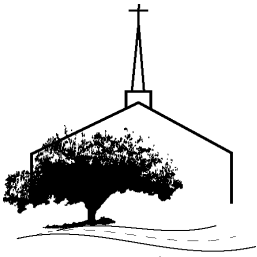


St. Paul Lutheran Church



*Loving others
into the Love of Christ*

**Sunday Worship
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday School & Bible Class
9:15 a.m.**

**Our Church Infant/Toddler
Nursery is available during
the 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
hour, and during our
10:30 a.m. Worship.**

**Church office
254.799.3211**

**On the Web
www.splcwaco.com**

**Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Brian Hesse
pastorhesse@splcwaco.com**

**Youth & Family Ministry
Josh McNamara
FamilyMinistry@splcwaco.com**

**Organist/Music Dir.
Steve Randolph**

**Administrative Asst.
Cindy Byrd
wecare@splcwaco.com**

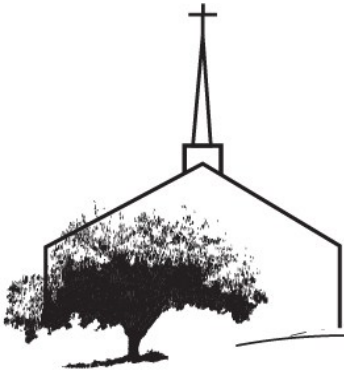
**Use your smartphone camera
to download our church app:**



Follow us on Social Media:



Confirmation Sunday



St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Church on the Highway

Loving others into the Love of Christ

Fifth Sunday of Easter/Confirmation Sunday May 3, 2026

“Be thoughtful - be silent - be reverent; for this is the house of the Lord. Before the service, speak to the Lord; During the service, let the Lord speak to you; After the service, speak to one another.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME! We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May God bless you as we gather before the throne of heaven. Please take a moment to complete a **“Registration Card”** (located in the hymnal rack). We utilize these cards to have a proper soul-accounting for worship, to keep our member records up-to-date, to collect prayer requests and/or updates, and as a means of communication of other needs through the office and pastoral staff. Please place your completed card in the card collection slot at the end of each pew (center aisle side), hand to an usher or place in the offering plate.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED TODAY!

God’s word says that in this Sacrament we receive Christ’s real Body and real Blood in, with, and under the Bread and Wine. Our Lord Jesus makes these 4 elements present so that we might receive the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith. Because Jesus expresses His love to us in such a real presence, He asks us to prepare ourselves and examine ourselves in the following manner before receiving His sacrament.

In Preparation To Receive the Sacrament:

1. Do I believe that I am a sinful person without any hope of eternal life except for God’s mercy to me found only through Jesus?
2. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God’s Son and also a true human being who is my personal Savior from all sin?
3. Do I believe that His true Body and Blood are really present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with the bread and the wine?
4. Do I hope by the power of the Holy Spirit to live a Godly life?

As you come to Holy Communion you are affirming a steadfast belief in the statements above. In this belief and by receiving the Sacrament you are affirming that Jesus Christ is your Savior and that you are in unity with those who commune with you. Following the above guidelines allows you to take Holy Communion in a worthy manner. Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s Body and Blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great harm and bring God’s wrath and judgment on themselves (1 Corinthians 11:27-30), we ask that any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession different from the congregations of **Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod** are requested to refrain from receiving the Sacrament. Each person may come forward for a blessing with hands folded as an indication to the pastor that they wish to receive a blessing. An alcohol-removed wine (distinguished by its lighter color) is offered in the center of each communion tray as an option. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request during distribution at the altar. The Common Cup will also be offered with each table. If you do not take an individual cup, the pastor will serve the Chalice. If you have any questions regarding the reception of Holy Communion please speak to a pastor or one of the elders of our congregation before the service.

FLOWERS were placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by our 2026 Confirmation Class.

AS WE GATHER

Lord God, heavenly Father, in Holy Baptism You began Your good work in our catechumens, and You have blessed their instruction and training in Your Word. We implore You to pour out Your Holy Spirit on their hearts and minds so that they will truly love and revere You, confess the faith with joy and boldness, endeavor to live according to Your commandments and praise and glorify You as their faithful God and Lord, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ORDER OF DIVINE WORSHIP

(Please silence your cell phones and mobile devices during our worship time.)

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN, 837: "Lift High the Cross"

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain
- 2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain
- 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain
- 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain
- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.
Text: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005286

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

INTROIT

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
People: his praise in the assembly of the godly!
Pastor: I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up
People: and have not let my foes rejoice over me.
Pastor: O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
People: and you have healed me.
Pastor: O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
People: you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.
Pastor: Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,
People: and give thanks to his holy name.
Pastor: For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.
People: Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
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.
Pastor: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
People: his praise in the assembly of the godly!

