

**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

8:30 am

July 12, 2026

**The Sower Knows . . .****AS WE GATHER**

Though you may be familiar with Jesus' parable of the sower, you may be surprised to hear that you do not really know it yet! That's because on the one hand, the Word of God does not change. Yet on the other hand, we need to keep hearing it again and again, because our circumstances are constantly changing. The parable of the sower tells of this mystery. The seed is God's Word, God's work of planting repentance and faith in ears who hear. We may think of the various kinds of soil Jesus mentions to be various sorts of people. Actually, however, He is describing each individual in their changing circumstances. There are times when we are "good soil," that is, we understand God's Word and take comfort in it. There are other times, however, when we either cannot or will not hear it. Sometimes we become hard paths, rocky or distracted by worries or fears. For this reason, God never ceases planting, speaking, and growing faith in the heart, and we return repeatedly to continue hearing, reading, learning, and receiving God's Word because **He never gives up on you!**

**PRESERVICE MUSIC****WELCOME** — Pastor Christopher Fairbairn**RINGING OF THE BELL**

# 589 Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens



1 Speak, O Lord, Your ser - vant lis - tens, Let Your Word to  
 2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near You And to lis - ten  
 3 Lord, Your words are wa - ters liv - ing When my thirst - ing  
 4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let Your words in



me come near; New - born life and spir - it give me,  
 to Your voice; Let me ev - er love and hear You,  
 spir - it pleads. Lord, Your words are bread life - giv - ing;  
 me take root. May Your Spir - it e'er be near me



Let each prom - ise still my fear. Death's dread pow'r, its in - ward  
 Let Your Word be now my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,  
 On Your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, Your words will be my  
 That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing Your



strife, Wars a - gainst Your Word of life; Fill me, Lord, with  
 Lord, Flee in ter - ror at Your Word; But to all who  
 light Through death's cold and drea - ry night; Yes, they are my  
 praise, From my heart glad an - thems raise, Till my high - est



love's strong fer - vor That I cling to You for - ev - er!  
 feel sin's bur - den You give words of peace and par - don.  
 sword pre - vail - ing And my cup of joy un - fail - ing!  
 praise is giv - en In the end - less joy of heav - en.

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

**OPENING SENTENCES**     *Titus 3:3–7*

Pastor: For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures,

**People: passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.**

Pastor: But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,

**People: He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy,**

Pastor: by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

**People: whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,**

Pastor: so that being justified by His grace

**People: we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: In that divine hope, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You by not letting You have Your way with us. We have become deaf to Your Word. Because of our weak love for You and for our neighbor, we have become fruitless trees deserving only Your judgment. Therefore, we return to You today asking Your forgiveness and for the strengthening of our faith and love. By Your Word, restore us and renew us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## ✂ WORD ✂

## 973 Thy Word Is a Lamp

*Refrain*

Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet And a light un-to my path.

2 I will not for - get Your love for me, and yet My

heart for - ev - er is wan - der - ing.

Je - sus, be my guide and hold me to Your side; And

*Refrain*

I will love You to the end. \_\_\_\_\_

**SALUTATION**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Lord God, by the power of Your Word alone, You created everything out of nothing, and You have caused us to be drawn to You in hope. Open our ears and our hearts to hear and believe Your Word this day anew that we may grow by Your grace in the faith and the love that are in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**    *Isaiah 55:10–13*    (God's powerful Word for all)

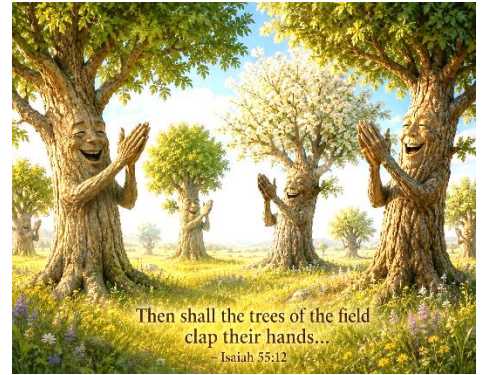
<sup>10</sup> "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Reader:    This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:    Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSE: The Trees of the Field** (see worship screen)



**EPISTLE**    *Romans 8:12–17*

(Life through the Spirit)

**Heirs with Christ**

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Reader:    This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:    Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL AND VERSE *Romans 11:33, 36; Isaiah 40:8*

Pastor: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

**People: How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!**

Pastor: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

**People: To Him be glory forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Alleluia. The grass withers, the flower fades,

**People: but the word of our God will stand forever. Alleluia.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23* (Jesus shares and interprets His story of the lavish sower.)

