

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

11:00 am
July 19, 2026



Hope in the Harvest

AS WE GATHER

To us in daily living it doesn't make sense that God allows evil to grow outside and even inside the Church. But as we await God's good harvest, we do so in hope, which does not depend on what our eyes see, but on the faith given to us by the Holy Spirit. With faith, our ears hear God calling us His children and His listening to the Spirit's groaning for us. As precious wheat protected in God's barn, we can wait patiently for the harvest when by grace the "righteous will shine like the sun" in our Father's kingdom.

WELCOME — Pastor Gerald L. Kovac

Our guest preacher today is Rev. Gerald L. Kovac. He is representing the ministry of Food for the Poor, which is the largest international relief and development ministry in the U.S. and seeks to support Christian missionaries and ministries of all denominations.

Pastor Kovac was ordained for the SELC District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in 1965. He has served as a Chaplain 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.

RINGING OF THE BELL

Alive

I was dead in my transgressions,
Wandering in sin.
I went searching for redemption
Down a road that had no end.
I was walking through the fire,
I was living on the run.
With my flesh lost in desire,
I was drowning in the flood.

Chorus

But God, rich in mercy,
You came to save me.
Now, I'm alive.
But God, strong and mighty,
You reached down for me,
So I could rise.
Now, I'm alive.

Verse 2

I am far from being perfect;
There are days that I regret.
On this battlefield I struggle
With the lies that I have lived.
I have fallen short of glory;
I can't make it on my own.
If You kept record of my past,
I'd be sinking like a stone.

Chorus

But God, rich in mercy,
You came to save me.
Now I'm alive.
But God, strong and mighty,
You reached down for me,
So I could rise.

Bridge

Now, I'm breathing in, I'm breathing
out.
I was in the grave, but God, you called
me out.
Now, I'm breathing in, I'm breathing
out.
I was in the grave, but God you called
me out.

But God, rich in mercy,
You came to save me.
Now, I'm alive.
But God, strong and mighty,
You reached down for me,
So I could rise.
Now I'm alive.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:8–9*

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: We confess, gracious God, that we groan not only because of sin in the world, but our failure to trust You for all that we need. We have not waited patiently; we have demanded reasons from You; we have sought to excuse ourselves. Yet You have given us the Spirit, who intercedes for us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us to hope not in ourselves but in the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: The promises of God are sure; one day creation will be set free from corruption. Your sins were taken to Christ's cross, where you were redeemed as God's beloved children. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, who has ordered all things for our good,

People: grant us faithfulness and patience as we endure the evil around us, until we rejoice at Christ's coming at the end of time;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 44:6–8* (No one compares to God)

Besides Me There Is No God

⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.
Let him declare and set it before me,

since I appointed an ancient people.
Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

⁸ Fear not, nor be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?
There is no Rock; I know not any."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:18–27*

(The sufferings of this present age are not worth comparing to the glory waiting to be revealed.)

Future Glory

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43* (The parable of the wheat and weeds.)

²⁴ He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.

²⁷ And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?'

²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

The Parable of the Weeds Explained

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

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.



“A Time to Serve”

(Sung to the tune of “*Children of the Heavenly Father*”)

1. Jesus hears his children crying.
Sees them hungry, lost, and dying;
Who will comfort all their sorrows?
Who will brighten their tomorrows?

2. When we aid the poor and lonely,,
We’re not caring for them only;
When our love some suff’ring eases,
We have done the same for Jesus.

3. When we join our Savior’s service,
He will strengthen and preserve us;
He will guide our daily living,
And He’ll bless the love we’re giving.

4. Jesus pleads with us to reach them
With our gifts of love, and teach them
That the kindness we are giving
Is the Christian’s way of living

5. Rise and follow! He will lead us;
Heed the cries of those who need us!
And when life has ended for us.
Heaven’s glories lie before us.

Sermon – Rev. Gerald L. Kovac “Being The Hands, The Feet, and The Heart of Jesus in Today’s World”

If you would like to support the work of **Food For The Poor** you are invited to put your special offering in the envelope you will find in the bulletin and place it in the basket in the hallway or give it to Pastor Kovac as you leave worship today.

Checks should be made out to **Food For The Poor**.

Here is a personal prayer you can offer this week: God of grace and power, you call your people to life in Christ crucified and Christ risen. We are called to share the Gospel in word and deed, so we ask that you would move us to give tangible expression to your love. Thank you for the ministry of Food For The Poor, Inc, (In the Name of Christ) in providing food for the body and nourishment for the soul. As Dr. Albert Schweitzer liked to say, “It is difficult to hear the word of the Bread of Life when the stomach is empty.” Thank You, Lord, for Food For The Poor in providing food, housing and potable water for the poor in the Caribbean and Latin America. And we thank you that this ministry cares enough to provide not only fish for the hungry, but also teaches them to fish-or build houses, so that they might know the dignity of work. Thank you, God, for opening our hearts in the offering this morning in order that a “goodly share may be found on tables everywhere.” In Jesus name, Amen.

