

THE Epistle from St. Paul



MAY 2026

Summer in God's Word

Jeremiah 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

Beloved in the Lord, the peace of Christ be with you! As the Church continues to rejoice in the 50-day feast of Easter (remember: Lent is 40 days, Easter is 50 days – weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning!), that means a bit of transition for us at St. Paul. It's been a real joy to spend time together in God's presence this past school year. We've gathered in the Sanctuary for God to deliver His gift to us in Word and Sacrament. Wherever God's Word is, God Himself is there, and we've also studied God's Word with Sunday School and Bible study on Sunday mornings, and Midweek Bible study for all ages on Wednesday nights. Beginning in May, we'll start preparations to pick up again in the Fall together.

We're accustomed to summer vacation from school, so it can be easy to take a vacation from God's Word too—easy to break from the study of Scripture the way students break from their academic studies. Instead, though, let this be a time to rejoice in God's Word individually and with your whole household. The Prophet Jeremiah calls God's Word the delight of his heart, and that delight is for you and for your whole family!

As the pastors and teachers at St. Paul prepare to teach next fall, take time this summer to delight in God's Word in your home. Rather than taking vacation from the Holy Scriptures, you can learn to live in them even more fully! Take time each day to read from God's Word—don't worry about reading a whole bunch, just take a bite every day. Try sharing in daily devotions as a household all together, whether you're at home, or on vacation, or visiting relatives, or just in the car! The Word of the Lord is life, and joy, and delight. As we look forward to delighting in the Word together during Services and in studies next Fall, you can find healing, forgiveness, love, and joy just by opening your Bible and reading the words that come from the mouth of God.

If you don't know where to start, please feel free to ask—I'd love to talk with you about living in the Word of the Lord! First off, we'll gather for the Divine Service Sundays at 8 and 10:45am, and Wednesday evenings (Summer Liturgy) at 7pm. There and then, Jesus will show up to deliver His life, death, and resurrection to you!

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Updates From Vicar Jarrod Thomas

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

April had a busy start with the craziness of Holy Week at ULC. We had service for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Morning. I preached on Good Friday, and Pastor Kind preached for Maundy Thursday and Easter. My family also came up and stayed for Easter weekend. It was a busy but blessed weekend for all of us.

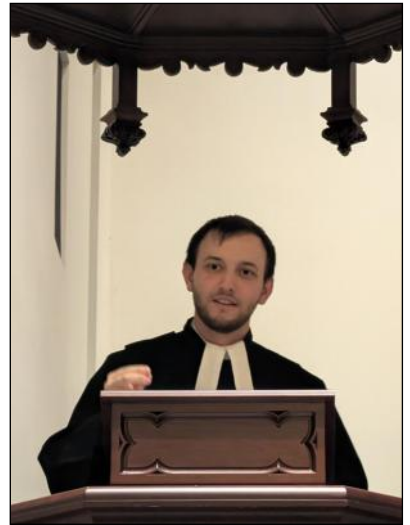
Since Easter, the workload at ULC has started winding down a little bit, as our Lenten Midweek series is over, my confirmand had his last class right after Easter, and our midweek Bible study is coming to a close in early May. However, there have been enough other events going on to keep me busy! The weekend after Easter, I attended a conference at CSP, Confessio, and heard District President Lucas Woodford and Rev. Dr. Harold Senkbeil speak on Pastoral care. ULC also hosted a guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss, the president of the Seminary. The next weekend, I met my family in Owatonna for my birthday. Along with all of that, I will be going to my brother's graduation from Mercy College at the end of the month.

With April coming to a close, UMN, CSP, St. Thomas, and most universities that ULC serves are ending their school year. With this, our students will be traveling home and many of our normal activities will be taking a break for the summer. Please pray for our students traveling home these next few weeks. Along with this, the Seminary will be announcing and sending out the soon-to-be vicars and soon-to-be pastors to congregations over the next few months. Please pray for them as well as they serve the bride of Christ and work to make men wise unto salvation.

I also want to thank LWML for the birthday wishes, it was a blessing to hear from you all!

Blessings in Christ,
Vicar Jarrod Thomas

*Photo top right: Easter morning with my family.
Photo middle: Good Friday.
Bottom photo: Easter Vigil: I read 12 large readings (1-2 chapters each!) at Vigil.*



WELCOME

New Members

On April 4 St. Paul welcomed the following new members. Please make sure to introduce yourself!