**13** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup> but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> He who has ears, let him hear."

### **The Parable of the Sower Explained**

<sup>18</sup> "Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



### 577 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



1 Al - might - y God, Your Word is cast Like  
 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe This  
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The  
 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, Life -



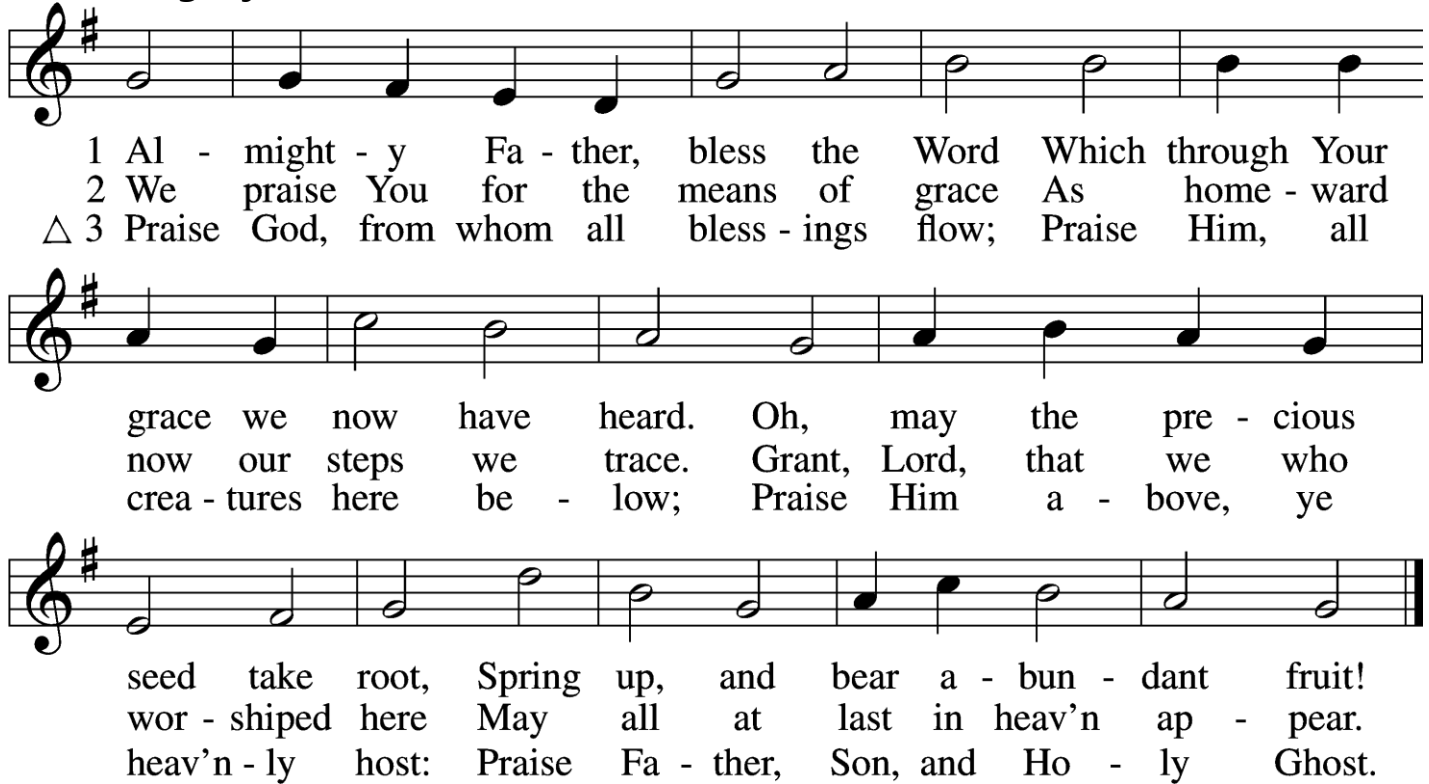
seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of  
 ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in  
 ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a  
 giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the



