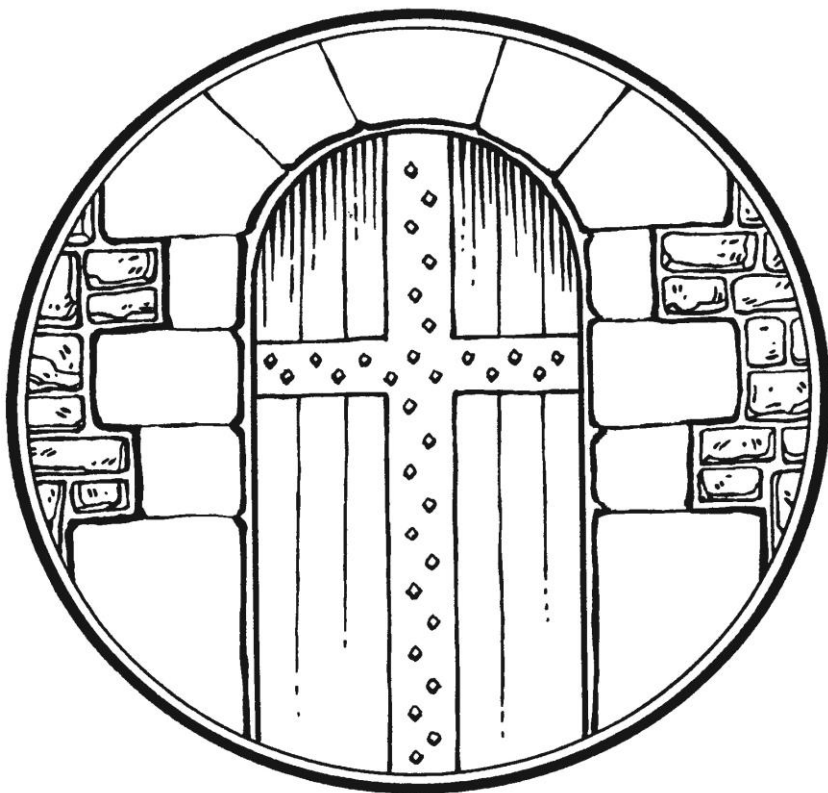


FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



MAY 3, 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

www.stpaulp.org

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through 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 6:1-9; 7:2A, 51-60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . ²And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . ⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." ⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their

garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P. 190

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL “CHRIST THE ETERNAL LORD” vs. 1-2 **829**

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 14:1-14

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. ¹²Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ

GOSPEL RECESSIONAL “CHRIST THE ETERNAL LORD” vs. 3-5 **829**

APOSTLE’S CREED

P. 192

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in your Mercy, **C** Hear our Prayer.

In Our Prayers:

+ Confirmation Class	+ Associate Pastor to be Kyle Bliss
+ Scott Christenson	+ Angela Litzau
+ Andy Birkholz	+ Mark Barlau
+ Dan Gueningsman	+ Anna Tracy
+ Maya Radtke	+ Hillard Klaustermeier
+ Sonya Clausen	

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN “HE IS ARISEN! GLORIOUS WORD”

488

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠ P. 194-199

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 trusted 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

“AT THE LAMB’S HIGH FEAST WE SING”	633
“YOU ARE THE WAY; THROUGH YOU ALONE”	526
“THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION”	644
“I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES”	461

NUNC DIMITTIS **P. 199**

COLLECT/SALUTATION **P. 201**

BENEDICTION **P. 202**

CLOSING HYMN “NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAVEN RESOUNDS” **465**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Attendance Last Week
Sunday: 159

Organist:
Jane Holasek

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. ASSOCIATE PASTOR UPDATE-** We are pleased to announce Kyle Bliss as our new Associate Pastor, joining us following his graduation from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Stay tuned for more information!
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. YOUTH NIGHT-** All students in grades 7-12 are invited to join us on Sunday, May 17th from 6:00-8:00 PM.
- 6. 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.
- 7. DIAPER COLLECTION-** Donations of diapers, any size and brand, is being taken for the Marie Sandvick Center. Collection will take place until May 20th. If you would like to donate, please place diapers in the box in the Lower Narthex.
- 8. 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.
- 9. 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 18-20th. A collection box is in the lower narthex. Deadline is May 15th. Thank you for your support.

10. SCHEDULE- May 10 ~ Ushers: 1st Service-Keith Christen, Dave Dressler, Kim Dressler; 2nd Service: Scott Christenson, Larry Clausen, Shadd Dial, Calvin Dial; Acolytes: 1st Service- B. Peterson, I. Foust; 2nd Service: C. Bebo, A. Dawson; Greeters- 1st Service: Don & LaJean Hoof; 2nd Service: Paul Mohwinkel; Flowers: Debbie Bahr; Altar Guild: Tina Heiraas, Sharon Hecksel; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

Sun. May 3	8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION WORSHIP WITH CONFIRMATION
Mon. May 4	6:30 p.m.	LWML Meeting
Wed. May 6	Noon	Deadline for Bulletin
Sun. May 10	8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM

Acknowledgement:
 + A memorial for Ken and Karen Strei was received in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the Windows of Faith Campaign.

2026 Confirmation Class:

Layne Ryan Dressler—Revelation 2:10b—“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Aiden Lee Kosek—1 Peter 5:7—“Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

Addisyn Kaye Lind—Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.”

Elizabeth Mae Mike—Joshua 1:9—“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Brooklyn Renae Peterson—Matthew 19:26b—“With God all things are possible.”

Lucas Joey Schauer—Galatians 6:9-10—“Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Mikey Timothy Schauer—Revelation 2:10b—“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”