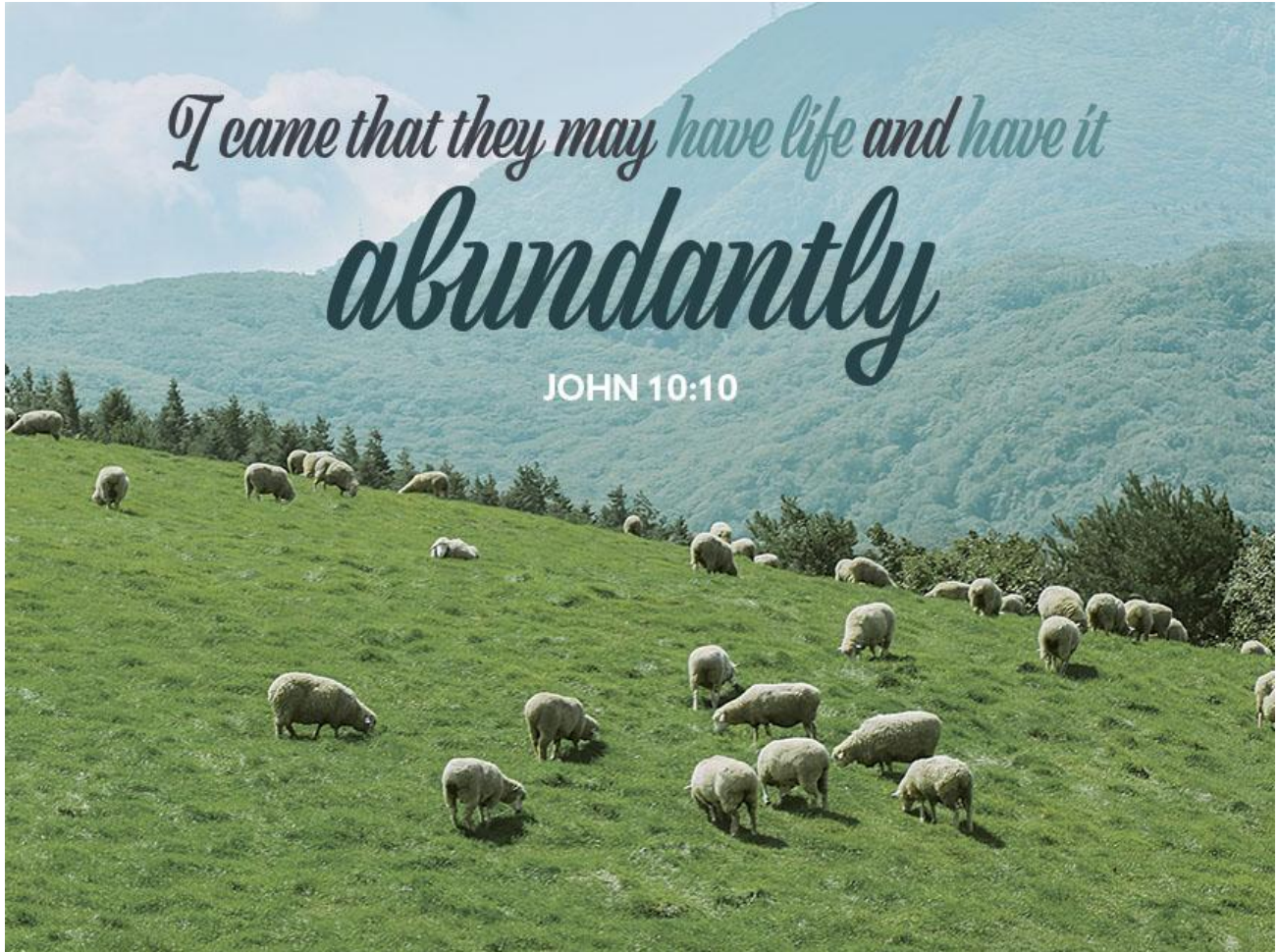


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 26th, 2026



WELCOME

To our **Church Family**

We're Glad You're Here.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag. For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

You are welcome at the table!

