

Next week – May 25

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – David Carrillo

Acolytes – Arians family

Greeters – Nancy Beck, Bev Graunke

Ushers – Gary Fields, Keith Peugh

Reader – Keith Peugh

Communion Assistant – Nancy Beck

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*

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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

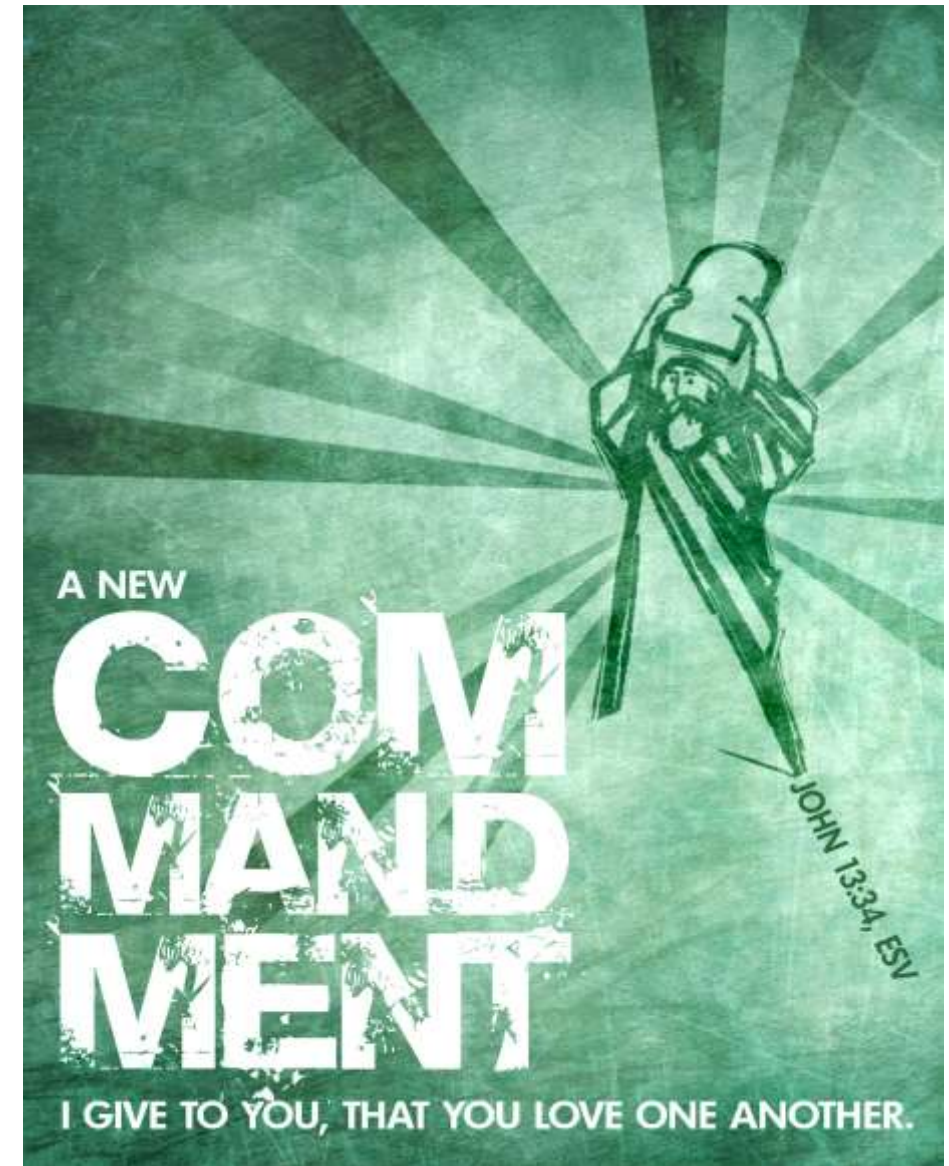
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United Way
of Whiteside County



Great Option: Easy Mac Pouches
No bowl = less expensive!



Sunday, May 18, 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

1701 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081

815-625-3069

Church email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

www.stpaulsterling.com

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

"Let There Be Praise"

Melodie and Dick Tunney

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

Coffee Fellowship is hosted this morning by Carolyn Duncan and Bev Graunke. All are welcome to join them following worship.

Worship Assistants:

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Greg Zeigler

Acolytes – Altar Guild

Greeters – Jim & Cheryl Gorman

Ushers – Ron Ukena, Carolyn Duncan

Reader – Greg Zeigler

Communion Assistant – Jim Gorman

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall

Musicians:


Julie Woessner

Dawn Zeigler


Sending Song
“They’ll Know we Are Christians by Our Love”

Words and Music by
Peter Scholtes

VERSE




1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord; We are
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand; We will
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side; We will
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come; And all




one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord. And we pray that all
walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand. And to - geth - er we'll
work with each oth - er, we will work side by side. And we'll guard each man's
praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son. And all praise to the

CHORUS



u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored. And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our
spread the news that God is in our land,
dig - ni - ty and save each man's pride.
Spir - it, who makes us one.



love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love._____

CCLI Song # 26997

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prelude
“Come, People of the Risen King”
arr. James Koerts

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
“Christ Is Living”

1 Christ is liv - ing! Gone with sor-row! Tears and ter - ror, be no more.
2 For if Christ is not a - ris - en there is noth-ing to be - lieve.
3 Death is swal - lowed up in vic-t'ry; sin has lost its poi-son sting.

Death and grave, you now are noth - ing; Christ is free of ev - 'ry pow'r.
Je - sus' prom - ise is ac-comp-lished: "Since I live, you too shall live."
Life will blos - som from the grain sown, Christ the first fruits of the spring.

Why then seek the liv-ing Sav - ior in the haunts of death and fear?
Dust we are, to dust re - turn - ing, but in Christ we are re-stored.
For the sure - ness of sal - va - tion let us sing, "Thanks be to God!"

Christ is ris - en! Shout the good news so that all the world may hear.
Doubt dis - pel - ling, claim the tri - umph: Je - sus is the liv - ing Lord!
Christ is ris - en! We are liv - ing! Spread the word of grace a - broad.

Text: Nicolás Martínez, 1917–1972; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
Music: CENTRAL, Pablo D. Sosa, 1933–2020; arr. Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
Spanish text © 1962 Blanca Staude de Martínez
Tune © 1962 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.
English text and arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

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.

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.

“New Wine”

arr. Todd Beaney

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.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

All: O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder

God?” ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 148:1-13

R: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

All: Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

R: Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

All: Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

R: Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

All: who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

R: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

All: fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;

R: mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

All: wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

R: sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

All: young men and maidens, old and young together.

R: Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

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 13:31-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 13th chapter.
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By

this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon
“Boundaries and the Holy Spirit”

Hymn of the Day
“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”
ELW #389



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to
emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and
prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789
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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

"If With All Your Hearts"

Felix Mendelssohn (from the oratorio "Elijah")

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