



# Let's Feed Children

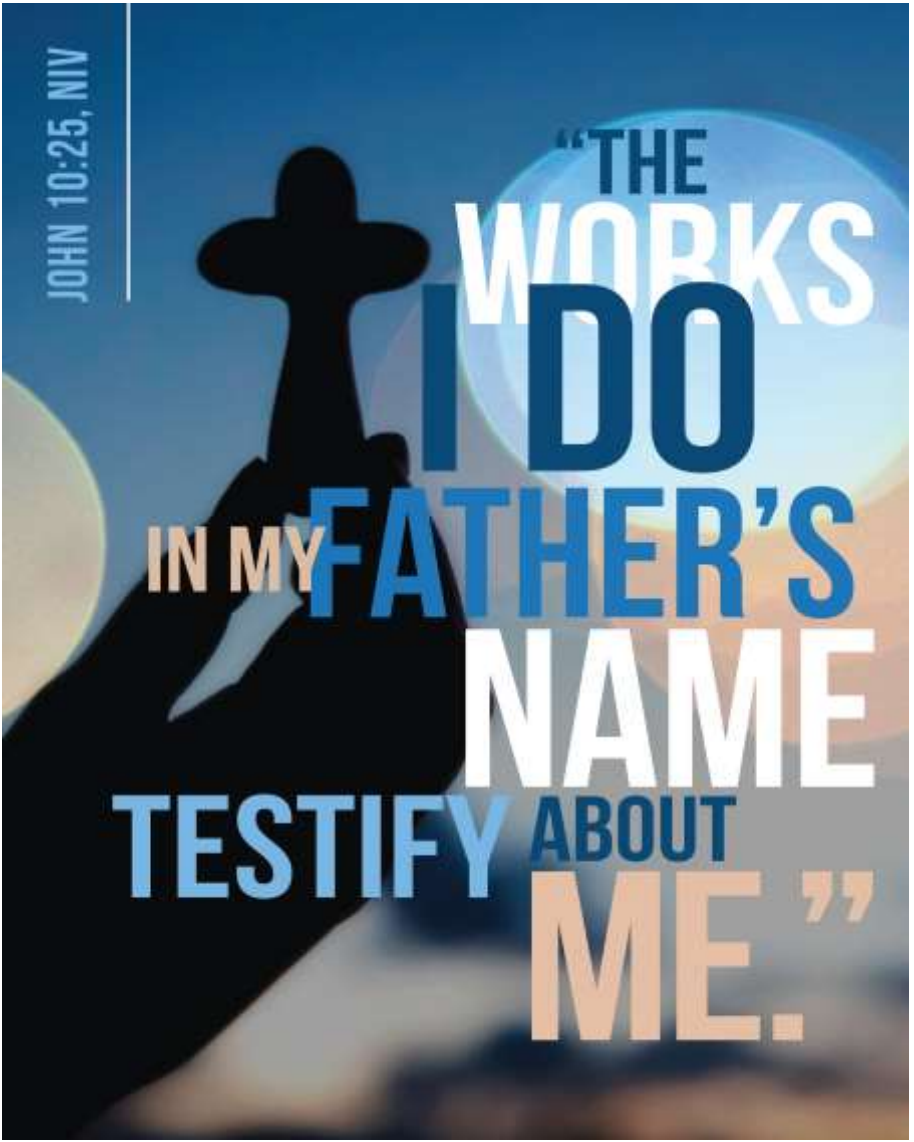


## INDIVIDUAL PASTA DRIVE

MOTHER'S DAY  
SUNDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>

Help the United Way serve FREE meals for children in Whiteside County.  
15,000+ servings will be needed this summer.  
Donations may be collected at your church and New Life Church  
(702 W Lynn Blvd., Sterling) May 12th-16th, 8:30AM-3PM.

Questions? Contact United Way at 815-625-7973 or  
kolson@uwwhiteside.org



Sunday, May 11, 2025  
9:00 a.m.

## Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

### St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

### Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion

10:15 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

### Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

### Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

### Children's Offering

The children's offering for the month of May will support the United Way's Let's Feed Our Children. The free summer lunch program kicks off the first week of June. Thank you for sharing in the ministry of giving and helping to feed our local children.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

[pastormark@stpaulsterling.com](mailto:pastormark@stpaulsterling.com)

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815-625-3069

Church email: [stpaulsterling@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulsterling@comcast.net)

[www.stpaulsterling.com](http://www.stpaulsterling.com)

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

### Prelude

*"Mighty to Save"*

arr. Carol Tornquist

### Welcome/Announcements

P: Welcome to Worship today!

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**All: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

P: In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

**All: Amen.**

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

P: Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**All: make us one as you are one.**

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**All: make us one as you are one.**

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

**All: make us one as you are one.**

P: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**All: Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn

**“Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs”**



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;  
2 “Wor - thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex - alt - ed thus!”  
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow’r di - vine;  
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
“Wor - thy the Lamb,” our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”  
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.  
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: NUN DANKET ALL, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

### Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

**All: O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### Psalm: Psalm 23

R: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**All: The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

R: You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

**All: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

R: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

<sup>9</sup> *John writes:* After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

<sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup> I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup> for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

### Gospel: John 10:22-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup> At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> What my Father

has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Children’s Message

#### Sermon

“What Does it Take for Us to See and Believe?”

#### Hymn of the Day

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

ELW #789

1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;  
3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;  
In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847  
Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## **Nicene Creed**

P: Trusting in Christ's life, death, and resurrection, let us profess our faith through the words of the Nicene Creed:

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

P: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*Each petition ends with these words:*

P: Hear us, O God

**All: Your mercy is great.**

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**All: Amen.**

## **Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you!**

P: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

## **MEAL**

### **Offering**

*"Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep"*

John Rutter

### **Offering Prayer**

P: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

**All: Amen.**

## The 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 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### ***“Holy, Holy, Holy”***

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## The Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

### Communion

## Communion Music

### “Lamb of God”



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.

### “My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”

arr. David Lasky

#### Prayer after Communion

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace.

**All: Amen.**

P: Let us pray.

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

**All: Amen**

#### Blessing

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

**All: Amen.**

## Sending Song

### “Amen, We Praise Your Name”

ELW # 846



Leader Assembly  
Sing prais-es! A-men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais-es!  
A-men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais-es! A-men, a-men.  
A-men, a-men. A-men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais-es!

Text: South African traditional

Music: AMEN SIKUDUMISA, attr. S. C. Molefe, as taught by Gobingca George Mxadana

Music © Gobingca Mxadana

#### Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

#### Postlude

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

arr. Gerad VonHoltten

**We Remember in Prayer;** those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Debbie Dybinski, Bev Julien, Dylan Wescott, Dianne Miller, Ken & Sharon Mager, Phyllis Jacobson, JoAnn Garcia, Barb Lenn, Lori Dewey, Betty Steinke, Larry Wahler, Sandy Julifs, and Lila Edeus.

**Coffee Fellowship** is hosted this morning by Mary Ordean. All are welcome to join them following worship.

**Worship Assistants:**

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Rayce Gale

Acolytes – Gale family

Greeters – Nancy Eilers, Susan Kuehl

Ushers – John Renner, Dan Dir

Reader – Jim Gorman

Communion Assistant – Nancy Eilers

Sound – David Carrillo

Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall

**Musicians:**

Live:

Linda VonHolten

Recorded:

Gerad VonHolten

Dawn Zeigler

**Next week – May 18**

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Chrissy Zollinger

Acolytes – Altar Guild

Greeters – Jim & Cheryl Gorman

Ushers – Ron Ukena, Carolyn Duncan

Reader – Tim Zollinger

Communion Assistant – Jim Gorman

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall

Coffee Fellowship – Bev Graunke, Carolyn Duncan

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