

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

June 28th, 2026 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

June 28th, 2026

Fifth 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.

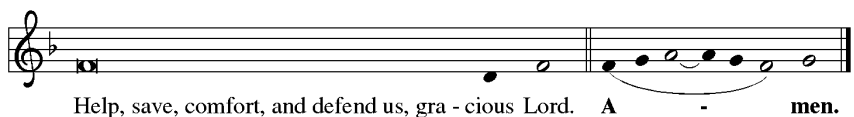
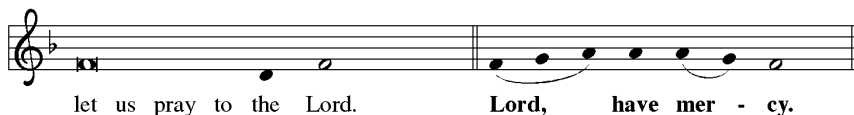
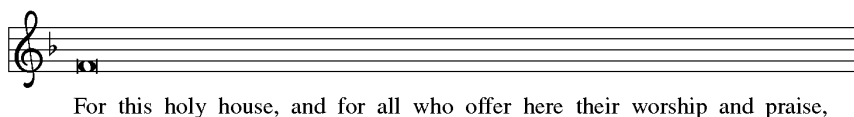
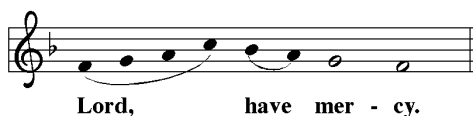
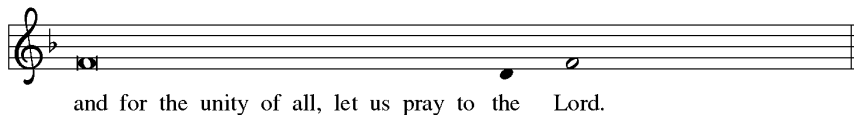
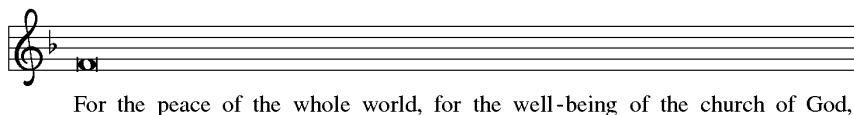
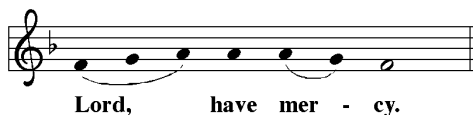
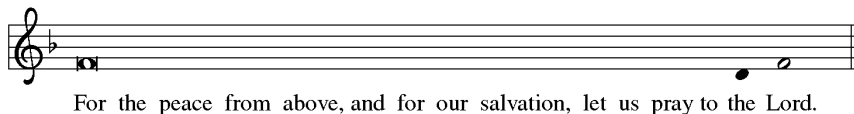
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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

GATHERING HYMN: # 638 Blessed Assurance

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)



welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-14 (CEB)

Abraham was prepared to obey God's command amid extreme contradiction: the child to be sacrificed is the very child through whom Abraham is to receive descendants. God acknowledged Abraham's obedient faith, and Abraham offered a ram in the place of his son Isaac.

¹ After these events, God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!"

Abraham answered, "I'm here."

² God said, "Take your son, your only son whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him up as an entirely burned offering there on one of the mountains that I will show you." ³ Abraham got up early in the morning, harnessed his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, together with his son Isaac. He split the wood for the entirely burned offering, set out, and went to the place God had described to him.

⁴ On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place at a distance. ⁵ Abraham said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will walk up there, worship, and then come back to you."

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the entirely burned offering and laid it on his son Isaac. He took the fire and the knife in his hand, and the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father?"

Abraham said, "I'm here, my son."

Isaac said, "Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the entirely burned offering?"

⁸ Abraham said, "The lamb for the entirely burned offering? God will see to it, my son." The two of them walked on together.

⁹ They arrived at the place God had described to him. Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then

Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. ¹¹ But the Lord's messenger called out to Abraham from heaven, "Abraham? Abraham?"

Abraham said, "I'm here."

¹² The messenger said, "Don't stretch out your hand against the young man, and don't do anything to him. I now know that you revere God and didn't hold back your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ Abraham looked up and saw a single ram caught by its horns in the dense underbrush. Abraham went over, took the ram, and offered it as an entirely burned offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ Abraham named that place "the Lord sees." That is the reason people today say, "On this mountain the Lord is seen."