KYRIE *(congregation responses are sung)*

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "This Is the Feast"

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: 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.
People: Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Keep Me" (10:30 a.m. Service)

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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA VERSE

**Alleluia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

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

People: **Glory to You, 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."
¹²"Truly, 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."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Speak O Lord"

SERMON THEME: "Great Work" - John 14:12

Stand

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Nicene Creed (8:00 a.m. Service)

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, through the power of Christ's resurrection You adopt all who believe in Him. Receive us as Your newborn children and nourish our faith through the pure spiritual milk of Your Word, that we may dwell in Your presence forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Send laborers into Your harvest, Lord. Preserve Your ministers among us devoted to Your Word and to prayer. Give many servants to Your Church, that neither the preaching nor the care of Your people may fall into neglect or disregard. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, help parents to raise up their children to know You as their help and hope, that they may not put their trust in princes in whom there is no salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Holy God, Your power brought all things into being and still preserves what You have made. Bless Donald Trump, our president; the Congress of the United States; Gregg Abbott, our governor; and all elected and appointed civil servants. Lead them to honor You and Your purpose, establishing order and justice, encouraging virtue, and protecting all life. Give them wisdom and moderation to lead for the well-being of the nation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father of glory, Your Son declared Himself to be the way, the truth and the life. Bless all who have requested our prayers especially... May Christ Himself be their way of salvation, their truth amid doubt and their life amid death. Grant them a sure and steadfast hope in the good news that He has prepared a place for them with You, where pain and sickness are no more and all things are made new. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, in Christ You have made us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a people for Your possession. Preserve Your people in the one true faith, and grant that all who come to the Supper this day might do so with repentant hearts that thankfully receive Your Son's body and blood. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, we thank and praise You for Your servant Stephen, whom Your Son has received into His glory. May we imitate him in faith and love to speak Your truth with boldness, forgiving those who sin against us as Christ forgave His persecutors from the cross. When our last hour comes, let us fall asleep in Him and be born into eternal life, for the sake of Him who was born into our flesh to redeem it, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Lily B, Verse: Proverbs 16:3
Chloe G, Verse: Philippians 4:13
Wyatt H, Verse: John 3:16
Bryce P, Verse: Philippians 4:13
Eli T, Verse: Philippians 3:13
Adalynn W, Verse: Psalm 119:105
Emma W, Verse: Psalm 46:5

OFFERING

Stand

OFFERTORY

**What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *(Sung)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI *(sung)*

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Choir Anthem: "Keep Me" (8:00 a.m. Service)

Hymn, 566 By Grace I'm Saved

- 1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain:
By grace you too will life obtain.
- 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.

song continues on page 8

3 By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav'nly
throne.

4 By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
As long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in His Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done
Depends on grace - grace through His Son.

5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?

6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

Text: Christian Ludwig Scheidt, 1709-61; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Text: Public domain

"10,000 Reasons"

Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
10,000 reasons for my heart to find

Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship his holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
(pause)
10,000 years and then forever more

Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship his holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

I'll worship Your holy name.
I'll worship Your holy name.

"You Are My All in All"

You are my strength when I am weak
You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all
Seeking you as a precious jewel
Lord to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all

Jesus, Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame
Rising again I bless Your name
You are my all in all
When I fall down You pick me up
When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all

Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name

Music and Words by Dennis L. Jernigan; © 1990 by Shepherd's Heart Music; CCLI License # 1801824

Hymn, 660: "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

- 1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross.
Lift high His royal banner;
It must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry
His army He shall lead
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished,
And Christ is Lord indeed.
- 2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;
The trumpet call obey;
Stand forth in mighty conflict
In this His glorious day.
Let all His faithful serve Him
Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger
And strength to strength oppose.
- 3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;
Stand in His strength alone.
The arm of flesh will fail you,
Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor;
Each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger,
Be never wanting there.
- 4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;
The strife will not be long;
This day the din of battle,
The next the victor's song.
The soldiers, overcoming,
Their crown of life shall see
And with the King of Glory
Shall reign eternally.

Text: Public domain

Stand

POST-COMMUNION PRAISE: "Thank the Lord"

People: Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN TO DEPART, 739: “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

- 1 Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.
- 2 When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call;
Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.
- 3 When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone,
At the river I stand;
Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993

Text: © 1938 (renewed) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., admin. Alfred Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005286

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

Vacation Bible School

June 14-17, 2026



Registration is OPEN!

