

7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - JULY 12, 2026



**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 250 * 205 West Jefferson Street
Cole Camp, MO 65325**

"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."

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If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.



Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

please stand in body or spirit

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

Opening Hymn "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" #533

Greeting

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.**

Hymn of Praise "For the Fruit of All Creation" #679 vs. 1

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**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. Amen.**

please be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 55: 10-13

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



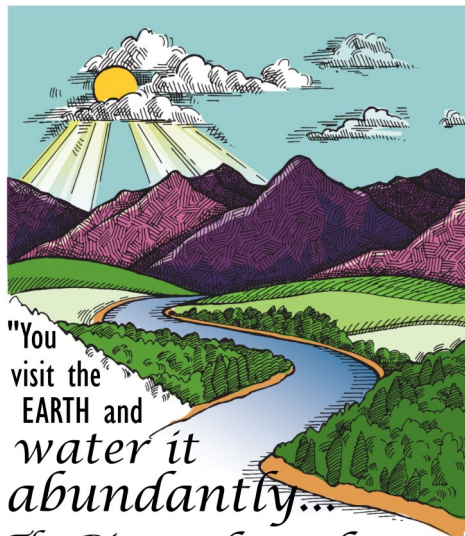
⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

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

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

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

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



"You
visit the
EARTH and
water it
abundantly...
The River of God
is full of Water."

Psalm 65: 9a

Second Reading

Romans 8: 1-11

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Paul Fuelling

please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

#679 vs. 2

Gospel

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter. **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."

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

please be seated

Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

please stand in body or spirit

Hymn of the Day

"Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"

#516

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

please be seated

Offering



please stand in body or spirit

Offertory

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

#679 vs. 3

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... Loving God, 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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **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.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Hear, O Lord, the prayer you taught 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.**

please be seated

HOLY COMMUNION

By Stations

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.
Red wine or white grape juice is available.

Communion Hymns

“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”

#681

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

#551

please stand in body or spirit

Post-Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep
you in his grace. **Amen**

Post-Communion Prayer

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. **Amen.**

Blessing

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

Sending Hymn

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

#547

Dismissal

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

"THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH IN US"



Welcome: Good morning, and welcome to worship! As we step into the seventh week of our Pentecost season, our hearts are focused on God's Word. Today we will hear the familiar parable of the sower. May our time together in prayer, scripture, and fellowship open our hearts to receive God's truth today.

We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!

In Our Jill Logan, Ken Holland, Kevin Tatum, Nathan Vanderlinden, Gordon Ives, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman and Kyle Luetjen.



Merle Fuelling (brother of Paul Fuelling), Dan (Friend of Dan & Julie Cronin), Pam Bruns (Cousin of Ruth Ann Kreisel), Pat Higgins, Kathy Harms, Deanna Browning, Kylie Simon, Hazel Karstons, Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Larry Haase (brother-in-law of Gene Beckman), David Mobely (brother-in-law of Randy Healan), Joyce Jones (sister of Connie Gerken), Kris Barnes (friend of Julie Cronin), Joe Campbell, Cliff Eckhoff, Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).



Nursing Home & Homebound: Vern Dean Bohling, Shirley Cash: *Anew*. Judie VonHolten, Eugene Beckman, Florence VonHolten, Arlene Schlesselman & Larry & Judy Schlesselman: *GSCC*. Earl Bauer: *Windsor Nursing Home*.

With Sympathy: We pray for those whose loved ones have recently died: Heidi Hopp (grandmother of Nicole Rice)



Prayers: If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.



Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: Rank E3 Jensen Hamilton (grandson of Dennis Hamilton), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen), J. Phillips Navy Petty Officer E-4 MMN (nephew of Katy Schlesselman), Lt. Col. Ron Poe, SSG Nick Smith and Major Joseph Strathman.

Mid-MO Bible Camp: This year's Mid-MO Bible Camp will begin **today** - Thursday, **July 16th**, at the usual place, Camp Rising Sun in Lake of the Ozarks State Park. Adult volunteers during the week - for a couple hours or a couple days - are always welcomed and needed! Talk to Pastor Stephen if you have any questions!



One Stitch at a Time: The Sewing Group will meet **every Monday** at 9:00am in the Gathering Space. Everyone is welcome to join!

Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **July 16th**, from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.



Vacation Bible School: Join us for Vacation Bible School **July 20-24!** Registration can be completed through the QR code or through this link: <https://www.myvbs.org/stpaulsvbs2026-magnified> Youth from Pre-K (potty-trained, please!) through 6th grade are invited to a fun week of VBS for the theme of "Magnified" where we will explore God's awesome creation to discover just how big and powerful God really is! We'll gather each evening from 6:00-8:30 pm here at St. Paul's for fun activities, games, crafts, snacks, stories, songs, and more! Registration for participants AND volunteers is live online at: <https://www.myvbs.org/stpaulsvbs2026-magnified>. Anyone in 7th grade and up is invited and welcome to volunteer at VBS, but please register to do so online. Contact Emily Kullman with any questions. Mark your calendars!



Committee: The Worship & Music Committee will meet on **July 22nd** at 2:30 pm in the Meeting Room.