Sermon – Rev. Gerald L. Kovac

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: When we look at the storms gathering around us, many people are in dire straits. Let us pray for them, for the Church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances.

For the human powers that be, that God would enable them to make and administer laws to order society within their borders and to establish peace across them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

Pastor: For the disenfranchised and homeless, the forgotten and oppressed, the unemployed and disheartened, that God would protect and defend them, open doors of opportunity for them, and move them to rely on Him for all their needs, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

Pastor: For those near and dear to us in their illnesses, anger, grief, or despair, [*especially . . .*], and those whom we name in our hearts now [*pause for silent prayer*], that God would visit, relieve, strengthen, and renew them according to His gracious plan, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

Pastor: For those who tend flocks and till the soil, who provide transportation and manage shops, who provide protection in their communities and defense of their nation, and who respond to sudden emergencies and work to increase health and wellbeing, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father,

People: grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. 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

Service of the Sacrament

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. ++

All God's People Said Amen

Chorus

And all God's people said, "Amen." Whoa.
 And all God's people said, "Amen."
 Give thanks to the Lord, for His love never
 ends.
 And all God's people said, "Amen."

Verse 1

You are not alone if you are lonely.
 When you feel afraid, you're not the only.
 We are all the same, in need of mercy,
 To be forgiven and be free.
 It's all you got to lean on,
 But thank God it's all you need.

Chorus

And all God's people said, "Amen." Whoa.
 And all God's people said, "Amen."
 Give thanks to the Lord, for His love never
 ends.
 And all God's people said, "Amen."

Verse 2

If you're rich or poor, well, it don't matter.
 Weak or strong, you know love is what
 we're after.
 We're all broken, but we're all in this
 together.
 God knows we stumble and fall,
 And He so loved the world,
 He sent His son to save us all.

Chorus

And all God's people said, "Amen." Whoa.
 And all God's people said, "Amen."
 Give thanks to the Lord, for His love never
 ends.
 And all God's people said, "Amen."

Bridge

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn
 apart.
 Blessed are the persecuted and the pure
 in heart.
 Blessed are the people hungry for another
 start,
 For theirs is the kingdom, the kingdom of
 God.

Chorus

And all God's people said, "Amen." Whoa.
 And all God's people said, "Amen."
 Give thanks to the Lord, for His love never
 ends.
 And all God's people said, "Amen."

And all God's people said, "Amen." Whoa.
 And all God's people said, "Amen."
 Give thanks to the Lord, for His love
 never ends.
 And all God's people said, "Amen."

And all God's people said, "Amen."

Homesick For Heaven

My heart belongs to a country and a King
Of a land I've always known but I've
never seen
Some call it paradise or the land of the
living
Well I call it home and I'm homesick for
Heaven

Chorus

I want to walk with Moses
On streets of gold
And dance with David
Before Your throne
To thank You face to face
For the grace You've given

I want to see my children
Run to Your arms
And worship the Savior
Who wears my scars
There's an ache in my heart
I'm homesick for Heaven

Verse

In my Father's house there are many
rooms
Enough for everyone enough for you
I know it takes some faith
But today you can know without question

Believe in the power of Jesus' name
And you're going to Heaven
Hallelujah in Jesus' name
We're going to Heaven

Chorus

I want to walk with Moses
On streets of gold
And dance with David

Before Your throne
To thank You face to face
For the grace You've given

I want to see my children
Run to Your arms
And worship the Savior
Who wears my scars
There's an ache in my heart
I'm homesick for Heaven

Bridge

No more fear no more pain
Every tear wiped away
Crying holy holy

Every knee on the floor
Every voice evermore
Crying holy holy
Oh I want to go home
Oh I want to go home

Chorus (2)

To see the ones I love
Who've gone before
Where death is a memory and tears are
no more
To hear the angels praise

Can you even imagine
I'll run as fast as I can
Into Your arms
'Cause I was created
To be where You are
There's an ache in my heart
I'm homesick for Heaven

There's an ache in my heart
I'm homesick for Heaven

There's an ache in my heart
I'm homesick for Heaven

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE INVITATIONS

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The blessing God almighty—the Father, who has adopted You as His own children; the Son, ✠ who has given His life for You; and the Holy Spirit, who brings your groaning prayers to the throne of grace—be with you and keep you, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH

Great is Your faithfulness, oh God;
You wrestle with the sinner's heart.
You lead us by still waters
into mercy
And nothing can keep us apart.

Bridge
So, remember Your people,
Remember Your children,
Remember Your promise
Oh God.

Chorus
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough, for me.

Verse
Great is Your love and justice, God;
You use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song
Of Your salvation,
And all Your people sing along.

Bridge

So, remember Your people,
Remember Your children,
Remember Your promise
Oh God.

Chorus

Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough, for me.

Pastor: "Go in Peace. Serve the Lord."

People: Thanks be to God.



