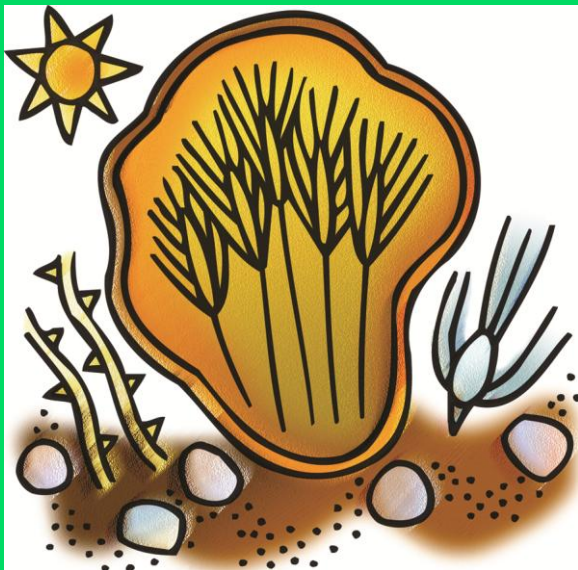


ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
127 YORK STREET, HANOVER, PA



**SEVENTH
SUNDAY
AFTER
PENTECOST

JULY 12, 2026**

Rev. Jason Northridge, Senior Pastor
srpastor@stpaulsyorkst.org
717-467-1644

Rev. Dr. Daniel Yeiser, Visitation Pastor
pdyeiser06@gmail.com
717-634-4025

Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus
Steven Ruppright, Director of Music Ministries
Lori Rebling, Director of Hand Bells
Gretchen Walter, Director of Children's Music
Ministers: The Members of St. Paul's
Church Office: 717-637-5941
Email: assistant@stpaulsyorkst.org
Website: www.stpaulsyorkst.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulsyorkst

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

If you are seeking a faith community, exploring faith, desire to be a part of our ministries, or have questions; please feel free to speak with the pastor.

Our Purpose:

We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously.

Guiding Principles:

As instruments of God's love, when you see us at our best you will see us:

- Generously** stewarding God's gifts of resources, time, and talents
- Serving** as God's hands & feet in ministries & missions of outreach to all
- Providing** for the care of God's people, both physically and spiritually
- Growing in Faith** through worship, study, and discernment
- Praising** God through music, word, and service
- Welcoming** all people into fellowship with God

Important Worship Notes

All liturgies are printed within this bulletin.

Welcome to worship! Please be aware that this service is being livestreamed and recorded. As a result, your image or likeness may appear in the live broadcast or in recordings that are available online.

Children's activity bags and children's bulletins are located on the podium in the hallway on the pulpit side of the sanctuary. Children's activity bags are also located on the coat rack behind the door of the choir loft side of the sanctuary.

P: Pastor

C: Congregation

L: Lay Reader

A: Assisting Minister

If you are communing, please be sure to fill out a communion record card, for our church records, and place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

+ 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +
July 12, 2026

INTRODUCTION

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.

THE GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

C **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.

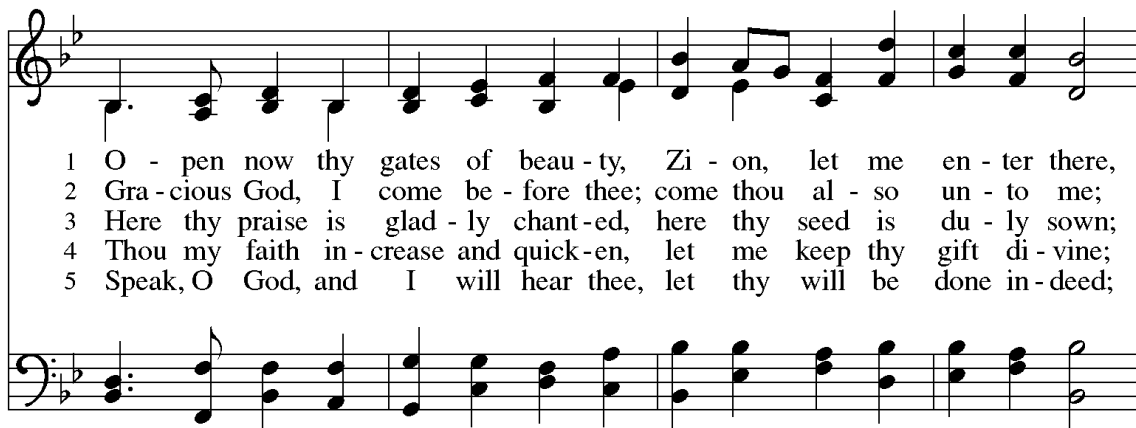
Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

