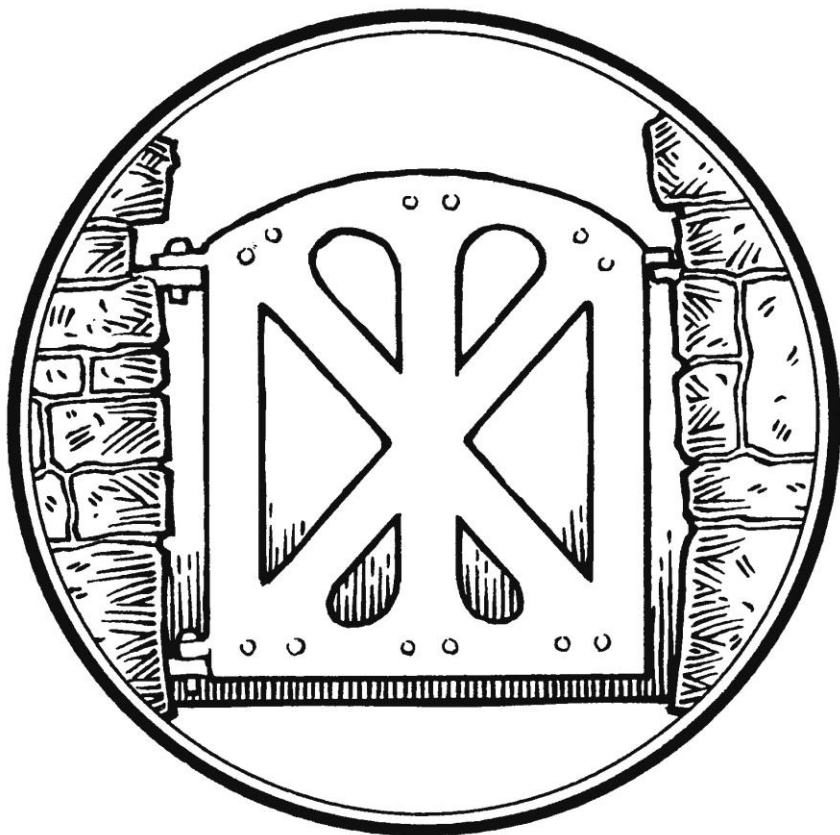


# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



**APRIL 26, 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.stpaullp.org](http://www.stpaullp.org)



I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**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.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

**ACTS 2:42-47**

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL**

**ADAPT. FROM MATTHEW 28:7; HEBREWS 2:7, PSALM 8:6**

**Christ has risen from the dead. [God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor. He has given him dominion over the works of his hands; he has put all things under his feet.**

## EPISTLE

## 1 PETER 2:19-25

<sup>19</sup>This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P. 156

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL "THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS" vs. 1-3 709

## HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 10:1-10

**P** The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out

and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

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

**G** Praise to You, O Christ

GOSPEL RECESSIONAL “THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS” vs. 4-6 709

NICENE CREED

P. 158

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Lord, in your Mercy,

**G** Hear our Prayer.

**In Our Prayers:**

+ Scott Christenson

+ Angela Litzau

+ Andy Birkholz

+ Mark Barlau

+ Dan Gueningsman

+ Anna Tracy

+ Maya Radtke

+ Hillard Klaustermeier

+ Sonya Clausen

+ For Associate Pastor

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN “HE IS ARISEN! GLORIOUS WORD” 488

✠ 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**

“HAVE NO FEAR, LITTLE FLOCK”	735
“THE GIFTS CHRIST FREELY GIVES”	602
“THE LORD’S MY SHEPHERD, I’LL NOT WANT”	710

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE** P. 164

**COLLECT/BENEDICTION** P. 166

**CLOSING HYMN** “I AM JESUS’ LITTLE LAMB” 740

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Attendance Last Week  
Sunday: 167

Organist:  
Lynn Mueller

**CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1. SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY** - Join us between services TODAY April 26th, in the fellowship hall for our end of year Sunday School Bingo party. All congregation members are invited. We will have snacks and prizes.

**2. CALL UPDATE-** We received word from MN South District that our candidate for Associate Pastor will be coming from the Ft. Wayne Seminary. Call Day Service is live-streamed on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. You can find the link for the live stream on the Seminary website: <https://ctsfw.regfox.com/2026-call-day>.