heav'n de - scend And righ - teous fruits a - bound.  
 ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.  
 hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.  
 truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

## Sermon – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

### 923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word



1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your  
 2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward  
 △ 3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all

grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious  
 now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who  
 crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye

seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!  
 wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.  
 heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor:** Let us pray. We praise You, O God, we acknowledge You to be the Lord. All the earth worships You, our Creator and Redeemer. By Your mighty Word, all things live and move and have their being. We praise You for Your creation. But with even greater praise, we give thanks for Your re-creating Word by which You have conquered sin and death, restoring earth's beauty and eternal life to all who believe. Cause Your Word to be received and believed by all people, giving everyone Your new life through faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.



Pastor: For the glorious company of the apostles, the fellowship of the prophets, and the evangelists of Your Gospel, we give You thanks. Give conviction and strength to all today whom You have called and ordained to proclaim Your Word to this generation, and bring forth the fruits of faith and love in all those renewed by Your Word and Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God bless our native land with freedom and wisdom to acknowledge Your Holy Word as the only sure foundation of governance in line with Your grace, wisdom, and will. Raise up servant leaders to guard, guide, and protect all citizens of our country in the way of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: As You promise Your own healing peace and comfort for Your people, so surround all who suffer any need, sickness, or adversity. Grant that their faith never fail and their prayers never cease. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS**

If you brought your offering today, you are welcome to leave it in the offering box you will find at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

**We invite our guests and members to fill out our Friendship Card** during worship, which is found on the back of the pew. Please leave your card at the end of the pew near the center aisle as you leave.

Stand

### Offertory

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

### Service of the Sacrament

Please see our communion policy stated on the inside front cover.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

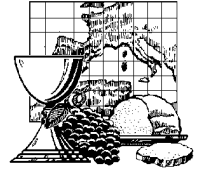
**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**



## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Please see our communion policy stated on the inside front cover.

## THE DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION WINE: For those who may not be able to take regular wine, we offer non-alcoholic wine, which is the light-colored wine in the center of the communion tray.

++ We offer **Gluten-free** wafers upon request. ++

## 921 On What Has Now Been Sown

- 1 On what has now been sown  
     Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;  
     The pow'r is Thine alone  
     To make it sprout and grow.  
     Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,  
     And Thou alone shalt have the praise!
- 2 To Thee our wants are known,  
     From Thee are all our pow'rs;  
     Accept what is Thine own  
     And pardon what is ours.  
     Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,  
     And to Thy Word a blessing give.
- 3 O grant that each of us,  
     Now met before Thee here,  
     May meet together thus  
     When Thou and Thine appear  
     And follow Thee to heav'n, our home.  
     E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

# 545 Word of God, Come Down on Earth



1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from  
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
 3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our  
 4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth  
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
 mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;  
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
 Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the  
 Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in  
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.  
 world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.  
 pit - y spo - ken, Heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.  
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

# 820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker



1 My soul, now praise your Mak - er! Let all with - in me  
2 He of - fers all His trea - sure Of jus - tice, truth, and  
4 His grace re - mains for - ev - er, And chil - dren's chil - dren



bless His name Who makes you full par - tak - er Of  
righ - teous - ness, His love be - yond all mea - sure, His  
yet shall prove That God for - sakes them nev - er Who



mer - cies more than you dare claim. For - get Him not whose  
yearn - ing pit - y o'er dis - tress; Nor treats us as we  
in true fear shall seek His love. In heav'n is fixed His