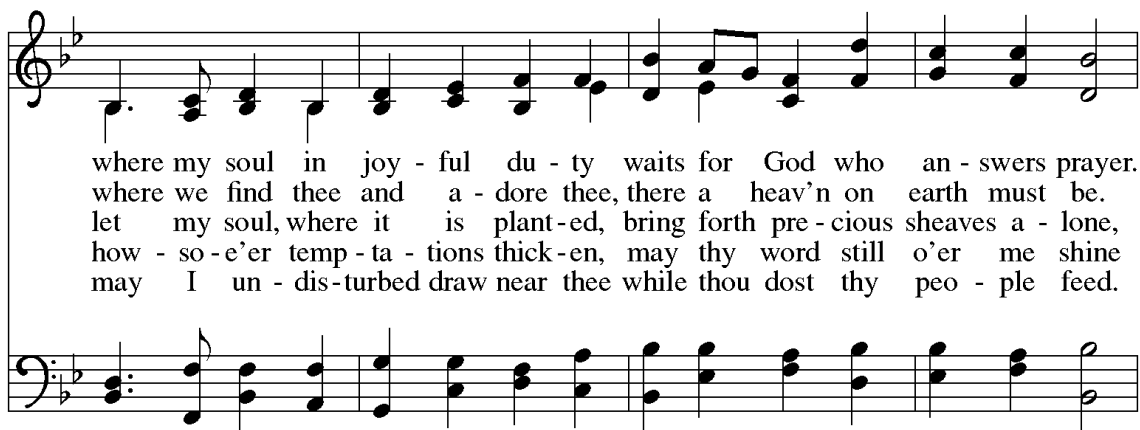
Amen.

P 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.

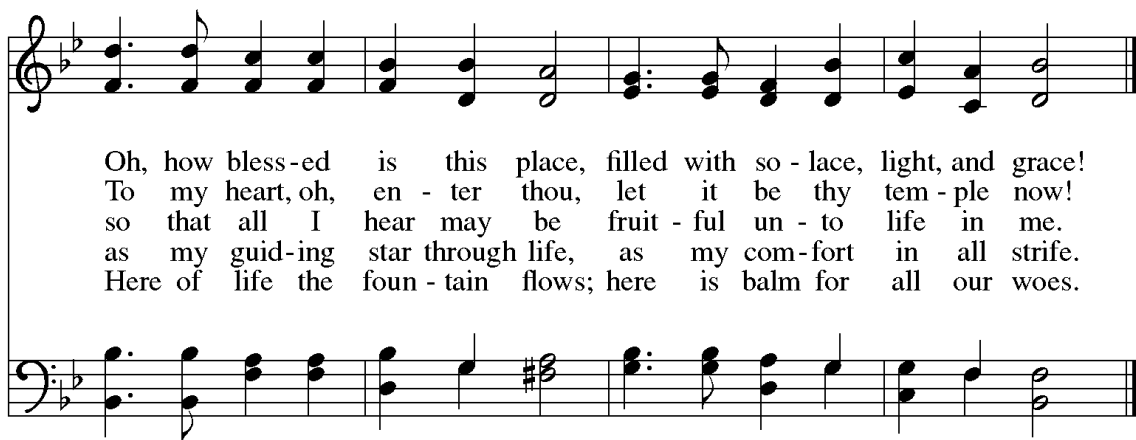
C **Amen.**



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
 let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 as my guid-ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

*GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.

2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:

Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;

Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.

For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lydia Weible

P Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

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.

L The First Reading according to Isaiah, the 55th chapter.

¹⁰ 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,
¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

¹³ 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.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 65:9-13

read responsively

A ⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;
 the river of God is full of water.

 You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

C ¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
 with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

A ¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
 and your paths overflow with plenty.

C ¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
 and the hills be clothed with joy.**

A ¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
 and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
 let them shout for joy and sing.

A Holy wisdom, holy word.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:1-11

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.

L The Second Reading according to Romans, the 8th chapter.

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ 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, ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ 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, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ 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. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of

this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ 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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON Pastor Jason Northridge
SERMON Pastor Jason Northridge

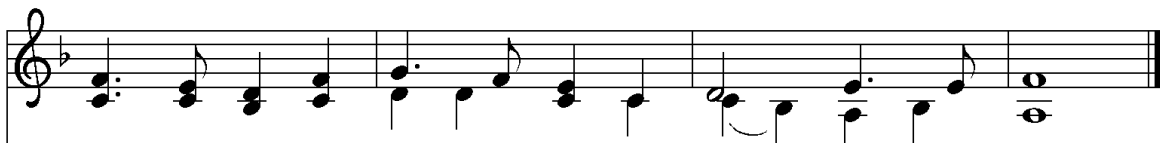
*HYMN OF THE DAY “For the Fruit of All Creation” ELW 679

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.



