St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

November 15th, 2026 Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

November 15th, 2026 Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SHARING THE PEACE

OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP

Clothe yourselves with faith and love; be confident in your salvation in Christ Jesus. The Lord is with us! Let us worship God.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God has not destined us for wrath, but for salvation in Jesus, who died for us. Confident in God's mercies, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Almighty God, you have shown us the ways of justice and nurtured us with love. Even so, we have not lived according to your will. When we are oppressed or unjustly accused, we cling to fear and forget to trust in your deliverance. When we are giddy with power and abuse the rights of others, we hold tight to our privilege and forget your laws. Have mercy on us, Lord, for we are weak and prone to disobedience. Hear our confession, and respond to us with kindness, that we might turn to you again, walk in the light, and live in equity and peace; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Children of light, because we belong to our Lord Jesus Christ, we need not fear— for he lived for us, he died for us, he was raised for us and prays for us. Believe the promise of your baptism: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

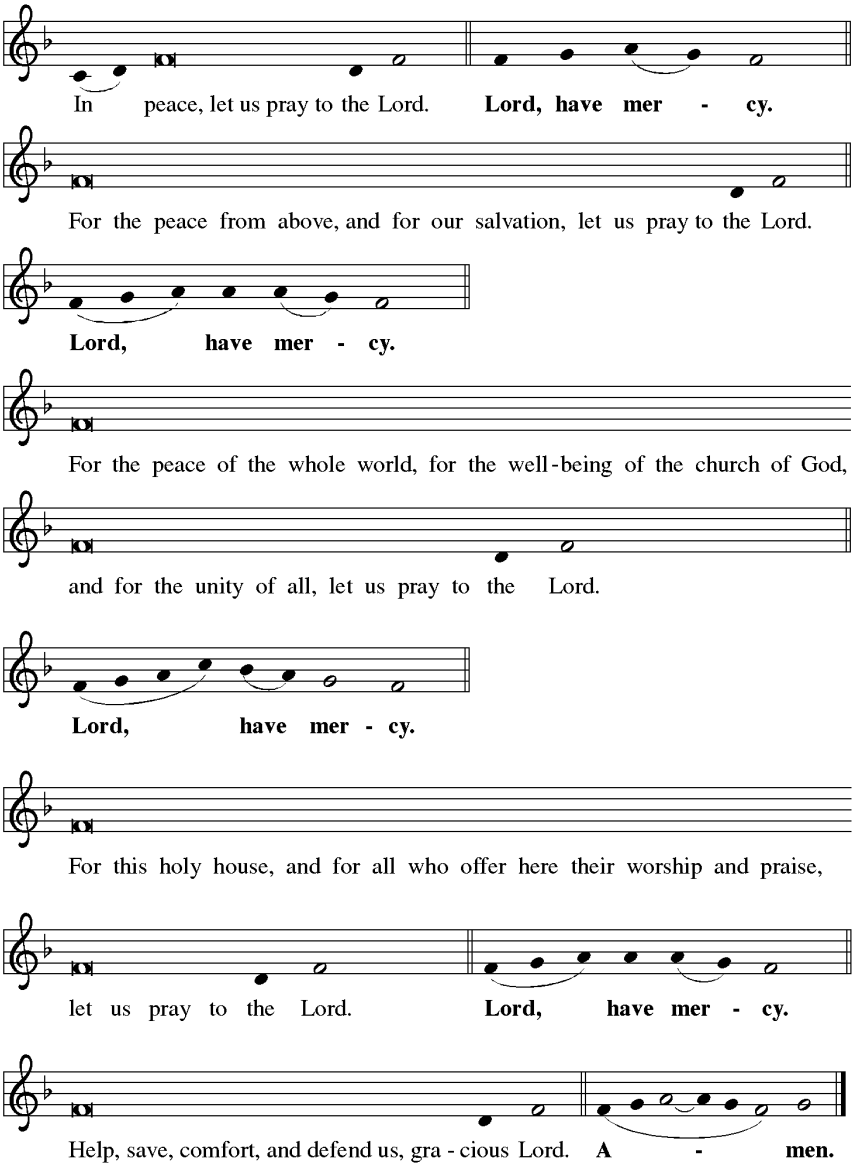
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: #870 We Praise You, O God

