



MAY 2026

When's the last time we thanked God for the blessing of being able to go to church?

Has the comfort of your recliner ever tempted you to stay home from church because you don't feel great or you're really tired? Yeah, I suspect I'm not the only one. Sometimes we become so accustomed to our routines that we take things for granted and forget how blessed we are to go to church. God's sent several visuals over the past few months to remind me of that . . .

On this particular Sunday morning, I noticed something at the start of the service that touched my heart. Supported by her husband's hand under her arm, a sweet lady I'd never seen before walked slowly in the door and sat at the end of our row. Her turban made it obvious that she was undergoing a major health situation, punctuated by the oxygen tank that was her accessory that morning. I could tell that the walk into the building had exhausted her.

It brought tears to my eyes to realize what an effort it had been for her to get there. I saw church through her eyes that morning—the comfort, the strength and the hope that she could cling to for the days ahead.

On another Sunday, I noticed a dear man who's attended our church for many years. He's in a wheelchair now, and it's a slow process for him to get from his car into the building. I watched him one service as he laboriously moved from his chair to one of the seats. I was tired just from watching the effort that it took. I can't even imagine how long it takes him to get ready to come to church, but he's there every Sunday.

And then there's the visual from several months ago that moves me to tears every time I think about it. A missionary had just returned from another country far around the world. It was one of those countries where expressing your faith meant that your family would disown you, and sometimes it even meant a death sentence.

As the missionary shared slides from his time there, there was one picture that is now etched in my mind and heart forever. It showed an older man with no legs sitting on the hot sand. The missionary said, "This is _____ on his way to church. It takes him many hours to get there as he sits on the sand and pushes with the stumps of his legs, making it a foot or so at a time, repeating the process over and over until he gets there."

Scooting to church on the sand.

Oh my, sweet friends! When's the last time that we were that inspired to get to church? When's the last time we thanked God for the blessing of hearing the sermons, for the ability to see the words on the big screens and for the legs to walk into the building with ease?

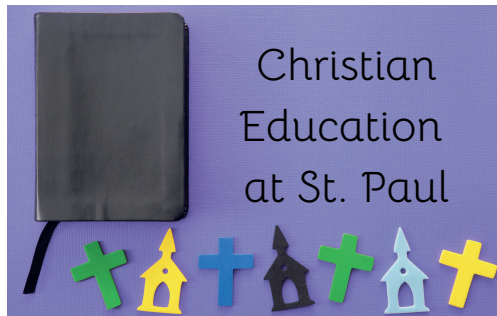
Will you join me today in thanking Him for the priceless blessing of going to church?

Copied from Guidepost.com, written by Michelle Cox



Supply Pastors

We welcome and thank Pastor Wayne Shelkshon and Stuart for leading worship for the month of May. They will be alternating Sundays. The synod office is reaching out to two possible interim pastors who would start on June 1st. Please pray for Pr. Wayne and Stuart as they prepare to lead us and pray for the interim pastor to come. May God continue to guide us through this transition time.



Sunday School

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to teach Sunday School. If you have any questions or would be willing to volunteer to teach please sign up on the bulletin board or contact Morgan Wertz 309-635-0089

Bible Study

Bible study will be on hold until we have an interim pastor. Once they are settled we will discuss starting a Bible study for the summer!



Women's Circle Dates

Quilters: May 4th and 18th

JoAnna: May 7th

Esther: May 26th in the Bishoff Room



Church Staff

- Bev Fordham, Administrative Assistant
- Eric Coffey, Custodian
- Kyle Burkholder, Groundskeeper
- Deborah Garmers, Organist
- Michael Helgeson, Celebration and Praise Music Coordinator

Church Council

- Abigail Williams, President
- Michael Helgeson, Vice President
- Linda Lowery, Secretary
- Penny Post-Freeman, Financial Officer
- Karen Rocke, Service Ministries
- Mary Jane Moder, Worship
- Morgan Wertz, Education/ Youth
- Brian Sharp, Property



Evangelical
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Mark Your Calendars!

Mark your calendars now for July 18th to help with Peoria's Pride Fest! This is such a fun event and we need your help! St Paul will have it's own booth at the festival again this year. Watch for details on how you can help and participate in this wonderful event.

Glow Wild at the Peoria Zoo!

New lanterns have arrived at the Peoria Zoo! We will be heading to the Zoo to see them on Sunday May 17th. We will meet outside the main entrance of the Zoo at 6pm. Tickets will be \$18 for adults (13+) and \$12.50 for children 1-12. We will order group tickets. Please sign up on the bulletin board by May 10th. Tickets will be ordered the morning of May 11th. Payment should be made to the office. If writing a check please make it out to St. Paul Lutheran and in the memo write Glow fest at the Zoo. We're looking forward to a fun evening out with our St. Paul Family!

Game Night – Jeopardy Time!

