St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

October 18th, 2026 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

October 18th, 2026 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

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WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SHARING THE PEACE

OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

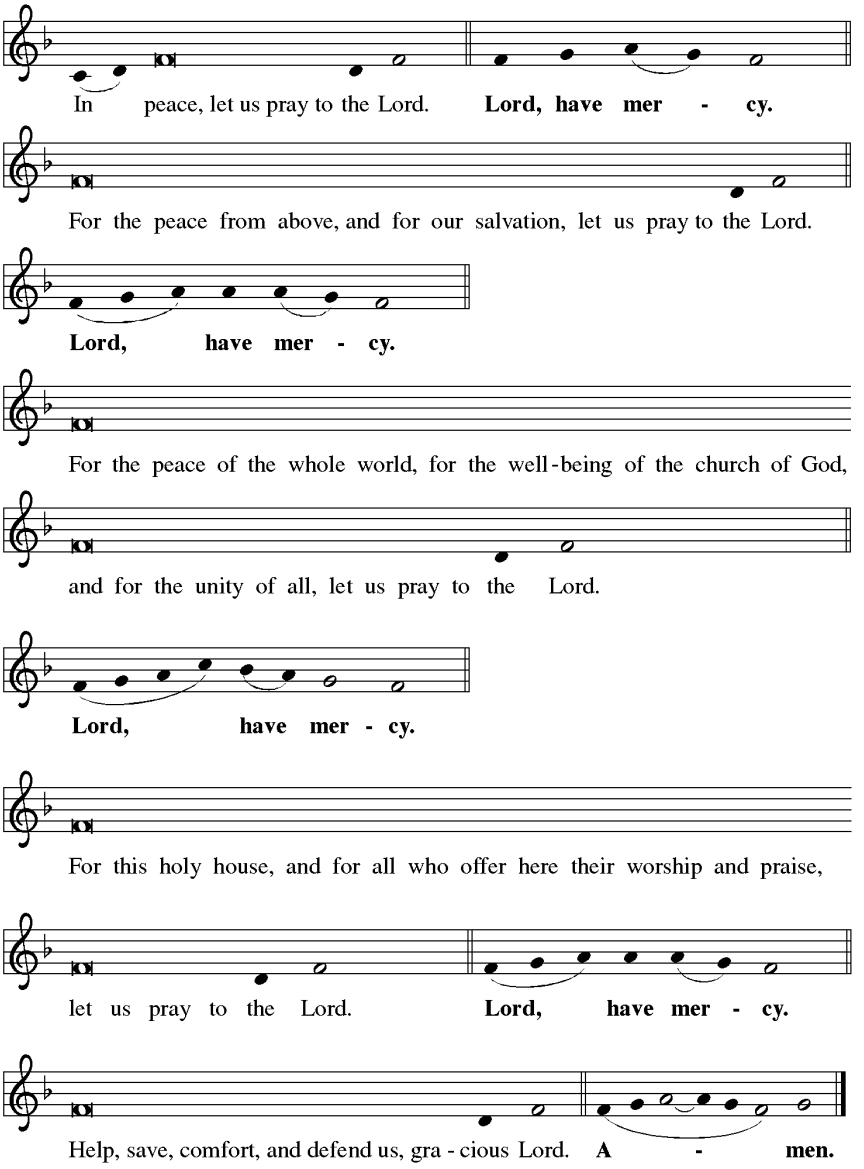
Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.
Compassionate God, we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.
Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: #413 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

