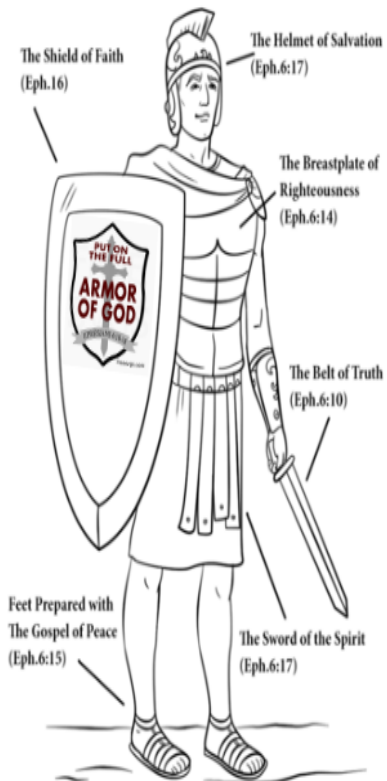


# The ARMOR OF GOD

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

7th Sunday after Pentecost  
July 16, 2023

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

*God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.*

*\*(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.



previous bulletin has shown where some of the quilts ultimately may have gone.

Who made these 100 quilts for St. Paul's? The quilt tops were constructed by several women sewing at home. Then several women gather in the basement to put together a top, a lining, and a back by a method called tying. Five years ago there were 7-10 women involved. Sadly, the group has dwindled. When we resume in the fall, there likely will be only 3 "quilters". There is danger of the project being suspended.

Is anyone interested in joining this worthy project? We would hold a brief training session at a convenient time. This is really quite basic straight sewing, no patterns involved. Those who aren't sewers can help too.

Contact Louise Buchholz, Arlis Ballwahn or Carolyn Dougherty, if you have questions or are interested in the quilt project for Lutheran World Relief.

### PRAYER LIST

You will find the prayer list of children and young adults of the congregation on the back page of the bulletin. Please let me know if there should be additions to the list as well as removals. We generally keep our young people on the list until they enter the "working" world, or end their post secondary education.

We have added the children of Ukraine, where it is reported some 500 have lost their lives to the Russian invasion. We also ask that you lift all children throughout the world in your prayers. So many are subject to conflicts within their country and communities, lack of food, poverty, and the loss of their family members.

### Word

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

### First Reading

*God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.*

### Isaiah 55:10-13

- <sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

\*Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia. Lord,”

ELW p. 188

**GOSPEL READING**

*In Matthew’s gospel, both Jesus and his disciples “sow the seed” of God’s word by proclaiming the good news that “the kingdom of heaven is near.” Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.*

**The holy gospel according to Matthew 13:18-23**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

“

**THOSE SERVING TODAY**

Ministers: All God’s People; Presiding Minister: Dennis Hallemeier; Preacher; Chris Hallemeier; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Joel Arndt; 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**

Sunday, July 23	Church Council	10:00 AM
	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**

**VACTION BIBLE SCHOOL**

We begin VBS next Sunday. Please keep the leaders and children in your prayers. If additional meal or snack items are yet needed, the sign-up sheets will be circulated today.

**QUILTING**

During the previous 5 years, St. Paul’s has sent 100 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. These quilts were taken to the warehouse in Minneapolis. A

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 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing "

ELW#547

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon Text**

*There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.*

**Romans 8:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

**Sermon**

Reverend Chris Hallemeier

\*Hymn

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

ELW #679

## **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 #641

**\*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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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