

2 Corinthians 4:5 ESV

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS
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We welcome you today for Lay Ministry Sunday. Worship will be directed by the elders as we celebrate our Lord, Jesus Christ, through the testimonies of 3 members of our church family. Please pray with and for them as they speak of their life in Christ.

The Lord's Supper is a very special privilege God gives to His people. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. If you are not partaking of the Lord's Supper but would like to receive a blessing, please come up to the communion rail when sent by an elder, kneel, and cross your arms over your chest. The Pastor will then know that you desire a blessing.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US. Offerings remind us of the blessings God has given us and are an opportunity to thank Him for what He has done in our lives. Please place your offerings in our Offering Box located in front of the water fountains in the narthex of the church. You may also choose “e-tithing” by having a weekly deposit to St Paul’s from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.

Children Leaving the Sanctuary: This is a matter of caring concern for your child, or the young child that you are responsible for, age 13 or younger. The Board of Lay Ministry asks that if your child needs to leave the sanctuary during the worship service, you as a parent or responsible adult will need to escort them to and from the sanctuary. Thank you.

In Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” We welcome children and all the joy and little chatter that comes with them. If for any reason you want to take your little one out, there is a Nursery (Cry Room) available for use during our worship service. It is located just outside the sanctuary.

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

Opening Hymn 907 "God Himself Is Present"

✠ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠

L In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(Matthew 28:19)*

C **Amen.**

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

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(1 John 1:8-9)*

L Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

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

L In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(John 1:12; Philippians 1:6)*

C **Amen.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 105:2-6; antiphon: v. 1

L Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;

C **make known His deeds among the peoples!**

- L** Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
 - C** **tell of all His wondrous works!**
 - L** Glory in His holy name;
 - C** **let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**
 - L** Seek the LORD and His strength;
 - C** **seek His presence continually!**
 - L** Remember the wondrous works that He has done,
 - C** **His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,**
 - L** O offspring of Abraham, His servant,
 - C** **children of Jacob, His chosen ones!**
- All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- L** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;
 - C** make known His deeds among the peoples!

Salutation

LSB 201

- P** The Lord be with you. *(2 Timothy 4:22)*



- C** And with thy spir - it.

Prayer

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

Hymn 922 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Reading

Luke 2:25-35

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now You are letting Your servant^[a] depart in peace,
according to Your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen Your salvation
³¹ that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to Your people Israel.”

³³ And Joseph and His mother marveled at what was said about Him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Testimony of Lois Nielsen

Hymn 783 “Take My Life and Let It Be”

Reading

John 10:27-28

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Testimony of Larry Britt

Hymn 702 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

Reading

John 3:14-17

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Testimony of Sandie Schooler

Hymn 698 “May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill”

Apostles’ Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

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. Amen.

Responsive Prayer

L O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Let us pray for the Holy Christian Church throughout the world and all who confess the name of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and for the faithful proclamation of Christ’s saving name, that God’s people may be strengthened in the true faith and His kingdom extended. Let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For this congregation and its mission through worship, Bible Study, school, & preschool, our synodical Lutheran preschools, schools, colleges and seminaries: may the Holy Spirit guard our hearts, bless our work, lead, guide and direct all that we say and do for the unity of all God’s children and the extension of His Kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For our government and leaders, that they may serve in their vocations with honor and integrity and be transformed by the wisdom of Christ. Let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For all people according to their needs, especially those listed on the prayer page and upon our hearts. That God in His great mercy would relieve their suffering, heal them according to His perfect will, comfort those who mourn, fill them with His presence and give them the sure and certain hope of His salvation. Let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L That we may rejoice in God's blessings in fulfillment of His promises to us. Let us remember to always give with a cheerful heart in thankfulness and praise to support His Church and to help those in need. Let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L Heavenly Father, gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate and rejoice in Your Son, Jesus, and His victorious resurrection from the dead. We draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

LSB 202

L The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn 917 "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"

The flowers that adorn the altar are given by Larry and Beth Enders in remembrance of those who have gone before us. We praise our Savior, Jesus, for loving us so much that He died and rose to pay for our sins so that through Him we have the assurance of living with Him in heaven.

Calendar of Events

TODAY – Lay ServiceJuly 30, 2023
Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am
Worship Service..... 9:30 am
MON:
Parish Planning Meeting 7:00 pm
TUES:
WED:
THURS:
FRI:
SAT:
Preschool & Day School Back to School Pool Party 5:00-7:00 pm
NEXT SUNDAY August 6, 2023
Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am
Worship Service..... 9:30 am

Please mark your calendar to join the LWML on Monday, Aug. 7th, in the Bethany Room for our August service project “Cards of Hope”. More info to follow in the August Epistle and next week’s bulletin.

Door Offering Today! We would like to keep our prices low so that meals can be affordable for all seniors. If you are interested in helping, we are having a door offering today after the service. Checks may be made payable to St Paul’s Lutheran Church with Meals on Wheels noted in the memo section. If you have questions about the program, you may contact Joanna Fox.

