

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)

**Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-225-1847**

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025



Rev. Ryan Drevlow, Senior Pastor (605-251-5243)

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Rev. Jacob Smith, Assistant Pastor (586-556-6077)

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Rev. Ray Anderson – (605-380-3710)

Jenelle Siebert

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PRAYER LIST: Please pray for Roger Blum, Andrew Ruenzel, Dawn Dohn, Dora Lane, Barb Wacholz, Kathy Licht, Shane Sass, Cheryl Zinter, Karen Johnson, Baelyn Schwab, Marcie Jutting, Lou Thomas, Betty Streckfuss, Connie Dewan, Roger Huff, and Mary Layton.

Please inform the Pastor or the church office when you or a loved one is hospitalized. If you would like to add your name or remove a name to the above prayer list, please contact the church office.

Rally Day - Sunday School starts on September 7th. There will be a **potluck lunch** to follow the late service. Please bring a dish to pass and plan on staying as we will have games and activities. Anyone interested in **teaching Sunday School** this year, please contact Pastor Drevlow, Pastor Smith, or the Church Office.

There will be a **Choir** Organizational Meeting at 6:30pm and **Bell Choir** Organizational Meeting at 7:30pm on September 11th.

Youth Group Meeting (grades 7-12) for parents & students here at the church on September 14th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm with a meal provided.

The **church office will be closed** on Monday, September 1st due to the Labor Day holiday.

Women's Thursday Bible Study:

- When/Where: Every Thursday from 7-8pm in St. Paul's Fellowship Hall
- Book: Ladylike: Living Biblically by Rebekah Curtis and Rose Adle (purchase on Amazon or CPH)
- Contact Information: Melinda Johnson (605-949-2483) or Emily Anderson (605-999-7709)
- Didn't read the chapter? No problem! We'd love to have you join us!

On the first Sunday of the month, the Shepherd Fund is collected. The money is donated to the Journey to help those in need in our community.

We would like to thank Jen for her help with the Silent Auction and Walk. We would also like to thank Pastor Smith for reading the names at the Cancer Tree and leading us in prayer.

Thanks,
The Daniel Wold Foundation

A **Blood Drive** is being held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on September 9th from 4-7pm. You may book a time to donate on www.vitalant.org. If you have any questions, please contact Craig Green at 605-380-3586.

The **September Newsletter** is now available online on St. Paul's website. There are also a few copies available here at the church if you are unable to print the newsletter from home.

Congregation Game Night & Snacks on Friday, October 24th at 6:00pm.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is having a **Carnival** fundraiser on Sunday, September 21st from 12:30-2:30pm. There will be concessions and games. All are welcome to attend.

We are looking for anyone who might be able to assist our services by playing **piano or organ** this fall. If you have any inclination to help or play please let Rev. Drevlow or Rev. Smith know.

September issue of the Lutheran Witness is now available on the tables in the Narthexes.

MAIN STREET LIVING – September 7, 2025 KDLT (NBC) & KEVN (FOX) Channels 5.1 / 46.1 – 8:00 AM – “Harriett’s Wedding Day” 8:30 AM – Worship – Rev. Chad Schopp presents a message titled *“The Cost of Following Jesus.”* The sermon is based on Luke 14:25-35. For more information go to the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com.

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler. The Lutheran Hour can be heard on KAWZ 88.1 at 9:00 am or Bismarck radio station KFYZ at 7:30 am on Sundays.

8:00am - 76 Communed - 75

10:45am –139 Communed - 98

Wed 6:15pm - 14 Communed - 13

Bible Study: Sun – 45 Wed – 8

Organist – Sunday/Wednesday: Tina Board

Offering: August 24, 2025 - \$7959.50 Coffee - \$68.00

Amount to meet budget: \$12,824.00 per week

Sun 9:00 am Donuts and Coffee

10:00 am Joint Worship Service

(No powerpoint today-5th Sunday

Tues 7:00pm Elder Meeting

Wed 10:00 am Bible Study

6:15 pm Worship

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thur 9:00 am Quilting

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

Fri 5:30pm Youth for Christ

Sun 8:00 am Worship Service

9:30 am Donuts and Coffee

10:45 am Worship Service

12:00 pm Potluck Lunch

Psalm *Psalm 131*

P: ¹O LORD, my heart is not lifted up;
my eyes are not raised too high;

**C: I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.**

P: ²But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;

C: like a weaned child is my soul within me.

P: ³O Israel, hope in the LORD

C: from this time forth and forevermore.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Proverbs 25:2–10*

- ²It is the glory of God to conceal things,
but the glory of kings is to search things out.
³As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.
⁴Take away the dross from the silver,
and the smith has material for a vessel;
⁵take away the wicked from the presence of the king,
and his throne will be established in righteousness.
⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

What your eyes have seen
⁸do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?
⁹Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
and do not reveal another's secret,
¹⁰lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
and your ill repute have no end.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual *Psalms 34:9, 19, alt.*

P: Fear the LORD, you his saints,
C: for those who fear him lack nothing!
P: Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
C: but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Epistle *Hebrews 13:1–17*

¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶So we can confidently say,

“The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?”