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward. Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

Altar Flowers

The **Altar flowers** were given today by Nancy & Dan Lint in honor of their birthdays.

Introduction

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 2:42-47

The believers' common life

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (*Ps. 23:1*)

1 Peter 2:19-25

Follow the shepherd, even in suffering

John 10:1-10

Christ the shepherd

Today's Hymns from the Tower

Church Carillon

Prelude: Arioso, BWV 156- Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Richard Evert, clarinet & Terese Houston, clarinet

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb! Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us
beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle
rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We
give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for
joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down
barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new
creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and
forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing ELW 807

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 23

¹ The LORD¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not¹ be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down¹ in green pastures**

and leads me be- | side still waters.

³ You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. R

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. R**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 10:1-10

The Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of our Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Lord’s My Shepherd

ELW 778

CREED .

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world,
let us pray for the needs of all creation.

After each petition the following response is given:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of
new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY

Will Bow
Chancel Choir

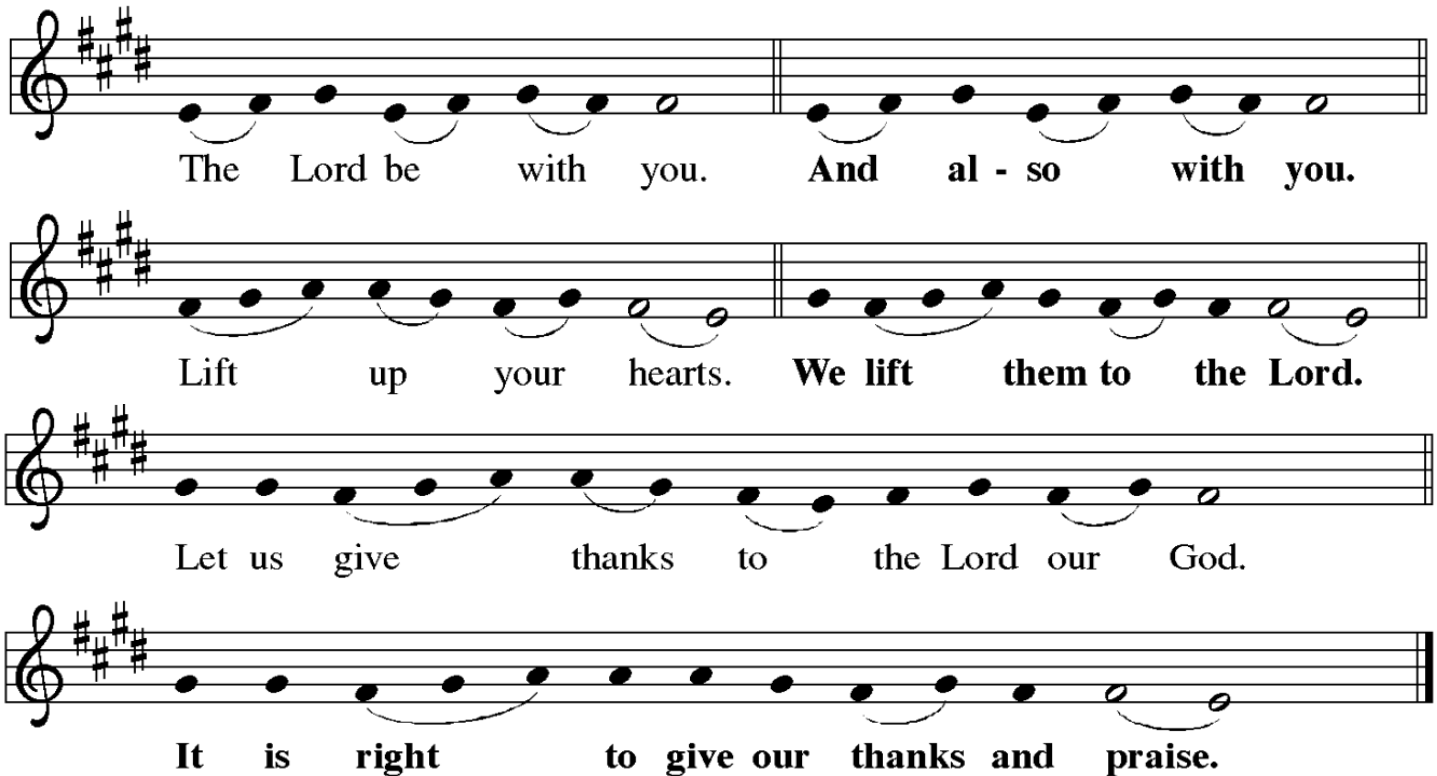
Frederick Chatfield (b. 1950)

