

The MESSSENGER

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA

Vol. 81- No. 7 – July, 2026



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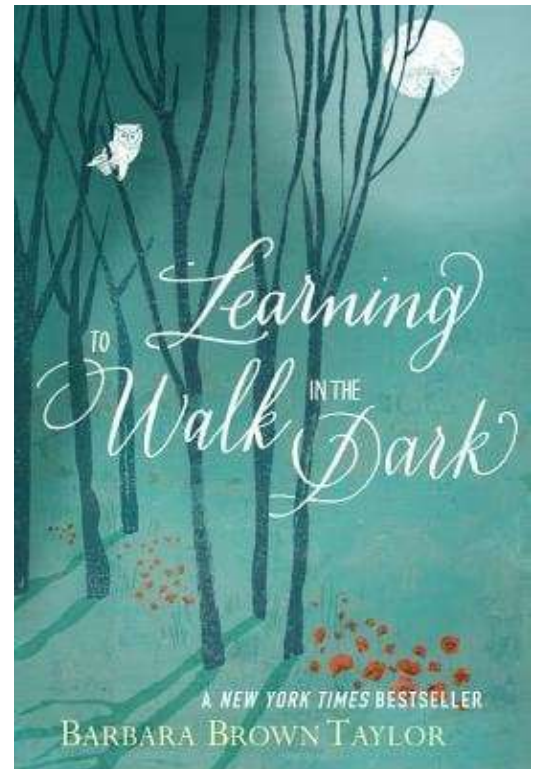
Worship With Us!

Communion every Sunday - 10am

Everyone is Welcome!

Summer Book Club!

Join us on Wednesdays at 6:30pm as we read and discuss together Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor. What can we learn about the ways of God when we cannot see the way ahead, when we are lost, alone, frightened, not in control? Is darkness always bad, or are there things the darkness might be able to teach us?



You can purchase a copy of the book on Bookshop.org, thriftbooks.com, or anywhere books are sold. If you need assistance purchasing a copy, please reach out to Pastor Juniper. We would like everyone who is interested to be able to participate!

We will meet on **Wednesdays at 6:30pm** at Hoyt Park Beer Garden in Wauwatosa. Here's the reading schedule:

July 1 - Hoyt Park: chapter 2

July 8 - Hoy Park: chapters 3, 4

July 15 - chapter 5 (park to be determined)

July 22 - chapter 6 (park to be determined)

Aug 5 - chapters 7, 8 (PTBD)

Aug 12 - chapter 9 & epilogue (PTBD)

God Talk

“A Christian is completely free, lord of all, subject to none.

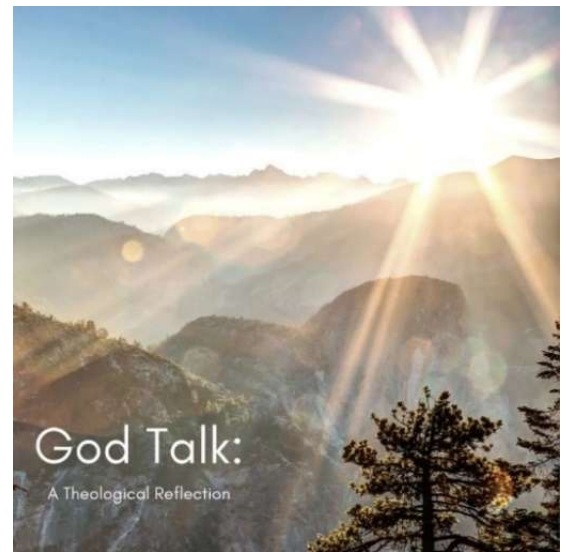
And, a Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant to all, subject to all.”

--Martin Luther, *Freedom of a Christian*

If you've been part of a Lutheran church for a while you may have heard this paradox Martin Luther lays out in his treatise, *The Freedom of a Christian*. Luther posits that our faith in Christ sets us free from the power of sin and death, and simultaneously compels us to serve others out of love. By the grace of God, we are forgiven and sanctified despite the ongoing presence of Sin in the world. That news is so incredible and life-giving that it is impossible to keep to ourselves; our faith in the good news renews us every day and motivates us to share it to the world through our actions, relationships, and decisions.

As we prepare to celebrate **freedom** in our nation this month, I encourage you to consider what Christian freedom looks like in your daily life, in the life of the Church, and in your relationships with others. How does the **freedom** of God's grace influence the way we treat others who are different from us? Does your freedom lead you to a position of humility and service *to* others, or a sense of power *over* others? Can we truly proclaim ourselves to be “the land of the free” when nearly 2 million people are behind bars at any given time in the United States?

The freedom of a Christian is not something to be taken



lightly. It comes with a responsibility to *all* of our siblings in the body of Christ and to all our fellow creatures in God's creation. Our lived faith needs to reflect the Jesus who ate with sinners, healed outcasts, and spoke truth to power. We confess a God who favors the poor, meek, and lowly (Matthew 5); a God who fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty (Luke 1:46-55). And that is a freedom worth celebrating.

