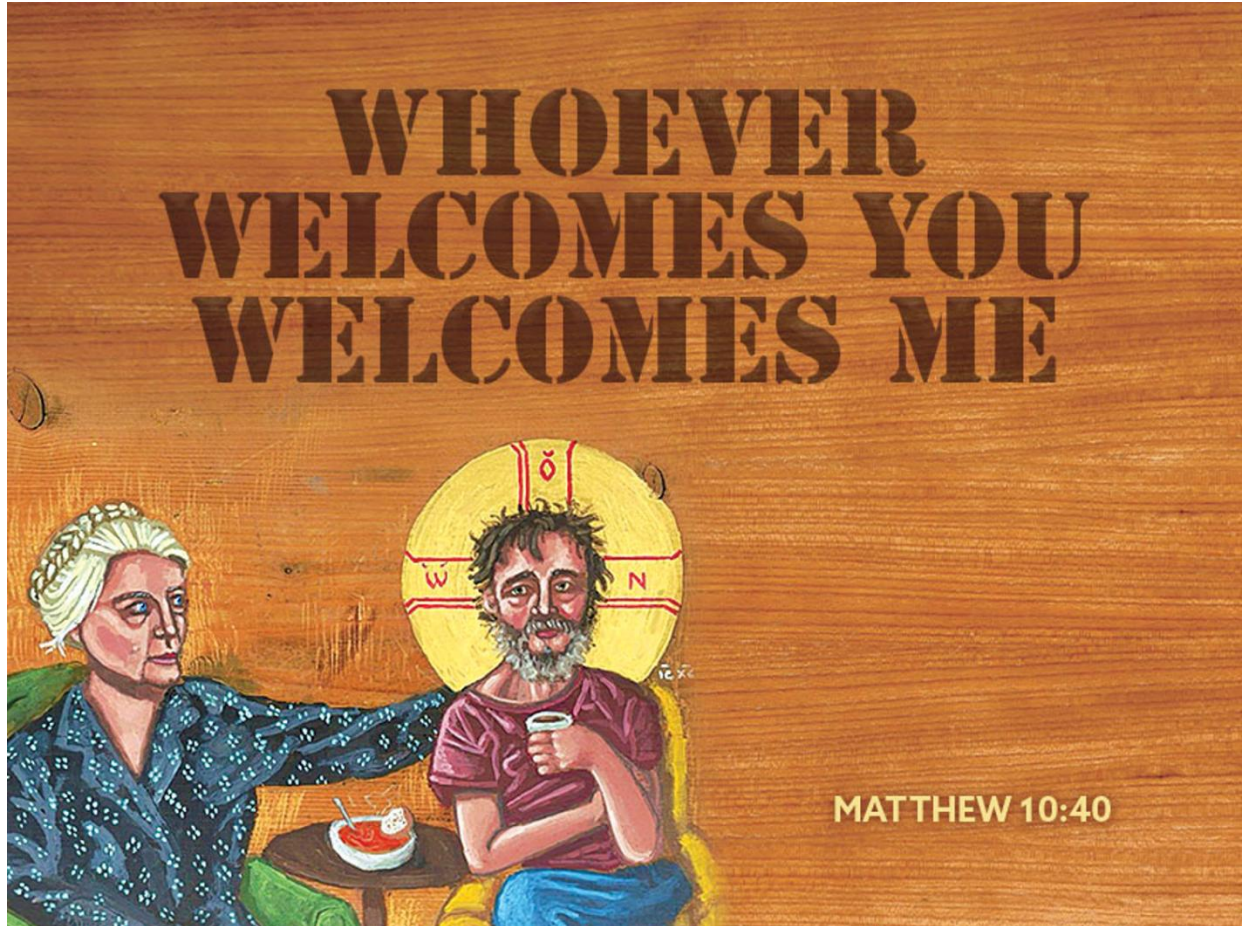


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

June 28th, 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 Leslie & Dick Longworth in honor of Lillian's 13th birthday

Introduction

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome..

