

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:30 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

892 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; Raise the song of har-vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to His praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His har-vest home,
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To Thy fi - nal har-vest home;



All be safe - ly gath - ered in Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
 Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 From His field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way,
 Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup-plied.
 First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 Give His an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
 There, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy gar - ner to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; Raise the song of har-vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole-some grain and pure may be.
 But the fruit - ful ears to store In His gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come with all Thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har-vest home.

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 25:31–46* (Come and inherit the kingdom prepared for you.)

Reader: ³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

People: ³⁷ **"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'**

Reader: ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

People: ⁴⁴ **"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'**

Reader: ⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

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.

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 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

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

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.

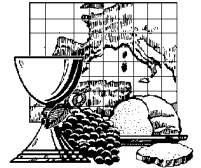
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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. ++

You Hear the Hungry Crying (Tune: Lutheran Worship 203, "O Day of Rest and Gladness)

You hear the hungry crying in many a bounteous land,
You see the hungry dying on barren desert sand;
You tell Your helpless helpers, "Go, feed the multitude,"
And, while they serve the starving, You multiply the food.

The hungry still are with us, though easily ignored,
And You still say, "Go, feed them," and You are still the Lord.
Give us Your eyes to see them, Your ears to hear their cry.
Who, moved by Your compassion, could coldly pass them by?

With You in us, Lord Jesus, we feel and act like You;
Your life of love and mercy impels our mission, too.
Through us pour out Your bounty, make us Your hands and feet;
In sharing what You give us, You make our joy complete.

You see more than a body imploring to be fed,
You see whole persons famished for You, the living Bread.
In loving one another, we prove our love for You;
In caring for the needy, we say our thanks to You.

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in -
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.



Refrain
 Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.
- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.
- 3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.
- 4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.
- 5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
 2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er
 3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
 4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
 loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
 and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
 har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.
 Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
 Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
 Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

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.

663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray



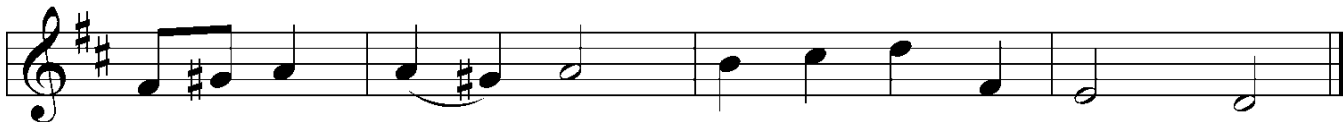
1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a - wak -
 2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares Lest a - sleep he find
 3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de - feat
 4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you tri -



en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a - wares o'er -
 you; For in - deed no pains he spares To de - ceive and
 you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be - tray and
 fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's mer - cy



tak - en; For the foe, Well we know, Is a
 blind you. Sa - tan's prey Oft are they Who se -
 cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less
 sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.
 cure are sleep - ing And no watch are keep - ing.
 friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.
 hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.

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

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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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	Will Hoffmeier
Ushers	John Nordbeck Katie Helmick Barry Helmick Carole Crete Paul Kemp
Greeter	Donna Hoetell
Counters	Beth Snow Jane Ripper Allen Ripper

Reader	Jan Faerber
Welcome Center	Tim Haubenstricker
Coffee Hour	Board of Evangelism
Tech Team	Patrick Baker
Altar Society	Karen Frusti Christine Lewis
Acolyte	Thomas Kutz

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 8:30 – 9:30am 9:45 – 10:45am 11am – 12pm 7 – 9pm	APPALACHIAN SERVANT EVENT (Day 10/14) Worship w/ Communion Sunday School & Youth Bible Study Worship w/ Communion 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 4:30 – 5:30pm 5:45 – 7pm	APPALACHIAN SERVANT EVENT (Day 14/14) Choir Practice Bell Choir Rehearsal - church
24	JUL, FRI	7 – 9pm 9 – 11:30pm	AA Mtg. church parish hall Yuta Basketball Rental gym
25	JUL, SAT	- All day - All day	Men's Bible Study Parish Hall 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
