

# Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 27, 2025

## Prelude

## "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

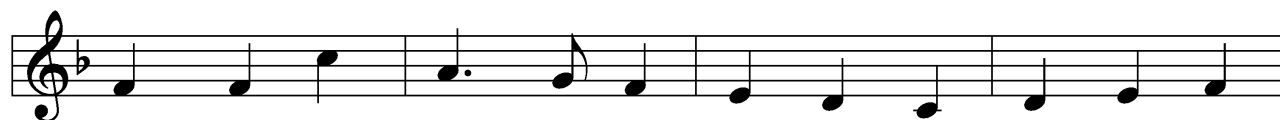
Spiritual arranged by Ted Smith,  
piano duet by Katie Reed & Jennifer Massicotte (grand piano)

## Call to Worship Bells

**Words of Welcome:** Jesus said, "ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9). He invites us to pray and in our Old Testament Reading we see a wonderful example of prayer as Abraham calls out to the Lord on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah. As we focus on this prayer we will see not just how Abraham prayed but why he was able to pray with such boldness for a wicked and evil city. May God bless your worship this week!

## Opening Hymn

## "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" LSB #790



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly  
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,  
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -  
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your  
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -  
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly  
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall  
dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



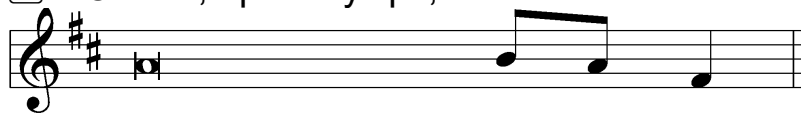
health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His  
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is  
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has  
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -  
prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.  
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.  
peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt. Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneueren Gesang-Buchs, 1665, Stralsund Text and tune: Public domain

**P** O Lord, open my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



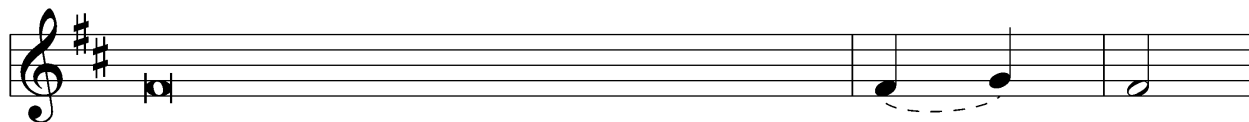
Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Psalmody -- Psalm 95

**P** Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



**C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

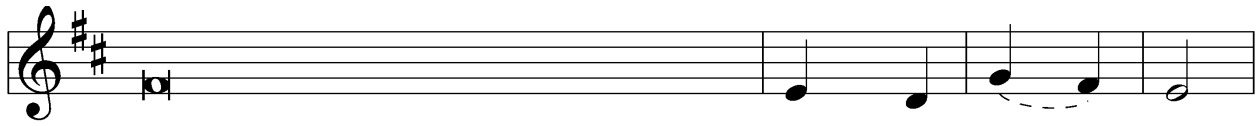


**C** 1 O come, let us sing . . . . . to the Lord,

2 For the Lord is a . . . . . great God

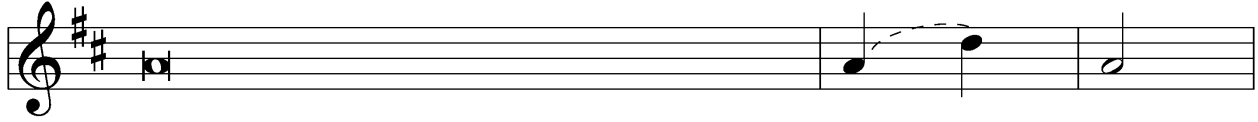
3 The sea is His, for He . . . . . made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and . . . . . to the Son

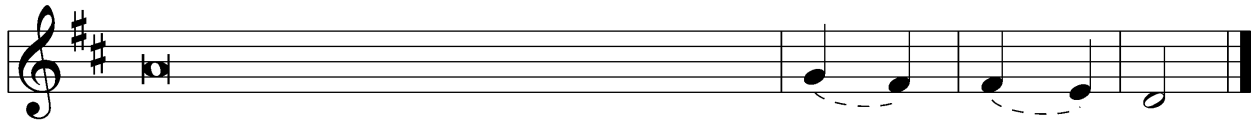


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.  
2 and a great . . . . . king a - bove all gods.  
3 and His hand . . . . . formed the dry — land.