***APOSTLES' CREED**

A Let us affirm our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C **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 THE PEOPLE**

A Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts... (*A brief silence*) God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
C **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.
The assembly is seated.*

THE MEAL

OFFERTORY SONG

"My Lighthouse"
Deb Sowers

Gilkeson and Llewellyn

*"My Lighthouse" words and music Gareth Gilkeson and Chris Llewellyn
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There are several ways of making your offerings to God during this time. One is to place your offering in our offering plates as they are passed. You can give electronically at <https://stpaulsyorkst.org/give> or scan this QR Code and when the plate passes by, you may simply meditate on the gifts that you are currently making online or monthly. We do have cards that you can put in the plate indicating that you give electronically. A supply of those cards is available at each entrance to the sanctuary. If you are not able to give monetarily during this time, know that your prayers and praise are a pleasing offering to God. If you can give a little more during this time, please consider doing so as a way of supporting your fellow disciples who are not able to give.



***OFFERING RESPONSE** *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* ELW 884

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A Let us pray,
Loving God,

C **we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.**

*DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that we, who believe in him, should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts to establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to receive our Redeemer who comes to us in his body and blood.

In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

C **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 Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

All are welcome to commune.

If you wish to receive communion from your seat, let an usher know.

If you are in need of gluten free wafers, please ask at the bread station.

Grape juice is available in the prefilled cups next to the empty ones.

*AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION ANTHEM

"Nothing to Fear"

Deb Sowers

"Nothing to Fear" words and music Audrey Assad | Isaac Wardell | Paul Zach

© 2019 Integrity Worship Music

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Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



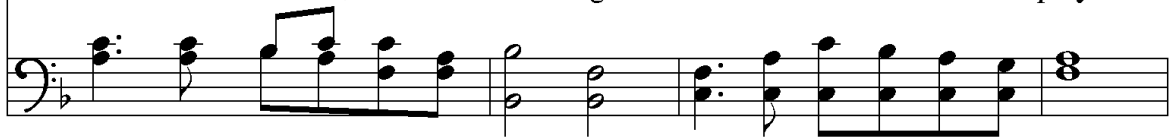
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.



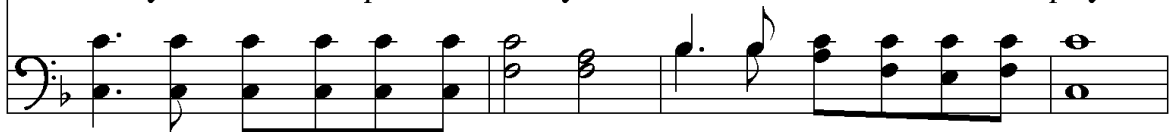
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C** **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- A** Let us pray.
 Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



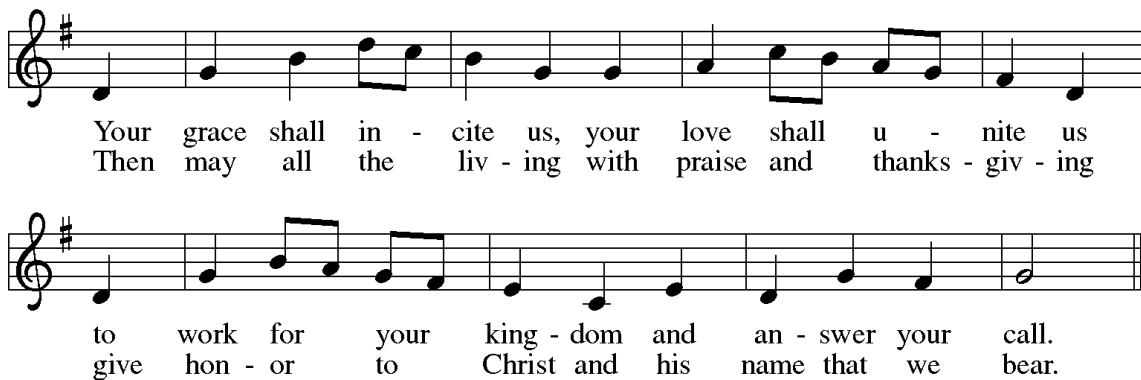
the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



*DISMISSAL

A Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C **We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously.**
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are comfortable

