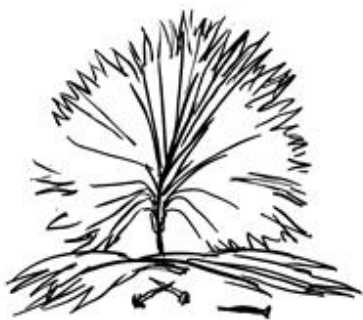


Karen would like to meet with the parents of the confirmation students on September 13 at 9:00. We students will be taking part in the SS opening and 15 minutes or so is all she will need. The meeting will take place in the church office.

Meatball Dinner

Back by popular demand!!! Tickets are printed and please do not leave today without tickets to sell. We will use the profits toward the ADA bathroom in the basement. Please don't just buy for your family. Talk to your friends and neighbors and SELL, SELL, SELL.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 2026
9:00 AM
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
In Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

**(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.

“Change My Heart, O God” (Refrain x2) ELW#801

***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 "For the Beauty of the Earth" ELW #879

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

CALENDAR

TODAY	Worship Committee	10:00 am
Sept. 6	Worship	9:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anniversary Celebration

We have some "sprucing up" to do on the outside of the church building. If you are willing to help paint trim, power wash, pull weeds, lay stone, wash windows, etc., please let Nalani know. November 15 is just around the corner!!

Rally Day—September 13

Remember when we had a picnic and played games in the park when summer break was over and Sunday school was back in session each year? Mark your calendar. September 13 marks the date of return to the "good old days".

You will be asked to bring your plate, cup, drink, silverware and a dish to pass. Kirstin Arndt made a sign-up sheet,

keeping in mind Karen Arzt will bring pistachio salad.

Confirmation

□ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
Amen.

Hymn “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” ELW #656

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; Reader: Linus Arndt
Altar: Nalani & Greg Bever; Communion Servers: Volunteers

IN 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, Diane Hornburger,
Mike Escutia, Daniel Paulson, Marie Jacobson, Linda Martin,
Lenora Martin, Jenny Simpson Erickson, Andy Martin,
Chad Olson, Doug Path, Greg Brandau, Sharon Karis,
Kim Neal Nofsinger

IN THE MILITARY

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

Dear Lord Jesus;

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

*Jeremiah’s delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by
the heaviness of God’s hand upon him and God’s seeming
unfaithfulness. God’s tough love to Jeremiah says that if he
repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous minis-
try. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, “I am with
you.”*

A reading from Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵ O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

- ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.
- ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
- ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.
- ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the Lord:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
- ²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.
- ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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.**

SENDING

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

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**

Blessing

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

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 (Merciful God, receive our prayer)

OFFERING

*Offering Hymn

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"

1. We give thee but thine own,

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.

OFFERING PRAYER

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Psalm 26:1-8

- ¹ Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
- ² **Test me, O Lord, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**
- ³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.
- ⁴ **I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**
- ⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.
- ⁶ **I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**
- ⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
- ⁸ **Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

A reading from Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in

spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Gospel Acclamation

ELW p. 188

GOSPEL

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

The holy gospel according to Matthew 16:21-28

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to

Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

Sermon

Karen Sparling
Synod Authorized Minister

Hymn "Will You Come and Follow Me" ELW #798

*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.**