Readings and Psalm

Jeremiah 28:5-9

The test of a true prophet

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing. (*Ps. 89:1*)

Romans 6:12-23

No longer under law but under grace

Matthew 10:40-42

Welcome Christ in those he sends

Prelude: O, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus (EBENEZER)-
Blooming Strings Quartet

Thomas John Williams, 1869-1944
Arr. Daniel DiMarino

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Build a Longer Table

pg. 20

GREETING

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.

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9

⁵ The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD and all the exiles. ⁷ But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸ The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹ As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

- ¹ Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.
- ² **For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished forever;**
you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.
- ³ “I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:
- ⁴ **‘I will establish your | line forever,**
and preserve your throne for all | generations.’” R
- ¹⁵ Happy are the people who know the | festal shout!
They walk, O LORD, in the light | of your presence.
- ¹⁶ **They rejoice daily | in your name;**
they are jubilant | in your righteousness.
- ¹⁷ For you are the glory | of their strength,
and by your favor our might | is exalted.
- ¹⁸ **Truly, our shield belongs | to the LORD;**
our king to the Holy | One of Israel. R

Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23

¹² Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

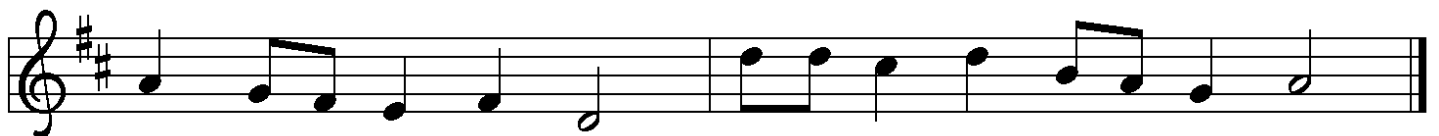
The word of the Lord.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 10th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said to the twelve:] 40 “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, 42 and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The Gospel of our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY Lord, Speak to Us That We May Speak ELW 676

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

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

After each petition the following response is given:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

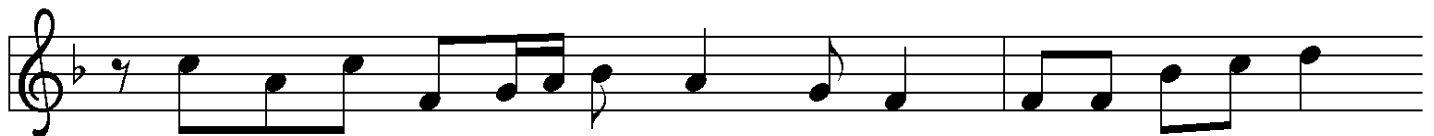
The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY

Brother James' Air


arr. Dale Wood



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

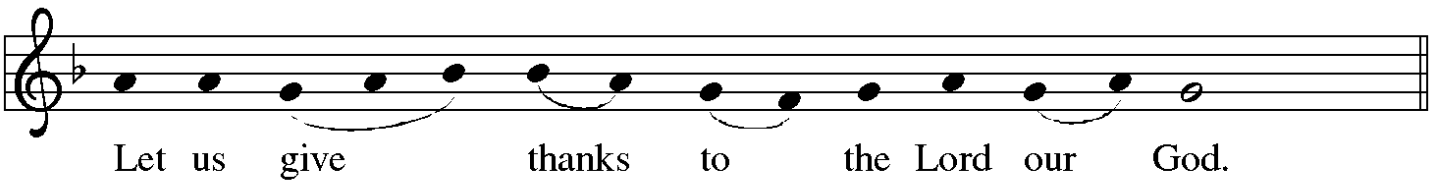
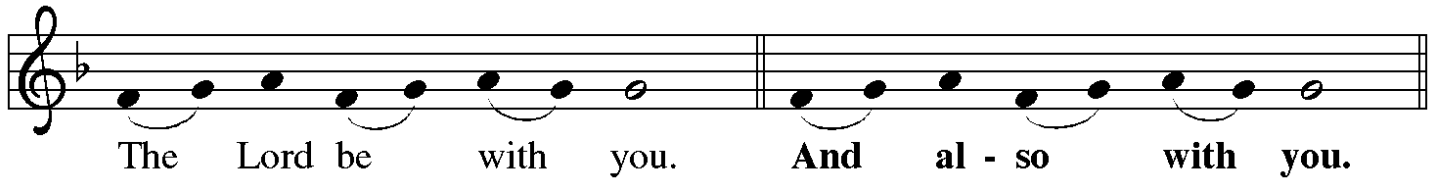
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:





san-na. 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.