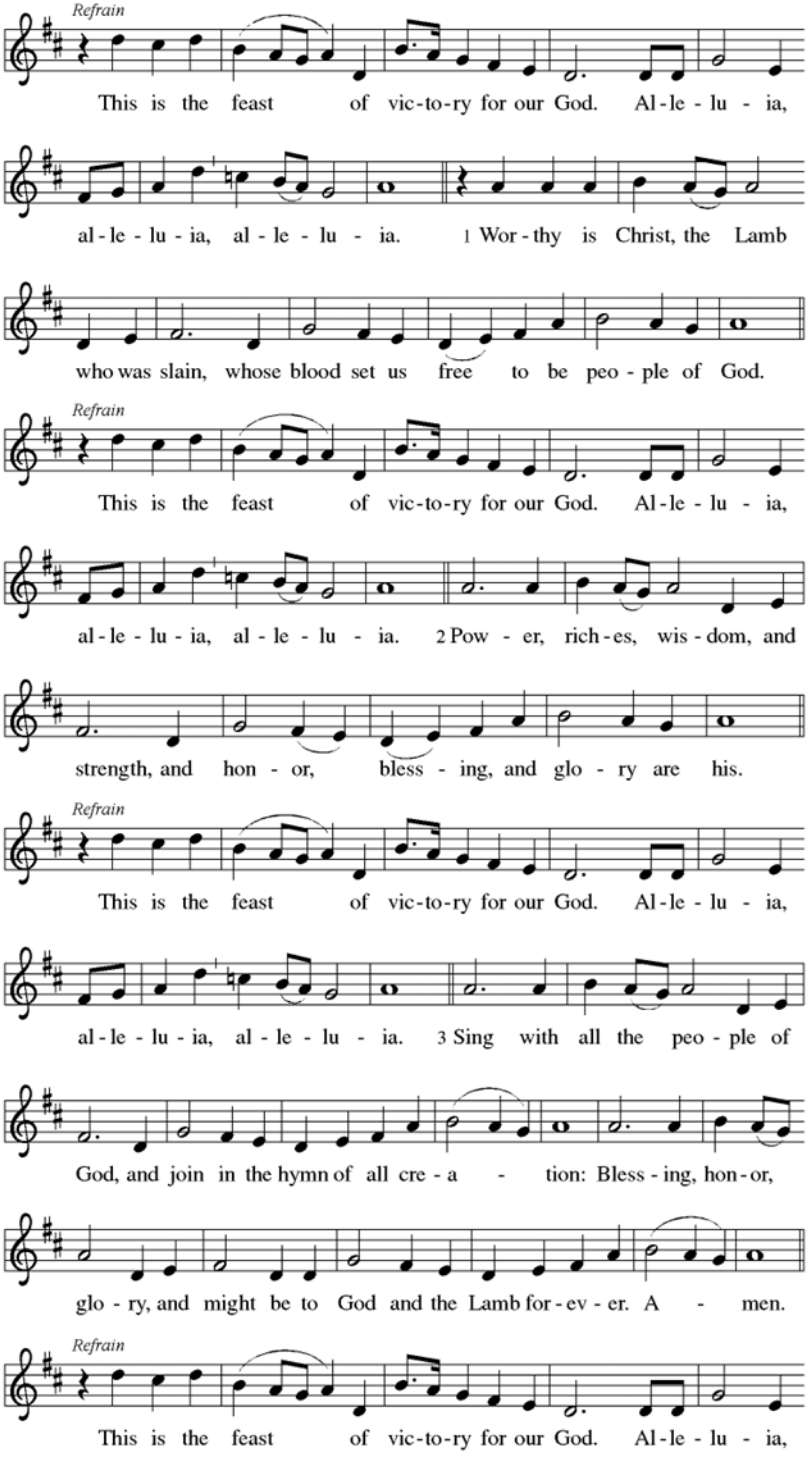
GREETING (p. 203)

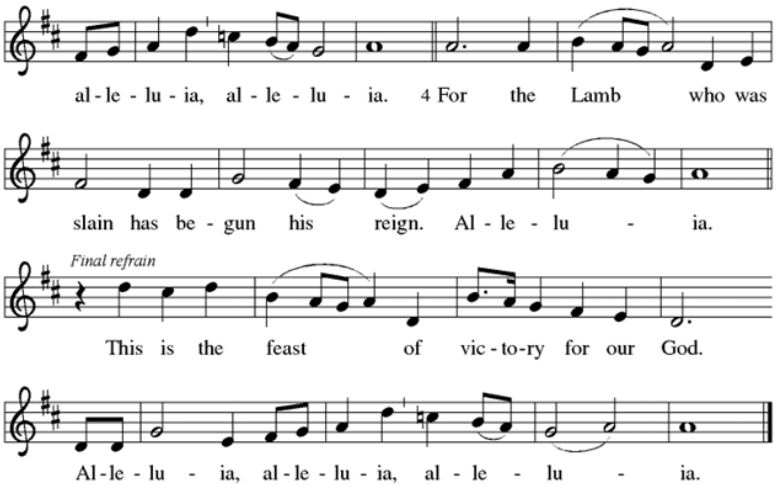
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE (p. 138)


