultery, sexual sins, thefts, false testimonies, and insults. ²⁰ These contaminate a person in God’s sight. But eating without washing hands doesn’t contaminate in God’s sight.”

²¹ From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, “Show me mercy,

Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession.” ²³ But he didn’t respond to her at all.

His disciples came and urged him, “Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us.”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “I’ve been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel.”

²⁵ But she knelt before him and said, “Lord, help me.”

²⁶ He replied, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and toss it to dogs.”

²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters’ table.”

²⁸ Jesus answered, “Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish.” And right then her daughter was healed.

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: 612 Healer of Our Every Ill

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.

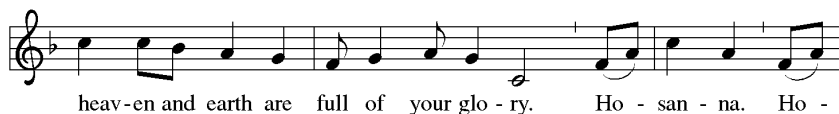
GREAT THANKSGIVING / HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 144)

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:



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:



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: 496 One Bread, One Body

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: 759 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN

Aug. 16th, 2026

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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 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

Paulette Wagner and Kathie Barnes

Scripture Reader

Sandy Peterson

Acolyte

Communion Server

Laurie Bruley

Offering Counters

Kathie Barnes and John Vallager

Altar Guild

Laurie Bruley

Fellowship

Jan Vallager

Livestream

Vincent Peterson

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICE TEAM

Our servers this month are the **Terrific August Team!** Thank you for your participation. PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD for slots that still need filling. Thank you very much!

Kathie Barnes

Marlys Demarais

Kathy Normandin

Paulette Wagner

Laurie Bruley

Dave and Karin Danforth

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Exodus 1:8—2:10

Psalm 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

Readings for August 23rd, 2026

13th 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 16

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

12th Sunday After Pentecost

**Adult Bible Study
Worship with Communion
Fellowship**

Monday, August 17

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

**LWR Quilting
Parish Fellowship meeting**

Tuesday, August 18

7:00 pm

AA Meeting

Wednesday, August 19

8:30 am

Senior Quilts

Thursday, August 20

Friday, August 21

Church office closed

Pastor's Day off

Sunday, August 23

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

13th Sunday After Pentecost

**Adult Bible Study
Worship
Fellowship**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

August 9th, 2026

Attendance: 51

Our gifts towards Budget:

Sunday Envelopes	\$2,568.14
Loose Offering	\$ 25.00
Over and Above Benevolence	\$ 10.00
General Treas/No Benevolence	\$ 30.00
Improvement Fund	\$ 85.75

Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:

Total received towards Budget	\$4,675.42
Total (non-budget) Receipts	\$2,633.14
Total Received	\$ 85.75
	\$2,718.89

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 **August 17**.

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!

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 it’s **38th Annual Convention**, September 18-19, 2026, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Crookston.

PARENT’S EDUCATION NIGHT EVENT

What: “Parent's Education Night”: Healthy Eating for Busy Families!

Date & Time: Wednesday, September 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.**

SCHOOL 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!