From our Hospitality Committee -This month we made 50+ chicken & broccoli casserole dinners. Thank you to all who donated food for this task. In August we plan to make meatloaf and roasted vegetables. We will need hamburger for the meatloaf and fresh vegetables that we can roast. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Enders or Sandie Schooler.

1st Thursday Bible Study will become 2nd Thursday Bible Study beginning in August. We will next meet on August 10th here at church.

Indiana District LWML Treatshop, Saturday, August 12th, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tipton. Begins at 9:30 am – ends 3:30 pm. Cost: \$15, which covers continental breakfast, light lunch, and materials. There are 3 different 55 minutes sessions to sign up for: info on each is on the Registration Form online (if you prefer a paper copy, notify Elaine). Any woman of the congregation is invited to attend.

Mark your calendars! All St. Paul's church and school families are invited to attend **St. Paul's PTL Back-to-School Ice Cream Social!** On Sunday, August 13th after the church service we will gather in the back schoolyard and playground for ice cream, fun and fellowship as we **celebrate and kick off our 2023-2024 school year together!** For more information, please contact Heidi Wildauer.

Regular Church Office hours of Mon-Fri from 8:00 am to 12 Noon will resume tomorrow, July 31st. Bulletin notices will still be due by 11:00 am Wednesday morning. Thank you for your understanding of the change for the last 6 weeks. It was greatly appreciated.

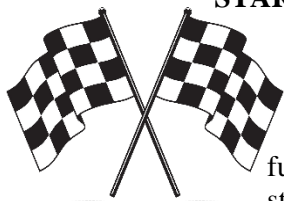
YOUTH NEWS

Paige's Crossing: Youth in Grades 6 through High School are invited to attend our outing at Paige's Crossing (Columbia City, IN) on Sunday, August 6th following the church service. The Youth Board will provide lunch prior to departure and we will look to return in the late afternoon. Cost to attend is \$10 - the Youth Board will offset the remaining fees. Parents will need to complete a waiver as well. Please sign up on the Youth bulletin board so that we can plan accordingly.

Jr. High Youth Rally: Camp Lutherhaven is hosting the annual Jr. High Youth Rally on September 16-17th for Youth in Grades 6-8. This is a day and a half of Christian fellowship with other Youth from the Indiana District, Bible study, a guest speaker, and the typical camp activities. Cost per attendee is only \$30, which includes meals and housing. The Youth Board will offset the remaining registration fees. If interested, please sign up on the Youth bulletin board no later than August 20th. You must indicate your t-shirt size and a medical waiver is required to attend. Please contact Andy Wildauer with any questions.

A note from Jeff Kaiser: My parents, Jim & Janet Kaiser will be celebrating their 60th anniversary on August 3rd. Please feel free to send them a note or a card. It would be a great blessing to them.

START CLEANING YOUR CLOSETS!!!



The Rummage Sale is coming August 26th, 8:00-2:00, in the school gym. Donations of gently used clothing, books, household goods, furniture, etc will be accepted through August 25th. No big furniture please. You may place your donations on the stage area of the gym. All monetary donations raised will benefit the PTL and help provide the school with busing, field trips, special activities, and more.

SCHOOL CORNER

School starts on August 14th! School office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00-2:00, with later afternoon appointments available upon request. Teachers officially start work in the classrooms August 7-11th.

We are still enrolling students in Beginner Preschool and Kindergarten through 8th grade!

Please continue to support St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool and Elementary School by advertising to your family and friends! Our mission is to provide a Biblically based education, and now, with Choice Scholarships and many other scholarship options, we can make our school more affordable! **If you know anyone looking for a Christian-based education for Preschool through 8th Grade, please encourage them to contact us.** *YOU are our best advertisements! Online enrollment is available through the church website (school side).*

Please remember to give to the SGO!

We will continue to use SGO scholarships to assist with tuition, so **please continue to give, and remember you will receive a tax credit and deduction for your donations!**

You can find several (easy) ways to donate at www.lutheranSGO.org/Donate. Donations can be given through a check, IRA, stocks, Donor Advised Funds, PayPal, credit card, and **NOW electronic giving!** Benefits to you are a 50% state tax credit for your donation and eligibility for a tax deduction. These scholarships make a big difference for our families.

We also continue to take donations to St. Paul's tuition assistance fund. Checks for tuition assistance can be made out to the church.

We will be helping the Grace Food Pantry fill their shelves in the month of August. We have received a list of their “difficult to maintain” items. They are used frequently and donated less frequently.

Stock the Pantry

50 new cards listing various quantities of 4 items for donation will be available for the congregation to take after church today.

All purchased items should be returned by Sun., August 13th.

Thank you to everyone who took cards last week.

Servants for Today’s Worship July 30, 2023

Board of Lay Ministry

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Tyler Schmeltz & Bruce Augustine

Acolyte: Gavin Hundt

Elder: Dave Burcham

Video Streamer: Paul Wonnacott

Servants for Next Sunday’s Worship August 6, 2023

Rev. Neil Wonnacott

Organist: Anita Eichinger

Ushers: Curt Nielsen & Wayne Spicher

Acolyte: Brantley Thornton

Elder: Mike Gumz

Video Streamer: Dakota & Tyler Schmeltz

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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