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. 140)





PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of righteousness, you overcome those who abuse their power and lift up those who suffer. Even now, when evil seems to hold sway, we know that you will have the last word. Keep us faithful as we wait and watch for your coming realm, when you will welcome all your children into your kingdom of justice, peace, and love. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC Emily Giannetta

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shine your light on your Word, O Lord; by your Spirit let us see your wonder. For your justice outruns our sense of fairness; your love overwhelms our deepest affections. Open our eyes, unstop our ears, and show us your most excellent way; for Jesus' sake. Amen.

First Reading: Judges 4:1-7 (CEB)

Deborah was a prophet and judge who, with her general, Barak, led a victorious holy war against a stronger Canaanite force from the north.

[1] After Ehud had died, the Israelites again did things that the Lord saw as evil. [2] So the Lord gave them over to King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, and he was stationed in Harosheth-ha-goiim. [3] The Israelites cried out to the Lord because Sisera had nine hundred iron chariots and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

4 Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was a leader of
Israel at that time. 5 She would sit under Deborah's palm tree
between Ramah and Bethel in the Ephraim highlands, and the
Israelites would come to her to settle disputes. 6 She sent word to
Barak, Abinoam's son, from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him,
"Hasn't the Lord, Israel's God, issued you a command? 'Go and
assemble at Mount Tabor, taking ten thousand men from the people
of Naphtali and Zebulun with you. 7 I'll lure Sisera, the commander
of Jabin's army, to assemble with his chariots and troops against
you at the Kishon River, and then I'll help you overpower him.'"

Psalm: Psalm 123 (CEB)

1 I raise my eyes to you—
you who rule heaven.
**2 Just as the eyes of servants attend to their masters' hand,
just as the eyes of a female servant attend to her mistress' hand—
that's how our eyes attend to the LORD our God
until he has mercy on us.**
3 Have mercy on us, LORD! Have mercy
because we've had more than enough shame.
**4 We've had more than enough mockery from the self-confident,
more than enough shame from the proud.**

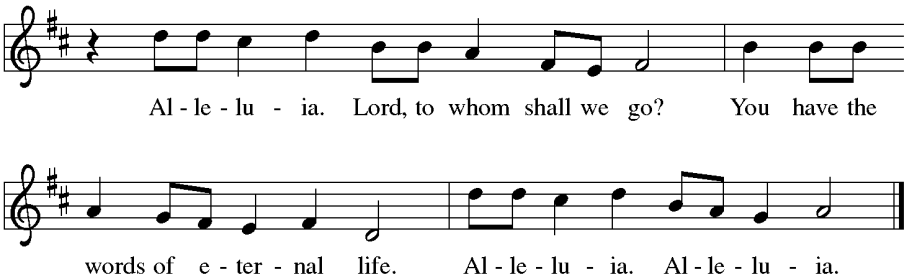
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (CEB)

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1We don't need to write to you about the timing and dates, brothers
and sisters. 2 You know very well that the day of the Lord is going
to come like a thief in the night. 3 When they are saying, "There is
peace and security," at that time sudden destruction will attack
them, like labor pains start with a pregnant woman, and they
definitely won't escape. 4 But you aren't in darkness, brothers and
sisters, so the day won't catch you by surprise like a thief. 5 All of
you are children of light and children of the day. We don't belong
to night or darkness. 6 So then, let's not sleep like the others, but

let's stay awake and stay sober. [7] People who sleep, sleep at night,
and people who get drunk get drunk at night. [8] Since we belong to
the day, let's stay sober, wearing faithfulness and love as a piece of
armor that protects our body and the hope of salvation as a helmet.
[9] God didn't intend for us to suffer his wrath but rather to possess
salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. [10] Jesus died for us so that,
whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with him.
[11] So continue encouraging each other and building each other up,
just like you are doing already.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30 (CEB)

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] "The kingdom of heaven is like a
man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed
his possessions over to them. [15] To one he gave five valuable coins,
and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to
each servant according to that servant's ability. Then he left on his
journey.
[16] "After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took
them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five
more. [17] In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins
gained two more. [18] But the servant who had received the one
valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's
money.