**3. CONFIRMATION-**Please take some time this month to pray for this year’s Confirmation class as they prepare for Confirmation on May 3, 2026. This year’s class includes: Layne Dressler, Aiden Kosek, Addisyn Lind, Betty Mike, Brooklyn Peterson, Lucas Schauer and Mikey Schauer.

**4. CARDS-** Confirmation greeting cards are available for \$1.00 each on the LWML table. Proceeds go to support the Mission projects. Thank you.

**5. DIRECTORY UPDATE:** Stewardship committee is still working on designing the group and feature pages for the directory. Our part of this process is taking longer than we anticipated, but we are working on it and appreciate your patience! We'll update the congregation again when we complete this step and send it in for printing.

**6. OUT OF OFFICE-** Administrative Assistant Amanda will be out of the office Monday, April 27, Friday May 1 and Monday May 4.

**7. LWML -** The MN So. District Mites update as of April 2 is \$259,010. That is 96% of the goal of \$270,000. The District will be able to pay all 13 Mission grants in full. By April 25, \$10,989.00 is needed and that surely will be met. To God Be The Glory.

**8. MEETING-**The LWML will meet on Monday, May 4 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Donations will go to Orphan Grain Train and there will be a Mite (coin) ingathering for missions. All women are invited to join us as we serve the Lord with gladness.

**9. LILIES-** You may take your lilies home any time.

**10. YOUTH NIGHT-** All students in grades 7-12 are invited to join us on Sunday, May 17th from 6:00-8:00 PM. We will have fun, games, snacks and study God's word together!

**11. SAVE THE DATE-** The Board of Education invites our 2026 High School graduates and their families to attend worship service on May 17th at 9:00 AM in honor of their academic accomplishments.

**12. NEW FREEDOM STORE COLLECTION:** LWML will be collecting cash for VISA gift cards to support the Homeless Ministry at the Pigs Eye Encampment in St. Paul. This is a mission sponsored by the LWML MN. South District as part of the district convention held June 18-20<sup>th</sup>. A collection box is in the lower narthex. Deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support.

**13. THRIVENT-**If you have a Thrivent Action Team \$250 gift card available, the church could use one to purchase hymnals to help support and make things easier for those who are shut in and cannot join church services in person. Please reach out to Jane Holasek or Julie Dial with any questions.

**14. DIAPER COLLECTION-** Donations of diapers, any size and brand, is being taken for the Marie Sandvick Center (Where we bring sandwiches from our Sandwich Ministry). Collection will take

place until May 20<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to donate, please place diapers in the box in the Lower Narthex.

**15. ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY** Our next Adopt-a-Highway Ditch clean-up will take place on Sunday, May 17th. ANYONE THAT is 12 years of age or older is invited to help with this service project. We will meet at church at Noon that day to watch the safety video, then drive out to our clean-up site. There is a permission slip that needs to be filled out if you are between ages 12 and 17. These will be available for you that day. Per MN Department of Transportation rules, children under 12 are not allowed to help with ditch clean-up.

**16. SCHEDULE-** *May 3* ~ Ushers: 1<sup>st</sup> Service-Adam Birkholz, Todd Ruschmeyer, Jacob Ross, Fred Holsek; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Mike Lee, Gary Kosek, Ben Schulteis, Mavrik Kosek; Acolytes: 1<sup>st</sup> Service- J. Barlau, B. Thompson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: C. Bebo, I. Foust; Greeters- 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Audrey Litzau; 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Brett and Darlene Schmidt; Flowers: Debbie Bahr; Altar Guild: Tina Heiraas, Sharon Hecksel; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

***Calendar of Events***

<b>Sun. April 26</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> <b>9:15 a.m.</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM.</b> Sunday School Bingo <b>WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM.</b>
Mon. April 27		Release Time Classes
Wed. April 29	Noon	Deadline for Bulletin Release Time Class
Fri. May 1		Church Offices closed
<b>Sun. May 3</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION</b> <b>WORSHIP WITH CONFIRMATION</b>

**Acknowledgement:**

+ A memorial for LaVonne Burch was received in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the Windows of Faith Campaign.