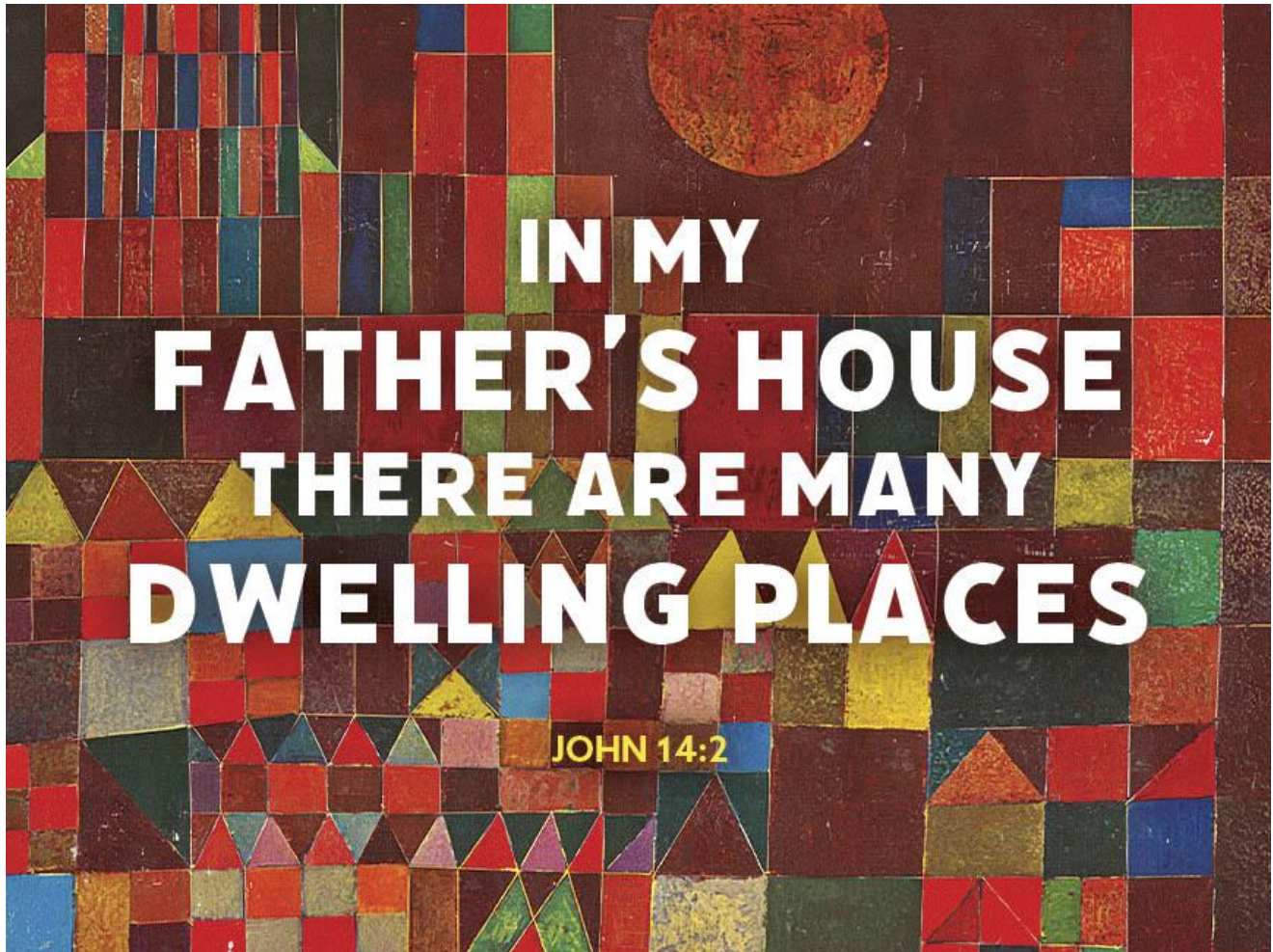


# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 Dick & Robin Cordes in memory of Dora & Joe Chercony.

### **Introduction**

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

### **Readings and Psalm**

#### **Acts 7:55-60**

*The martyrdom of Stephen*

#### **Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (*Ps. 31:5*)

#### **1 Peter 2:2-10**

*God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts*

#### **John 14:1-14**

*Christ the way, truth, and life*

## 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.

## 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.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

<sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;  
deliver me | in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> **Incline your | ear to me;**  
**make haste to de- | liver me.**

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my  
stronghold;

for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup> **Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**  
**for you are my tow- | er of strength. R**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

<sup>15</sup> **My times are | in your hand;**  
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute**  
**me.**

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine up- | on your servant;  
save me in your | steadfast love.” **R**

## **Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow  
into salvation—<sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and  
precious in God’s sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a  
spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to  
God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup> and

“A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own  
people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of  
darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

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 14:1-14

The Gospel according to John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter

**Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the

Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do 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, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

**SERMON**

**Rev. Mark Kreemer**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

O Jesus I Have Promised

ELW 810

**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.**

## 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** Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life- Thomas Keesecker (b. 1956)  
Chancel Choir

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as gives us breath: Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Life, as killeth death. Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a Light, as shows a feast: Such a Feast, as mends in length: Such a Strength, as makes his guest. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a Joy, as none can move: Such a Love, as none can part: Such a Heart, as joys in love.*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## 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.