Scan to Register



We kindly ask all participating students and adults planning to attend the evening Bible Study to register by scanning the QR code, or visiting the church website (www.splcwaco.com).

This will allow us to plan materials and meals accordingly. If you have any questions, please call the church office (254) 799-3211.



The LWML is preparing a 70th Anniversary Cookbook



St. Paul LWML is excited to announce that we are creating a Keepsake Cookbook to honor the 70th anniversary of our beloved church. We hope you will help us by submitting your wonderful recipes. Since this is a keepsake, and we want to preserve our St. Paul heritage, we encourage you to add a little extra information along with the recipe(s) you submit. For example: are you a charter member, a child or a grandchild of a charter member, were you married, confirmed or baptized at St. Paul?

All typed or handwritten recipes must be received by May 17.
They can be dropped off in Jacqueline Uptmore's church mailbox.
If you have any questions, please reach out to her.



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 3-10, 2026

ATTENTION ALL 2026 ST. PAUL GRADUATES! We want to celebrate YOU, and give you a chance to brag about all of your accomplishments during your education! Please submit your graduate information by May 18, (please include: school of graduation, degree received, list of clubs, groups, sports participated, and any special awards, scholarships, or accolades received...and keep information as short and condensed as possible). This information will be published in the JUNE 2026 Newsletter. If you have any questions please contact the church office at wecare@splcwaco.com.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, JUNE 14-17:

☀️ **ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR VBS IS OPEN!** Please visit the [church website](#) or click/scan the QR code to the right to register your child(ren) age 3 (*must be potty-trained*) through those who have completed 5th Grade to attend Vacation Bible School.



☀️ **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS** are available in the church foyer. Please stop by and sign-up to help us with this HUGE community outreach event!

☀️ **NIGHTLY MEALS:** This year we are sharing the opportunity with other members outside of the Fellowship Committee to prepare and serve our family meal each evening. If your family or group would like to provide a meal, please select a date and sign-up today. If you have any questions about this, please see DCE Josh or Angel Breton.

☀️ **VBS VOLUNTEER TRAINING:** We will be having our VBS Volunteer Training on Sunday, May 31. Feel free to grab yourself a plate of food during our congregational potluck meal and then to head down to the Parish Hall, where we will share the details about our exciting Rainforest Falls VBS program and what your role will be for it.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are looking for volunteers to help with serving lemonade following 10:30 a.m. Worship Services from late Spring until early Fall when the temperatures change. If you would be interested in helping with this ministry, please contact the church office.

MAY YOUTH EVENTS:

⇒ **May 17, High School Youth Night:** We will be having our High School Youth Night on Sunday, May 17th in the Youth Room from 5-7pm. Students in grades 9th-12th grade and their friends are invited to join us as we spend time growing in our faith and growing closer to one another in Christian fellowship.

⇒ **May 24, Off-Site Youth Event:** We are planning to have our off-site joint-Youth event at the Waco Rage Room on Sunday, May 24th, as we explore the words of Jesus in John 8:36. **Students will need to register in advance with Josh McNamara, if they plan to attend this off-site joint-Youth event.** Stay tuned for more info and details regarding this amazing, upcoming event!

If you have any questions about upcoming Youth Events or Activities, please see DCE Josh.

CHURCH POTLUCK LUNCH: Everyone is invited to join us in the Family Center on Sunday, May 31, for a Church Potluck lunch after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Everyone please bring your favorite dish, casserole, salad, and/or dessert to share and stay after worship to enjoy fellowship and fun with our church family!

CYBER-SAFETY WORKSHOP: Save the date and plan to join us immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, June 28**, for an engaging cyber-safety workshop focused on helping you stay safe and confident online. We'll show you how to recognize common scams, including suspicious emails, text messages, and phone calls, and what to do if something doesn't feel right. You'll learn simple tips for creating strong, memorable passphrases, safer ways to use the internet for banking and shopping, and how to adjust social media settings to keep personal information private. We'll also explain new scams that use artificial intelligence, such as fake voices or videos, so you can protect yourself and your loved ones with confidence. Watch for more information coming soon. If you have any questions, please contact Jeremy Lange.

PORTALS OF PRAYER: We have found an outlet for our used/outdated Portals of Prayer again! Once you finish with your quarterly prayer book, you may bring them to the church office or ***leave in the collection box in the church foyer (beneath the information table)*** and they will be donated to Tri-Cities Ministries to be shared at their community outreach events. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Classes for All Ages

Please join us for Sunday School and Bible Classes at 9:15 a.m.