Psalm: Psalm 13 (CEB)

¹ How long will you forget me, Lord? Forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

² **How long will I be left to my own wits,
agony filling my heart? Daily?**

How long will my enemy keep defeating me?

³ Look at me!

Answer me, Lord my God!

Restore sight to my eyes!

Otherwise, I'll sleep the sleep of death,

⁴ **and my enemy will say, "I won!"**

My foes will rejoice over my downfall.

⁵ But I have trusted in your faithful love.

My heart will rejoice in your salvation.

⁶ **Yes, I will sing to the Lord**

because he has been good to me.

Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23 (CEB)

Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

¹² So then, don't let sin rule your body, so that you do what it wants. ¹³ Don't offer parts of your body to sin, to be used as

weapons to do wrong. Instead, present yourselves to God as people who have been brought back to life from the dead, and offer all the parts of your body to God to be used as weapons to do right. ¹⁴ Sin will have no power over you, because you aren't under Law but under grace.

¹⁵ So what? Should we sin because we aren't under Law but under grace? Absolutely not! ¹⁶ Don't you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, that you are slaves of the one whom you obey? That's true whether you serve as slaves of sin, which leads to death, or as slaves of the kind of obedience that leads to righteousness. ¹⁷ But thank God that although you used to be slaves of sin, you gave wholehearted obedience to the teaching that was handed down to you, which provides a pattern. ¹⁸ Now that you have been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ (I'm speaking with ordinary metaphors because of your limitations.) Once, you offered the parts of your body to be used as slaves to impurity and to lawless behavior that leads to still more lawless behavior. Now, you should present the parts of your body as slaves to righteousness, which makes your lives holy. ²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What consequences did you get from doing things that you are now ashamed of? The outcome of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and become slaves to God, you have the consequence of a holy life, and the outcome is eternal life. ²³ The wages that sin pays are death, but God's gift is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42 (CEB)

When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ⁴⁰ “Those who receive you are also receiving me, and those who receive me are receiving the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Those who receive a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward. Those who receive a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. ⁴² I assure you that everybody who gives even a cup of cold water to these little ones because they are my disciples will certainly be rewarded.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON: “Faith in the Dark: The Agony of the ‘How Long?’”

HYMN OF THE DAY: # 802 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 145)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

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: # 676 Lord, Speak to Us, That We May
Speak**

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran, Crookston, MN

June 28th, 2026

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

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	
Family of Nancy Moser		

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

Karin and Dan Danforth

Scripture Reader

Barb Erdman

Acolyte

Offering Counters

Kathy Barnes and Penny Blokzyl

Altar Guild

Dave and Sandy Morgan

Fellowship

Marian Bakken

Livestream

Anna Peterson

JULY WORSHIP SERVICE TEAM

The **Fabulous July Worship Service Team** sign-up sheet is now available on the bulletin. Please check it out and add your name!

Randy Beattie

Judy Gustafson

Kari and Tim Moe

John and Jan Vallager

Verle and Sandy Peterson

Thank you, June Worship Team, for serving this month.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalms 45:10-17

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Readings for July 5th, 2026

6th Sunday After Pentecost

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

Sunday, June 28

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

5th Sunday After Pentecost

**Adult Bible Study
Worship and Communion
Fellowship**

Monday, June 29

8:30 am

LWR Quilting

Tuesday, June 30

**7:00 am
7:00 pm**

**Men's Coffee Fellowship
AA**

Wednesday, July 1

Thursday, July 2

Friday, July 3

Church office closed

Pastor's Day off

Saturday July 4

250 years since the Declaration of Independence signed!

Independence Day

Sunday, July 5

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

6th Sunday After Pentecost

**Adult Bible Study
Worship and Communion
Fellowship**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

June 21st, 2026

Attendance: 59

Our gifts towards Budget:

Sunday Envelopes	\$2,931.02
Loose Offering	\$ 41.00
Over and Above Benevolence	\$ 10.00
General Treas/No Benevolence	\$ 30.00
General Fund (Thrivent Choice Dollars)	\$ 155.00
Halstad Telephone Company	\$ 52.44

Other (non-budget) Receipts:

Improvement Fund	\$ 20.00
Food Shelf	\$ 30.00
Memorials	\$ 125.00

<u>Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:</u>	\$4,675.42
Total received towards Budget	\$3,219.46
Total (non-budget) Receipts	\$ 175.00
Total Received	\$3,394.46