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	<u>July 12</u>	<u>July 19</u>
Saturday Night Worship	Russ Kaltreider (7/11)	Linda Zellers (7/18)
Organist	Becky Ellis	Becky Ellis
Assisting Minister	Frank Hueske	Donna Lehman
Acolyte	Nora Weible	Jocelyn Fissel
Lay Reader	Norma Lucabaugh	Jon Shaw
Communion Distributors	Cindy Schmidt	Russ Kaltreider
	Sally Lovelace	Maureen Kaltreider
Ushers	Bob Colehouse	Bob Colehouse
	Dan Fuhrman	Dan Fuhrman
	Glenn Alwine	Glenn Alwine
	Kingsley Walkins	Kingsley Walkins
Altar Committee	Linda Knapp	Linda Knapp
	Sally Lovelace	Sally Lovelace

ONE ALTAR FLOWER VASE is sponsored to the glory of God and in memory of Norman Saur by his wife Fran, and Randi & Rob Reisinger.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE: Please contact Carmen Buckley in the church office or at assistant@stpaulsyorkst.org

Radio-July 19, 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16 & 30 (\$60 per date or any portion you desire per date)

Altar Flowers–Aug. 9 & 16 (2 vases at \$20 each)

Communion Bread and Wine-July 26, Aug. 9, 16 & 30 (\$12 each date)

Worship Bulletins-July 26, Aug. 16, 23 & 30 (\$20 each date)

Eternal Flame- July 19, 26, Aug. 9, 23 & 30 (\$10 each date)

EACH MONDAY, children and families will receive a weekly email devotion (including a video and printable activities) from our Christian Education committee. Contact the church office if you did not receive one last week and are interested in being on our email mailing list

MID-WEEK DEVOTIONS CONTINUE ON WEDNESDAYS. All are welcome to join us at 12:15 pm in the church lounge.

PENTECOST PRAYERS: The candle and pinwheel displays in the front of the sanctuary represent where members of our congregation see LIGHT in our world and PRAYERS that we lift to heaven, asking the Spirit to intercede for us. Thanks be to God!

COOPERATIVE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026 for children ages 5 – 10 on Monday, July 27 thru Friday, July 31 from 9:30 - 12:00 noon located at St. Mark's Fellowship Hall and is a cooperative ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church (York Street) and St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The theme this year is "**Camping with God**". Registration is filled and we now have a waiting list. **We still need quite a few volunteers with clearances.** If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call 717-637-5941 or email assistant@stpaulsyorkst.org. Please consider volunteering to help with this important community event.

CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO HELP LEAD WORSHIP BY OFFERING THE PRAYER OF THE DAY DURING SUNDAY SERVICES! This is a wonderful opportunity for our young people to share their voices and participate in the life of the church. Children may sign up on the sheet outside the pastor's office. The prayer will be provided ahead of time, and we are happy to help any child who would like assistance practicing. We hope many of our children will take part in this meaningful way to serve in worship!

SUMMER MUSIC OPPORTUNITY - As our music program takes a break for the summer months, we invite members of the congregation to share their musical gifts during worship. If you would be willing to provide special music, be it vocal or instrumental, solo or group; we ask you to please sign up on the sheet outside the pastor's office. Summer music is a meaningful way to enrich our worship and offer praise to God through the gifts given to the people in our congregation. Thank you for considering how you might participate in the life and worship of our congregation this summer.

JULY SPECIAL DESIGNATED GIVING-THE LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA. this month our designated giving targets The Lutheran Camping Corp. of Central PA (LutheranCamping.org). The Lutheran Camping Corp. includes both Nawakwa in Arendtsville, PA and Kirchenwald in Lebanon, PA. We have the opportunity to support the Lutheran Camping Corp. with our Special Designated Giving this July. Please assist these wonderful camps with prayers and generous giving!

ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB will meet on **Wednesday, July 29, 2026** at 12:45 in the Conference Room. Our July book is The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson. Bring your lunch and join us for food, fellowship and discussion. All readers are welcomed.

THE LIVE NATIVITY NEEDS ANIMALS! The Evangelism Committee is searching for sheep, a donkey, and perhaps a calf for the Live Nativity on December 13. If you know someone who would have any of these animals available, please contact Lucille Farrington, Carmen, or Pastor Jason. Thank you! (Note: We are not looking for alpacas or llamas.)

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE is meeting on July 29 for a lunch meeting following mid-week devotions.

Stewardship of our church

At all times there must be and remain one holy, Christian church. It is the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel. - Augsburg Confession, Article VII

Steward-discipleship means taking care of all that God has blessed us with. We think of our health, our relationships and our money, but our church? You bet!