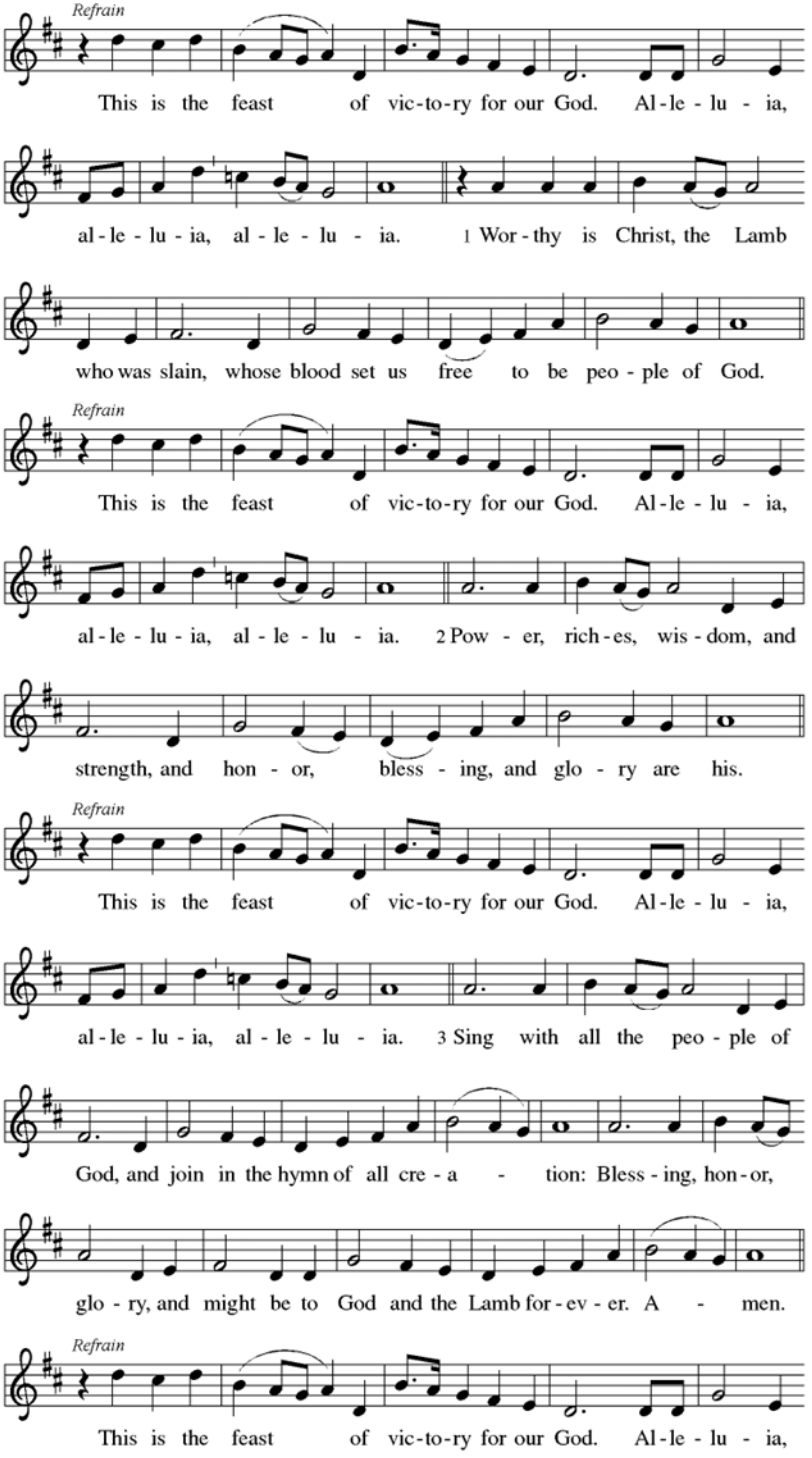
GREETING (p. 203)

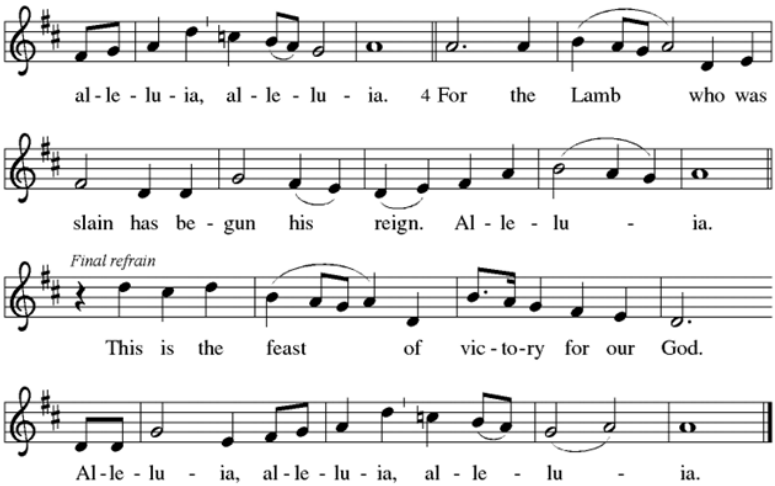
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

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

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: St. Paul's Choir "Be Strong in the Lord"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, illumine for us this Word, that the message of the gospel may come to us in power. Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 33:12-23 (CEB)

Moses successfully interceded with God to accompany Israel to the promised land after their sin with the golden calf. In response to a request to display the divine glory, God recites a sentence that appears frequently in the Hebrew Scriptures: "I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious." Moses is not allowed to see God's face, but only God's back.

