

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Pentecost



# SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Pentecost

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## WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SHARING THE PEACE

### OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to Jesus, you who are thirsty.

**Alleluia!**

Drink deeply of the Holy Spirit.

**Alleluia!**

Let your heart overflow with the living water that renews the face of the earth.

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God has promised that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Therefore, let us call upon the Lord, confessing our sins. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God of new creation, we confess that we have failed to trust your bountiful goodness. By the power of the Holy Spirit you brought forth the earth and its creatures in abundance. Yet, we hoard earth's resources and refuse to share your gifts. We dishonor your generosity by withholding our charity to those in need. We betray your kindness by dealing harshly with our enemies. We disregard your compassion by severely judging the sins of others. Forgive us. By the power of your Spirit renew our hearts and free us from sins that we may enjoy the fullness of your blessing upon all creation. Amen.**

Sisters and brothers, God offers forgiveness of our sins and the grace of repentance. Accept God's grace, repent of your sin, and be restored to abundant life.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**HYMN: #400 God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind**

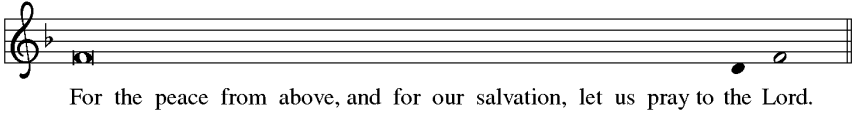
### GREETING (p. 203)

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.**

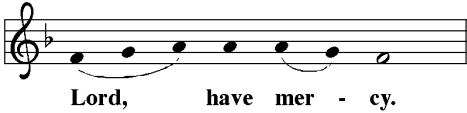
# KYRIE (p. 138)



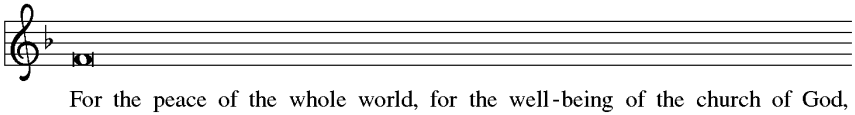
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



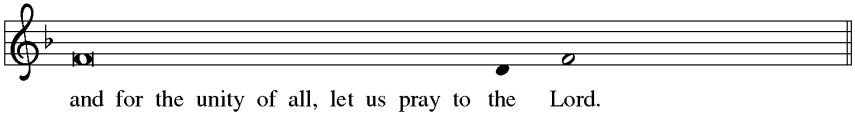
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



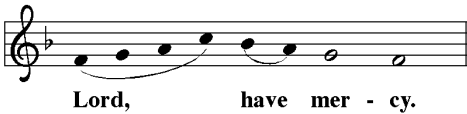
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



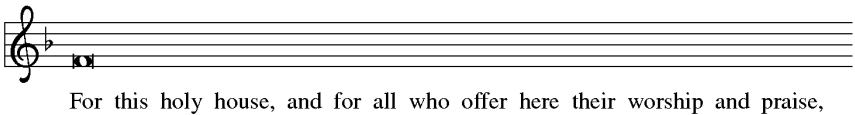
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



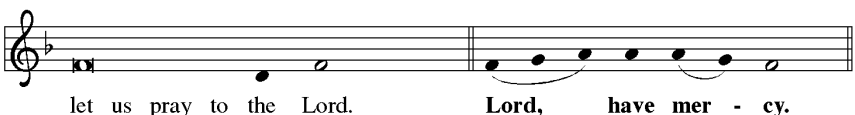
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**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)

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.  
*Final refrain*  
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Holy God, like a rushing wind your Spirit moved upon the first disciples on the day of Pentecost, and like a purifying fire your Spirit seared their hearts and minds with the message of salvation. Send your Spirit upon your church in this time and place, stir up our courage, and rouse us for prophetic witness, that we may join with them to proclaim to the world your mighty deeds of power in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC Women’s Chorus “Spirit Medley”**

**First Reading: Numbers 11:24-30 (CEB)**

*The spirit of God rested upon seventy elders in Israel who had been chosen to share the burden of leadership with Moses. When some became jealous that two others also had the spirit and could prophesy, Moses said that he hoped that all of God’s people would be prophets.*

<sup>24</sup> So Moses went out and told the people the Lord’s words. He assembled seventy men from the people’s elders and placed them around the tent. <sup>25</sup> The Lord descended in a cloud, spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and placed it on the seventy elders. When the spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but only this once. <sup>26</sup> Two men had remained in the camp, one named Eldad and the second named Medad, and the spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they hadn’t gone out

to the tent, so they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup> A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”

<sup>28</sup> Joshua, Nun’s son and Moses’ assistant since his youth, responded, “My master Moses, stop them!”