The church is the only organization whose primary purpose is to bring people into intimate relationship with God and also gather them as sacred community. Without church, how would people grow in faith? How would the Gospel be spread to all nations, as Jesus commands in Matthew 28:19, 20?

So what does it mean to be a good steward of our church? Here are some ideas:

Focus: We are dedicated to God's Word and Sacrament as the means by which God's grace is poured into us and out to the world. Our service projects and social events may flow from this, but they are secondary.

Community: As the Augsburg Confession (above) declares, the church is the community of God's people dedicated to Word and Sacrament. We build strong community through healthy relationships guided by principles of Christian love, trust, honesty, truth, forbearance, forgiveness.

Building: Our building is NOT the church, but a tool of the church for ministry. We provide the resources to maintain our building as useful for the Gospel, but feel free to move on if it no longer serves.

Resources: Understanding that ministry to God's people takes resources, we give generously of our time and talents. We strive to give a tithe – 10 percent of our financial blessings.

Faith formation: It takes learning and practice to grow closer to God, both as individuals and community. We support and participate in studying the Bible and theology. We promote and engage in spiritual practices that feed our souls.

Although we tend to think that our church has a mission, it's more accurate to say that God has a mission, and that mission has a church. We grow in faith as people and community when we dedicate ourselves to good stewardship of our church.

Rob Blezard

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BACK TO SCHOOL TIME will be here before you know it and the Faith In Action Committee is looking to fill backpacks for LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF again this year. Last year we had such a good response that we decided to try to fill 108 School Kits again. We had a lot of supplies left from last year that we will use this year but we do still need some items to fill the backpacks that we purchased.

We will start collecting these items in July and fill the backpacks in early September. Look for the collection boxes in the hallway. Watch for sales that will help you in your purchases.

Here is a list of items that we need;

- 432 - 70-80 sheet **SPIRAL** notebooks of wide or college lined paper approximately 8"X 10 1/2". **NO** loose leaf paper
- 53 - pencil sharpeners
- 107 - pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- 344 - **unsharpened** #2 pencils with erasers
- 387 - black or blue ballpoint pens (**NO** gel ink)
- 101 - boxes of 16 or 24 crayons
- 31 – 2-1/2" eraser

We will try to keep you informed of what has come in and what is needed. We had so many rulers last year that we don't need any this year because we have enough left to fill this year's backpacks.

We thank you for your generosity and your help with this project over the years. We have made a difference in the lives of many children as well as adults around the world.

OUR CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE is putting together teams of leaders for Faith Formation. We are looking for several people to facilitate the Adult Daily Disciples class as well as our PreK and K-5 weekly classes. All curriculum is already selected for you, and you would serve on a rotating basis (not needed every week). PA Clearances are needed to be able to work with children (and we can help you get them if you don't have them!). Please contact Deb Sowers (Chairperson) or the Church Office for more information.

CALLING ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH! Join Pastor Jason for **Alive!** at Camp Nawakwa, **September 25–27**. Spend a weekend making new friends, reconnecting with church friends, enjoying camp activities, and exploring your faith together. Alive! is a Synod-sponsored retreat, and thanks to the Adventures in Ministry Fund, the registration fee will be fully covered. Sign up on the sheet outside Pastor's office by August 1.

AS WE PREPARE for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday this September, we want to make sure everyone has a t-shirt! The t-shirt design has not changed from previous years. If you need a **new shirt** or have never received one, please sign up on the sheet outside Pastor's office. Be sure to indicate your size. Orders need to be placed by August 1.

SUN., JULY 12	8:30 am	Radio Broadcast – 95.3 FM & 1280 AM
	9:30 am	Worship Service – 7 th Sunday after Pentecost
	Immediately following worship	Coffee Hour – lounge
WED., JULY 15		August Evangel article deadline
	12:15 pm	Midweek Devotions – Lounge
	3:00 pm	Executive Committee Meeting
THUR., JULY 16	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 102 – Youth Room and Gym
FRI., JULY 17		P.A.L. Team 1
	2:30 pm	Grocery Ministry prep - gym
SAT., JULY 18	9:00 am	Grocery Ministry Distribution – St. Paul's Book Club
	5:00 pm	Saturday Evening Service – Russ Kaltreider
	6:45 pm	Narcotics Anonymous – Fellowship Hall
SUN., JULY 19	8:30 am	Radio Broadcast – 95.3 FM & 1280 AM
	9:30 am	Worship Service – 8 th Sunday after Pentecost
	Immediately following worship	Coffee Hour – lounge