12 Moses said to the Lord, "Look, you've been telling me, 'Lead these people forward.' But you haven't told me whom you will send with me. Yet you've assured me, 'I know you by name and think highly of you.' 13 Now if you do think highly of me, show me your ways so that I may know you and so that you may really approve of me. Remember too that this nation is your people."
14 The Lord replied, "I'll go myself, and I'll help you."

15 Moses replied, “If you won’t go yourself, don’t make us leave
here. 16 Because how will anyone know that we have your special
approval, both I and your people, unless you go with us? Only that
distinguishes us, me and your people, from every other people on
the earth.”
17 The Lord said to Moses, “I’ll do exactly what you’ve asked
because you have my special approval, and I know you by name.”
18 Moses said, “Please show me your glorious presence.”
19 The Lord said, “I’ll make all my goodness pass in front of you,
and I’ll proclaim before you the name, ‘The Lord.’ I will be kind to
whomever I wish to be kind, and I will have compassion to
whomever I wish to be compassionate. 20 But,” the Lord said, “you
can’t see my face because no one can see me and live.” 21 The Lord
said, “Here is a place near me where you will stand beside the
rock. 22 As my glorious presence passes by, I’ll set you in a gap in
the rock, and I’ll cover you with my hand until I’ve passed by.
23 Then I’ll take away my hand, and you will see my back, but my
face won’t be visible.”

Psalm: Psalm 99 (CEB)

1 The Lord rules—
the nations shake!
He sits enthroned on the winged heavenly creatures—
the earth quakes!
2 The Lord is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the nations.
3 Let them thank your great and awesome name.
He is holy!
4 Strong king who loves justice,
you are the one who established what is fair.
You worked justice and righteousness in Jacob.
5 Magnify the Lord, our God!
Bow low at his footstool!
He is holy!
6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel too among those who called on his name.

They cried out to the Lord, and he himself answered them—
7 he spoke to them from a pillar of cloud.
They kept the laws and the rules God gave to them.
8 Lord our God, you answered them.
To them you were a God who forgives
but also the one who avenged their wrong deeds.
9 Magnify the Lord our God!
Bow low at his holy mountain
because the Lord our God is holy!

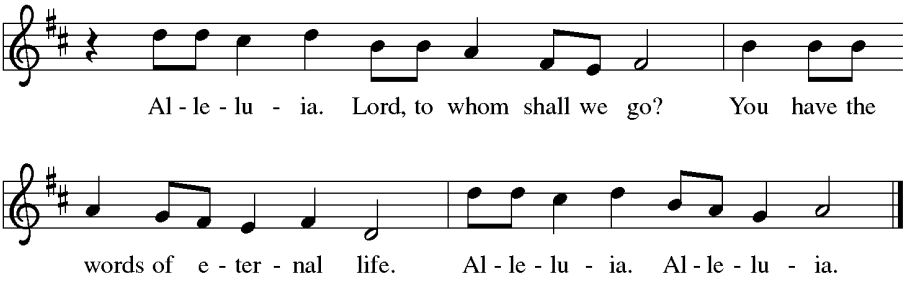
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (CEB)

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

1From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy.
To the Thessalonians' church that is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Grace and peace to all of you.
2 We always thank God for all of you when we mention you constantly in our prayers. 3 This is because we remember your work that comes from faith, your effort that comes from love, and your perseverance that comes from hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father. 4 Brothers and sisters, you are loved by God, and we know that he has chosen you. 5 We know this because our good news didn't come to you just in speech but also with power and the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know as well as we do what kind of people we were when we were with you, which was for your sake. 6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord when you accepted the message that came from the Holy Spirit with joy in spite of great suffering. 7 As a result you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 The message about the Lord rang out from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place. The news about your faithfulness to God has spread so that we don't even need to

mention it. [9] People tell us about what sort of welcome we had from you and how you turned to God from idols. As a result, you are serving the living and true God, [10] and you are waiting for his Son from heaven. His Son is Jesus, who is the one he raised from the dead and who is the one who will rescue us from the coming wrath.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22 (CEB)

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

[15] Then the Pharisees met together to find a way to trap Jesus in his words. [16] They sent their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to him. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are genuine and that you teach God's way as it really is. We know that you are not swayed by people's opinions, because you don't show favoritism. [17] So tell us what you think: Does the Law allow people to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

[18] Knowing their evil motives, Jesus replied, "Why do you test me, you hypocrites? [19] Show me the coin used to pay the tax." And they brought him a denarion. [20] "Whose image and inscription is this?" he asked.