<sup>29</sup> Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? If only all the Lord’s people were prophets with the Lord placing his spirit on them!”

<sup>30</sup> Moses and Israel’s elders were assembled in the camp.

**Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (CEB)**

<sup>24</sup> Lord, you have done so many things!

You made them all so wisely!

The earth is full of your creations!

<sup>25</sup> **And then there’s the sea, wide and deep,  
with its countless creatures—  
living things both small and large.**

<sup>26</sup> There go the ships on it,  
and Leviathan, which you made, plays in it!

<sup>27</sup> **All your creations wait for you  
to give them their food on time.**

<sup>28</sup> When you give it to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled completely full!

<sup>29</sup> **But when you hide your face, they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath,  
they die and return to dust.**

<sup>30</sup> When you let loose your breath, they are created,  
and you make the surface of the ground brand-new again.

<sup>31</sup> **Let the Lord’s glory last forever!  
Let the Lord rejoice in all he has made!**

<sup>32</sup> He has only to look at the earth, and it shakes.  
God just touches the mountains, and they erupt in smoke.

<sup>33</sup> **I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I’m still alive.**

<sup>34</sup> Let my praise be pleasing to him;  
I’m rejoicing in the Lord!

**35b But let my whole being bless the Lord!**

**Praise the Lord!**

**Second Reading: Acts 2:1-21 (CEB)**

*Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.*

<sup>1</sup> When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak. <sup>5</sup> There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. <sup>7</sup> They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? <sup>8</sup> How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" <sup>12</sup> They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!"

<sup>14</sup> Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! <sup>15</sup> These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! <sup>16</sup> Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

*17 In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.  
Your young will see visions.  
Your elders will dream dreams.*

*18 Even upon my servants, men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.*

*19 I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.*

*20 The sun will be changed into darkness,  
and the moon will be changed into blood,  
before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.*

*21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

### **Gospel: John 20:19-23**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

*19* It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” *20* After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. *21* Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” *22* Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. *23* If you forgive anyone’s

sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON: "The Uncontainable Breath"**

**HYMN: #881 Let All Things Now Living**

### **The Baptism of Tanner Joe List, child of Brittany Mosher and Taylor List**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

*After the baptism:* Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition concludes: Almighty God, **hear our prayer.**

## **OFFERING**

With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world.

**Offering Song: #186 Create in Me a Clean Heart**

**Offering Prayer: Almighty God, we have opened our hands to you, and our hands have been filled with good things. Receive the gifts we bring in gratitude for your care for us, and help us to bless you with dedication of our lives; through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit. 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.**

God of surprises, your Spirit brooded over the waters at creation and lived among your chosen people in wilderness, exile, and promised land. Your Spirit filled Mary's womb at the moment of Jesus' conception and came upon him like a dove at his baptism. When Christ died on the cross your power raised him from the tomb on the third day, and that same evening he breathed your forgiving grace on those who had deserted him. On the day of Pentecost you sent your Spirit upon the fearful disciples, filling them with fire, with power, with wonder and joy, and making them your church. And so

we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION/EUCCHARISTIC 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)**

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord. Let us sing:

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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

**Distribution Hymns: #396 Spirit of Gentleness**

**#399 O Holy Spirit, Root of Life**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## BLESSING

Now the grace of God the Father bless you with peace, the love of Christ, God's son, sustain you in joy, and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with courage, this day and forevermore. Bless the Lord! **Amen.**

**HYMN: #800 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart**

## CHARGE

Be witnesses of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead, who sits at the right hand of God in glory, and who sends the Holy Spirit to empower us for service in his name. **Thanks be to God.**

# SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran, Crookston, MN

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Pentecost

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the 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	Loiland family	Trevin Monahan
Nash Erdman	Stuart Hanson	Mark Peterson
Lenny Devos	Glorrayne Casmey	Lucile Torkelson
Delores Sandager	Carol Chaffee	Kari L Trudeau
Leah Knotek Ellefson	Mary Ann Knotek	
Family of Dale Cameron		