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

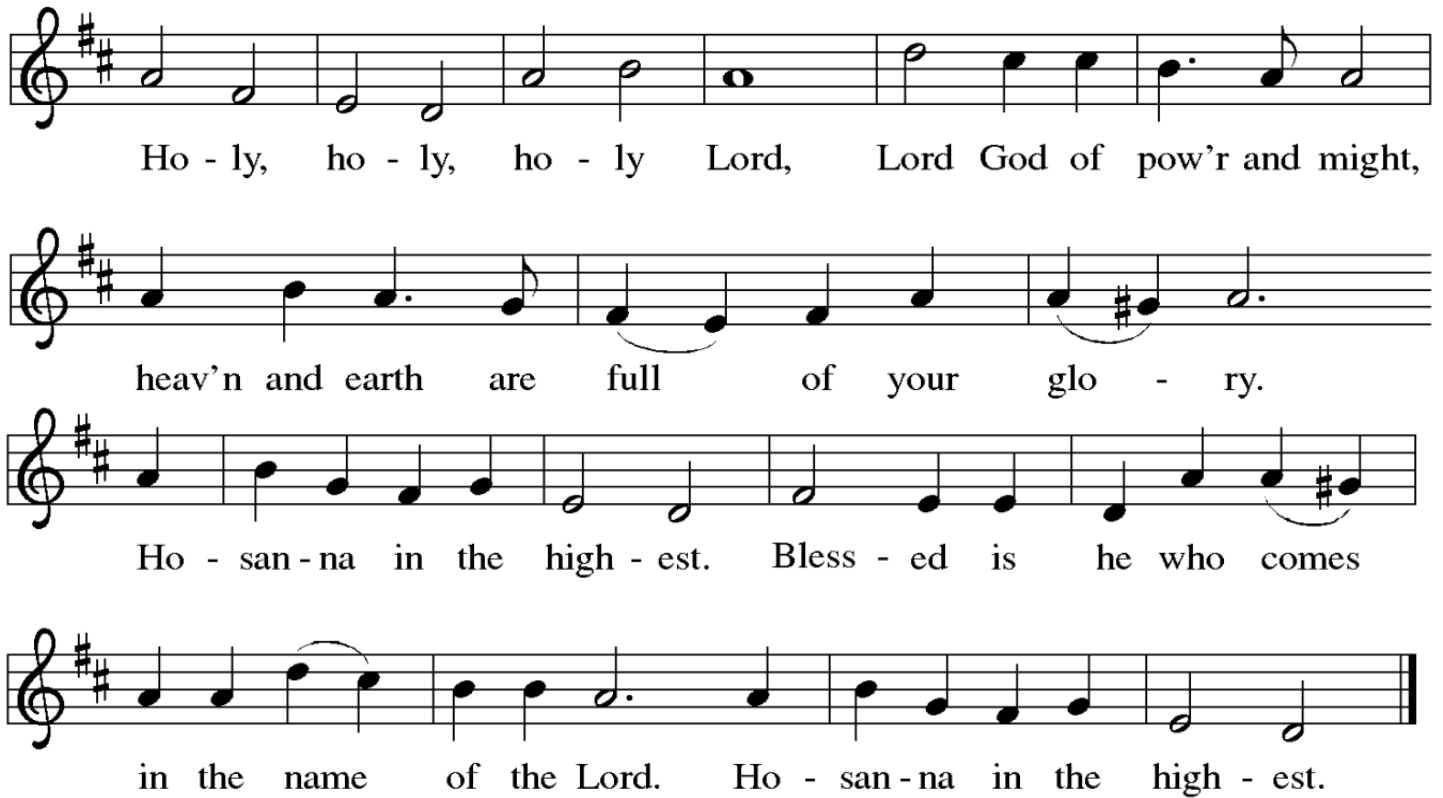
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places.... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table of new life.
 Receive the risen Lord.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Ave Verum Corpus Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
 Mr. Evert & Ms. Houston