19 “Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and
settled accounts with them. 20 The one who had received five
valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said,
‘Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained five
more.’
21 “His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful
servant! You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of
much. Come, celebrate with me.’
22 “The second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you
gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’
23 “His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful
servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of
much. Come, celebrate with me.’
24 “Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and
said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain
where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you haven’t
spread seed. 25 So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the
ground. Here, you have what’s yours.’
26 “His master replied, ‘You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I
harvest grain where I haven’t sown and that I gather crops where I
haven’t spread seed? 27 In that case, you should have turned my
money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give
me what belonged to me with interest. 28 Therefore, take from him
the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. 29 Those
who have much will receive more, and they will have more than
they need. But as for those who don’t have much, even the little bit
they have will be taken away from them. 30 Now take the worthless
servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.’
“People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.
After: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE
SERMON “Bold Investments”

HYMN OF THE DAY: #707 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

BIBLE PRESENTATION

This morning during worship, we are excited to celebrate a special milestone in the faith journeys of our young people! At their baptism, parents promised to place the Holy Scriptures into their children's hands. Today, families are fulfilling that baptismal

promise as we present age-appropriate Bibles to our youth to support their continued spiritual growth:

- **Preschoolers** who have recently started Sunday School are receiving the *Spark Story Bible*:
    - Ellie Leas
    - Brynlee Erdmann
    - Owen Rahier
- **6th Graders** who have begun their confirmation journey are receiving the *NRSV Lutheran Study Bible*:
    - Judson Halland
    - Nicholas Rocha

Thank you for joining with these families in worship this morning to support, encourage, and pray for these young members of our congregation as they take this important step in exploring God's Word together!

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: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

God has entrusted us with a variety of gifts; let us return to the Lord a generous measure of our bounty with thanksgiving and praise.

Offering Song: #186 Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Prayer: For all that you are and all that you do, we give you thanks, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We wait in hope for the coming of your realm and offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth; in Jesus' name. Amen.

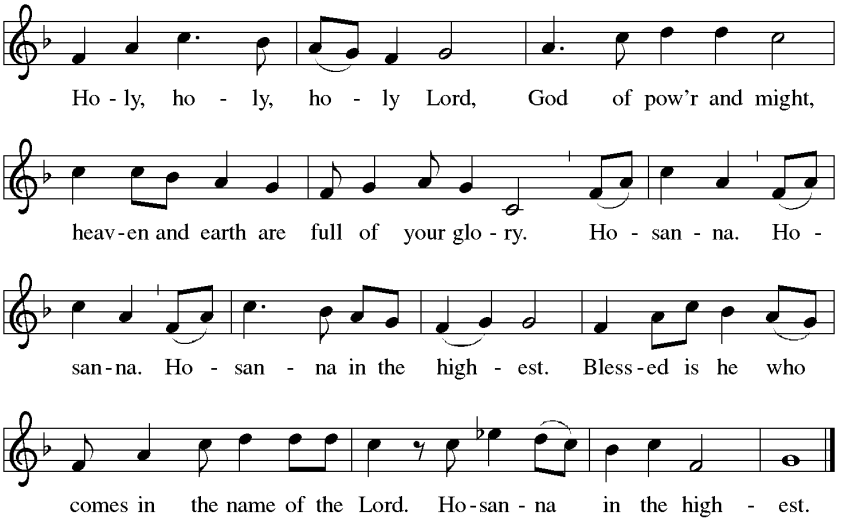
GREAT THANKSGIVING / HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 144)

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.**

We praise and thank you, abounding God, because you demand so much from us and at the same time give us everything you expect of us. In the glory of creation and the grace of liberation you set the contours of our journey with you. By crafting the covenant and by renewing your people in exile you showed us the manner and purpose of your ever-flowing love. In Jesus you gave us your most precious talent. Though we buried him through our ignorance and sin, you raised him to multiply your church and spread abroad your kingdom. And so we give you thanks with saints and angels and the company of heaven, joining their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION/EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (p. 145)