Nathan Boehnke
Caleb Burkey
Rachael Christmann
Jared, Lena and Laurene Fulscher
Keagan Gilbert
Luke Greiner
Erin Jensen
Jason Jorgensen
Caleb Kehrli
Emma Kehrli
Mark, Jessica, Aubri, and Jace Kucik
Trevor and Jess Loeschen
Lucy Mickow
Joahannes and Michelle Schrader, Leola and Aurora Saxton
Jeremy, Sara and Landon Schau
Rick, Michelle, Ellie, Jackson, Owen, and Henry Tucker
Jacob, Abbey, Lillian and Hudson Woelmer



Christ Lutheran-St. Paul Golf Outing

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, August 1 8:00am
Woodland Hills Golf Course

Four-person best shot



Contact Greg Stokke with questions at 515-681-3127.

Children & Family Ministry Summer Updates

St. Paul Moms Group will continue to meet at church on Wednesdays at 10:00am until May 20 (they do not meet on May 27). Beginning in June, they will transition to the summer schedule, meeting at various parks and splash pads. Look for announcements on the Moms Group FB page.

If you want more information contact Megan von Qualen at megancaroline42@gmail.com

Homebuilders will meet one last time before summer break on Sunday, May 3 at Magee's. Childcare drop off begins at 4:30pm and parents will return for pick up by 7:30pm.

Continued from front page

Second, In the Sunday bulletins there'll be household devotions, with readings, prayers, and a hymn for each week, so that you can delight in Christ's presence wherever you are.

And already today, you can begin a new habit in Christ (*from Martin Luther*): *In the morning [and in the evening], when you get up [and when you go to bed], make the sign of the holy cross and say: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer.*

I look forward to gathering with you where Jesus shows up this summer—God be with you all!

In Christ,
Pastor Newton



2026 VBS is June 7 through June 11. Throughout this program, we will go on a Tropical Trek and along the way be guided by our Savior, Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life! Let's go on an unforgettable journey!

VBS registration is now open! Don't miss out on this Christ-centered, fun week! Scan the QR code to get started or go to the church website and click on 2026 VBS.



It takes many volunteers to run VBS. Please consider volunteering your time to this amazing program. Sign-up sheets are in the Family Life Center.

Summer Changes

Wednesday, April 29 is the last day for Mid-week, Confirmation and Bible studies.

The 7:00pm service will also be changing. Beginning on May 6 the service will offer communion and be called **Summer Liturgy**. During the summer months there will not be a meal served. The regular Wednesday schedule picks back up after Rally Day in September.

The Thursday chapel service will conclude on May 21 and be on break for the summer.

May Bible Studies

BASIC Bible Study

They will meet on **Thursday, May 14** at 10:00am and then be on summer break.

Men's Fellowship & Bible Study

Men of all ages are invited to join in fellowship time and a Bible study each Thursday night at 7:00pm. They are studying *The Augsburg Confession*.

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Thursday, May 7 and 21 at 10:00am. Led by Pastor Kottlowski. They are continuing with the devotional book entitled *Unfailing: God's Assurance for Times of Change* by Rev Christopher M. Kennedy. After the May 21 session the ladies will be on summer break until September.

Sunday morning adult and youth Bible studies finished up on April 26. Monday night women's Bible study finished on April 27. Look for them to return in September!



Treasurer's Report

<u>March 2026 Summary</u>	
Offerings/Income	\$84,512.37
Expenditures	\$57,005.19

Please contact Duane Suhr or David Reddel with questions or comments pertaining to this report or our congregation's financials.

April Elders Meeting Minutes

Board of elders meeting April 14. Present were Steve Bradley, Kaleb Grev, Adam Haselhuhn, Gary Hauge, John Jero, Tim Krehbiel, Dan Pottratz, Hans Schaeffer and Pastor Newton. Items for discussion included a review of the Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Easter Octave services, and planning evaluations for the called staff.

Membership & Attendance

Average Sunday Attendance for March
2026 — 288 2025 — 284

Average YTD Sunday Attendance
2026 — 291 2025 — 266

Average Sunday School Attendance (pK-12th) for March — 34

Average Midweek Attendance (pK-12th) for March — 57

Average Adult Bible Study Attendance for March — 50

Average Midweek Service Attendance for March — 89

Total Baptized & Confirmed Members

Baptized — 702 Confirmed — 605 Households — 294

Official Acts

Baptisms: Henry Elliot Strozinsky, March 29

Trevor Reed Loeschen, April 4

Funeral: Wilbur Len Mash, April 11

Received by Profession of Faith

Nathan Boehnke, Erin Jensen, Caleb Burkey, Jason Jorgensen, Rachel Christmann, Caleb Kehrl, Jared, Lena and Laurene Fulscher, Emma Kehrl, Keagan Gilbert, Trevor and Jessica Loeschen, Luke Greiner, Lucy Mickow, Johannes and Michelle Schrader, Leola and Aurora Saxton, Jeremy, Sara and Landon Schau