5 and to the . . . . . Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,  
2 The deep places of the earth are . . . . . in His hand;  
3 O come, let us worship and . . . . . bow — down,  
4 For He . . . . . is our God,  
5 as it was in the be - - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to . . . . . Him with songs of praise.  
2 the strength of the hills is . . . . . His — al - so.  
3 let us kneel before the . . . . . Lord, our mak - er.  
4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep — of His hand.  
5 is now, and will be for - - ev - er. A - men.

**P** Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



**C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

## Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 18:20–33*

**P** A reading from Genesis, the eighteenth chapter.

<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, <sup>21</sup>I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

<sup>22</sup>So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” <sup>26</sup>And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

<sup>27</sup>Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup>Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." <sup>29</sup>Again he spoke to him and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." <sup>30</sup>Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." <sup>31</sup>He said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." <sup>32</sup>Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." <sup>33</sup>And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Colossians 2:6–19*

**P** A reading from Colossians, the second chapter.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup>having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

<sup>16</sup>Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. <sup>17</sup>These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup>Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, <sup>19</sup>and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Anthem

**“Praise the Lord”** by Brown Bannister and Mike Hudson,  
solo by Claude Massicotte accompanied by Jennifer Massicotte (grand piano)

## Gospel

*Luke 11:1–13*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” <sup>2</sup>And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread,

<sup>4</sup>and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

<sup>5</sup>And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; <sup>7</sup>and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup>What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; <sup>12</sup>or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Responsory

**P** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

**C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

**P** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

**P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

## Hymn

### “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” LSB #770



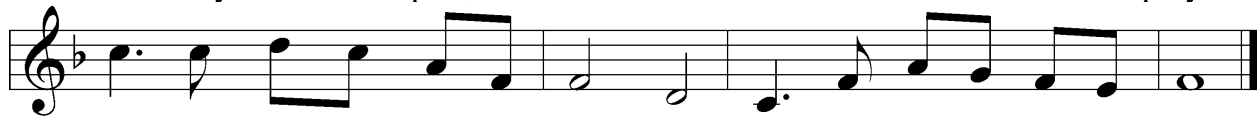
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



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 thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? 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 thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86 Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918 Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

### “What If?”

Genesis 18:17-33

## Hymn

### “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” LSB #940 (sts. 1–5)



1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we  
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a -  
 3 Lo, the a - pos - tles' ho - ly train Join Thy sa - cred  
 4 Thou art King of Glo - ry, Christ; Son of God, yet  
 Δ 5 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,  
 bove are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,  
 name to hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,  
 born of Mar - y. For us sin - ners sac - ri - ficed,  
 three we name Thee; Though in es - sence on - ly one,



All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy  
In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with  
And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low, And from morn to  
As to death a Trib - u - tar - y, First to break the  
Un - di - vid - ed God we claim Thee And, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.  
sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!  
set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.  
bars of death, Thou hast o - pened heav'n to faith.  
bend the knee While we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: Latin, c. 4th cent.; German version Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900, alt. Tune: Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna Text and tune: Public domain

## Parish Announcements and Presentation of Offering

### Kyrie



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

### Lord's Prayer

**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.

### Prayers

**P** O Lord, hear my prayer.



**C** And let my cry come to You.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Additional prayers will be inserted here*

## Prayer for Grace

**P** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

**P** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

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



**C** A - men.

## Hymn

### “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” LSB #660



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.  
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;  
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.  
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.  
 Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo - rious day.  
 The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.  
 This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.