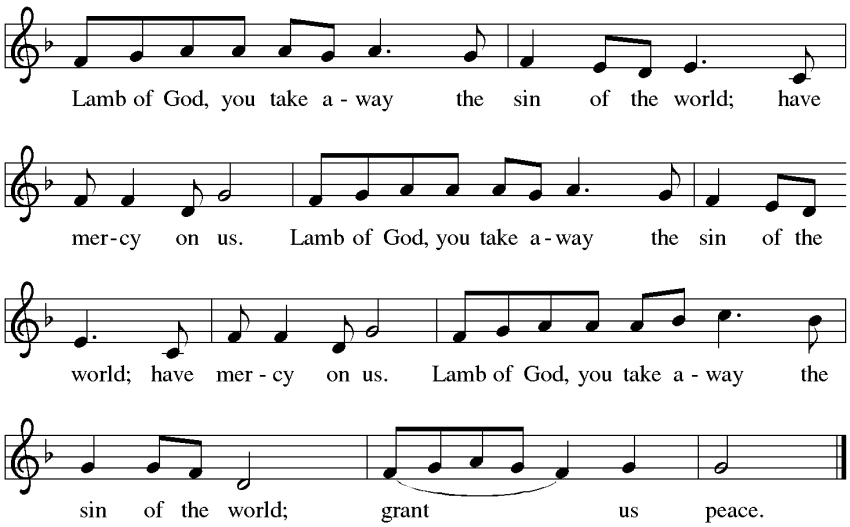
…Great is the mystery of faith. **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

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)

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared. 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: #687 What Feast of Love

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING
Now the God of creation work wonders in you by the power of the Holy Spirit, until we enter together the joy of our Master. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: #632 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

CHARGE: Encourage one another and build each other up, faithfully working together for the kingdom of God, as we await the day of Christ's coming. **Thanks be to God.**



"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."
Proverbs 22:6

SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN

November 15th, 2026 **25th Sunday After Pentecost**

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Our readings during November speak of the end times. In Judges, Deborah calls on the people of Israel to trust in the Lord to overcome their enemies. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

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	Carol Solheim and Doug and Barb Erdman
Scripture Reader	Caillie Darco
Communion Server	Kathy Normandin
Acolyte	
Fellowship	Fellowship Committee
Altar Guild	Karin and Dave Danforth
Offering Counters	Kathie Barnes and Vicki Trudeau
Livestream	Anna Peterson

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE TEAM

Thank you, **Remarkable November Team,** for being part of worship this month. Please take a look at the calendar to keep signing up. Thanks a bunch! Thanks, too, for other parishioners stepping up to help when needed! 😊

Caillie Darco
Carol Solheim
Ron and Susan Hann

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 **Psalm 100**
Ephesians 1:15-23 **Matthew 25:31-46**

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

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 15 ***25th Sunday After Pentecost***

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

Monday, November 16

8:30 am	**LWR Quilting**

Tuesday, November 17

7:00 am	**Men's Coffee Fellowship**
9:30 am	**Joanna Naomi Circle**
1:30 pm	**Lydia Rachel Circle**
7:00 pm	**AA**

Wednesday, November 18

8:30 am	**Senior Quilts**
6:00 pm	**Gather and Go (for 6th – 12th Graders) Meet at Trinity Lutheran Church**
7:00 pm	**Choir practice**

Thursday, November 19
Friday, November 20

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

Sunday, November 22 ***Christ the King***

8:45 am	**Sunday School/Adult Bible Study**
10:00 am	**Worship**
11:00 am	**Stewardship Celebration Lunch**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

November 8th, 2026 **Attendance: 63**

Our gifts towards Budget:	
Sunday Envelopes	$5,542.77
Loose Offering	$ 28.00
Over and Above Benevolence	$ 10.00
Gen. Treas/No Benevolence	$ 35.00
Other (non-budget) Receipts:	
Improvement Fund	$ 60.50
Noisy Offering	$ 111.15
Memorials	$ 10.00
Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:	$4,675.42
Total received towards Budget	$5,615.77
Total (non-budget) Receipts	$ 181.65
Total Received	$5,797.42

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

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

All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us **this Wednesday, November 18th, for Gather and Go**! We will meet at Trinity Church for supper at 6:00 pm. We will walk to Our Savior's Church for games and Freedom Church for worship. Then we will ride buses to St. Paul's Church for dessert and prizes, and finally to Harvest Church for a message. Youth can be picked up at 9:00 pm at Harvest Church. Permission slips will be needed for all youth and are available at each of the church offices and the CHS office. **Attendance is expected for all our confirmation students.**

Our Sunday School lesson this week is **"Angels Visit."** Students learned how God's messengers visited Mary and Joseph with the amazing news of Jesus' upcoming birth, reminding them—and us—not to be afraid and to trust that anything is possible with God!

