



The Voice

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

June 2026



Crux Sola Est Nostra Theologia

“For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2 ESV).

Dear friends of Jesus, St. Paul's words cut straight to the marrow. In a world fascinated with novelty, personality, and spiritual technique, Paul narrows everything down to one blazing center: “*Jesus Christ and him crucified.*” The Greek is striking—*Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν καὶ τοῦτον ἐσταυρωμένον*—“*Jesus Christ, and this One having been crucified.*” Not merely Christ in general, but Christ as the Crucified. This is the beating heart of Lutheran theology. Luther famously wrote in the Heidelberg Disputation (1518), “*Crux sola est nostra theologia*” —“The cross alone is our theology.” God is not found in speculation, moral improvement, or mystical ascent. He reveals Himself where He seems most hidden: in weakness, suffering, blood, and death. A theology of glory looks for God in power; a theology of the cross finds Him hanging on the cursed wood.

St. Paul's resolve is profoundly pastoral. To “know nothing” does not mean ignorance of the rest of Scripture, but that everything is interpreted through the lens of the cross. The Law exposes our sin; the cross answers it. The Law accuses; the cross absolves. As Luther says in his Galatians commentary, “*The cross alone is our theology,*” because there we see both the seriousness of sin and the magnitude of grace.

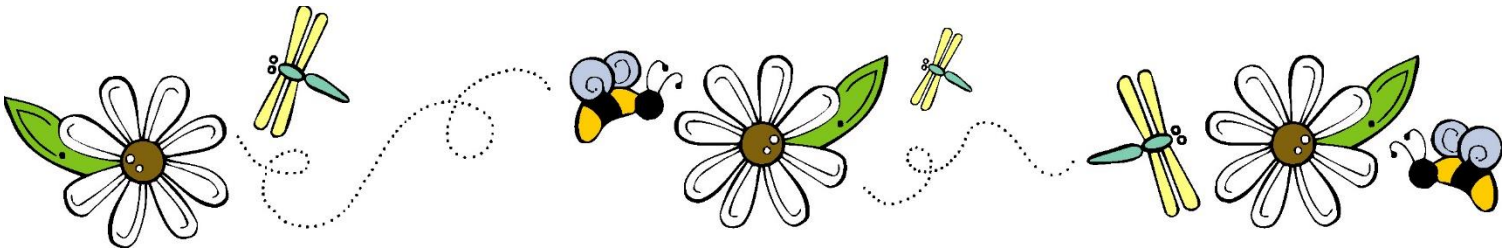
This crucified Christ is not far off and away. He delivers Himself concretely ... in means. In Holy Baptism, we are buried with Him into His death (Rom. 6). In Holy Absolution, the crucified Lord speaks forgiveness into our ears. At the Altar, the Body given and the Blood shed—*τὸ σῶμα...τὸ αἷμα*—are placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins. The cross is not past tense only; it is present gift.

Professor Emeritus Dr. David Scaer often emphasized that Lutheran theology is decisively objective: *Christ for you.* Not your experience, not your decision, but His finished work. To preach Christ crucified is to preach certainty—atonement accomplished, wrath satisfied, sinners justified. So, we stand with Paul. In the pulpit, in the hospital room, at the graveside, in the catechism class: nothing but Jesus Christ—and Him crucified. Because there, and only there, is life.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Richard S. Cody
Fourth Vice President
Missouri District

Prayer: *Crucified Lord Jesus, fix our hearts upon Your cross. Keep us from every theology of glory and anchor us in Your saving wounds. Deliver to us daily the forgiveness You won and keep us steadfast in Your Means of Grace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*



Serving This Month

June 7th

Pastor Gary Stolle
Reader: Fred Reifsteck
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: Cory Brown

June 14th

Pastor Wayne Persich
Lay Reader: Kirsten Englund
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: Aaron Kirchhoff

June 21st

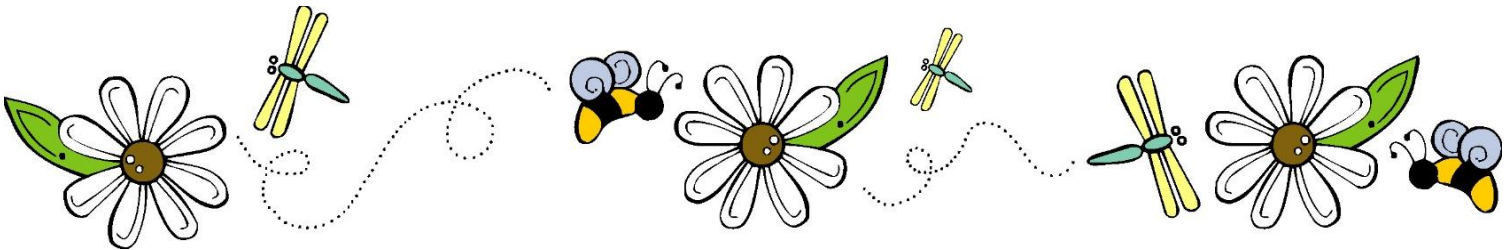
Pastor Gary Stolle
Lay Reader: Aaron Kirchhoff
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: Cory Brown