From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead  
 Let all His faith - ful serve Him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;  
 Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.  
 The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see

Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.  
 Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.  
 Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.  
 And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: George Duffield, Jr., 1818-88, alt. Tune: George J. Webb, 1803-87 Text and tune: Public domain

## Postlude

Jennifer Massicotte (organ)

## Acknowledgments

Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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## Serving in the Lord's House Today

**Preacher & Officiant** ..... Pastor Nolan Astley  
**Greeters** ..... Patricia Famme, Mable Wentzlaff, Georgina Green  
**Pianist/Organist** ..... Jennifer Massicotte  
**Ushers** ..... Keith Bartman, Reinhold Schmidt, Dave Reist, Jim Wentzlaff  
**AV Team** ..... (Sound & Stream Operators) Claude Massicotte & Steve Coleman

**Prayer Concerns:** In our prayers we remember all who mourn, especially **the family of Karin Toolsie** who passed away last Sunday afternoon and whose funeral will be held this coming Tuesday at 11:00 am here at Holy Cross. We also remember **all who travel** at this time asking God to grant safety in their journeys. We keep in our prayers, **Trudy Niereisel** at Cambridge Memorial, **Lorraine Planert, Pastor Warren Hamp, Lydia Weimer, Shari Keller, Anna Schmidt, Elke Teich, Bernie Drung, Elsie Freiheit** and **Shirley Carter**.

**Memorials:** To Ray of Hope, from Steve Keczem, in honour of Steve's and **Delila Keczem's 47<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** and in memory of **Mark Keczem's** birthday.

## Coming Events...

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**Staff Vacations:** Kyle Shaffer is on vacation until **Monday, August 11**; Jennifer Massicotte is off for the next three Sundays and **Pastor Roggow** is away until **Tuesday, August 12**.

**Summer weekends away?** Join us at Holy Cross on **Monday nights** from **7:15pm - 8:15pm** for a small group Bible study continuing until August 25<sup>th</sup>. Everyone welcome! You don't need to commit to attending weekly, but there is a sign-up sheet by the elevator to help with planning.

**Volunteering this fall?** Please complete a 2025 Care & Protect session now to be ready for future volunteer opportunities. Training in the library today, **Sun. July 27 at 11:30 pm!** Refresher will end after one hour. For Youth or other first-time volunteers, Orientation training will end at 2:30. Please RSVP to [jilleppek@gmail.com](mailto:jilleppek@gmail.com) or 226-972-1529. **Ask about online training options!!**

**Circuit Youth Event:** Enjoy 18 holes of mini golf (Market Sports @ 800 King St. N., Waterloo) and plan fall/winter servant events as a follow up to NYG. Ages 12-18 and Adult Chaperones, golfing is on **Thursday, August 14** from **6:50 – 8:30 pm** please RSVP to the church office [jennifer@holycrosskitchener.org](mailto:jennifer@holycrosskitchener.org) or 519-742-5812 and bring \$10 that evening. Questions? Please see Henrietta Schafer.

**Chop veggies and connect!** Join us for a volunteer evening at Ontario Christian Gleaners on **Tuesday, August 19** from **6:45 to 9:00 p.m.** Have fun preparing food that will be sent to those in need around the world. Let's serve together! Sign-up is available by the elevator or by contacting the church office. [jennifer@holycrosskitchener.org](mailto:jennifer@holycrosskitchener.org). Questions? Please see Henrietta Schafer.

**Vacation Bible School Needs You!** Please join us for a joyful and rewarding week of VBS!! To register, visit the church website. Questions? Contact Jennifer Leppek [jilleppek@gmail.com](mailto:jilleppek@gmail.com).

**Support Through Service Carwash Fundraiser:** On **Friday, August 22**, following VBS, the youth & young adults will host a **free community car wash** until 6pm! You're invited to bring your car and enjoy a free wash. They'll also be collecting **pledges** based on how many cars they wash (e.g., \$1 per car × 100 cars = \$100). All proceeds will support the **Lutheran Church in Nicaragua** and the **January 2026 Mission Trip**, helping feed those in need, share God's love, and repair church buildings. To raise support, they'll be making calls as early as next week. There will also be a **Phone-a-thon** on **Friday, August 15 (7–9pm)** and **Saturday, August 16 (10am–12pm)**. Want to pledge early? Contact the office with your per-car pledge or flat donation. After the car wash, you'll be contacted to fulfill your gift. Thank you for supporting our brothers and sisters in Christ in Nicaragua! 😊

**Sunday School Teachers Needed:** Previous teachers will receive an email asking if they will continue in September. Are you interested in joining our Team of Sunday School Teachers or Helpers? If so, please let the office know via [office@holycrosskitchener.org](mailto:office@holycrosskitchener.org) as soon as possible so we can make plans for September. Thank you!