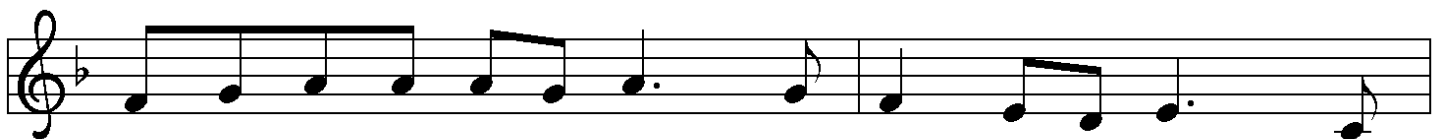
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!



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.

Communion This Is My Father's World (TERRA BEATA)
 Maltbie D. Babcock (1858-1901)/ Arr. DiMarino
 Ave Maria - Franz Schubert 1979-1828
 Blooming Strings Quartet

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.
 Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: To Be Your Presence ELW 546

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (BRADBURY)
 Henry F. Lyte (1793-1847)/Arr. DiMarino
 Blooming Strings Quartet

In our prayers today we will remember

Jan Hawley, Bob Fox, Lynn Williamson, Cindy Lash, Bob & Marlene Rupp, , Judee Reed, Paul Staver, Richard Green, Abbie Deuble, *Linda Wentling, Eric & Rick Theiss, Maggie Paul, Amy Williams, Steve Kress, Judy Hall, Kenneth & Jean Dexter, Anna Langenfeld, Karen Daily, Denise Korn.*

Music Notes:

Today's guest musicians form the Blooming Strings Quartet. They are: Kayla Brant, violin I; Cynthia Snyder, Violin II; Barb Phelps-Hutson, Viola; and Carol Butler, cello. The Blooming Strings Quartet is comprised of current or past teachers, a group of friends who have journeyed together over the years in the Alliance Symphony Orchestra and the Tuscarawas Philharmonic.

Composer, music producer, arranger, music educator, and music minister Daniel DiMarino holds a music composition and violin performance degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with Keith Fitch and Olga Dubossarskaya Kaler and graduated in the class of 2022. He also studied film scoring at the IU Jacobs School of Music with Larry Groupé and Steven Wayne Thomas. DiMarino was selected as the 2018 Marvin Hamlisch International Film Scoring Contest youth winner and went on to pursue music for media during his studies.

DiMarino also has had a growing passion for educational music, being selected to compose a custom work for the Canton Youth Symphony for the 2022 spring performance and receiving a feature by Clifford Hall in Strings Magazine in the 2025 July/August issue. DiMarino is currently the composer-in-residence for StringTime, a nonprofit organization in the greater D.C. area, founded by Lourdes de la Peña, with the goal of providing stringed instrument education for young students. So far, DiMarino has composed over 50 original short pieces for the organization to use for student instruction.

DiMarino serves as the Minister of Music at Saving Grace Bible Church in Venice, Florida, where he hopes to lead and grow the music ministry over the next several years.

Rehearsals for the St. Paul's Steelband

Are you needing some island vibes this summer?

Come join the St. Paul's Steelband as we learn about the music and culture of Trinidad!

We meet on Wednesdays from 6-7pm in the education building. No music experience is required and those of all ages are welcome.

Nervous about your first rehearsal or just curious but can't come to class? See Eleanor before or after service to set up a free demo lesson!



Join us for Fireworks on the Lawn! July 3rd @ Dusk

Bring your friends, neighbors, and strangers as we celebrate 250 years.