June 28th

Pastor Wayne Persich
Lay Reader: Sherrelynn Martin
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: Aaron Kirchhoff

Altar Guild for June 2026

Barbara Gumm & Kris Rosenberg

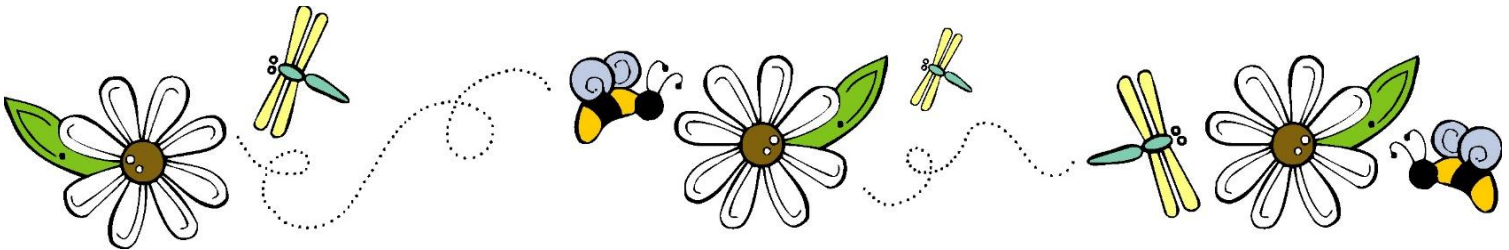


June Birthdays: 6-Candy Teeter; 13-Sherrelynn Martin; 15-Carter Brown;
23-Pastor Gary Stolle; 25-Fred Reifsteck

June Wedding Anniversaries: 10-[Martin] & Cindy Oelklaus; 23-Bobby & Bonnie Knox

If anyone has been missed let the office know.

The Lord bless you, and keep you; The Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26



Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1:17

Pursuit Of Happiness

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13

Are you happy? According to some reports, most of us aren't.

If so, the lack of happiness is nothing new. History tells us that once, when Benjamin Franklin had concluded a stirring speech on the guarantees of the Constitution, a heckler shouted, "Aw, them words don't mean nothin' at all. Where's all the happiness you say it guarantees us?"

To the ignorant challenge, Franklin smiled and replied, "My friend, the Constitution only guarantees the American people the right to **pursue** happiness; you have to **catch** it yourself."

Well, most of us are still in pursuit of happiness. Sadly, many people are pursuing it in places where it can't be found... or caught.

The Lord tells us, quite rightly, that true happiness-joy-and peace comes from people recognizing they need the forgiveness and salvation the Savior has bought for us with His life, suffering, death, and resurrection.

In other words, true happiness is found when the Lord brings **our lives** into harmony with **His will**.

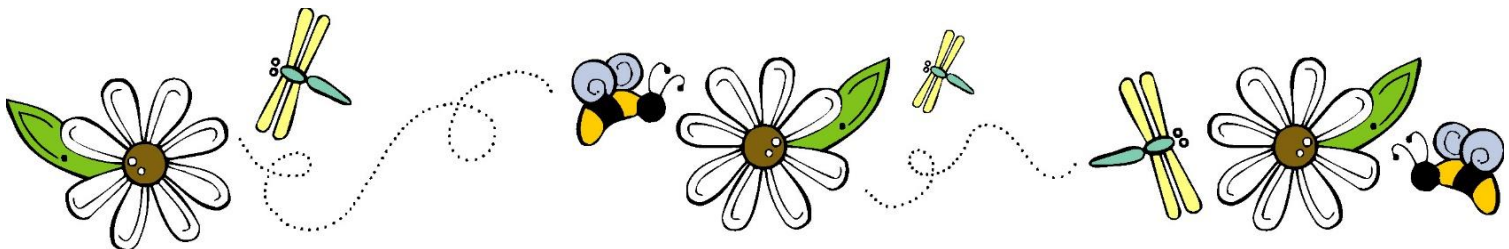
Having said that, I know many people may not like that kind of answer to the question of the search for happiness.

I'm sorry they don't like it, but that answer is as true today as it was in the days of Ben Franklin.

Goodness, it's as true today as it was when Adam and Eve were booted out of the Garden of Eden for looking for happiness other than in the Lord. Theirs was a mistake we shouldn't replicate or duplicate.

Lutheran Hour Ministries November 29, 2008 From a devotion originally written for "By the Way"

THE PRAYER: Dear God, I ask You today to strengthen my faith and fill me with the happiness that was won for me on Calvary's cross. Bring my life into harmony with Your will, and may others see Your love through my life. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Nehemiah 8:10



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Web Address: <https://stpaulsindependence.org/>

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Worship Service 9am | 8 | 9 Prayer Shawl 12:30pm | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Worship Service w/communion 9am | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Worship Service 9am | 22 | 23 Prayer Shawl 12:30pm | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Worship Service w/communion 9am | 29 | 30 | | | | |



“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. John 12:1-3

