

ANNOUNCEMENTS

La Crosse River Queen

Interested in going? Mail your check in the amount of \$55.00, payable to La Crosse Area Women of the ELCA and send to Jodi Anderson, W2875 Anderson Rd, Mindoro WI 54644

Grandparents Day

We will be celebrating grandparents during the September 21 service. The children will be delivering invitations to their grandparents, but all grandparents will be honored. The Sunday school children will sing and collect the noisy offering. Cake and refreshments will be served in the basement after service.

Time and Talent Questionnaire

Be sure to complete the questionnaire and return to Nalani or in the offering plate.

Meatball Dinner Tickets

PLEASE help by selling tickets for the meatball dinner. See Nalani for tickets.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran
Church
Wilton, WI
13th Sunday after Pentecost
September 7, 2025
10:15 AM
Inviting People to

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

**(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 **“O Jesus, I Have Promised”** **ELW #810**
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**

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

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

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, Collin Niedfeldt, Mark Drews, Jan Brandau, Kathy Gruen Braund, Jeri Bauer Weger, John Forbes, Patty VonHaden, Pastor Robert Gerke

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of Darleen Babbitt. Darleen’s funeral will be held at St. Paul’s on Friday.

IN THE MILITARY

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

CALENDAR

Fri., Sept. 12	Darleen Babbitt Visitation	9:00 AM
	Funeral	11:00 AM
Sun., Sept. 14	Sunday School & Confirmation	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
Sun., Sept. 21	Sunday School & Confirmation	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Recognition of Grandparents Day	
	Children Sing Collect Noisy Offering	

*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.

SENDING

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

*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 “Lift High the Cross” ELW #660

Dismissal

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

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.

A reading from : Deuteronomy 30:15-20 .

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

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

Psalm 1

- ¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- ² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**
- ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.
- ⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- ⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

A reading from Philemon 1-21

- ¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, ²to our sister Apphia,
to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

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

***PRAYERS** (God of grace, **receive our prayer.**)

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

OFFERING

*Offering Hymn “**Change My Heart, O God**” **ELW #801**

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.**

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this

benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ.²¹
Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that
you will do even more than I ask.

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

***Gospel Acclamation**

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***GOSPEL READING**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those
who follow him should know from the outset that completing
the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all
other allegiances.*

The holy gospel according to Luke 14:25-33
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he
turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does
not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and
sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷
Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be
my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower,
does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether
he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid
a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin
to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was
not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war
against another king, will not sit down first and consider
whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who
comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot,

then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation
and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you
can become my disciple if you do not give up all your
possessions.”

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**

***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.