meek - ness Still bears with all your sin, Who heals your ev - 'ry  
mer - it But sets His an - ger by. The poor and con - trite  
dwell - ing, His rule is o - ver all; O hosts with might ex -



weak - ness, Re - news your life with - in; Whose grace and  
spir - it Finds His com - pas - sion nigh; And high as  
cel - ling, With praise be - fore Him fall. Praise Him for -



care are end - less And saved you through the past; Who  
heav'n a - bove us, As dawn from close of day, So  
ev - er reign - ing, All you who hear His Word— Our



leaves no suf - f'rer friend - less But rights the wronged at last.  
far, since He has loved us, He puts our sins a - way.  
life and all sus - tain - ing. My soul, O praise the Lord!

# 642 O Living Bread from Heaven



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, How well You  
 2 My Lord, You here have led me To this most  
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; This food can

feed Your guest! The gifts that You have giv - en  
 ho - ly place And with Your - self have fed me  
 death de - stroy. And You have free - ly grant - ed

Have filled my heart with rest. Oh, won - drous food of  
 The trea - sures of Your grace; For You have free - ly  
 The cup of end - less joy. My Lord, I do not

bless - ing, Oh, cup that heals our woes! My heart, this  
 giv - en What earth could nev - er buy, The bread of  
 mer - it The fa - vor You have shown, And all my

gift pos - sess - ing, With prais - es o - ver - flows.  
 life from heav - en, That now I shall not die.  
 soul and spir - it Bow down be - fore Your throne.

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy of Your people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name may abide to the end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

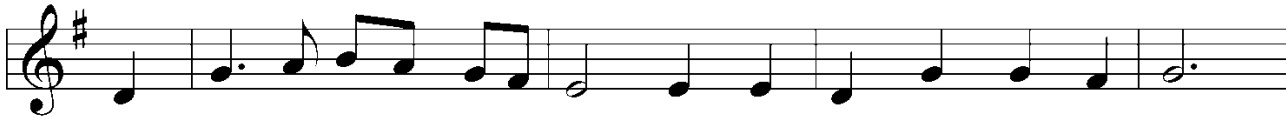
**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:** The blessing of God Almighty—the Father, who gave His Son for the life of the world; the Son, who has revealed to us God’s grace, mercy, and love; and the Spirit, by whose fruit we are seen to be children of God—bless you now and forever.

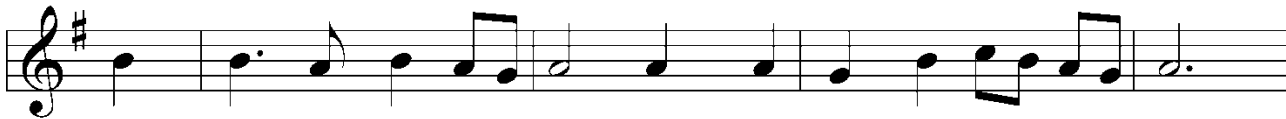
**People:** Amen.

**THE INVITATIONS****893 Sing to the Lord of Harvest**

1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest, Sing songs of love and praise;  
 2 God makes the clouds rain good - ness, The des - erts bloom and spring,  
 3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar The gifts His good - ness gave,



With joy - ful hearts and voic - es Your al - le - lu - ias raise.  
 The hills leap up in glad - ness, The val - leys laugh and sing.  
 The gold - en sheaves of har - vest, The souls Christ died to save.



By Him the roll - ing sea - sons In fruit - ful or - der move;  
 God fills them with His full - ness, All things with large in - crease;  
 Your hearts lay down be - fore Him When at His feet you fall,



Sing to the Lord of har - vest A joy - ous song of love.  
 He crowns the year with bless - ing, With plen - ty and with peace.  
 And with your lives a - dore Him Who gave His life for all.



**Need some PRAYER?** Anyone who desires special private prayer with a pastor or a Stephen Minister may do so by coming forward after service to one of the front pews.