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
 Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
 Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making
 all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies,
 and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing ELW 544

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the
 dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✚ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude: Fantasia on Old Hundredth

Lynn Trapp (b. 1963)

In our prayers today we will remember

Judee Reed, Paul Staver, Richard Green, Cindy Lash, *Linda Wentling, Rick Theiss, Maggie Paul, Amy Williams, Nancy Lint, Steve Kress, Judy Hall, Kenneth & Jean Dexter, Anna Langenfeld, Arthur Barrett, Karen Daily. Troy, Carol, Lynnette, & Mark*

Adult Sunday School

2nd Floor of the Parish Hall

The Book of Ruth

"...Blessed be he by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead." (Ruth 2:20)

During April we continue our study in the book of Ruth and notice the way God uses the kindness and care of others to show the Lord's character and reveal God's ultimate purpose of redemption through Jesus Christ. The faithfulness and compassion of these in the story inspire us to demonstrate the same. The class meets on the top floor of the Parish Hall at 11:30 each Sunday morning. An elevator is available for easy access.

Bell Rehearsal

The bells will ring rehearse April 29, May 6, and May 13 in preparation to ring on May 17

Rehearsals to begin for the St. Paul's Steelband

The St. Paul's Steelband will be rehearsing on Wednesdays from 6-7PM. If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to Eleanor or catch her after service. There's no need to bring anything for the first rehearsal. For those of you that just want to watch and listen, you are free to stay for as long as you like. We can't wait to get started making music together! For more information, please contact Ellie: 330-400-8543.

**On Bell Rehearsal Weeks, we will meet Sundays from 1:00-2:00 pm*

Cathedral Concert Series

Sunday, May 3, 2:00 pm
The Canton Symphony Chorus
“A Program dedicated to Mothers”



BLOOD DRIVES
@ ST. PAUL'S

MONDAY
May 4th
NOON - 6 PM

1 PINT SAVES 3 LIVES

*The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give Blood.*

Our Next Blood Drive is

May 4th from Noon to 6 PM

You can schedule an appointment at the link below

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/>

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
MAY 17TH, 2026
FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MAY 17TH, 2026
FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Save the date

Game Night

May 17th @ 5PM

Game Night-May 17th

Join us in the lounge at 5:00 pm for a fun night of games and fellowship.

Bring your favorite board or card game(s), beverage, and an appetizer to share. Bingo for prizes will also be available.

Capital Campaign Report

With joy and gratitude, we continue to celebrate the completion of our new entrance and bathrooms. For the past nine months, these improvements have already been a blessing—offering a warm welcome and greater accessibility to all who enter. Thank you for the generosity and faith that made this possible.

Yet our work of caring for God’s house continues.

