

The ARMOR OF GOD

WILTON COMMUNITY VBS 2023



JULY 23-26

5:30-8:00

ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
401 MILL STREET, WILTON, WI



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI

8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 23, 2023

**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*It is an age-old question: **why is there evil in the world?** In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.*

**(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of our neighbors.

children, in our country as well as refugee camps, Ukraine, and other areas, that they may have hope.

We have several notebooks, crayons and scissors, left over from last year. This year, we'd like to do something a little different. Rather than have you bring the supplies, we are asking your donation be in the form of cash. This way, we can determine what supplies we need to fill the seven dozen backpacks we have ordered. We can always pack more than seven dozen, but that is the number we have used our Thrivent Grant to purchase.

We have placed envelopes marked "School Kits" in the narthex for you to place your donation. If you donate cash, please put your name on the envelope and we will enter your donation in the yearly report.

The children will pack the supplies when they return to Sunday School in September, and the backpacks will be blessed on September 17, when the children will return in song and collect the noisy offering.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the LORD does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus 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.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹**Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.**

¹²I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.

¹³**For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.**

¹⁴The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent
people seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.

¹⁵**But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.**
¹⁶Turn to me and have mercy on me;
 give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.
¹⁷**Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

Second Reading

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God’s children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

Romans 8:12-25

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for 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. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God’s People; Pastor: Bill Horn; Organist: Kirstin Arndt; Reader: Karen Arzt; Altar: Barb Bever & Karen Arzt

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, Judy Bever, John Acker, Craig King, Mary Leis, Tracie Herman, Dave Dechant, Jayden Shea, Erin Long.

CALENDAR

TODAY	Vacation Bible School	5:30 PM—8:00 PM
Saturday, July 29	Blood Drive	7:00 AM—11:30 AM
Sunday, July 30	Worship	9:00 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHOOL KITS

Schools out, schools out, teachers let the OOPS, wrong song.....And Mom and Dad can hardly wait for school to start again...that’s more like it!

The school supplies list for many of our area schools are displayed at Walmart, Office Depot, and other stores. Who among us can’t remember the excitement our children felt when we took them school shopping?

But, for the children in refugee camps, or dodging bombs in Ukraine, or trying to escape the tribal warfare in some countries in Africa, there is no hope that school will even be a part of their life, let alone have school supplies.

As in the past, we are asking for your support in packing backpacks with supplies, and sending them to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to the

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good.

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.191

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.**

**Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Benediction

*Hymn "Oh Holy Spirit, Root of Life"

ELW#399

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.
C: Thanks be to God.

Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia. Lord,"

ELW p. 188

GOSPEL READING

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

The holy gospel according to Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up

with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Reverend Bill Horn

***Hymn** "On What Has Now Been Sown" **ELW #550**

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (Hear us O God. Your mercy is great)

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

***Offertory Hymn** "We Are an Offering" **ELW #692**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW p. 190

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW p. 190

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.