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

If we believe in the kingdom to come, we need not fear, in life or in death. How does that change the way we live?

Household Prayer: Morning

Good morning, Lord. I welcome the new day, for it is a gift from you. My petty fears are nothing in the face of your love; in the warmth of your wisdom my anxieties melt away. Make me more faithful than I could be on my own, and use me to reflect your light, for there are so many who need to know of your grace. Walk with me, and show me your way, for I will follow you. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Good evening, Lord. Thank you for bringing me through this day, its trials and its joys. You surprise me with wonder and overwhelm me with love. Keep me in your embrace tonight; inhabit my dreams. If you choose to grant me another day of life, awaken me as one who is eager to serve you well. Amen.

CELEBRATION DINNER ON NOVEMBER 23

In celebration of YOUR GENEROSITY, the Stewardship Committee is hosting a free-will offering meal of soup, sandwiches, and pie after the service. ALL proceeds will go to Crookston Community Christmas Food Baskets. If you choose to write a check for the lunch, please make it out to St. Paul's and it will be forwarded to the fund. Your generosity will help people who are in need this Christmas season. Last year we gave over $800.00 to this important project. Let's shoot for $900 - $1000 this year!

We thank Thrivent Financial for their generous donation to help fund the dinner as we wrap up our stewardship month. THRIVENT Action Teams started 12 years ago, making a difference locally and around the world through financial support for community projects. St. Paul's has benefitted from the Action Teams with Christmas Eve bags and mementos, materials for the quilting groups, movie nights, financial support for fundraisers, and other projects throughout the 12 years. With gratitude from your Stewardship Committee,
John V., Dan H., Connie W., Betty A., Kathie B., Jean Ann B., Barb E., and Pastor Curt.

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 and the tables by each door. Please submit order forms and donations by December 13th. Thank you for supporting St. Paul's Youth!

WOMEN'S BOOK READ

The next book read will be tonight, **Sunday, November 15th, at 6:30 pm** to discuss our November read -***"The Bell in the Lake"*** **by Lars Mytting.** Carol and Alvern will host/lead discussions. We will get our own books for this read! You may be able to share or borrow books. **Please join us!** All are welcome! Feel free to reach out to others who may be interested in joining us!

2026 FAITH AND FAMILY
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 our FCA will speak to the group. After the game, several FCA members/players will be available for questions, and to sign autographs.

Join us 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.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- Wednesday, **November 18th**: Gather and Go event for 6th – 12th grade students (6:00 pm)
- Sunday, **November 22nd**: Commitment Sunday and Celebration Lunch
- Wednesday, **November 25th: Thanksgiving Eve. Service** at 7:00 pm. Fellowship with pumpkin desserts following service
- 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



CROOKSTON COMMUNITY THEATRE

Come cheer on fellow parishioners as they participate in the Crookston Community Theatre's presentation of, "Four Old Broads." Performance dates are November 19, 20, and 21, at 7:00 pm, at Kiehle Auditorium on the University of Minnesota Crookston Campus. See poster on Kiosk for more information.

WORSHIP SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- **PLEASE** consider adding your name to the very short November and December Worship Service Teams list!
- **Thanksgiving Eve** service is coming quickly! Worship and praise is the perfect pairing to turkey, a nap and football. 😊
  Your participation as worship servers is needed. Please sign-up if you are available! Many thanks!

COMMITMENT SUNDAY AND CELEBRATION LUNCH

Next Sunday, **November 22nd,** is **Commitment Sunday** at St. Paul's! Throughout this coming week, we invite you and your household to spend time in prayer, reflecting on how God has blessed you and how the Spirit is calling you to share your time, talents, and financial gifts with our church in 2027. If you received a stewardship packet in the mail or picked one up at church, please take a few moments this week to read **Romans 12:3–8** as a devotion and fill out your **2027 Financial Commitment Card** and **Time and Talent Sheets**. *(Extra packets are available in the church office if you need one!)*



At the conclusion of next Sunday's worship service, everyone will be invited to come forward and place their completed Commitment Cards and Time and Talent Sheets into the box at the front of the sanctuary as an offering of thanksgiving. From there, we will proceed directly out of the sanctuary to our **Stewardship Celebration Lunch**! Together, we will share food and fellowship to give thanks for everything God so generously provides for us, and to celebrate the joy and opportunity of being generous as one body in Christ. We hope to see you there!