

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, Emma, Bryce, Marah, Bria, Ava, Katie & Benjamin Gruen; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Niedfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Franklin & Douglas Wides; 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 & Duke Sebranek, Violet Ford, Hunter and Jaxson Puhl; Eason Kelbel; Cole, Caleb & Connor Redding; Luke & Joelle Kroeger; Peyton Oelson, Greyson Resop; Dakotah Adams; Kendall & Kingsley Christopherson, Hudson Birkholz; Alayna, Alivia & Levi Wyttenbach; Brooke, Claire, Grace & Bree Olson; Dominic Young; Avilynn McNamer; Ayla Arndt; Lainey Myers; Rylan & Tucker McCarthy; Brynlee Jones.

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 children throughout the world that you would keep them in your care. In Jesus name I pray.
Amen



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton WI
9:00 AM
July 5, 2026
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Inviting People to Journey with Christ's
Family In Spreading God's Love and Mercy

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

**Indicates 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.

Hymn

"Jesus, We Are Gathered"

ELW#529

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity ☩ , one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,

all you who are weary

and are carrying heavy burdens,

and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

Amen.

Hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" ELW#742

PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN

Dear Lord Jesus;

We lift to you our children and grandchildren. We ask that your spirit

Vacation Bible School

We will hold VBS on Sunday July 27 through Thursday July 30. The times are 5:30—8:00 pm. Children 4 years old through those who have completed 7th grade are welcome to attend. We invite all children in our community to attend.

We are in need of helpers. Let Justin Arndt know if you are willing to help in any way.

Basement

We moved all the organ parts previously stored on the basement floor to the balcony. Many thanks to Rick Brueggen, Linus Arndt, Karen Sparling, Dean Zelmer for helping. We also transferred the Christmas trees and other sale items to the parsonage basement. The parsonage basement truly looks like a bomb went off!!

Carillon

The carillon needed a repair but is now back and will play at Noon and 6:00 pm provided Nalani remembers to program it. If you would like to learn and help with the programming, let her know.

Congratulations

Lori and Rick Brueggen added yet another girl to their grandchildren. Girls outnumber boys 6 to 2!! Kingsley Ann Christopherson was born on Monday, June 29. Proud parents are Angel & Devon Christopherson. Kingsley was welcomed by big sister Kendall to the household.

CALENDAR

Sun., July 12	Worship	9:00 am
	Anniversary Committee	10:00 am
Sun., July 19	Worship	9:00 am
	Council Meeting	10:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Joseph Kendall PCCW Fundraiser

July 26, 11:30am—1:00 pm

The ladies are raising money for church projects in Kendall. They were so impressed with Rooster Andy’s Catering but decided folks might be tired of chicken. So their meal will consist of pulled pork, potato salad, baked beans and a roll. Per plate cost is \$13.00. I (Nalani) have tickets if you are interested. They have been supportive of our fundraisers, I hope we can return the favor.

Back Room a/k/a Cry Room

Open for business!! Jeff Schneider is donating a table and chair to the cause. Jeff is Karen’s son.

Newsletter

We sent the newsletter to as many folks for whom we have email addresses and still mailed a good many. While sending the newsletter by email saves the church postage, we do want your feedback on this change.

We also asked that you provide us with your current household information, to include email address and current landline and cell phone numbers. Slips are on the table in the narthex for completion.

will dwell with them according to your will, that they will grow in the knowledge of you and know they are dearly loved by you. We pray for your protection from deception by the evil one and his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning your direction for them. We also pray for all children throughout the world that you will keep them in your loving care. In Jesus name we pray.
Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God’s covenant with Israel, the people are designated as “prisoners of hope.”

A reading from Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

- ¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
- ¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

Psalm 145:8-14

- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ **Lord, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**
- ¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.
- ¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory ¹f your kingdom
and speak of your power,**
- ¹² that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures
throughout all ages.**
- You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**
- ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

SENDING

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

Blessing

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
☩ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

Amen.

Hymn

“Just a Closer Walk With Thee”

ELW 697

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

Those Serving Today

Ministers: All God’s People; Synod Authorized Minister: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Readers: Arlis Ballwahn; Altar: Dixie & Leonard Arndt; Communion Servers; Volunteers

Our Prayers

Linda, Kristy Gwin Solovey, Marilyn O’Rourke, Larry Arndt, Nick Evans, Collin Niedfeldt, Mark Drews, Carol Lydon Fronk, Brian, Ben Bender, Darlene Diekrager, Jack Arndt, Diane Hornburger, Mike Escutia, Daniel Paulson, Marie Jacobson, Lenora Martin, Jenny Simpson Erickson, Linda Martin, Andy Martin, John Arzt

We extend our prayers to Lois, Barb, Lana, Ann, Vicky and their families on the passing of their husband and father. Gordie rests now in the loving and gentle arms of his Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Prayer after Offering

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Words of Institution

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

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!
Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ’s table.

Distribution

Prayer after Communion

A reading from Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

Gospel Acclamation

ELW p. 205

GOSPEL READING

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

The holy gospel according Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’
¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a
demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a
glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom
is vindicated by her deeds.”
²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and
earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelli-
gent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your
gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and
no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father ex-
cept the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I
am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For
my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

Sermon Karen Sparling
Synod Authorized Minister

Hymn **“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”** **ELW#608**

***APOSTLE’S 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** (God of grace, **(hear our prayer.)**)

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Offering Hymn **“We Give Thee But Thine Own”**

- 1. We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.**
- 2. And we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be:
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.**