[21] "Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." [22] When they heard this they were astonished, and they departed.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: #686 We Give Thee but Thine Own

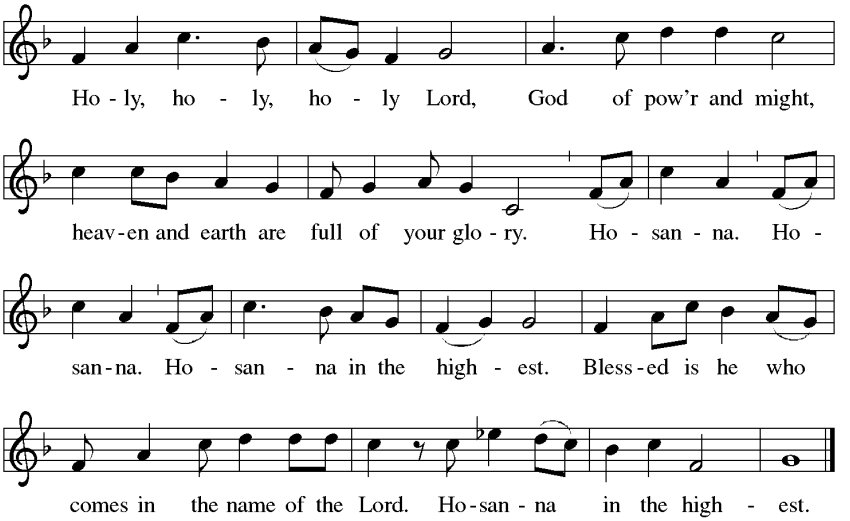
APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the 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: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

OFFERING
Jesus invites us to render to God the things that are God's.
Trusting in God's infinite care, we gratefully present our offerings.
Offering Song: #186 Create in Me a Clean Heart
Offering Prayer: We trust you, Lord God, to multiply the blessings these gifts represent, as we pour out your love and grace on those who long to hear your word to them, to see your power at work within them, to feel your comfort beside them, through the generous gifts of your 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.**

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)

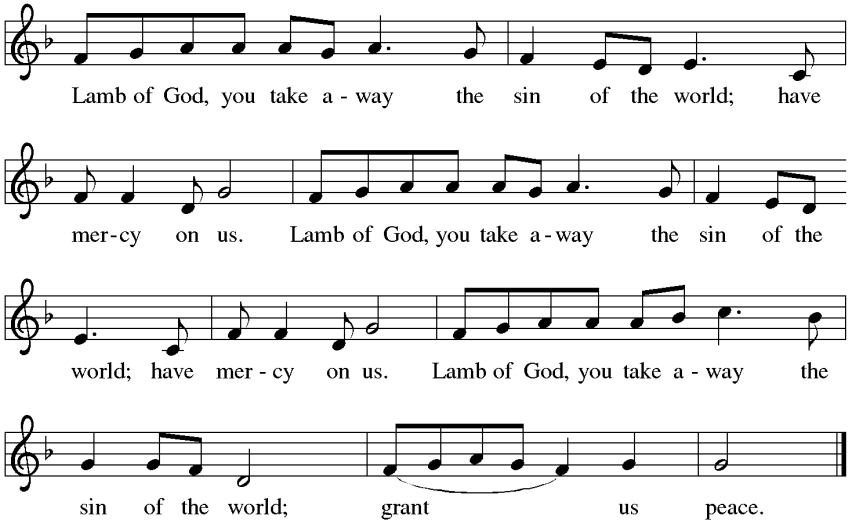
…Great is the mystery of faith. **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

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)

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come! 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: #471 Let Us Break Bread Together
#838 Beautiful Savior

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: #836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

CHARGE: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN

October 18th, 2026 **21st Sunday After Pentecost**

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In today's first reading God's glory is revealed to Moses. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