**Our Vision** — a place to come for comfort, support, answers, opportunities to serve, and to strengthen a salvation relationship with Jesus



**WHERE WE SERVE**

Preacher / Officiant  
 Music Director  
 Family Life

Pastor Christopher Fairbairn  
 Paul Ventimiglia  
 Jeanette Koch

Elder

Will Hoffmeier

Ushers

Jerry Krause  
 Ron Breuhan  
 Marty Jenter  
 Mike Huskey  
 Elyse Huskey

Greeter

Charleen Hill

Counters

Jan Greulich  
 Frank Newman  
 George Foor

Welcome Center

Sue Poole

Coffee Hour

Table One

Tech Team

Corey Kovoch

Altar Society

Jan Paver  
 Sue Poole

Acolyte

Caleb Norton

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**Remember Our Homebound**

Joyce Carr  
 1066 Washington Circle  
 Northville, MI 48167

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**Bible Study and Small Group Opportunities**

SUNDAYS: Join us for Bible study and fellowship @ 9:45am in the church Parish Hall.

SATURDAYS: Men's Bible Study – Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday @ 9:00am – Parish Hall

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**Attendance** Last week: 7.5.2026– Attendance – 8:30am – 84 + 11:00am – 60 = 144

Communion – 131

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Received week of 7.5.2026 for **Church** (Envelopes + loose plate)- **\$15,2223** total includes online giving  
**School** - \$0



|    |          |                  |                                                                    |
|----|----------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12 | JUL, SUN | ● All day        | APPALACHIAN SERVANT EVENT (Day 3/14)                               |
|    |          | ● 8:30 – 9:30am  | Worship w/Communion                                                |
|    |          | ● 9:45 – 10:45am | Sunday School & Youth Bible Study                                  |
|    |          | ● 11am – 12pm    | Worship                                                            |
|    |          | ● 7 – 9pm        | Adult pick up basketball - check notes for availability school gym |
| 13 | JUL, MON | ● All day        | APPALACHIAN SERVANT EVENT (Day 4/14)                               |
|    |          | ● 9am – 3:30pm   | Summer Camp - rooms 3 & 5                                          |
|    |          | ● 6:30 – 7:30pm  | Board of Day School Parish Hall                                    |
| 14 | JUL, TUE | ● All day        | APPALACHIAN SERVANT EVENT (Day 5/14)                               |
|    |          | ● All day        | Jane Dough Baking Co. -Kitchen Rental                              |
|    |          | ● 9am – 3:30pm   | Summer Camp - rooms 3 & 5                                          |
| 15 | JUL, WED | ● All day        | APPALACHIAN SERVANT EVENT (Day 6/14)                               |
|    |          | ● All day        | Jane Dough Baking Co. -Kitchen Rental                              |
|    |          | ● 9am – 3:30pm   | Summer Camp - rooms 3 & 5                                          |
|    |          | ● 5 – 9pm        | Family of God Mission Dinner Kitchen 2-5pm 7354 Whittaker St       |
| 16 | JUL, THU | ● All day        | APPALACHIAN SERVANT EVENT (Day 7/14)                               |
|    |          | ● 9am – 3:30pm   | Summer Camp - rooms 3 & 5                                          |
|    |          | ● 4:30 – 5:30pm  | Choir Practice                                                     |
|    |          | ● 5:45 – 7pm     | Bell Choir Rehearsal - church                                      |
| 17 | JUL, FRI | ● All day        | APPALACHIAN SERVANT EVENT (Day 8/14)                               |
|    |          | ● 9am – 3:30pm   | Summer Camp - rooms 3 & 5                                          |
|    |          | ● 7 – 9pm        | AA Mtg. church parish hall                                         |
|    |          | ● 9 – 11:30pm    | Yuta Basketball Rental gym                                         |
| 18 | JUL, SAT | ● All day        | APPALACHIAN SERVANT EVENT (Day 9/14)                               |

At the LWML Convention at the end of June, new Mission Grants in the amount of \$281,250 were approved for the 2026-2028 Biennium. The first grant approved is called “CTSFW Food Co-op Purchase Food for Seminary Students – Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne” in the amount of \$15,000. The CTSFW Food Co-op provides up to 85 percent of student families’ monthly grocery needs at no cost to them. This is a tremendous blessing for families operating on a student budget. Operating as an actual cooperative, each family volunteers

monthly to receive points used to purchase grocery items. The Co-op spends approximately \$7,000 a month on fresh produce, eggs, milk, cheese, ground beef, and other grocery items to fill the shelves. The Co-op has taken away the concern for the men and women who answered God's call to serve Him and you. The month of July is also one of the four months that MITEs are collected. Look for the large MITE box in the narthex this month. Thank you for your generous support of MITEs over the years.