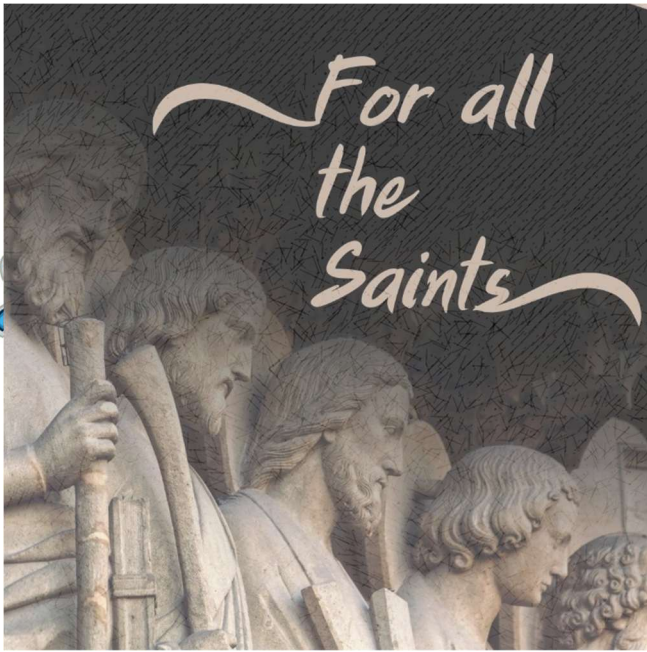
~ Pastor Juniper

Worship Conference

Pastor Juniper and Jeri will be going to the *Conference on Worship, Theology and the Arts* at St. Olaf College July 20-22! This conference provides an opportunity for both ordained and lay leaders to experience creative worship together, and share innovative and imaginative ministry ideas with other leaders. We look forward to sharing what we learn when we return, and hopefully incorporating some new ideas into worship!



**NOURISHING
VOCATION**



For All the Saints

Before Martin Luther, there was **Jan Hus**. Hus was born in the village of Husinec in southern Bohemia around the year 1370 and began his studies at Charles University in Prague in 1390. He was ordained as a priest in 1400, although he

spoke very critically of the priesthood and the Church itself. He advocated for the scriptures to be translated into vernacular languages that ordinary people could understand (something Luther famously did while sequestered in Wartburg Castle in 1521-22).

Hus was exiled in 1412 following a decree from the Pope banning the very teachings that Hus emphasized in his teachings. He then traveled through the countryside preaching in small village churches. In November 1414 he was arrested and imprisoned, later tried by the Council of Constance for heresy and sentenced to death.

Jan Hus was executed July 6, 1415.



RIC CORNER

July 14 is International Non-binary Visibility Day. This day was first celebrated in 2012 to recognize individuals who do not fit into the gender binary; that is, individuals



who do not feel that either “male” or “female” encompasses who they are. Nonbinary individuals, like Pastor Juniper, often use the pronouns they and them instead of she or his. This might sound like “**They** have great taste!” or, “I had a conversation with **them** about how much we both love dogs.”

Did you know...

- Nonbinary is an umbrella term for many varied gender identities that fall outside the binary.
- Nonbinary identities technically fall under the umbrella of transgender, since nonbinary individuals identify with a gender different from the sex they were assigned at birth.
- Some countries have started recognizing nonbinary as a gender option on their passports, including Australia, Canada, Germany, India, the Netherlands, and New



Zealand. 23 US states, plus Washington, DC, allow residents to mark their gender as “X” on a driver’s license.

- The nonbinary flag has four equal-sized stripes: yellow, white, purple, and black.

-Pastor Juniper

NOISY OFFERING COLLECTION

Bring your loose change for special offering collection at the Worship Service every first Sunday of the month.

Red Cross – Milwaukee

CPR and AED Training

Our expert-led Red Cross CPR and AED training courses deliver scientifically proven, simple-to-use techniques and information that can help you save a life, including when and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Training Confident and Capable Caregivers

The updated Babysitter's Training course is an in-person comprehensive caregiving program that delivers real-life readiness babysitting skills to those ages 11-16. An engaging, youth-centered training combines hands-on practice, engaging videos, and interactive group activities to ensure participants are well-prepared for emergency situations.

Swim Lessons

Lessons are available for infants, children, teens and adults! You can expect caring, patient and safe swim instruction from trained, professional instructors who can help even the most timid of swimmers learn to enjoy the water. The Red Cross also has a free app that can help a swimmer stay motivated between class and progress to the next level.

For more information visit their website at www.redcross.org



July

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30pm Book Club	2	3	4 
5 10am Worship	6 	7	8 6:30pm Book Club	9 	10	11
12 10am Worship	13 	14 7:00pm Council	15 Noon Kim's Table 6:30pm Book Club	16	17 	18
19 10am Worship	20 <i>*August* Messenger Deadline</i> Pr Juniper at	21 <i>Worship conf.</i>	22 10am - Noon Tie Blankets No Book Club Tonight	23	24 Pr Juniper	25 vacation
26 10am Worship Guest Preacher Sarah Micheel Noon: German- fest Outing	27 	28 Pr Juniper Vacation til 30 th .	29 6:30pm Book Club	30	31	Aug 1



OUTREACH NEWS

Many thanks to those who donated cleaning supplies for Kim's Table and to those who volunteered on the 17th, to those who helped pack the summer fun pails after church on May 31st for July's Kim's Table, and to those who helped prepare fleece tie blankets at St. Paul's on June 13th! We couldn't do this without your help. We appreciate each of you!!

