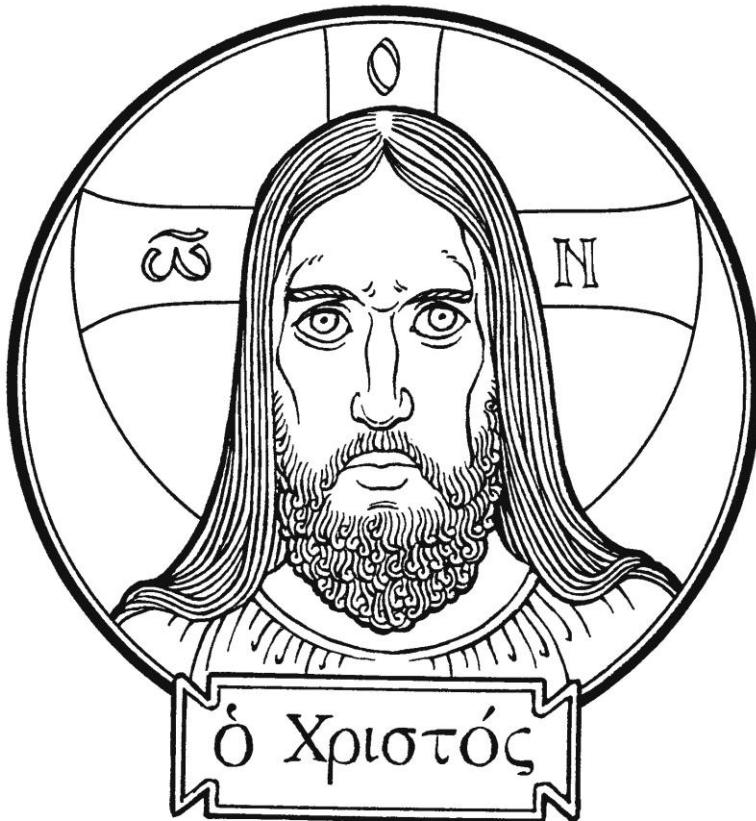


# THE CONFESSION OF ST. PETER



**JANUARY 18, 2026**

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)**  
**124 MAPLE STREET NORTH**  
**LESTER PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA**  
**(320)-395-2573**

Pastor Barlau: Cell (612) 394-6224  
Pastor email: [pastorbarlau@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbarlau@gmail.com)  
**[www.stpaulp.org](http://www.stpaulp.org)**

**AS WE GATHER- LOSING OURSELVES IN THE CONFESSION OF THE ONE NAME OF SALVATION-** St. Peter speaks for all disciples when he confesses, "You are the Christ" (Mark 8:29). This confession is the bedrock of the Church, which Christ Himself builds (Matt. 16:18), for "this Jesus," the stone rejected by earthly builders, "has become the cornerstone" (Acts 4:11). This was a scandal even to Peter. The Christ must suffer, be rejected, be killed, "and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31), for through this work of salvation received by faith, God's "precious and very great promises" are granted, "so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4). Wherever Jesus is the Christ, His disciples deny themselves, take up their crosses and follow Him (Mark 8:34). They have been cleansed from their former sins and increase in faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection and love, effective and fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:5-9). All who trust in Jesus, the Christ of Peter's confession, will save their life, though for His sake they lose it (Mark 8:35). "For there is no other name ... by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

## **DIVINE SERVICE SETTING I**

**P. 151-166**

### **PRESERVICE MUSIC**

**OPENING HYMN    "CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION"    909**

### **† CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION †**

**P. 151**

### **† THE SERVICE OF THE WORD †**

**INTROIT                    PSALM 89:1,5,15-16; ANTIphon: PSALM 119:46**

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]  
and shall not be put to shame.

**I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all  
generations.**

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

**Blessèd are the people who know the festal shout,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,  
who exult in your name all the day  
and in your righteousness are exalted.**

**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.**

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]  
and shall not be put to shame.

**KYRIE**

**P. 152-153**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**      **“THIS IS THE FEAST”**

**P. 155**

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You revealed to the apostle Peter the blessed truth that Your Son Jesus is the Christ. Strengthen us by the proclamation of this truth that we too may joyfully confess that there is salvation in no one else; 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**

**ACTS 4:8-13**

<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” <sup>13</sup>Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**GRADUAL**

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:5A, 13C, 1 PETER 4:11B; PSALM 113:3**

**What we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord. We also believe, and so we speak, as one who speaks oracles of God. From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!**

<sup>1</sup>Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup>May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. <sup>3</sup>His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup>by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. <sup>5</sup>For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup>and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup>For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. <sup>11</sup>For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. <sup>13</sup>I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, <sup>14</sup>since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. <sup>15</sup>And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P. 156

HOLY GOSPEL

MARK 8:27-35

**P** The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter.

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

<sup>27</sup>And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” <sup>30</sup>And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. <sup>31</sup>And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” <sup>34</sup>And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

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

**C** Praise to You, O Christ

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**P. 159**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    “I KNOW MY FAITH IS FOUNDING”    **587**

**SERMON**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Lord, in your Mercy,

**C** Hear our Prayer.

**In Our Prayers:**

+ Scott Christenson	+ Tracy Albers
+ Andy Birkholz	+ Robin Lueck
+ Dan Gueningsman	+ Karen Strei
+ Maya Radtke	+ Hillard Klaustermeier
+ Jeremy Radtke	+ Angela Litzau
+ Darian Litzau	+ Call Process for Associate Pastor

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**    “O MORNING STAR, HOW FAIR AND BRIGHT” *vs. 2* **395**

## † SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT † P. 160-164

The Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His true body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation, to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Our Lord Jesus invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us (Matt. 26:26-28; 1Cor. 11:23-29; Matt.6:15).