We'll have drinks and snacks on the West lawn.

Church Picnic – Aug. 2nd Following Worship

We will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs with an ice cream bar as a special treat.

Please bring a covered dish according to your last name.

A-F –side dish

G-N –dessert

O-Z –salad or appetizer

We will have special music from Ellie playing the steel drum.

After you have plenty to eat, you can join in on the fun outside.

There will be games on the lawn including a corn hole tournament with prizes.

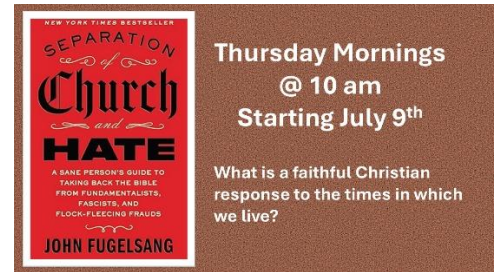
Note: The Fellowship Committee will be in the kitchen to accept food before church



Summer Read & Conversation Opportunity

Thursday Mornings at 10 am Starting in July

Over the past several months, many people have asked an important question: What is a faithful Christian response to the times in which we live? Others have wondered how we can speak with family members, friends, neighbors, and fellow Christians who may see the world very differently than we do.



This summer, I invite those who are interested to read the book *The Separation of Church and Hate* together. The book explores the intersection of faith, politics, culture, and Christian witness in today's world. It raises challenging questions about how followers of Jesus are called to live with both conviction and compassion.

This conversation will not be for everyone, and that is perfectly okay. The goal is not political agreement, nor is it to debate winners and losers. Rather, the hope is to create space for thoughtful reflection, respectful conversation, and faithful listening.

As Christians, we are called to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). That means we can hold differing opinions while still treating one another with dignity, grace, and respect. Our congregation will continue to be a place where questions may be asked honestly and where people are valued as brothers and sisters in Christ, even when perspectives differ.



Have you checked out our website lately?

www.stpaulsmassillon.org

Find out upcoming events, the newsletter, calendar, concert information, Worship Bulletins, lectionary notes, livestream the services, history of our church, and much, much more!

Annual Congregational Meeting

August 16th

Following Worship – Please plan to participate





Let us know you are here.

Please sign the St. Paul's Friendship Register at the end of your pew.

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.



My Church
by Pushpay



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.

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*”

Coloring Page



I can make others feel welcome by being friendly.

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.

Children’s Activity Bulletin

June 28th, 2026

“Welcome!”

Mathew 10:40-42

Word Search Puzzle

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

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Assisting Minister	Patty Long
Lector	Marcia Wright
Greeters	Gary Collard
Communion Assistants	Lynda & Greg Klein
Sacristan	Sandi Bennett
Ushers	Eric & Carla Myers Shane Jackson, Mark Waltz
Acolytes	Scott Larson, Thomas Haake
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

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GATHERING HYMN Build a Longer Table pg. 19

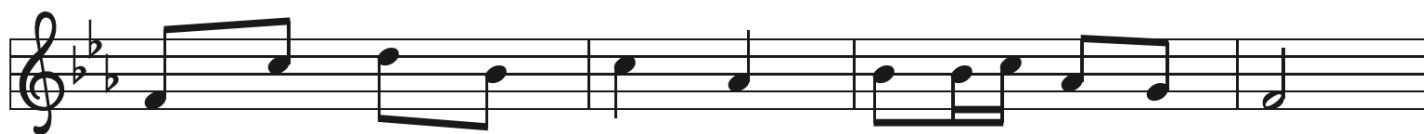
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HYMN OF THE DAY Lord, Speak to Us That We May Speak ELW 676
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SENDING HYMN: To Be Your Presence ELW 546

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Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak

ELW 676



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
 4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
 pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
 til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810–1856

To Be Your Presence

ELW 546



1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -
2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the
3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your



pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy
poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the



ev - er near,
right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!
love ex - pressed,
church, re - joice,

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

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