Sunbeam: The Sunbeam Committee will meet on **July 29th** at 2:00 pm in the Gathering Space.



thrivent If you are a Thrivent member and haven't yet used one or either of your Action Grants for this year, please let us know and we can put them to use! Contact Pastor Stephen if you have an Action Grant available. Thanks!

BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING DRIVE & SALE: The Cole Camp Area Church Alliance is holding the annual Back to School Clothing Sale on Saturday, **August 1st**, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, here at St. Paul's. You can help in many ways:



Clothing Donations

Drop off gently used clothing here at church for the Back to School Clothing Sale. All clothing is accepted, but clothing for children and youth is always needed. It is greatly appreciated if you can sort and label the donations by gender and size. Donations can be dropped off in trailer behind the church or in the Fellowship Hall during office hours or other activities. (There are signs behind the church directing where to drop off.)

Undies Sundays

In addition to clothing available for purchase, families with young children will be given new undergarments at the Clothing Sale. We are again requesting **financial contributions** instead of in-kind donations. We will purchase bulk clothing items and repackage them into smaller packs to provide for a more equitable distribution of undergarments to local families. Those contributions can be made at any time, but our Undies Sunday will be the weekend of July 19 & 26. (We will still accept packages of underwear if you have already purchased those items.)

Happy Feet

We will once again offer vouchers for children (until they run out) that will allow them to purchase a new pair of shoes at JCPenny in Sedalia on August 8th. Financial contributions for that can be made to "Happy Feet" and dropped in the offering plate or shoeboxes at the back of the church.

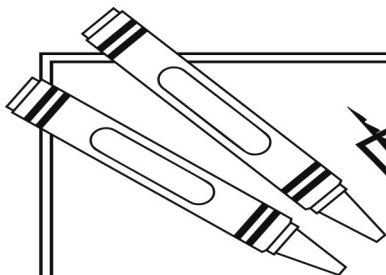
Volunteering

This year we will be sorting and arranging clothing all week, Monday through Friday, July 27 – 31, in preparation for the Clothing Sale on Aug 1. Volunteers are welcome to stop by any day, starting at 9 am, to offer some time sorting. We will also need volunteers the day of the sale to assist shoppers and straighten up the clothing tables, and clean up starting at 1:00 pm.

~In Our Community~

Salvation Army Kids Meals: For the past few years, the Salvation Army of Benton County has been providing weekly kids meals to families with children to help supplement their food needs. Last year they provided over 41,000 meals to hundreds of families across our county during the summer months!! They expect that number to grow even bigger this year, and with the rising grocery costs they will need our help. If you would like to financially contribute to this effort, you can include that in your offering at church (designated for Kids Meals) or mail it directly to: Salvation Army, PO Box 1432, Warsaw, MO 65355 (be sure to mark your donation as “Kids Meals.”)





PUZZLE

A PLANTING PARABLE

Jesus had to explain his Parable of the Sower to the confused disciples.

Directions: Use the word bank to answer the clues. Then fill in the correct words below to complete Matthew 13:23, NIV.

WORD BANK: sow, soil, wither, root, thorn, crop, seed, farmer

1. Plant part that absorbs water _____
2. Contains what's needed to grow a plant _____
3. To plant _____
4. Sharp part of a plant _____
5. What is harvested. _____
6. To dry up and shrivel _____
7. Person who plants _____
8. The earth a plant grows in. _____

“But the _____₂ falling on good _____₈ refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.

This is the one who produces a _____₅, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was _____₃ n.”

M A T T H E W 1 3 : 2 3 , N I V

Answer: root, seed, sow, thorn, crop, wither, farmer, soil, seed, soil, crop, sow

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, July 12:	10:00 am	Worship Service Holy Communion by Stations
Monday, July 13:	9:00 am	Sewing Group
Tuesday, July 14:	5:00 pm	Float Work
Thursday, July 16:	8:00 am	BCHD
	5:00 pm	Float Work
Saturday, July 18:		NO Casual Worship Service
Sunday, July 19:	10:00 am	Worship Service Holy Communion by Stations



~ * ~ Coming Events ~ * ~

July 12-16	Mid-MO Bible Camp
July 20-24	Vacation Bible School
July 22	Worship & Music Committee
July 29	Sunbeam Committee
August 1	Back-to-School Clothing Sale

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers	The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister	Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist	Sandy Schlesselman
Pianist	Jeannette VonHolten
AV Technicians	Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk
Altar Guild	Melisa Balke & Joyce Schlesselmann
Ushers	Melinda Strathman, Head Usher
	Chad Schlesselman, Mark Oelrichs, Randy Schlesselman and Steve Triplett



7th Sunday after Pentecost ~ July 12, 2026

Assisting Minister	Janice Gerken
Communion Assistants	Tara Anderson & Ruth Ann Kreisel
Reader	Kyler & Macoy Tinney
Children's Sermon	Paul Fuelling
Acolytes	Hudson Kullman & Fred Goosen
Flowers	Ruth Ann Kreisel



8th Sunday after Pentecost ~ July 19, 2026

Assisting Minister	Tom Oelrichs
Communion Assistants	Luther League
Reader	Tiffinay Nash
Children's Sermon	Joyce Schlesselmann
Acolytes	Lena Smith & Kelsey Viebrock
Flowers	Carolyn Eickhoff