## Please Note...

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**Cookies for VBS!** We need NUT-FREE cookies for VBS (August 18-22). If you're able to donate a box (or two!) of store-bought cookies (preferably not individually wrapped), please drop them off in the church kitchen — there will be a clearly marked area with a sign. Thanks for your support!

**2024/25 Holy Cross Photo Directory Update:** We hope to have the 2024/2025 photo directory available for distribution by late summer or early fall. We will let you know when it arrives.

**Please Note:** If you had your photograph taken with the photo company (IPC) you are automatically entitled to a printed copy of the photo directory (one copy per sitting). If you did **not** have your photo taken with IPC and would still like to receive a copy of the directory, or if you would like additional copies beyond the one per photo sitting, you will need to let us know - the cost is \$25.00 per directory, due when you pick up your directory.

If you would like to order a directory (or one or more extra directories) please email [photodirectory24@holycrosskitchener.org](mailto:photodirectory24@holycrosskitchener.org) and provide your name and how many copies you would like, or contact the office to provide this information. To ensure we have enough directories printed, please contact us as soon as possible (but no later than July 31st). If you have questions, please contact Kim Griffin ([kgriffin5@gmail.com](mailto:kgriffin5@gmail.com) or phone (519)-500-1262)

**Stephen Ministry** training begins **Monday, October 20, 2025!** We are very excited to see this valuable ministry return to our congregation! If you are interested in training to be a Stephen Minister, please speak to Brien Thurston or to either of our pastors to discuss this further. Additional information will be provided, closer to the start date, but we want to give everyone a head's up.

**Small Group Bible Study:** Once again this fall there will be a small group Bible study for our congregational family. This year our theme will be **“Patient Urgency”** based on the **Gospel of St. Mark**. Most of us feel ill-equipped to speak of Jesus in ordinary conversations. This study is designed to help God's people to feel more comfortable in spiritual conversations and grow in their ability to share their faith with others. More details to come!

**The Fellowship Committee** is revisiting an important volunteer opportunity at Holy Cross! So, if you would like to serve our Congregational Family as a volunteer for Fellowship Events and/or Funeral Luncheons, please fill out the sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway next to the elevator. Then watch out for an announcement to have a brief meeting in August! We'd love to have you join us!

**Repair of Front Steps** – Thank you for your patience during the front steps repair- they're almost done!

**Nicaragua Mission Trip:** Holy Cross is joining **Team Zion**, an annual mission trip to Nicaragua, **January 8-23, 2026**, sponsored by the Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada, and led by Lisa Jackson. There are many opportunities to serve including construction and Vacation Bible School. You'll join a team that will equip and support you, and travel to churches and communities that are eager to welcome you!

If you are interested in or have any questions about joining the Nicaragua Mission Team (and we hope you are!), please contact Karen Derksen from the Board of Outreach ([kderksen@rogers.com](mailto:kderksen@rogers.com))

## Weekly Calendar

Monday July 28 to Sunday August 3, 2025

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|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Monday Evening Bible Study, <i>TBD</i> ..... 7:15 p.m.        |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Funeral for Karin Toolsie, <i>Church</i> ..... 11:00 a.m.     |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Staff Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i> ..... 9:30 a.m.         |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Young Adult Bible Study, <i>Parlour</i> ..... 8:00 p.m.       |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</b>                          |
|                  | <b>Holy Communion Service, Church</b> ..... <b>10:00 a.m.</b> |
|                  | Nuer Language Service, <i>Church</i> ..... 2:00 p.m.          |