



# Let's Feed Children



## INDIVIDUAL PASTA DRIVE

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](mailto:kolson@uwwhiteside.org)

SPONSORED BY



United Way  
of Whiteside County



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



**Sunday, May 25, 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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## Sixth Sunday of Easter

### Prelude

*"My Redeemer"*

arr. by Jan Sanborn

### 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  
“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”  
ELW #834



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.  
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

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: Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, 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 67

R: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God’s face shine upon us.

All: Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

R: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

All: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.

R: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

All: The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.

R: May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

<sup>10</sup> And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

<sup>25</sup> Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

<sup>26</sup> People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup>they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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 5:1-9**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.  
<sup>2</sup>Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. <sup>3</sup>In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. <sup>5</sup>One man was there who had been ill for thirty-

eight years. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” <sup>7</sup>The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” <sup>9</sup>At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

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

**Children’s Message**

**Sermon**  
**“Do You Want to be Healed?”**

Hymn of the Day  
“Lift Up Your Heads”

1 Lift up your heads, all you bowed low,  
2 Lift up your hands, your voices raise,  
3 Lift up your hearts, your great A - men;  
4 Be - hold, the Spir - it here a - bides,

hear the liv - ing wa - ter flow: quench - ing  
bold in plead - ing, bright with praise. Weep no  
Mer - cy feeds her guests a - gain: bread e -  
bear - ing God's a - bun - dant life: peace be -

spring and cleans - ing pool, heal - ing riv - er, clear and  
more, your God has come; greet the wound - ed, ris - en  
nough to break and share, fes - tive wine that scents the  
tween you, love with - in, grace be - side you loos - 'ning

cool. How fresh it falls up -  
One, who bless - es you with  
air. Oh, taste and see what  
sin. Be - lov - ed, Christ a -

on your face, stream - ing from the font of grace.  
joy com - plete, dwell - ing in the Word of peace.  
once was lost ris - ing in this feast of love.  
mong you stands, mov - ing through your hearts and hands.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952  
Music: WEST LEESTAD, Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979  
Text © 2013 Susan R. Briehl, admin. Augsburg Fortress  
Music © 2013 Zebulon M. Highben, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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**

*“Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down”*

arr. by Mark Hayes

**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 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.

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff contains 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff contains 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff contains '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:

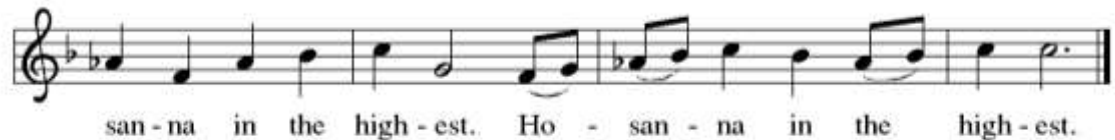
**“Holy, Holy, Holy”**

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 -

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,'. The second staff contains 'heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the'. The third staff contains 'high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -'.



**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.**

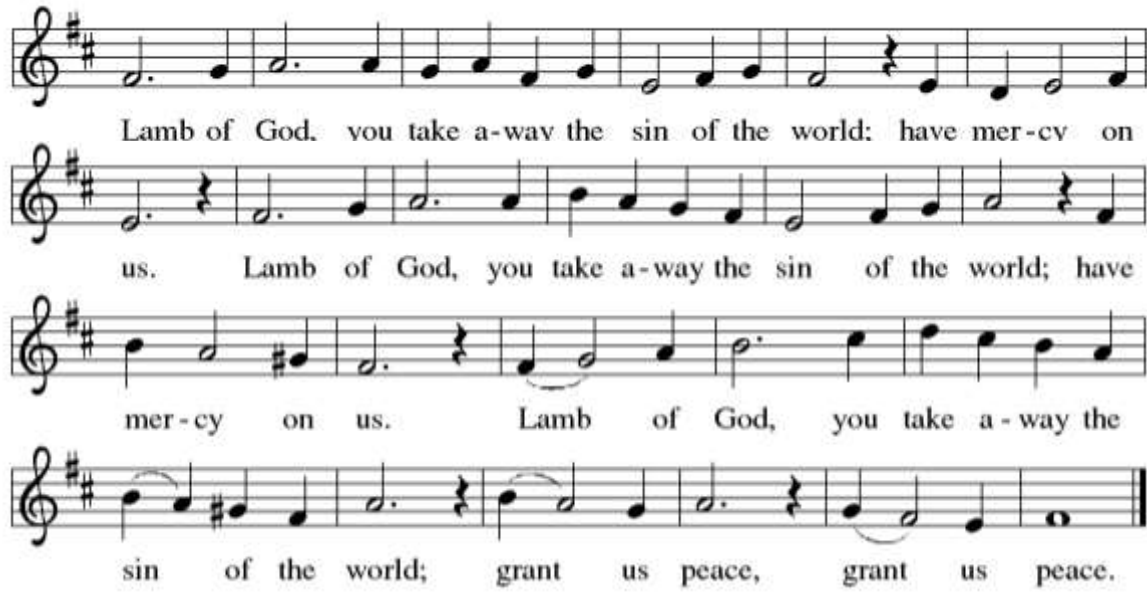
**Invitation to Communion**

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

**Communion**

**Communion Music**

**“Lamb of God”**



**“As Now We Take the Sacrament”**

arr. by Jason Tonioli

**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

### ***“Drawn to the Light”***

ELW #593

1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the  
2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one  
3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the

heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be  
dwells in the dark of night? Morn - ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -  
one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -

lost, we were drawn to the light of God.  
pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.  
gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

*Refrain*

Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the

light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a

sight to be drawn to the light of God.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937  
Music: LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker  
Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker.

## 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

*“Morning Has Broken”*

arr. by Carol Tornquist

**We Remember in Prayer;** those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Sandy Julifs, 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.

## Worship Assistants:

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

## Musicians:

Virginia Schumaker

Greg Zeigler

## Next week – June 1

Presider – Pastor Harold Grafe

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters – Audrey & Cathy Cox

Ushers – Janie Billings, Donna Kendall

Reader – Marilyn Geiger

Communion Assistant – Greg Zeigler

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Altar Guild – Janie Billings, Susan Kuehl

Coffee Fellowship – Graduate Blessing – Nancy Eilers

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