

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church & School



5th Sunday of Easter Confirmation May 3, 2026

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TUNE IN TO “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” TODAY

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler~ “Planning is Everything”

Offer up your plans to God in prayer and see what God does with them. Let your plans become prayers that lead you to praise.
(Psalm 146:3-4)

Sundays on: KSUM - 11 am • WCCO - 6 am • KBEW - 8:30 am

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS with today’s order of service and LSB Large Print Hymnals are available on the ushers’ cabinets (or ask an usher for assistance). Please return the LSB Hymnals to the ushers’ cabinets or an usher after the service.

THIS MONTH’S BIBLE REFERENCES are sponsored by Lowell Spee and Bonnie Taplin in thankfulness to God for all His blessings of good health and family. **Now accepting sponsors.** Available months: July, Oct., Nov., Dec. Cost is \$40, payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Contact the church office at pmeinert@splfairmont.org or 238-9491, ext. 101.

OUR SUNDAY BROADCAST: at 10:00 a.m. over KSUM is sponsored by Rob & Ruth True in memory of Charles Sauder whose birthday was May 3rd. **Sponsors needed! 2026 dates available are:** May 31; July 5, 12, 26; Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Oct. 4, 11, 25; Nov. 1, 8, 22; Contact the church office to reserve a broadcast date at splcoffice@splfairmont.org or 238-9491, ext. 101. The cost is \$40, payable to LWML.

THE LORD’S SUPPER is being celebrated in our service today. In love, we ask anyone who is not a communicant member in good standing of an LCMS congregation to speak with the pastor before attending the Lord’s Supper. [Attendance/communion registration forms](#) are available in the pews. Complete the Member or Visitor side of the form and put it in the collection plate when it is passed by you. [Check the box next to your name if you are communing.](#)

IN OUR PRAYERS: **ill**—Beverley Schleining, Donald Johnson, Katie Jensen (daughter of Tyler & April Garrison), Amy Mancuso (daughter of Stacey Westphall), Christine Redenius, Sheryl Hanson (Mary Westcott’s Niece), Daniel Bennis (Alecia Driscoll’s cousin), Barry Glienke (son of Jim & Lois), Laurie Austin, Laraine Ritchie (Marv Goebel’s sister), Merlene Lieder (sister-in-law to Charles & Elaine Lieder and former teacher at St. James Northrop), Steph Johnson (Shirley Johnson’s daughter-in-law), Helen Lueck, Gerald Meyer; **recovering**—LaDonna Meyer, Abbie Vankempen (granddaughter of Marion Olson), Dan Yahnke, Kenneth Matthews, Gregg Lemke; **in hospice**—Dave Boerner (brother of DeAnn Eversman), Beth Malo; for those single in Christ.

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

211 Budd Street, Fairmont, MN • 507-238-9491

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Confession and Absolution — Page 151

Hymn of Invocation: The Church's One Foundation

LSB 644

Stand

Invocation, Confession of Sins and Absolution: Page 151

Service of the Word — Page 152

Introit: Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 149:1



- P** Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a | new song,*
his praise in the assembly of the | godly!
I will extol you, O LORD, for you have | drawn me up*
and have not let my foes rejoice | over me.
- C** O LORD my God, I cried to | you for help,*
and you have | healed me.
- P** O LORD, you have brought up my soul | from Sheol;*
you restored me to life from among those who go down | to the pit.
- C** Sing praises to the LORD, O | you his saints,*
and give thanks to his | holy name.
- P** For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a | lifetime.*
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the | morning.
- C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- P** Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a | new song,*
his praise in the assembly of the | godly!

Kyrie: Page 152

This Is the Feast: Page 155

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where

true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

First Reading: Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

Now 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. And 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. Therefore, 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. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And 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. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And 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.

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then 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. . . .

And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . . You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which 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, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then 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. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.

He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you 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. For 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.”

So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse: Page 156

Holy Gospel: John 14:1-14

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In 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? And 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. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father

except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus 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'? 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

"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. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

LSB 633

Sermon: "The Way Home to the Father" (John 14:1-14)

Stand

Nicene Creed: Page 158

Confirmation

Sit-The pastor addresses the catechumens.

P Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R *Yes, I do.*

P Do you renounce the devil?

R *Yes, I renounce him.*

P Do you renounce all his works?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

R *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

R *Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

R *Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*

P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

R *I do.*

P Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R *I do.*

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

The catechumens kneel to receive the confirmation blessing. The pastor places his hands on the head of each catechumen and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead while saying:

P *[Name]*, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

R *Amen.*

The pastor may read a text of Holy Scripture as a remembrance of confirmation. After all the catechumens have received the blessing, one or both of the following collects are prayed.