**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](mailto:marianbakken@gmail.com).

## MISSION

### To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people

1214 University Avenue – Crookston, Minnesota 56716

Website: [stpaulscrookstonmn.com](http://stpaulscrookstonmn.com)

[facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn](https://facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn)

Phone: 218-281-3638

Email: [stpauls@midconetwork.com](mailto: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

Dan and Haddie Halland

Scripture Reader

Haddie Halland

Communion Server

Barb Erdman

Acolyte

Judson Halland

Altar Guild

Marian Bakken

Offering Counters

Kathie Barnes and John Vallager

Fellowship

The Hallands

Livestream

Anna Erickson

### MAY AND JUNE WORSHIP SERVICE TEAMS

**Thank you**, Spectacular May Worship Team, for serving this month. Ushers are greatly needed for next Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Welcome to the **Incredible June Worship Team!** Please notice the poster on the bulletin board and fill in as promptly as possible!

Marian Bakken

Doug and Barb Erdman

Kathy Normandin

David and Sandy Morgan

Mark and Anna Peterson

Dave and Karin Danforth

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a

Psalms 8

2 Cor. 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

Readings for May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Holy Trinity Sunday

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9am- 2pm**

**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](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn)**

***Sunday, May 24***

**8:45 am**

**10:00 am**

**11:00 am**

***Pentecost***

**Adult Bible Study**

**Worship and Communion**

**Fellowship**

***Monday, May 25***

**OFFICE CLOSED**

***Memorial Day***

**NO QUILTING**

***Tuesday, May 26***

**7:00 am**

**7:00 pm**

**Men's Coffee Fellowship**

**AA**

***Wednesday, May 27***

***Thursday, May 28***

**6:30 pm**

**Church Council Mtg**

***Friday, May 29***

**Church office closed**

**Pastor's Day off**

***Sunday, May 31***

**8:45 am**

**10:00 am**

**11:00 am**

***Holy Trinity Sunday***

**Adult Bible Study**

**Worship**

**Fellowship**

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

**May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Attendance: 79**

**Our gifts towards Budget:**

Sunday Envelopes	\$3,109.72
Loose Offering	\$ 81.00
Over and Above Benevolence	\$ 10.00
General Treas/No Benevolence	\$ 500.00
Vacation Bible School	\$ 45.00

**Other (non-budget) Receipts:**

Improvement Fund	\$ 10.00
Flower/Tree Fund (Thrivent Choice Dollars)	\$ 72.00

**Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:**

Total received towards Budget	\$3,745.72
Total (non-budget) Receipts	\$ 82.50
Total Received	\$3,827.72

The most recent Treasurer's Report was approved at the last Church Council meeting. You can review it in the bulletin or web bulletin from May 3<sup>rd</sup> or contact Tammy in the office and she can provide a copy.

### **A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR SUMMER TRAVELERS**

We know many of our members travel during the summer or have other commitments. Your consistent support is vital to our church and mission, especially during the summer months. If you think you will miss church services this summer, consider setting up **recurring giving**.

It takes just a few moments to get started, and your regular donations will help sustain us throughout the year. Visit **[stpaulscrookstonmn.com/giving](http://stpaulscrookstonmn.com/giving)** to set up a secure, recurring contribution from your bank account, credit card, or debit card. We sincerely thank you for your generosity to our church community and various ministries!

## **SPECIAL MESSAGES**

### **MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

This year's theme, *More Good Days, Together*, encourages us to think about what a "good" day means for ourselves and our communities. By reflecting on this, we can better connect people with the right support at the right time, education, and community engagement to help create more good days for everyone.

#### **IT IS OKAY TO:**

Make Mistakes  
Have Hard Days  
Not Know It All  
Start Over

Not Be Okay  
Be Yourself  
Ask For Help  
Need More Time

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

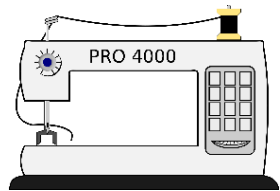
Ilene Landby is going to be 90 on June 5th! The family is asking that all her Saint Paul's friends take a moment to send her a birthday greeting. She loves getting mail and it would be wonderful if she could receive lots of well wishes for her 90th birthday.