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



Acknowledgments

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Food For The Poor does much more than feed two million individuals six days a week.. We drill life-giving water for those who otherwise wouldn't have clean drinking water; we provide lifesaving medical care; we build homes for families without adequate shelter; we provide skills training and micro-enterprise opportunities that enable the poor to work; and we give children an education that will enable them to break free from the cycle of poverty that has ensnared generations. On Sunday July 19, Pastor Gerald Kovac will deliver the message "Being the Hands, The Feet, and The Heart of Jesus in Today's World". You will be invited to participate in this ministry through a special offering.

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WHERE WE SERVE

Preacher/Officiant

Rev. Gerald L. Kovac

Music Director

Paul Ventimiglia

Family Life

Jeanette Koch

Elder

Mark Baumgarten

Ushers

Lenny Elliott
Christine Lewis

Greeter	Poole Family
Counters	Beth Snow Jane Ripper Allen Ripper
Welcome Center	Beth Hempel
Tech Team	Doug Towner
Altar Society	Karen Frusti Christine Lewis
Acolyte	Tyler Hughes
Praise Team	Kurt Menhart Hannah Hughes Sarah Hughes Chris Englert Linda Johnson Alexandra Vago (Bass Gtr)

Remember Our Homebound

Joyce Carr
1066 Washington Circle
Northville, MI 48167

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 1st and 3rd Saturday @ 9:00am – Parish Hall

Attendance Last week: 7.12.2026– Attendance – 8:30am – 115 + 11:00am – 51 = 166
Communion – 92

Received week of 7.12.2026 for **Church** (Envelopes + loose plate)- **\$9,494** total includes online giving
School - \$0

19	JUL, SUN	● All day	APPALACHIAN SERVANT EVENT (Day 10/14)
		● 8:30 – 9:30am	Worship w/ Communion
		● 9:45 – 10:45am	Sunday School & Youth Bible Study
		● 11am – 12pm	Worship w/ Communion
		● 7 – 9pm	Adult pick up basketball – check notes for availability school gym
20	JUL, MON	● All day	APPALACHIAN SERVANT EVENT (Day 11/14)
21	JUL, TUE	● All day	APPALACHIAN SERVANT EVENT (Day 12/14)
22	JUL, WED	● All day	APPALACHIAN SERVANT EVENT (Day 13/14)
23	JUL, THU	● All day	APPALACHIAN SERVANT EVENT (Day 14/14)
		● 4:30 – 5:30pm	Choir Practice
		● 5:45 – 7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal – church
24	JUL, FRI	● 7 – 9pm	AA Mtg. church parish hall
		● 9 – 11:30pm	Yuta Basketball Rental gym
25	JUL, SAT	● All day	Men's Bible Study Parish Hall
		● All day	Young Adults & Families Hangout TBD

Young adults and their families are invited to join us on **Saturday, July 25, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the playground next to the church. Come enjoy fellowship, outdoor fun, and lunch with other young adults and their children from our church community.

Pork sliders, snacks, and water will be provided.

Please bring:

Lawn chairs - Picnic blankets - Sunscreen

We hope you'll join us for a fun and relaxed summer afternoon together!

For any questions feel free to reach out to Michael Huskey (317) 319-0559

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.

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 today 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 Chaplain 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.

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



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 or talk to Jake Fairbairn <jakecfairbairn@gmail.com, (248) 231-9684>.

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

Weather permitting, the parking lot will have cracks filled and seal coated and painted the week of August 1.



It can be driven upon 5 hours after painting.



It should not interfere with Sunday worship.





OUR NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome Courtney Julien and her two sons Isaac (14) and Samuel (11) to the St. Paul family. The Julien family participated in VBS this year. Samuel and Isaac were youth helpers and Courtney took pictures. Courtney listed photography and helping at events here as some of her interests. She has already put her photography skills to work and she and Isaac helped with the grounds clean up day earlier this spring. Thank you and we look forward to working beside you more.

Romans 15:7 - "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you."

A delicious summer meal of Cheesy Chicken Pasta Salad was delivered to FOG on Tuesday, July 7. As always this was a joint effort with many people helping to supply the salads, rolls and butter, chips, watermelon, dessert and drinks.



Barbara Hoffmeier joined the servers at FOG with her two granddaughters. Claire and Elise were wonderful helpers and made friends with a young girl there. As we learned, the girls had gone down last year when they were in town and were anxious to go again. What beautiful servant hearts just like their Oma's.

Julia and Pat were so happy to see George. We had been missing him for quite some time and wondering where he was. As it turned out, he needed that support as his brother had passed away that morning. God comforts for the broken hearted and provides for our needs.



Pastor Nick is back from leave after the birth of his son, Walter. All we had to ask was "do you have any pictures" and he was ready to pull out his phone like every proud Daddy.

Altar Flowers

Two vases of flowers are available for sponsorship on August 16 and one vase is available for August 30. Cost per vase is \$15.00. If you would like to sponsor a vase or vases, please contact Anne Burgess 734-765-4792 or anne.burgess.313@gmail.com