Stand

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Almighty and most merciful Father, in the waters of Holy Baptism You have united Your children in the suffering and death of Your Son Jesus Christ, cleansing them by His blood. Renew in them the gift of Your Holy Spirit, that they may live in daily contrition and repentance with a faith that ever clings to their Savior. Deliver them from the power of Satan and preserve them from false and dangerous doctrines, that they may remain faithful in hearing Christ's Word and receiving His body and blood. By the Lord's Supper strengthen them to believe that no one can make satisfaction for sin but Christ alone. Enable them to find joy and comfort only in Him, learning from this Sacrament to love You and their neighbor and to bear the cross with patience and joy until the day of the resurrection of their bodies to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering: "Let Them Come" (Choir, Sunday)

Stand

Offertory: Page 159

Service of the Sacrament

Preface: Page 160

Sanctus: Page 161

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer: Page 162

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini: Page 163

Agnus Dei

Sit

Distribution

O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near (Choir, Sunday)

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

LSB 490

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

LSB 722

Christ Is Our Cornerstone (Or Closing-Saturday)

LSB 912

Stand

Thank the Lord: Page 164

Post-Communion Collect

Benediction: Page 166

Hymn to Depart: Almighty Father, Bless the Word (Sunday)

LSB 923

Acknowledgments
Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book
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Preacher/Liturgist: Rev. Anthony T. Bertram

Organist: Hannah Northwick

Special Music: Adult Choir (Sunday)

Crucifer: Weston Eversman

* * * * *

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK the 2nd grade students for the cute birthday cards. It is great to see the young artists at work. *Ed Ritter*

ATTENTION: The former charity club room in the church basement is overflowing with vases, artificial flowers, & much more. This closet needs everyone's attention. Starting Monday, May 11th you may help yourself to these items if you can make use of them. The deadline to claim these treasures is May 31, 2026. After that date, remaining items will be removed.



CONFIRMATION

Class of 2026

- † **KELLAN WILLIAM DAY** – “Be faithful into death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (*Revelation 2:10*)
- † **ABBYGAIL JEAN KITZEROW**– “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” (*Ephesians 4:29 NIV*)
- † **DELANEY FAITH KLUG** – “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (*Psalms 119:105*)
- † **GAVIN JOEL MEYER** – “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (*Colossians 3:17*)
- † **PRESTON JAMES REDENIUS** – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (*John 3:16*)
- † **GRANT EDWARD SIMMERING** – “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (*Joshua 1:9*)
- † **CARTER LOUIS SIMMERING** – “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (*Isaiah 41:10*)

* * * * *

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for This Week

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the catechism and Hymn of the Week.

INVOCATION: “In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Let all say, “AMEN!”

CONFESS the Apostles’ Creed

RECITE the Verse of the Week: 2

Corinthians 5:21—“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

PRAY the Psalm of the Week: Psalm 23

READ from Small Catechism—The Lord’s Prayer, The Third Petition and its meaning: (Pre+) Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (1st+) *What does this mean?* The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also. (3rd+) *How is God’s will done?* God’s will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God’s name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

Mon Genesis 35:9-21

Tues Genesis 37:1-11

Wed Genesis 37:12-36

Thurs Genesis 39:1-23

Fri Acts 6:1-9

Sat 1 Peter 2:2-10

Sun John 14:1-14

THE COLLECT OF THE WEEK

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.

DAILY THEMES FOR PRAYER

Pray for...

S: the joy of the resurrection among us;

true and godly worship throughout the world; and the faithful preaching and hearing of God’s Word.

M: faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; your calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.

T: deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; and those struggling with besetting sins.

W: marriage and family, living together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; those adults who must rear their children alone; and godly schools, especially St. Paul Lutheran and Martin Luther.

Th: the church and her pastors; for missionaries; fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord’s body and blood.

F: the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; its spread throughout the whole world and our community; the persecuted.

S: faithfulness to the end; the dying; the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord’s Day.

OUR PRAYERS at St. Paul’s (see bulletin).

PRAY the Lord’s Prayer.

PRAY Luther’s Morning or Evening Prayer from the Small Catechism.

SPEAK OR SING the Hymn of the Week: **LSB 571 “God Loved the World So That He Gave”**

God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save, That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:
Last Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Svc: 81
Last Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Svc: 156

Amount Needed Monthly for Budget... \$110,229.83
 Amount Needed Weekly for Budget..... \$25,437.65
 April 30, 2026 Deficit..... \$20,500.00
 Children's Noisy Offering (Last weekend).... \$15.67
 Brick by Brick Donations \$467,470.99

MEMORIALS: **Diane Neusch**—\$20.00, School Endowment. **Bob Kloeckner**—\$20.00, Church Endowment. **Lyle Anderson**—\$25.00, Brick by Brick.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PART OF GOD'S KINGDOM
 (Subject to change)

Sunday:	8:00 a.m.	Confirmation Exam
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Confirmation
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service broadcast on KSUM
	10:15 a.m.	SS, YBC/ABC, YFBS
Monday:		Pastor's Day Off
	8:25 a.m.	School Chapel
Tuesday:	8:25 a.m.	School Chapel
Wednesday:	8:25 a.m.	School Chapel
	3:00 p.m.	Faculty
	5:30 p.m.	School Board
	6:00 p.m.	Trustees, Ch. B
	6:30 p.m.	Parish Ministries, Art Room
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
Thursday:	8:25 a.m.	School Chapel
	9:00 a.m.	Messenger Deadline
Friday:		Church office closed
		SPLS Field Day
	2:00 p.m.	Ingleside
	6:00 p.m.	School Spring Concert, Church
Saturday:	12:00 p.m.	Worship Service on Local Cable Access Ch 12
	5:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Next Sunday:		Mother's Day
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service broadcast on KSUM
	10:15 a.m.	SS, YBC/ABC, YFBS