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT: MAY

	Month	Y-T-D
Amount needed to meet budgeted items	\$ 20,260.17	\$ 101,300.85
Receipts toward budget	\$ 17,242.19	\$ 92,082.61
Other receipts	\$ 521.37	\$ 10,676.25
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 17,763.56	\$ 102,758.86
Budgeted Disburse	\$ 16,216.75	\$ 88,381.13
Other Disbursements	\$ 91.26	\$ 7,163.92
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 16,308.01	\$ 95,545.05
	Income/Loss YTD	\$ 3,701.48
	Due to Mission Support	\$ (8,313.96)
	Net Income YTD	\$ (4,612.48)

SPECIAL MESSAGES

SUMMER SALAD LUNCHEONS

Wesley United Methodist Church is hosting Summer Salad Luncheons open to the community. For dining in or take out, they are offering a variety of salads, homemade desserts, and beverages. Lunch will be served from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm on Thursdays, June 25, July 23, and August 27. Thirteen dollars is the cost.

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!

GOLDEN LINK ICE CREAM FUNDRAISER

The Golden Link Senior Center will have an ice cream fundraiser on Thursday, June 25, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sundaes and root beer floats will be available for \$5 each.

SUMMER FAITH sPARK

Summer Faith sPARK wrapped up last Thursday evening here at St. Paul's with the kids presenting a program for parents and families about everything they learned about our ROCK SOLID Jesus Strong & Kind! The kids started the night with a pizza party and shared how they completed each week's ROCK SOLID challenge for our Rock Wall. After the program, everyone enjoyed some frosty root beer floats. A huge thank you to Haddie Halland, Tylie Demarais, Dana Perreault, Rebecca Nelson, Alisa Leas, Kari Moe, youth and parent volunteers from Trinity, and for all the kids who made it a great time! Thank you also to Leah Winjum from Trinity and Pastor Curt from St. Paul's for your planning and leadership!



NIGHT TO UNITE

Crookston's annual Night to Unite, is coming, Tuesday, August 4th, 2026! This annual community-building campaign promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make local areas safer, more caring places to live.

From 4:30 – 7:30 pm, anyone and everyone will enjoy area vendors, food trucks, petting zoo, interactive learning, prizes, bubbles, bouncy houses, and more. Nationwide, more than 40 million people in over 15,000 communities participate in National Night Out events each year. In Crookston, the event has grown in participation, scope, and community engagement, with more than 1,500 attendees gathering on the Crookston UMC campus each August.

We are excited to announce that St. Paul's will have a booth at the event! Church members have the opportunity to participate in our booth: sharing brochures, bookmarks, and other fun items, telling visitors about St. Paul's, and simply visiting with attendees. You will find a sign-up sheet on the Kiosk to participate as a booth host/hostess!

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 218-277-0000.



NO ONE HAS *greater love* THAN THIS:
TO *lay down his life* FOR HIS FRIENDS.

John 15:13
©NIELSONPHOTO

**Thank God for 250 years of
freedom in the USA!**

**Thank God for infinite years of
freedom from sin, in Christ!**

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

When was the last time you were brutally honest with God? What specific fears, frustrations, or "How long, Lord?" prayers are you currently hiding behind your "Sunday best"? Who has handed you a "cup of cold water" during your own 2:00 a.m. seasons? What specific acts of tangible grace sustained you when God felt silent? Where is God asking you to believe the "absurd" promise of the Gospel right now? How does knowing that Jesus understands ultimate isolation change the way you view your current waiting room?

Household Prayer: Morning

I rise this day, O God, stepping out of the quiet of the night and onto the journey you have set before me. I lift my honest heart to you—with all its questions, its weariness, and its hopes. Be for me today, my Savior, the companion in my isolation, the strength when I am exhausted, and the anchor when my reality is shifting. Give me the courage to stop propping up the old skies that are falling apart, and the faith to trust the new sky you are creating. Whether the road today is clear or I am walking the mountain path entirely in the dark, help me to simply put one foot in front of the other. Open my eyes to the quiet, tangible grace you send my way, and make my hands ready to offer a cup of cold water to a world that is parched. Whether the day is bright or agonizingly long, be my light and my certain dawn. In the name of the Three in One, Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Be my anchor, O Creator of light, as the shadows lengthen and the silence of the night closes in. In the stillness, when my anxieties rise and my soul is tempted to cry out, "How long?", remind me that you are big enough to hold my rawest despair. If I find myself in the 2:00 a.m. waiting room tonight, keep watch with me. When the storms of life howl with fearful threats and my circumstances do not add up, let me find my rest in the paradox of the cross. Remind me that Jesus absorbed the crushing darkness so that I would never be truly alone. Give me the grace to surrender my need for control, resting securely in the absurd and beautiful promise that Sunday always follows Friday's silence. Sustain me through the night, that I may wake to bear witness to your dawn. In Christ's name, Amen.