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

Julie Love	Eunice Sondrol	Darleen Jackson
Katie Bakken	Julian Bertils	Marlo Moren
Highland Branvold	Nancy Eia	Lowland family
Trevin Monahan	Nash Erdman	Stuart Hanson
Mark Peterson	Glorrayne Casmey	Lucile Torkelson
Delores Sandager	Carol Chaffee	Kari L Trudeau
Luanne Devos	Loren Sanderson	Jim Erickson
Tammy Frohlich	Family of Eunice Walker	

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	Nancy Bruggeman and Carol Solheim
Scripture Reader	Ingrid Remick
Communion Server	Ingrid Remick
Acolyte	
Fellowship	Carol Johnson
Altar Guild	Dan and Brandi Halland
Offering Counters	Kathie Barnes and Penny Blokzyl
Livestream	Anna Peterson

OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVICE TEAM

Thank you, Awesome October Worship Team, for serving this month. One more Sunday to sign up for! Thanks to all. 😊

Jean Ann Bienek
Mark and Nancy Bruggeman
Loren and Carol Johnson
Craig and Sue Laplante
Carol Solheim
Alvern Wentzel

The **Remarkable November Team** is coming up! Please take a look at the calendar to begin signing up. Thanks a bunch!

Callie Darco
Ron and Susan Hann
Carol Solheim

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Jeremiah 31:31-34 **Psalm 46**
Romans 3:19-28 **John 8:31-36**
Readings for October 25th, 2026 **Reformation Sunday**

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, October 18 ***21st Sunday After Pentecost***
8:45 am **Adult Bible Study (No Sunday School)**
10:00 am **Worship and Communion**
11:00 am **Fellowship**

Monday, October 19
8:30 am **LWR Quilting**

Tuesday, October 20
7:00 am **Men's Coffee Fellowship**
7:00 pm **AA**

Wednesday, October 21
8:30 am **Senior Quilts**
7:00 pm **Confirmation**
7:00 pm **Choir practice**
**** Fellowship Hall Reserved 1:00 pm**

Thursday, October 22
8:30 am **Packing for LWR**
**** Seeking Men and Women Helpers.**

Friday, October 23
Pastor's Day off **Church office closed**

Sunday, October 25 ***Reformation Sunday***
8:45 am **Sunday School/Adult Bible Study**
10:00 am **Worship and Communion**
11:00 am **Fellowship**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

October 11th, 2026 **Attendance: 52**

Our gifts towards Budget:

Sunday Envelopes	$4,361.67
Loose Offering	$ 5.00
Over and Above Benevolence	$ 10.00
General Treas/No Benevolence	$ 30.00

Other (non-budget) Receipts:

Improvement Fund	$ 135.25
Noisy Offering	$ 70.10

Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:	$4,675.42
Total received towards Budget	$4,406.67
Total (non-budget) Receipts	$ 205.35
Total Received	$4,612.02

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 October 4th or contact Tammy in the office and she can provide a copy.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join us in the family room for our Adult Bible Study. Each week, we gather in the family room to read and discuss that morning's scripture readings. Please join us for this time of dwelling in the Word each Sunday morning at 8:45 am.

FAITH FORMATION: THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

This Wednesday, our Confirmation students are kicking off a brand-new unit on "Faith Life"! Our first lesson focuses on the *Priesthood of All Believers* (Romans 12:4-14).
Students will be learning about Martin Luther's radical idea that all baptized Christians are equal in the eyes of God, dispensing with the idea that clergy or religious leaders are somehow "holier" than everyday people. We will explore what it means to have a **vocation**—which is more than just a job or career, but a calling where our God-given talents meet the needs of the world.
***Sunday School did not meet this week due to the MEA break.

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

What does it mean to be an "imitator of Christ" (1 Thess. 1:6)? Who has influenced your life by the way that person "imitates" Christ, and how? What needs to happen within you to help you become an imitator of Christ?

Household Prayer: Morning

[silence] I listen quietly, Lord, and the morning sounds of creation draw me to you. It is then that I hear your voice, "I am pleased with you and I know you by name." Sometimes it is difficult to fully receive your pleasure in me, to grasp that you are fond of me, even when I have nothing to show for myself. May I remember that I am yours today. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

I fold up this day with gratitude, holding close to my heart those whose faith helped carry me through this day. Amen.



LWR WILL BE PACKING THIS THURSDAY AT 8:30 AM. SEEKING MEN AND WOMEN HELPERS TO JOIN IN! THANK YOU!