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel *Luke 14:1-14*

¹One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ²And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” ⁴But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” ⁶And they could not reply to these things.

⁷Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

¹²He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Not On My Watch

Luke 14:1 One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully.

At this point, Jesus has already healed twice on the Sabbath. We can see why the Pharisees are watching him. I imagine they are thinking, "Not on my watch." You won't break the sabbath and make a mockery of our faith in our presence, in our home, on the sabbath.

Of course, Jesus isn't interested in appearances, and he isn't interested in how these Pharisees will judge him. He has already pointed out their hypocrisy in their unwillingness to help on the sabbath. What's even worse we see the hypocrisy in their teachings because they won't help people on the sabbath, but they will struggle and fight for positions of honor at the table to help themselves, to improve their standing among men.

Jesus sees this man with dropsy. We think it might mean edema or possibly a stroke. The flesh in that area droops and doesn't work. Jesus chooses the lowest position at the table. He knows what will happen if he disobeys their rules of the sabbath. But he also knows the suffering of this man. So, he chooses, like he always does, to be the lowest. Here the lowest at the table, in life, **He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (Isaiah 53:3) And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (Luke 9:58) And in death, Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:4-5) But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; 8 "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" (Psalm 22:6-7)** I would have you imagine the heart of Jesus and his compassion. He doesn't care about the judgement of the world or the pharisees. I imagine that phrase works as well for the Pharisees as it does for Jesus, "Not on my watch." Not when I am here. Not when I am close. Not when there are lessons to be taught. This man won't go away as he came, "Not on my watch."

Football is about to begin again. I only bring it up because I am an avid Vikings fan. I am excited about the team this year. I am sure they will find a way to let me down. A private sin that I am ashamed of is often things come up on Sunday afternoon. Good things. Important things. Prayer services. Visitations. Communion Calls. Hospital visits. Youth Group. And in the back of my head, my selfish head. I am thinking. I could be at home watching what I want. I could be doing what I want. I don't want to be here or out there serving the Lord. I want to be at home serving myself.

In our reading, the Pharisees inner thoughts betray their actions and vice versa. They scramble to be at the top and no one wants to be at the bottom. They ignore this man and his suffering to laugh and fraternize with important people. Their eyes, their watch is trained on themselves. And the sad part is this story starts with their eyes on Jesus and yet they can't truly see him.

I heard a great story the other day about one of the most important men in all of Christendom. Mordecai Ham was leading a tent revival meeting. The tent was very full. Two young boys about the age of 14 walk up and are interested and want to go inside but there are no seats. Now you might have

that passing thought, "do I want two 14-year-old boys going into the tent and making a ruckus for all the well-meaning adults?"

It didn't matter, the boys decided they wouldn't be able to find seats, so they started walking away. An usher thought to himself, "Not on my watch." He went and got the boys and found seats for them up front for Mordecai's preaching. It changed the boy's life. After that meeting, they dedicated their life to preaching the Gospel. The boys' names, Billy Graham and Grady Wilson. Of course, you know Billy, but Grady was very important as well. He was a member of Billy's inner circle and instrumental in planning his large revival meetings and was a big part of the success of that Gospel preaching. One of the most important men in all of Christendom in nameless. We still don't know who he was, but he wouldn't let the rules, the niceties of society, he wouldn't let the perceived worth of the people dictate how much he would help. He probably only had one thought, "Not on my watch."

I think the lesson is clear. We can be like the pharisees, jockeying for position and importance in the world. We can spend our lives only serving ourselves and doing what we want. The place at the front. The place without struggles. The place free of sick people. The place free of broken people. The place free of homeless people. The place free of alcoholics and drug addicts. The place free from sinners, derelicts and over all annoying and depraved individuals. We can choose seats of honor. Or.

We can listen to Jesus and choose a seat of humility. A seat among scoffers, sinners, broken people. A place filled with people in misery, suffering, and burden.

We can look at all the need in the world, in our community, in our church and say that it is not my problem or we can say, "Not on my watch."

And our joy will be that; in those low and humble places we will find grace and strength. We cannot do these works alone my friends. We can not serve or make our world a littler saltier and lighter without Christ and without the Holy Spirit. And there amongst the sick, the lame, the mute, the deaf, the gambler, the drunk, the homeless, the dying; amongst the least there Christ will be. It shouldn't surprise us because this is where he found us. Suffering and dying. He came down and dwelled amongst the lowly to save them like you and me. Being humble doesn't make us better. Our works don't make us better. Being humble leads us to the lowest place where Jesus is saving the world and it is he who saves us. Thanks be to God that as he sat in heavenly splendor above, he looked down at the suffering of his creation he chose to act, he chose to come down and save us. As he saw all that suffering and guilt, shame, and destruction perhaps, he even said, "Not on my watch."