As we look ahead, several significant needs have emerged:

- **Parish Hall Window Wells Repair** – Estimated cost: \$169,000
Addressing these issues is essential to protect the integrity of the building and prevent further damage.
- **Completion of the Heating & Cooling Conversion (Parish Hall)** –
Estimated cost: \$150,000
Finishing this project will ensure a comfortable, efficient, and usable space for ministry year-round.
- **Organ Maintenance and Restoration** – Estimated cost: \$100,000–\$200,000
Our organ plays a vital role in worship, and necessary maintenance will preserve its voice for future generations.

These are substantial projects, but they are also opportunities—opportunities to care for the spaces where ministry happens, where lives are touched, and where the Gospel is proclaimed.

Through your continued generosity, we can preserve and strengthen this place of welcome, safety, and worship. Together, we are ensuring that our church remains a living witness to God’s grace for generations to come.

Thank you for your faithfulness and your partnership in this shared ministry.

Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the “My Church” by Pushpay.

It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing **STPLC APP**. Then click on the St Paul's logo—that's it.



My Church
by Pushpay



Assisted Hearing Devices Available

Four assisted listening devices are available at the sound system table in the back of the sanctuary at the beginning of worship. Please see Jim Johnson or John Stanko if you need assistance with these devices.



You can also use your smartphone to access the system. Go to your app store and download the **WaveCAST** app. Then connect to the sanctuary Wi-Fi: **Network:** sound media
Password: Sound127

Community Social Media Pages

Facebook & Instagram, Search “*Massillon Lutheran Churches*”

Facebook

“*St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon*”
or “*Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's*”

Children's Activity Bulletin

April 26th, 2026

The Shepherd's Voice

John 10:1-10

Word Search Puzzle

H I G K T G V L F T Z Z T E Z
F O L L O W R E A L I M S F T
V E S H E E P A X I J M T L U
R Z S A V E D D E F N U H I J
A Y O E N H X S D E D E I S R
T C S Q A I N E T D
A L H E M G O F E M
F K E E E P B G N R
P E P L V N E A H O
F A H M K Y C T G B
P W E F Y R Q K Q S Y B E L B
E H R S O J Y J H N B H X E E
N D D O T A V A X C R B E Y R
M L V O I C E J G K N O W I W
M S T R A N G E R J E O F R H



| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| LIFE KNOW SHEEP | LEADS STRANGER ROBBER | NAME THIEF GATE | PEN LISTEN SHEPHERD | VOICE FOLLOW SAVED |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|

Children's Activity Bulletins

Crayons and Children's Activity Bulletins are available at the side entrance. These are a fun way to spread today's Gospel to our younger ones.

Thank you to those serving today:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Presiding Minister | Rev. Mark Kreemer |
| Director of Music | Dr. Abigail Haake |
| Assisting Minister | Scott Larson |
| Lector | Larry & Kim Oberlin |
| Greeters | Craig Maurer |
| Communion Assistants | Dwight Butler & Jim Johnson |
| Sacristan | Kathryn Myers |
| Ushers | Greg & Lynda Klein John & Thomas Haake |
| Acolytes | Scott Larson, Thomas Haake |
| Soundboard | Jim Johnson |
| Video/Live-Stream | John Stanko |

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GATHERING HYMN Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing ELW 807
Public Domain

HYMN OF THE DAY THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD ELW 778
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SENDING HYMN: Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing ELW 544
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Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW 807



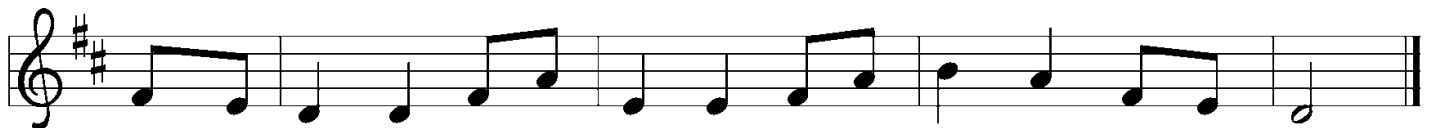
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

The Lord's My Shepherd



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
 4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;
 5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
 my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
 My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650

Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

ELW 544



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.

Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.

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