

CALENDAR

Today	Monroe County Largest Labor Day Parade @Kendall	Noon
Mon., Sept. 1	Labor Day Holiday	Relax
Sun., Sept. 7	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Confirmation	9:00 AM
	Parents Join	9:40 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to Dixie and Leonard Arndt for trimming back bushes by the ramp door and pulling weeds around the parsonage. Also, thank you to Steve Brandau for cutting down and removing the large bush by the ramp entrance.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran
Church
Wilton, WI
12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family**

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

**(Indicates the people should stand as they are able.)*
Welcome and Announcements

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Gathering

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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✚ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ☩ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.

Hymn **"Gather Us In"** **ELW #532**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you

***Prayer of the Day**
O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to
those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son,
that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Dismissal:

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Synod Authorized Minister: Karen
Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Greg Bever
Altar: Nalani & Greg; Communion Servers: Volunteers

!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, Wayne Schindler, Florence
Dougherty, Laurie Switz Johnson, Heidi Stenerson, Linda,
Richie Vlasak, Jeremy Munson, Kristy Gwin Solovey, Gordy
O'Rourke, Marilyn O'Rourke, Larry Arndt, Carol Lydon Fronk,
Nick Evans, Jack Arndt, Colin Niedfeldt, Mark Drews, Jan
Brandau, Kathy Gruen Braund, Jeri Bauer Weger, John
Forbes, Patty VonHaden

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family and
friends of Dan Dutton who passed away unexpectedly this
past Wednesday. Dan's funeral will held at St. Paul's on Sun-
day, September 7, at 2:00 PM.

IN THE MILITARY

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.

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

Distribution

"Lamb of God"

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*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mothering God,
**you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

SENDING

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

*BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.
Amen.

Hymn

"Build a Longer Table"

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WORD

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

FIRST READING

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

A reading from Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

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

Psalm 112

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!
² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**
³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.
⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**
⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
⁶ **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting
remembrance.**
⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

- ⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness
stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
- ¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash
their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains
suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are
shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

A reading from Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16

- ¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show
hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have
entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who
are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those
who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being
tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the
marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the
sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from
the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he
himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So
we can say with confidence,
"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?"
- ⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of
God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and
imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and
today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

P: Let us give thanks to our Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places.....
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

ELW p. 190

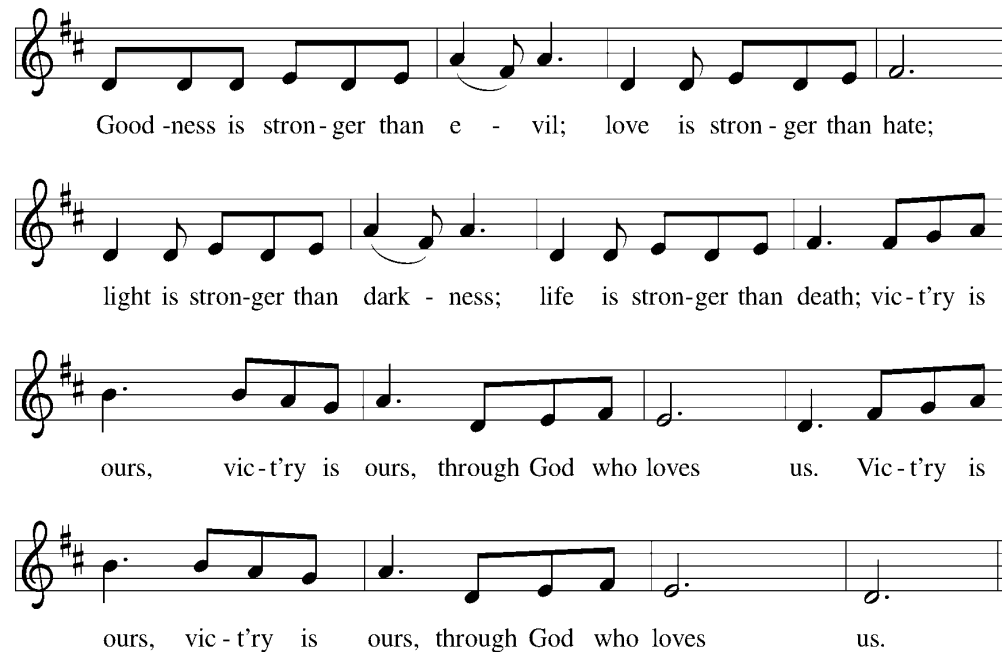
Words of Institution

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.**

*Offering Hymn

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil



Good -ness is stron - ger than e - vil; love is stron - ger than hate;
light is stron - ger than dark - ness; life is stron - ger than death; vic - t'ry is
ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic - t'ry is
ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,
**in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

***Gospel Acclamation**

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***GOSPEL READING**

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

The holy gospel according to Luke 14:1,7-14

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your

brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

Sermon Karen Sparling
Synod Authorized Minister

Hymn “Oh Praise the Gracious Power of God”

***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** (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

OFFERING

You may be seated as the ushers come forward to collect the offering.