Grab your team and lets get together for a night of Jeopardy! On Wednesday May 13th we will meet in the Bess Room at 6pm. Let's have a taco bar for dinner! Please sign up on the bulletin board with your name and what you will bring.



Request from Kyle

Did you know that out back there is a grape vine that is original to this property? He is looking for someone who has some knowledge about taking care of the vines. Can you or someone you know help out with making them more productive? Please let the church office or Kyle know.

Worship Assistants

5/3: Steve Rocke, Larry Hansen
 5/10:
 5/17:
 5/24:
 5/31:

Fellowship Treats

5/3: Karen Rocke
 5/10:
 5/17:
 5/24:
 5/31:

Birthdays and Anniversaries

5/2: Steve and Karen Rocke's Anniversary
 5/3: Rachel Biller
 5/9: Corey Crotz
 5/12: Elisa Demanes
 5/15: Quincy Johnson
 5/17: Penny Post-Freeman
 5/19: Alan and Cindy McLouth's Anniversary
 5/21: Roger Conrad
 5/22: Tyson Heerman
 5/23: Hal and Bev Fordham's Anniversary
 5/27: Mary Coffey
 5/27: Jodi Sharp
 5/28: Joe Ferrie
 5/30: Jason Biller

Counters

May 3: Gerry Bloom and Hal Fordham
 May 10: Brian Sharp and Mary Jane Moder
 May 17: Mike Coffman and Roger Conrad
 May 24: Kyle Burkholder and Amber Lowery
 May 31: Scott Lee and Julia Coffman



Council Highlights

Carol Frietsch reported on the computer hack and the fact that all steps had been followed and the account is secure.

The property committee is looking to make a few repairs that should be completed in the parsonage before our new pastor arrives.

There was a great turnout for the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. 72 people attended.

The Ministry Site Profile Committee is nearly ready to fill out and submit the forms for the process of finding a new pastor.

Finance Committee

March income: \$15,033.38

March expenses: \$57,769.76

Any questions about these figures please contact the finance Committee

MSP Update

We are getting close! The MSP team is working dilligently on the final questions for our Ministry Site Profile. Our goal is to be able to present the final form to the council at their next meeting on May 18th. Once the final form is submitted to the ELCA we will be able to form our call committee and begin to receive potential candidates for our next pastor. Thank you for all of your help and support. Please keep the MSP team, the future call committee, and whoever God is calling to lead us in your prayers.

Graduation!

It is time to celebrate our graduates! Please contact the office and let us know who in your life is graduating this year by May 7th so we can share that with the congregation!



We Pray For:

Shirley Barber, Rob Hackett, Floyd Rademaker, Susie Ney, Jeff Williams, Kendra Tallman, Abby Mundwiller, Jim Chamberlain, Terri Montgomery, Joe Ferrie, Nina Marquart, Boyd Conrad, Willie Miller, Rachel Jenks, Steve Rocke, Elijah Bolden, Camila Heerman and Bev Fordham.

Our Shut-ins:

Floyd Rademaker, Nina Marquart, Tom Schreiner and Sam Kahl

Prayer Chain Contacts:

Cindy Lee 309.635.9691

Eileen Cunningham

309.685.0720

Article deadlines

Please submit articles for the weekly bulletin no later than **10am Thursday mornings.**

Articles for the June newsletter need to be submitted no later than **10am on May 22nd.**

Notification

Please if you are in the building for **any reason, or any length of time contact** the office so we know who is in the building.

Please place any documents that you have for Bev or the supply pastors in the box outside her door. We don't want to get things misplaced when they are just set on the desk.

Thank you!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <p>10:00am –11:00am Worship 11:15am –12:00pm Sunday School</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00pm Supper Club -- Last Chance Bar and Grill</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30am –11:30am Esther Circle 10:30am –12:00pm TOPS</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00am –2:00pm Faithful Creations</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00am –12:00pm Clothing Closet Open</p>
<p>3</p> <p>10:00am –11:00am Worship 11:15am –12:00pm Sunday School</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00am –12:00pm Quilting (Bischoff)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:30am –12:00pm TOPS</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:00pm –9:00pm Gems of the Prairie (Bischoff)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am –3:00pm GEMS Workshop 7:00pm –9:00pm JoAnna Circle</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>10:00am –11:00am Worship 11:15am –12:00pm Sunday School</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:30am –12:00pm TOPS 5:30pm Finance Committee</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00pm Game Night -- Jeopardy Style</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>10:00am –11:00am Worship 6:00pm Glow Wild at Peoria Zoo</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00am –12:00pm Quilting (Bischoff) 5:30pm Church Council</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:30am –12:00pm TOPS</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>10:00am –11:00am Worship</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30am –11:30am Esther Circle 10:30am –12:00pm TOPS 6:30pm –8:30pm Scouts</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00am –2:00pm Faithful Creations</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
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