Received by Transfer

Mark, Jessica, Aubri and Jace Kucik from Zion Lutheran Church, Manning, IA

Rick, Michelle, Ellie, Jackson, Owen, and Henry Tucker from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Jacob, Abbey, Lillian, and Hudson Woelmer from St. John Lutheran Church, Hubbard, IA

Transferred Out

Bethany Coop to Trinity Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA

Jay and Sara Maxwell to Memorial Lutheran Church, Ames, IA

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Haselhuhn

Head Elder

May Youth Calendar

May 3 — Worship (8am & 10:45am) + Fellowship hour in between

May 6 — Summer Liturgy 7pm (no supper or study)

May 10 — Worship (8am & 10:45am) + Fellowship hour in between

May 13 — Pre-Higher Things Study & Stuff 6-7pm

May 13 — Summer Liturgy 7pm (no supper or study)

May 17 — Worship (8am & 10:45am) + Fellowship hour in between

May 17 — Sunny View Service & Sunday Sips, 2:10pm-3:30ish, must RSVP

May 20 — Summer Liturgy 7pm (no supper or study)

May 24 — Worship (8am & 10:45am) + Fellowship hour in between

May 24 — Mill Pond Service & Sunday Sips 1:40pm-3pm, must RSVP

May 27 — Summer Liturgy 7pm (no supper or study)

May 31 — Worship (8am & 10:45am) + Fellowship hour in between

May Madness?

May Madness? We get it. But the Main Thing is STILL the Main Thing!

We know May can feel like a whirlwind—concerts, graduations, sports, family events... it's a lot! That's why some of our youth activities slow down this time of year. We're making space for your families to breathe. But even when our calendars are full and our youth events are fewer, the heartbeat of our ministry doesn't change. God's Word and His Sacraments are still at the center.

The Main Thing is STILL the Main Thing. Through all the busyness, we invite you to stay connected—to Jesus, to His gifts of grace, and to the church that walks alongside you.

Laura Nelson
Director of Youth Ministry



SAVE THE DATE!

June 7-11

VBS

June 13

Sailing with Jim Sohn

June 16

Junior Youth at Ledges



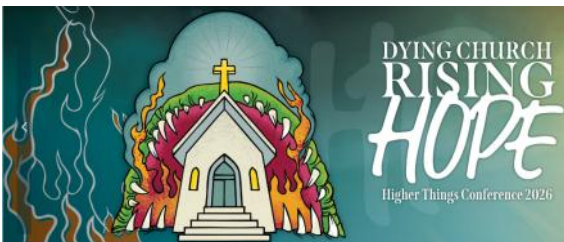
Parent-Teen Meeting

Your conference leader team is excited to invite all 2026 Higher Things Conference parents and teens to our parent and teen updates meeting on **Wednesday, May 13** from 6pm-7pm before worship. This meeting will provide you with all the new news and important information as we continue to prepare for this incredible event.

During this meeting, we'll cover

- ◆ Recent updates on the conference
- ◆ Questions and answers
- ◆ Wrapping up participant payments

This is super chance for both parents and teens to stay up-to-date and make sure everything is in place for an unforgettable experience.



Lady Diners

Lady Diners meet on **Tuesday, May 5** at Benchwarmers in Ankeny at 11:30am. If you have any questions please see Betty Berlau or Donna Stoelk. Lady Diners is open to all single ladies at St. Paul.

Nursing Home Ministry

Led by Pastor Newton or Pastor Kottlowski, St. Paul provides services to local nursing homes once a month. Members are always welcome to attend the services.

- Sunny View at 2:30pm on May 17
- Rock Creek at 2:00pm on May 19
- Mill Pond at 2:00pm on May 24



Save the Date for Craft and Vendor Fair

Hello mission-minded ladies! St. Paul LWML plans to hold its Sixth Annual Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, November 14, 2026. To have another successful event, we are looking for vendors. Are you (or do you know of) a crafter, artisan, or service provider who would like to sell their wares or services and help a good cause at the same time? Registration is now open so secure your spot.

Email StPaulCVFair@gmail.com for more info and the registration link. Booth space fees and food sales, sponsored by St. Paul LWML, will support missions.

In the meantime, we hope to see you for our next monthly LWML get-together at 6:45pm on **Tuesday, May 12** in the Fellowship Hall (*park in the west lot for direct access to the FH*). Also note the 6:45pm start time versus 6:30pm. A number of members are touring Hope Ministries before the meeting. We'll have fellowship time along with a hands-on project and meeting afterward to discuss ways to serve. Join us as we continue to walk in service to the Lord!

Your LWML Board and Sisters in Christ,
Kim Rasler, Sue Stoll, Betty Berlau, and Vicki Sickels



Plan now for the 4th Annual
LCMS Lutheran Singles Retreat
Ages 21-41

Friday - Sunday, August 21-23
Camp Okoboji, Milford, Iowa
campokoboji.org

\$100 pays for everything
Register at faithwinterset.org
Questions?