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Ladies, I hope everyone is enjoying summer, LWML convention, 250th Birthday celebration on the 4th of July and now during these "Ordinary Days" of summer, Lynda Watters, from our Wayne Oak Hills LWML Zone shares a Christmas in July opportunity. Lynda has prepared a wonderful mission opportunity for all our churches to consider. Our churches' ladies group, Women in Christ and others from our congregation may be interested in assembling small teams to visit our shut-ins. If you are interested in helping to plan, organize and implement a Christmas in July visit, please let me know (see the flier). "Serve the Lord with gladness!" Sue



Dear Lutheran Women in Mission of Wayne Oak Hills,

Re: MISSION REPORT - JULY 6, 2026

Merry Christmas! Wait, it's only July!! While it may not be time to bake cookies and decorate the Christmas tree, we are pausing to remember that every day is an important day to celebrate the birth and life of our Savior Jesus Christ.

In these "ordinary days" of the church calendar, we learn about Jesus' life and ministry. Here in these ordinary days is when and where we live out the Gospel message amongst our family and neighbors.

In John 20:31, John writes, "but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

When the air is crisp and days are shorter, our calendars will fill again with holiday preparations, and we anticipate that season with joy and a hopeful opportunity to share the Gospel in the warm glow of Christmas.

For now, let us savor these ordinary days (that are not 'ordinary' at all) as we live out our vocations of wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt, friend, loved one.



Now's the perfect season to plan a Christmas homebound visit with an LWML sister. Take a gift package (throw blanket, large-print devotion, tissue pack, hand-made card), sing a song and close with prayer. On a bigger scale, coordinate with your pastor to make mini homebound visits during the Christmas season to bring the light of Christ to those who worship from home.

Glad Tidings from...Lynda Watters, Mission Awareness

Dear Parishioners,



Please join us the weekend of July 18, 2026 to hear the Rev. Gerald L. Kovac speak at all the services about a ministry providing direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Pastor Kovac will share personal witness about Food For The Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another.

Pastor Kovac was ordained for the SELC District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in 1965. He has served as a Chaplin for the Wisconsin Department of Correction and as Executive Secretary of the Mission Board of the SELC District. Before preaching on behalf of Food For The Poor, he also served as a Pastor in St. Louis for 31 years.

Please join me in welcoming Pastor Kovac.

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On Sunday, July 26th, AWPC is hosting an exciting event - *The Praise In The Park* Benefit Concert at Shiawassee Park in Farmington, featuring popular national Christian Rock Group **SANCTUS REAL**. We're looking for a couple volunteers to sit behind our SPL Marketing Sponsorship display table, during the event hours of 4:00 - 7:00 pm, to hand out church and school promo materials and answer questions.

Anyone interested in helping at this fun event please contact Claudia Williamson at [Claudia.Williamson@comcast.net](mailto:Claudia.Williamson@comcast.net)

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**Wild Card Bible Quizzing Tournament** This FREE Bible Quizzing tournament will be hosted at **St. Paul Church**. There is **no age limit**. Join us **Saturday, September 12, 2026 @ 12PM-5PM!** The material will be 8 random chapters from the Gospel of John (randomly selected 1 week before the tournament). No prior knowledge of the material is required. All ages welcome on teams of 3 people each. For info or to register, visit [biblequizzing.azurewebsites.net/Tournaments](https://biblequizzing.azurewebsites.net/Tournaments) or talk to Jake Fairbairn <[jakecfairbairn@gmail.com](mailto:jakecfairbairn@gmail.com), (248) 231-9684>.

