

We ask that all members join the Women of ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning, and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley, Aria & Hudson Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes, Maevis Shock; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, Kaylin, Emma, Bryce, Marah, Bria, Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb, Elizabeth Wildes; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon & Ellory Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson and Duke Sebranek, Violet Ford, Hunter Puhl, Eason Kelbel, Cole, Caleb & Connor Redding; Brooke, Claire, Grace & Bree Olson; Luke Kroeger; Peyton Oelson, Greyson Resop; Kendall Christopherson, Hudson Birkholz, Alayna, Alivia & Levi Wyttenbach. We pray for all children throughout the world, especially those in war zones.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children every where, that you would keep them in your care.

In Jesus name I pray.

Amen



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI

14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025

10:15 AM

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

*The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of I Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.*

*\*(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**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God,  
**we are your stiff-necked people.**  
**We trample on the needy.**  
**We grumble about your grace to others.**  
**We turn away from the poor.**  
**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**  
**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost**  
**and have been found.**  
**Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.  
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.  
You who were lost have been found.  
In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!  
**Amen.**

**Hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" ELW # 834**

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, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead  
back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your  
people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever  
is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain  
our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Celebrate Grandparents**

The Sunday school children will be delivering invitations to  
grandparents to attend worship next week. We realize not  
all children have grandparents who live close enough to  
attend so we have told the children they are more than  
welcome to ask an adult who is a special part of their life.

### **Meatball Tickets**

We really need everyone to buy as well as sell tickets for the  
October 5th fundraiser. Nalani has tickets.

### **Thank you Pastor Horn**

Pastor Horn called me a few weeks back to advise he was  
retiring from the "Pulpit Supply" list of the Synod effective  
September 1. I said that was a shame since I was going to  
call and see if he would come to St. Paul's on September 14.  
He did not hesitate and was willing to make an exception for  
us. Thank you, Pastor Horn, for your service to St. Paul's  
these past few years and for sharing worship with us today.  
You may thank him personally at the reception in the  
basement after service.

### **Altar Flowers**

The mum plants on the altar are in honor of Gordy & Lois  
O'Rourke's 69th wedding anniversary tomorrow.

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Gloria Meltesen, Wayne Schindler, Florence Dougherty, Laurie Switz Johnson, Heidi Stenerson, Linda, Jeremy Munson, Kristy Gwin Solovey, Gordy O’Rourke, Marilyn O’Rourke, Larry Arndt, Carol Lydon Fronk, Richie Vlasak, Nick Evans, Jack Arndt, Collin Niedfeldt, Mark Drews, Jan Brandau, Kathy Gruen Braund, Jeri Bauer Weger, John Forbes, Patty Von Haden, Jim Summerfield, Darlene Diekrager, Ben Bender

**IN THE MILITARY**

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

**CALENDAR**

Today      Cake & Refreshments following service

|                |                                              |          |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------|----------|
| Sun., Sept. 21 | Sunday School & Confirmation                 | 9:00 AM  |
|                | Worship                                      | 10:15 AM |
|                | Celebrate Grandparents                       |          |
|                | Sunday school children sing                  |          |
|                | Noisy offering collection                    |          |
|                | September Anniversary & Birthday Recognition |          |
|                | Cake & Refreshments after service            |          |
| Sun., Sept. 28 | Sunday School & Confirmation                 | 9:00 AM  |
|                | Worship                                      | 10:15 AM |
| Sun., Oct. 5   | Sunday School & Confirmation                 | 9:00 AM  |
|                | Worship                                      | 10:15 AM |
|                | Meatball Drive Through Dinner                |          |

**WORD**

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

*While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today’s reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God’s own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.*

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from Exodus 32:7-14**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” <sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

<sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by

your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” <sup>14</sup> And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

### **Psalm 51:1-10**

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- <sup>2</sup> **Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**
- <sup>3</sup> For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup> **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
- <sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother’s womb.
- <sup>6</sup> **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- <sup>7</sup> Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> **Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.
- <sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

## **SENDING**

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

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God,  
**through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants.**  
**Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus’ name.**  
**Amen.**

### **\*BLESSING**

The God of righteousness,  
who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry,  
who sets the prisoners free,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Hymn**

**“Borning Cry”**

**ELW #732**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **THOSE SERVING TODAY**

Ministers: All God’s People; Synod Authorized Minister: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Barb Bever  
Altar: Larry & Arlis Ballwahn; Communion Servers: Linus Arndt and Ben Gruen

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**

Gathered into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.  
Come to this meal of mercy.

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

Distribution

**“Lamb of God”** ELW p. 191

### **SECOND READING**

*The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

#### **A reading from 1 Timothy 1:12-17**

<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation** ELW p.188

#### **\*GOSPEL READING**

*Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.*

## The holy gospel according to Luke 15:1-10

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

Sermon

Pastor William Horn

**\*PRAYERS**

(God of grace, receive our prayer.)

## WELCOME

**Minister:** Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**People:** We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

## OFFERING

\*Offering Hymn “**Take My Life, That I May Be**” ELW #685

## OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,

**we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.  
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,  
but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we  
have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## 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.**

slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

**BAPTISM**

Hudson James Birkholz, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**LAYING ON OF HANDS**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Hudson with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Hudson James Birkholz child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

**Council Member:** Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.—

Matthew 5:16

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

Hymn                      **“I’m Going on a Journey”**                      **ELW #446**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

**PRESENTATION**

**Minister:** God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world. As we pour the water for this baptism, we will listen to what Jesus said about baptism, because it is his Word and promise that gives this water its power to save.

**Collin Birkholz:** Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

**Jenna Birkholz:** Jesus said, “I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

**Minister:** Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**THE PROMISES OF PARENTS AND SPONSORS**

**Sponsors:** We present Hudson James Birkholz to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

**Minister:** Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Hudson baptized into Christ?

**Parents:** I do.

**Minister:** As you bring Hudson to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that Hudson may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Hudson grow in the Christian faith and life?

**Parents:** I do.

**Minister:** Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Hudson in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**Sponsors:** I do.

**Minister:** People of God, do you promise to support Hudson and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

**People:** We do.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the

devil and all the forces that defy God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from