#### **Her address is:**

Ilene Landby  
Warroad Sr. Living Center  
1401 Lakestreet SW  
Warroad MN 56763

### **QUILTER'S WISH LIST**

As people are doing their spring cleaning, the quilters would appreciate any of the following items: sheets, pillowcases, mattress pads, bed skirts, blankets, bedspreads, comforters, drapes, curtains, tablecloths, fabric, and yarn. Many of these items are fillers for quilts; the age/use of them is not significant. **Thank you!**



### **SPRING OFFICE HOURS**

Please note that the church office hours have been updated. All remains the same except Tuesday hours will be 12:00 – 5:00 pm.

Thank you. 😊

## **UNITED SUMMER FOOD SERVICE SIGN UP**

St. Paul's has volunteered to cover the week of June 15-18<sup>th</sup> to help with the Summer Food Service Program. We need two volunteers to serve the food daily from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm at the Ray Ecklund Complex Lion's Shelter. **Sign up sheet is on the kiosk.** Thank you from the Parish Fellowship Committee!

## **SUMMER FAITH sPARK**

Calling all kids entering **1st–6th grade** this fall! Join us this June for an evening of outdoor fun, fellowship, and faith at **Summer Faith sPARK**.

This year's theme is **ROCK SOLID: Jesus Strong & Kind** (based on Matthew 7:24-27). Each week, we will gather to explore a new lesson:

<b>Week 1:</b> June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Jesus Welcomes All
<b>Week 2:</b> June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Jesus is Strong
<b>Week 3:</b> June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Jesus is Kind
<b>Week 4:</b> June 25 <sup>th</sup>	ROCK SOLID Celebration Night at St. Paul's

### **The Details:**

**When:** Every Thursday evening in June

**Where:** A different park each week

**Time:** 5:30 PM (Bring your own picnic supper) | 6:00 PM (Activities begin)

**How to Register:** More details, including the weekly park schedule, are on the registration form. Please return your completed **registration to the office by Wednesday, May 27**. We can't wait to see you there!

## **PRAYERFUL REMEMBRANCE THIS MEMORIAL DAY**

While this weekend marks the unofficial start of summer for many, we remember that for veterans and military families, Memorial Day is a solemn time of mourning. We pause to honor all who have died because of their military service—including those lost to the unseen physical, mental, and moral wounds of war. As a church family, we are called to bear the burdens of those who grieve. Let us come together at the foot of the cross to offer our prayers, laments, and thanksgivings, surrounding all who mourn with the comforting promise of the gospel.

## **MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES**

The Crookston Memorial Day 2026 schedule includes ceremonies at 8:00 a.m. at Hafslo Cemetery, 8:45 am at Gentilly Cemetery, 10:00 am at the Oakdale Cemetery and 11:15 am at the Sampson Bridge for a Naval Ceremony. Sponsored by the Crookston Veterans Council, which includes VFW and Auxiliary, American Legion and Auxiliary, DAV and Auxiliary, and the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon of Crookston.

## **LUNCH AND LEARN - DEMENTIA**

The Benedictine Living Community-Crookston invites you to a Lunch and Learn at the Golden Link Senior Center on Tuesday, May 26, at 11:00 a.m. Enjoy a delicious, free turkey meal while learning more about dementia through an informative education presentation designed to support families, caregivers, and community members.

## **REFLECTION AND PRAYER**

### **Questions for Reflection**

What prophetic word for the community has God given to you? In what ways do you struggle with conflicts between your way of life and the prophetic word God would have you proclaim to others? How are the acts of God manifest in your life and witness?

### **Household Prayer: Morning**

Spirit of God, source of life, refresh my spirit, reshape my desire, and re-create my heart, that I may show forth your enduring glory; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

Spirit of God, you sustained me during the work of day; sustain me as I rest this night. Let my evening meditations be pleasing to you, that I may rise in the morning to rejoice in your goodness. Awake or asleep, I will sing your praise while I have being; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## THINK FIRE, THINK GOD

Anthropologists describe **fire** as one of the markers of the human species. For tens of thousands of years, humans gathered around fire for light, warmth, protection, community, and better food. Many passages in the Bible liken God to fire. The Holy Spirit of God appeared on Sinai in flames of fire, which on Pentecost appeared on the forehead of each believer. Moses experienced God in fire; through fire the Israelites presented offerings to God; God led the people through the wilderness with a pillar of fire. Seraphim are fire-spirits, extensions of the divine. Yet fire is also a sign of divine judgment: the angel in Eden hides the tree of life from humanity with a sword of fire, and John the Baptist predicts that fire will consume the chaff. Think fire, think God!