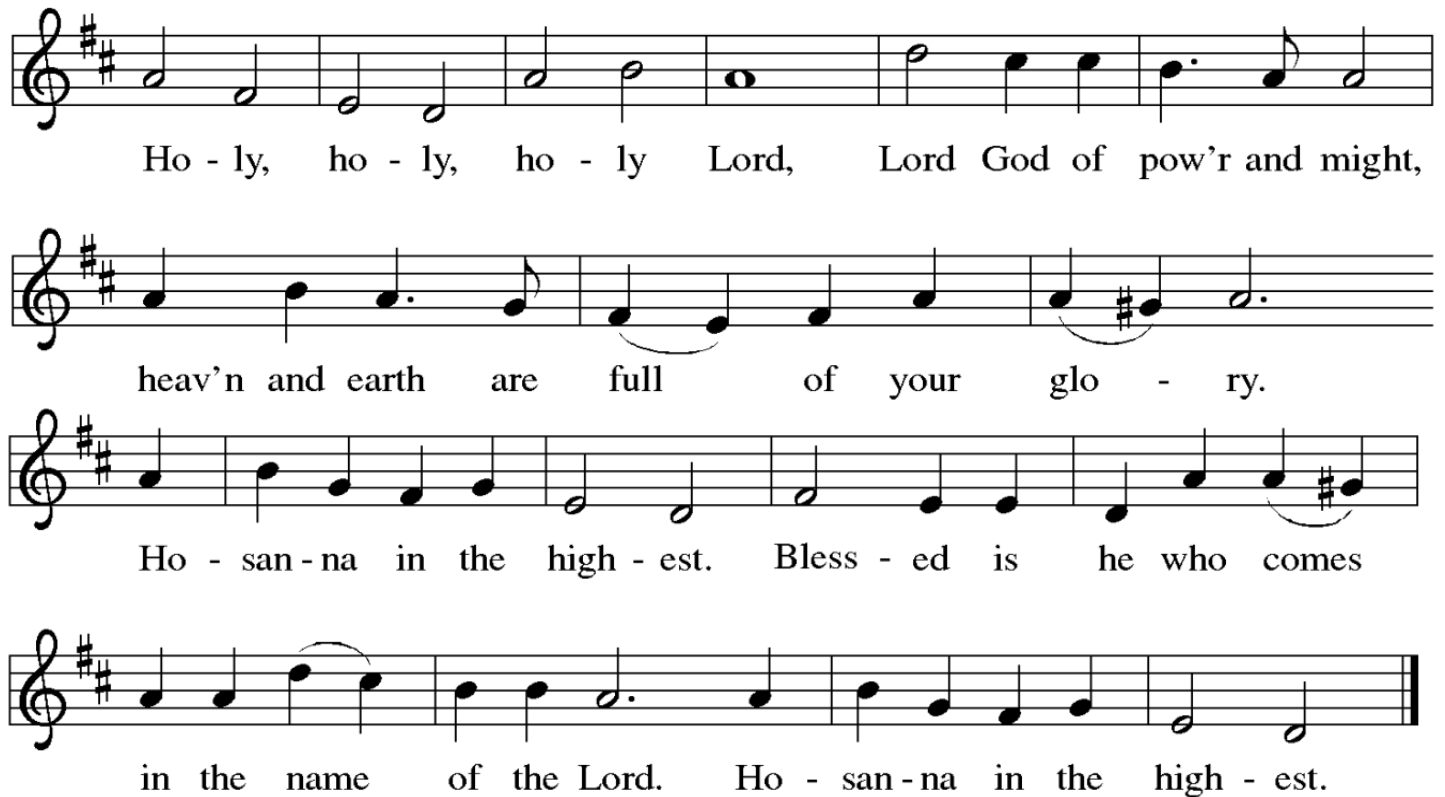
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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**                  Commonwealth Is God's Commandment          Bulletin Pg 16

**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:**                  Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing          ELW 389

**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:** Fugue in C Major, BuxWV 174 (“Jig”)- Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Phyllis Staver, organist

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### **In our prayers today we will remember**

Judee Reed, Paul Staver, Richard Green, Abbie Deuble, *Linda Wentling, Rick Theiss, Maggie Paul, Amy Williams, Nancy Lint, Steve Kress, Judy Hall, Kenneth & Jean Dexter, Anna Langenfeld, Arthur Barrett, Karen Daily, Denise Korn.*