Pictured: Susie Moylan & Libby Berry pack summer pails for KT.



Outreach News continues...

- Due to the rainy weather on June 17th, Kim's Table saw a smaller turnout, even though the event was held indoors. We had just the right number of volunteers to make a smooth transition to hosting indoors.
- The summer fun pails that we packed following the worship service on May 31st, as part of our 5th Sunday Service Project, will be given out at this month's Kim's Table. So, join us on Wednesday July 15th if you can!
- Several fleece blankets are ready to be tied! If you'd like to take one home to tie, please see Nancy Day.
(Remember, there is a table set up in the sanctuary if you wish to tie a blanket during the worship service on Sunday.)
- The next date for making blankets at St. Paul's has been changed from Thursday, July 30th to Wednesday, July 22nd

Looking ahead: Dianne will be on vacation August 7th thru August 16th and the office will be closed. She will be back in the office on Monday, August 17, 2026. If you need something from the office, please call the church and leave a message as someone will monitor the answering machine in her absence.





July Birthday

5th Lena Micheel

10th Mary Ellen Voelz

July Anniversary

7th Matt and Jane Prahlow

21st Alyssa and Gray Stanson



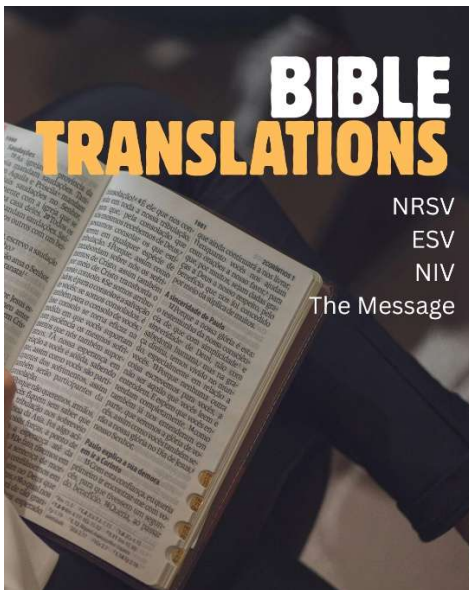
Save the Date: July 26, 2026

German Fest outing at Noon. See Brett for more information.

Quote -

“There, I guess King George will be able to read that.”

- John Hancock (1737-1793)



What's with all the translations?

Have you ever tried to purchase a Bible for yourself or someone else, and been overwhelmed by the number of different translations available? Have you ever wondered which translation is the best?

You are not alone. Thanks to the work of generations of scholars, we are able to read our sacred texts in English. But

translation is complicated work, and necessarily involves a lot of *interpretation* as well.

If you have studied any foreign language, you know that translation is not just word-for-word swapping, and it gets even more complicated when translating from an ancient language to a modern one! For example, the Greek word *anthropos* can mean “man,” “word,” or “person”! Greek grammar is also so different from English grammar that the original text could be saying that God’s people *are saved*, *are being saved*, or *will be saved*. In the case of holy scriptures, every translation choice also shapes the theology that is conveyed.

So, which translation is the best? As you might have guessed, there is not just one translation that is best for all people or all circumstances.

- ~ NRSV(New Revised Standard) – academic, great for close study
- ~ ESV (English Standard) – poetic flow, easy to read
- ~ NIV (New International) – easy to read, middle of the road as far as inclusive language
- ~ *The Message* – more of a paraphrase than a translation. Great for devotionals or group discussion, not helpful if you are interested in what the original manuscripts say



SUNDAY GOSPEL AND PSALM READINGS

July 5 – 26, 2026

July 5

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Semicontinuous

First Reading and Psalm

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49,
58-67

Psalm 45:10-17

July 12

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Semicontinuous

First Reading and Psalm

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalm 119:105-112

July 19

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalm 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

*Semicontinuous First
Reading and Psalm*

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

July 26

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

*Semicontinuous
First Reading and Psalm*

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

WORSHIP AND HOSPITALITY TEAM: July 2026

	July 5 Pentecost 6	July 12 Pentecost 7	July 19 Pentecost 8	June 26 Pentecost 9
Assisting Minister	Tim Kitzman	Nancy Day	Jeri Jende	Bob Bromeberek
Usher Team	1	2	3	4
Altar Guild	1	2	3	4
Greeter(s)	Karen Bromberek	Karen Bromberek	Karen Bromberek	Karen Bromberek
Communion Type	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous
Open	1	2	3	4
Close	1	2	3	4
Live Stream Team	Mike Polinske	Mark Van Engen	Brett Gluth	Mike Polinske

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