Adult Bible Study (Albers Family Life Center)

Join us as we finish up our study examining the selected readings from the Book of Acts for the Easter season (through mid-May). Watch for information about our next study topic coming soon!

ASK PASTOR HESSE: Outside Pastor Hesse's office you will find a box to place any questions that you would like Pastor Hesse to answer during the Adult Bible Study class on Sunday mornings.

Men's Bible Class (classroom behind the Parish Hall)

This class will begin a new study on Sunday, May 3; *Great Characters of the Bible*, written by Dr. Alan B. Stringfellow. We will learn how God used ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary tasks.

Ladies Bible Class (Conference Room)

This class is going through the study, *Strong and Courageous*, by Donna Snow. Life is full of conflict, daunting tasks, and roadblocks. Few people experience this as viscerally as Joshua did as he was called to lead God's people Israel into the Promised Land. Join us for this verse-by-verse Bible study looking at the life of Joshua and see how you, too, can be strong and courageous amidst any challenges you face.

Grades Nursery - Kindergarten: Simply Loved (classrooms)

This class teaches children to love Jesus and each other, created with the truth found in 1 John 4:7 in mind which says, 'Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.'

Grades 1-4: Bible Basics (classroom)

This class is learning how to use the Holy Bible and where to find their favorite Bible stories and characters.

Grade 5: Catechesis Training (classroom)

This class undergoes instruction in the Catechism and how to apply it to their daily lives.

Grades 6-8: Select Devotions (classroom)

This class is learning from a devotion study in preparation for new curriculum.

High School Students (Youth Room)

High school students meet in the Youth Room every Sunday for Bible Class! This will be a great time of study, building relationships, fellowship and fun! *Breakfast is usually served.*

College Students (classroom behind the Parish Hall)

After joining breakfast in the Youth Room, college students move to their classroom to study the Sunday Scripture readings used in worship.

Other Bible Study Opportunities:

College Student Evening Bible Study/Fellowship (LDLT - Lutherans Doing Life Together)

The LDLT group will have their End of Semester Dinner this evening. They will resume meeting weekly for Bible Study and fellowship in the Fall semester.

Youth Confirmation/Catechesis Training and Music (grades 6-8)

This morning we will have The Rite of Confirmation for our 8th grade students who have completed their training.

Classes for Grades 6-8 will resume meeting the Fall.

There's a place for EVERYONE to be immersed in God's Word and fellowship with other Christians!

MEETING AND ACTIVITY NOTICES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 3-10, 2026

SUNDAY, MAY 3 ~ Confirmation Sunday

Scripture Reading for today: Luke 18-21

8:00 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

9:15 a.m.: Bible Study for All Grades (in various locations in the building)

10:30 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary; Confirmation of 8th Grade Students

12:00 p.m.: Williams Family (Albers Family Life Center)

MONDAY, MAY 4

Scripture Reading for today: 1 Samuel 21-24

10:00 a.m.: Quilting Group (Parish Hall)

5:30 p.m.: LDLT College Group (Rogers 207, BU Campus)

7:00 p.m.: AA/Al-Anon Meetings (Parish Hall/Classrooms)

TUESDAY, MAY 5

Scripture Reading for today: 1 Samuel 25-28

10:00 a.m.: Tri-Cities Ministries (Parish Hall/Classrooms)

12:00 p.m.: Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry (parking lot/building)

7:00 p.m.: AA Meetings (Parish Hall/Classrooms)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

Scripture Reading for today: 1 Samuel 29-31

12:00 p.m.: Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry (parking lot/building)

6:30 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MAY 7

Scripture Reading for today: 2 Samuel 1-4

7:00 a.m.: Lawn & Building Maintenance

12:00 p.m.: Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry (parking lot/building)

7:00 p.m.: AA/Al-Anon Meetings (Parish Hall/Classrooms)

FRIDAY, MAY 8

Scripture Reading for today: 2 Samuel 5-8

7:00 p.m.: AA Meeting (Parish Hall/Classrooms)

SATURDAY, MAY 9

Scripture Reading for today: Psalms 46-48

2:00 p.m.: Galler Wedding

SUNDAY, MAY 10 ~ Happy Mother's Day

Scripture Reading for today: Luke 22-24

8:00 a.m.: Worship in the Sanctuary

9:15 a.m.: Bible Study for All Grades (in various locations in the building)

10:30 a.m.: Worship in the Sanctuary

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026

8:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.....	129
9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class/Children's Sunday School	139/28
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship.....	114
Live Stream Sunday Worship.....	38