## **Adult Sunday School**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Parish Hall

### **Redeemed for What?**

*You were bought with a price...* (1 Corinthians 6:20a)

As we continue through Eastertide, we will reflect on the meaning of redemption. If we believe the death and resurrection of Jesus redeemed us, perhaps we must ask, now what? For what purpose have I been redeemed? What difference should it make in how I live now? Please join us for Bible study and conversation as we meet together at 11:30 on Sunday morning, top floor Parish Hall. 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 for the St. Paul’s Steelband**

*We will not rehearse this week due to the concert.* We will rehearse on Sundays from 1-3pm for the next two Sundays, then move back to our Wednesday 6 pm rehearsals. 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.

## Cathedral Concert Series

Sunday, May 3, 2:00 pm

The Canton Symphony Chorus

“A Program dedicated to Mothers”



A graphic for a blood drive. It features a stethoscope and a red heart on a wooden background. Text includes "BLOOD DRIVES @ ST. PAUL'S", "MONDAY May 4th NOON - 6 PM", and "1 PINT SAVES 3 LIVES" with an image of hands holding a heart.

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

**Our Next Blood Drive is**

**May 4<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 6 PM**

You can schedule an appointment at the link below

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

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

A poster for a congregational meeting. It features the text "CONGREGATIONAL MEETING" and "MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE". A red circular stamp says "Save the date". The background is a light grey wall with a wooden floor at the bottom.A collage of game-related images including a chess piece, cards, a board game, and a bingo card. Text includes "Game Night" and "May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 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

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026



John 14:1-24

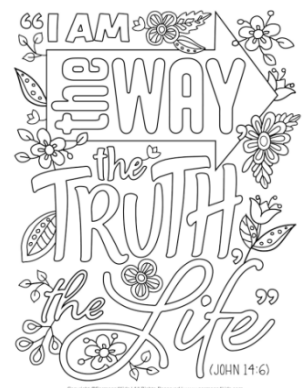
### Word Search Puzzle

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

## 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.

Coloring Page



## Thank you to those serving today:

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	<b>Rev. Mark Kreemer</b>
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Dr. Abigail Haake</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Kathryn Myers</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Karl Kalk</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Jack &amp; Marilyn Norton</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Jackie Pritchett &amp; Gary Collard</b>
<b>Sacristan</b>	<b>Sue Ambrosic</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>John Lieberman, Rev Lynn Williamson</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Scott Larson, Thomas Haake</b>
<b>Soundboard</b>	<b>Jim Johnson</b>
<b>Video/Live-Stream</b>	<b>John Stanko</b>

### **Hymns, Liturgies, and Live stream permissions granted by the following:**

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**GATHERING HYMN**      Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation      ELW 645  
Public Domain

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      O Jesus I Have Promised      ELW 810  
Public Domain

**Communion**      Commonwealth Is God's Commandment      ACS 1036  
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**SENDING HYMN:**      Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing      ELW 389  
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# Commonwealth Is God's Commandment

ACS 1036



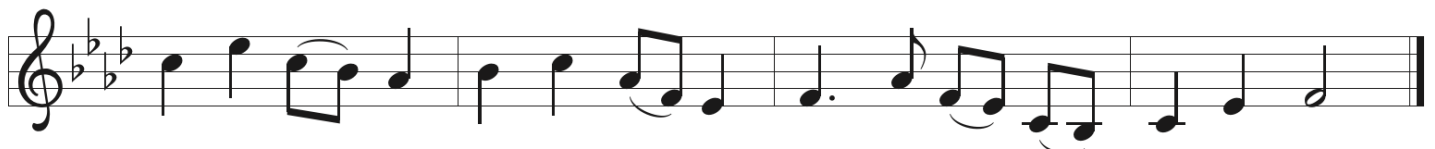
1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.  
2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,  
3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.  
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.  
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



*Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha:* com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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# Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

ELW 645



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and  
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of  
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from  
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er  
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est  
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter  
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



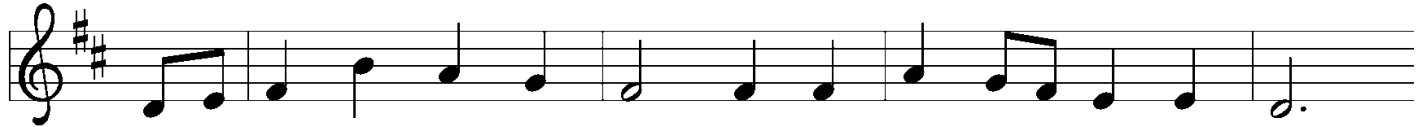
help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.  
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.  
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

# O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW 810



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.  
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still  
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.  
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.  
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.  
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,  
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.  
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.  
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

# Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW 389



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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