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**St. Paul Endowment Fund News** It is amazing to think that the St. Paul Endowment Fund began in 2011 with a single gift of just **\$1,000**. Through God's blessings and the generosity of our congregation, the Fund has continued to grow and support meaningful ministry opportunities.

As of **June 19, 2026**, the Endowment Fund balance stands at **\$110,879.42**. Even after making grant distributions this year, the Fund has continued to grow, ensuring that it will continue to provide lasting support for the ministries of St. Paul for generations to come.

We are now in our **fifth year of awarding grants**. Since the program began, the Endowment Fund has awarded more than **\$19,285** in grants to support ministry, outreach, education, and facility improvements.

**Grants Awarded in the First Half of 2026 (\$2450 in remaining grant dollars for 2026, application window opens in October)**

- Bible Quizzing – **\$500**
- Mission Trip – **\$1,500**
- LWML Convention – **\$1,000**

**Previous Endowment Fund Grants Have Supported:**

- National Youth Gathering (Texas)
- Belize Mission Trip
- Protect Young Eyes Technology Event
- Handbell Choir Storage Cases
- New Church Website
- Science & Chemistry Learning Materials
- Christmas Decorations

- Church Roof
- Church Administration Office Construction
- VBS T-Shirts
- Church Sign Refurbishment
- Marketing & Ministry Materials

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Endowment Fund over the years. Every gift—large or small—is an investment in the future of St. Paul. Your generosity continues to make a lasting impact by supporting ministries that strengthen our church, serve our community, and share Christ's love with others.

Please continue to keep the Endowment Fund in your prayers and consider making a gift as you are able. Together, we are building a legacy of faithful stewardship that will bless St. Paul for generations to come.

Regards, Vicki Filipiak

**The FAMILY OF GOD meal on Wednesday, June 17th, went very well.**



Chris and Jeff Henning did the shopping for us. Mark Potter prepared his 'famous' pulled pork barbeque for us. Michelle Benson prepared her 'famous' coleslaw dressing. Rachel and Matthew

George helped Barbara with all the rest of the ingredients for our menu: Pulled Pork on buns, green beans, coleslaw, potato chips, bananas, brownies, and beverages. Nancy Berg cut up two watermelons for us for a beautiful presentation. Our brownie bakers were: Alison Babic, Anne Burgess, Karen Frusti, Gretchen Hasse, Megan Kutz, and Sue Poole. Curtis Kalina, Doug and Nancy Berg, Barbara and Will Hoffmeier took the meal down and served about 75 people, with 120 meals for the record. It was very much appreciated and they are so grateful to us for coming to their mission. ***Our designated fund is getting a little low so if you would like to participate in this ministry by paying for our groceries, please write a check to "St Paul's Lutheran Church" and on the MEMO line put "Family of God Meals."*** Thank you all for your support.

Barbara was contacted by the pastors of FOG (Family of God) that they didn't have anyone come to serve a meal on Tuesday, June 30th. She was going down for a Board of Directors meeting anyway that evening, so she offered to help. They wanted to learn how to prepare the chicken pasta salad that Sue Poole coordinates for our summer menus on the first Tuesday of the month. Barbara purchased the groceries out of our FOG designated account, and prepped some things ahead of time, then had the local volunteers in the kitchen prepare the 8 casseroles to serve. Pastor Nick, Pastor Alex, Deacon Paul, Susan Hill (Pastor Jim's wife), and Michelle enjoyed the process and got the meal out in an hour. They ended up getting a notebook with our menus and shopping lists so if they need to do the meal themselves, it's a possibility. The stove at the facility was removed six months ago for safety reasons and it will take thousands of dollars to replace with all the fire regulations so it's 'on hold.' They depend on their Church Partners to provide the meals but need additional support. ***Please keep the mission in your prayers and if you could make a donation, mail a check to: Family of God, Inc. P.O. Box 801 Mount Clemens, MI 48043.***