We practice closed communion. Why? (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Because our Lord says those who eat and drink His body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. If not yet instructed, in doubt, or holding a confession differing from that of the LCMS, you are lovingly asked not to commune at this time. Pastor is happy to make an appointment to discuss adult catechesis or questions you have regarding the Sacrament of the Altar.

**Examination Questions:** Please prepare by asking yourself — Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior from sin? Do I believe that I am receiving the body and blood of Christ along with the bread and wine? Will I try, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live a more God-pleasing life?

Prayers for “Before communing” and “Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament” are printed on the front cover of the hymnal.

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“JESUS COMES TODAY WITH HEALING”	620
“THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION”	644
“JESUS LOVES ME”	588
“HAIL TO THE LORD’S ANOINTED”	398

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE	P. 164
-------------------------	--------

COLLECT/BENEDICTION	P. 166
---------------------	--------

CLOSING HYMN	“CHRIST IS OUR CORNERSTONE”	912
--------------	-----------------------------	-----

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

#### Attendance Last Week

Epiphany: 41  
Sunday: 188  
Bible Study: 30  
Sunday School: 27

#### Organist:

Lynn Mueller

#### Scripture Reader:

Evelyn Dial

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. THANK YOU-** A special thanks to Amy Bettcher, Angie Christen, Beth Foust and Addisyn Lind who came to help the LWML take down the Christmas decorations. We always appreciate help from the congregation. - LWML ladies and LaJean
- 2. ANNUAL MEETING-**All communicant members of legal voting age are encouraged to attend the Annual Voters Meeting on Thursday, January 22 at 7:00 PM.
- 3. THANK YOU** to everyone who helped the Board of Education with Ellie's baby shower. Thank you also to everyone who attended. We appreciate all of you. ~Board of Ed
- 4. 2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:** Details for the 2026 scholarship program are being reviewed. Please watch for more information in the lamplighter and church bulletins.
- 5. MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER-** ACT will be going on a mission trip this summer to Camp Luther Haven in Indiana and will be helping to provide a Christian camp experience to international children living in the Midwest. To help support the Mission, ACT will be selling Unhinged take-and-bake pizzas starting in January. Pizzas will be delivered on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8, at both services. Order forms can be found and returned on the table in the Upper Narthex, or from one of our students attending Camp Luther Haven!
- 6. POTLUCK UPDATE-** We made a major fumble! Due to a national event involving football, snacks, and loud cheering, our church potluck has been rescheduled to Sunday, February 8 at 11:30 (after second service). Ovens will be on warm if you would like to drop food before attending service. Tableware and drinks will be provided, so just bring your favorite dish to share. We look forward to a time of good food, great conversation, and meaningful fellowship—we hope you'll join us.
- 7. LWML PRAYER SERVICE-** The congregation is invited to the LWML Prayer Service, P.R.A.Y.E.R. (Praise, Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement, Rejoice), on February 2 at 6:30 p.m. This service is dedicated to Shirley Dibb who served the Lord with unwavering faith and a devoted heart.
- 8. PRE-SCHOOL MUSIC CLASS** will be held ALL THURSDAY evenings in February from 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the St. Paul's music room. Please join us for some music-making fun, and invite a family from the area to join us too! Babies through age 5 are welcome! Questions? Contact Jane Holasek.

**9. MEAL TRAIN-** A meal train has been set up for the Schulteis Family. What is Meal Train? There are times in our lives when friends and family ask, "What can I do to help out?" The answer is usually to help them with a meal. When many friends provide support through a meal, Meal Train keeps everyone organized. Please use this link to visit the meal train sign up for the Schulteis family:

<https://mealtrain.com/8nzeq4>

**10 NERF WARS!**- Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 11 a.m.-2p.m.—Attention all youth and families ages 5 and up. Come to church with your favorite nerf guns, eye protection, and friends! We will have lunch, nerf battle, and spend time in God's Word. Please sign up on the sheet on the desk in the Upper Narthex to bring a side and/or dessert, so that we can prepare lunch for everyone!

**11. SCHEDULE-** *January 25:* Ushers: 1<sup>st</sup> Service- Keith Christen, Dave Dressler, Kim Dressler; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Scott Christenson, Larry Clausen, Shadd Dial, Calvin Dial; Acolytes: 1<sup>st</sup> Service- T. Herrmann, A. Kosek; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: M. Schauer, L. Schauer; Greeters- 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Audrey Litzau; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Chuck & Kim Reed; Scripture Reader: Jen Thiry; Flowers: Audrey Litzau; Altar Guild: Jen Bebo and Beth Foust; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

### *Calendar of Events*

<b>Sun. Jan 18</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> <b>9:15 a.m.</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION</b> Sun. School/Adult Bible Study/ACT <b>WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION</b>
<b>Mon. Jan 19</b>	<b>Noon</b> <b>3:00 p.m.</b>	Release Time Classes Deadline for Lamplighter Anchor Point (Gr. 7-12)
<b>Wed. Jan 21</b>	<b>Noon</b>	Deadline for Bulletin Release Time/Confirmation Classes
<b>Thurs. Jan 22</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Annual Voters Meeting Call Committee Meeting (following Voters Meeting)
<b>Sun. Jan 25</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> <b>9:15 a.m.</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM.</b> Sun. School/Adult Bible Study/ACT Sun School Grades 1-6 Sing <b>WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM.</b>

### Acknowledgement:

+ Memorials for Stewart Ruwersma Sr. were received in the total amounts of \$20.00 for the General Fund and \$85.00 for the Hardship Fund