Contact Dr. Keith Schweitzer
641/745-5143
keithlcms@gmail.com

Be There!



**VOTERS
MEETING**

The graphic features a white ribbon-like shape with a 3D effect, containing the text 'VOTERS MEETING' in a bold, teal, sans-serif font. The background is a teal-to-blue gradient.

**Monday,
June 1
6:30pm**

MAY 2026

ELDER OF THE WEEK

- 03: Tim Krehbiel
- 10: Dan Pottratz
- 17: Kaleb Grev
- 24: Shawn Thomas
- 31: Nathan Wendzel

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 03: Rochelle Sandwick
- 10: Candy & Jon Jero
- 17: Beth, Ennie, Aylah & Leah Hubbard
- 24: Ashley & Joel Ott
- 31: Carolyn & Gary Vesely

OFFERING COUNTERS

May 3
Tim Davies, Jon Gerths

May 17 & 24
Tim Krehbiel, David Reddel

USHERS

May 3 & 10

8:00am — Eddie Bell, Dan Hubbard
10:45 am — Cal Uhlig, Eric Bradley

May 17 & 24

8:00am — Tim Davies, Eric Forde
10:45 am — Matt Hayden, Rod Silvey

May 31 & June 7

8:00am — Jon Gerths, Don Halbur
10:45 am — Jason, Jaydon, Jordan, and Jalen Buis

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Dorothy Marvin, Jane Thompson

May Birthdays

- 01: Carey Crowson
- 02: Tillie Fairchild
Emily Stave
- 03: Janice Bent
- 04: Beth Hubbard
- 06: Steve Voss
- 07: Jason Juhl
Jackie Rangen
- 09: Tim Davies
Kate Harken
Jennifer Heflebower
- 10: Traci Haselnuhn
- 11: Aubri Kucik
- Lars Pottratz
- 12: Jacob Haase
Clara Jero
- 14: Jeff Fahrman
Lowell Morgan
- 16: Emrie Hubbard
- Adelyn Rohlfen
- 17: Joyce Keeling
Jessica Kucik
- 18: Carol Anderson
Isla Anderson
Jess Loeschen
Abbey Woelmer

- 19: Ayla Hubbard
Leah Hubbard
Sarah Newton
Avery Snyder
Jim Sohn
Stephanie Strozinsky
- 20: Judy Bradley
Marlene Edsen
- Miranda Patten
- 23: Randy Benda
- Melanie Zogg
- 24: Maddie Erickson
Avery Nessa
- 25: Henry Tucker
- 26: LuAnn Ruddy
Les Stave
- Bob Swanson
- 28: Kaleb Grev
Jan Volf
- 30: Mia Crawford
- 31: Logan Ellsworth
Lanae Rohwer

May Wedding Anniversaries

- 01: Jami & Brian Johnson
- 02: Nancy & Wayne Byal
- 04: Abigail & Woo Voong
- 08: Miranda & Ben Piepho
Wanda & Les Stave
- 13: Candy & Jon Jero
- 14: April & Ryan Bracelin
- 15: Lavonne & Fred Fematt
- 18: Rochelle & Vern Sandwick

- 22: Cassie & Zach Nessa
- 25: Tina & Nic Parker
- 26: Lindsey & Jon Clark
Ashley & Joel Ott
- 28: Jessica & Mark Kucik
- 29: Georgia & Dale Musfeldt
- 30: Jennifer & James Dorfler

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<p>3</p> <p>8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service 4:30pm Homebuilders End of Year Party @ Magee's</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11:30am Lady Diners</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00am Moms Group 7:00pm Summer Liturgy</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30am Chapel 10:00am Ladies Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study</p>	8	9
<p>10</p> <p>8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Property Board Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:45pm LWNL 6:30pm Elders Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00am Moms Group 7:00pm Summer Liturgy</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30am Chapel 10:00am BASIC Bible Study 7:00pm Ascension Service with Communion</p>	15	16
<p>17</p> <p>8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service 2:30pm Sunny View Service (Fr-Sr Youth Service & Sunday Sips)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Cancer Support Group @ Perkins</p>	<p>19</p> <p>2:00pm Rock Creek Service 6:30pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00am Moms Group 7:00pm Summer Liturgy</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30am Chapel 10:00am Ladies Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study</p>	22	23
<p>24</p> <p>8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service 2:00pm Mill Pond Service (Fr-Sr Youth Service & Sunday Sips)</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day Offices Closed</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00pm Summer Liturgy</p>	<p>28</p>	29	30
<p>31</p> <p>8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:30pm Voters Meeting</p>					