

# The Voice

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

August 2026



## Reading the Word of God with Luther

*So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

John 8:31-32

On the evening of May 4, 1521, Martin Luther was taken to the Wartburg Castle following the Diet of Worms and his famous speech before Emperor Charles V, wherein he refused to recant. Before returning to Wittenberg in March 1522, Luther translated the New Testament into German over the course of 13 weeks. The significance of this contribution of Luther cannot be overstated. Luther thus provides access to God's Word to everyone. Luther's emphasis on Scripture alone, affirmed at the Diet of Worms, is lived out as Christians hold the Word of God sacred and gladly hear and learn in it in their daily lives.

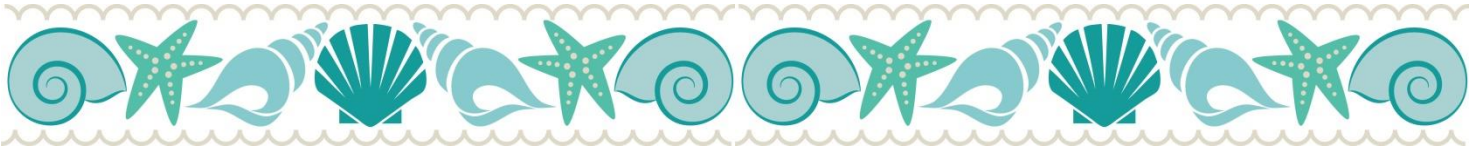
Lutheran Christians put Luther's theology into practice in their daily reading of God's Word. The Gospel reading for Reformation Day is Jesus' description of disciples being those who hold to His teaching. Our prayer is that all of God's people, young and old alike, are growing as our Lord's disciples through the daily study of God's Word. For by the Word of God, the Holy Spirit helps us to grow in faith toward God and in love for our neighbor. Disciples growing in God's Word and serving in their daily callings is how our Lord serves the world through us.

Years ago, my father found a daily devotional book called *Luther for the Busy Man*. It contained daily devotions gleaned from the writings of Martin Luther. He would regularly find used copies online and get them to give to fellow church members. It has now been reprinted and is a good source to be daily in the Word of God (with the assistance of Dr. Luther). Personally, I use *Reading the Psalms with Luther* (available from Concordia Publishing House) as part of my daily devotions and reading of Scripture. There are many things that vie for your time on a daily basis. May you be growing as disciples of Christ through time in God's Word each day. May we learn from Luther to hold God's Word sacred and gladly hear and learn it!

*Prayer - Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Fraternally in Christ,  
President Lee Hagan

Posted May 1, 2024 Missouri District LCMS



### **Serving This Month**

#### **August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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

#### **August 9<sup>th</sup>**

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

#### **August 16<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. Service**

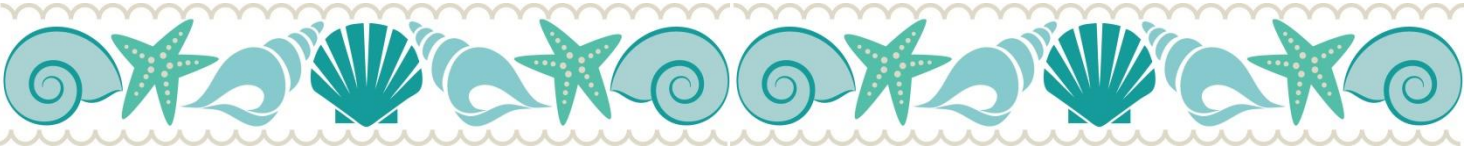
Pastor Gary Stolle  
Lay Reader: Aaron Kirchhoff  
Organist: Doris Foley  
Acolyte: April Causey  
Elder: Cory Brown

#### **August 16<sup>th</sup> 1 p.m. Closing Service**

Pastor Jeremy Loesch  
Lay Readers: Kirsten Englund, Aaron Kirchhoff  
Organist: Doris Foley  
Acolyte: April Causey  
Elder: Aaron Kirchhoff

#### **Altar Guild for August 2026**

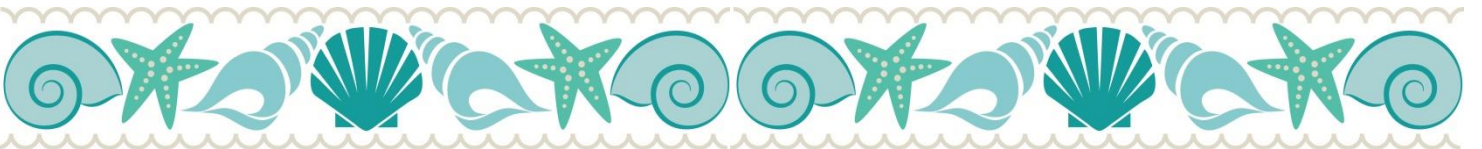
The faithful members of the Altar Guild



**August Birthdays:** 5-Cory Brown; 8-Jenny Moody; 11-Ryan Berry; 17-Doris Foley;  
21-Jerry Martin

**August Wedding Anniversaries:** 6-Larry & Bev Garr; 15-Douglas & Denice Mackey;  
24-[Herb] & Doris Foley

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



#### **Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide**

“To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold Speak tongues of fire and make us bold To shine Your Word of saving grace Into each dark and loveless place.

“Restrain, O Lord, the human pride That seeks to thrust Your truth aside Or with some man-made thoughts or things Would dim the words Your Spirit brings.”

In these hymn verses, we pray that God would make us courageous witnesses for Christ: “Make us bold to shine Your Word of grace.” We also ask that the Lord would restrain the forces that oppose His Word: “Restrain, O Lord, the human pride that seeks to thrust Your truth aside.”

News reports and daily experience show us that the world can be a very dark place of sin and

opposition to the truth of God's Word. We are called to bring the light of God's Word to that darkness.

The Word warns us about the thoughts and things that try to dim the light of truth. The apostle Paul warned the young pastor Timothy about man-made thoughts that would arise to oppose the truth. People would develop "itching ears" and find "teachers to suit their own passions." No longer listening to the truth, many would instead embrace myths invented by those man-made thoughts (see 2 Timothy 4:3-4). We can see the evidence of such thoughts and beliefs at work in today's culture as Satan attempts to extinguish the light of Jesus Christ and His Word.

Surrounded by the growing darkness of human pride and the man-made thoughts and things that oppose the truth, we proclaim the light and truth of Jesus Christ. We pray that our Lord would make us bold to share His Word of saving grace with those still lost in darkness. Jesus sent His disciples into the world to proclaim the truth of His Word, to announce repentance and forgiveness in His Name. Like those first disciples, we too are witnesses for Jesus Christ. A witness in a courtroom does not seek to convince a jury of the truth. A witness simply tells what he saw and what he knows. That is what we do as witnesses for Jesus. We tell others what we know to be true. We talk about our Savior's atoning death and triumphant resurrection. We speak of Jesus' constant presence in our lives and of the forgiveness, hope, and peace that we have through faith in His Name. The Holy Spirit is at work in our witness as He convicts people of the truth. In our homes, in our neighborhoods and in all nations, we are witnesses for our crucified and risen Lord. Into every dark and loveless place, we shine the Word of truth!

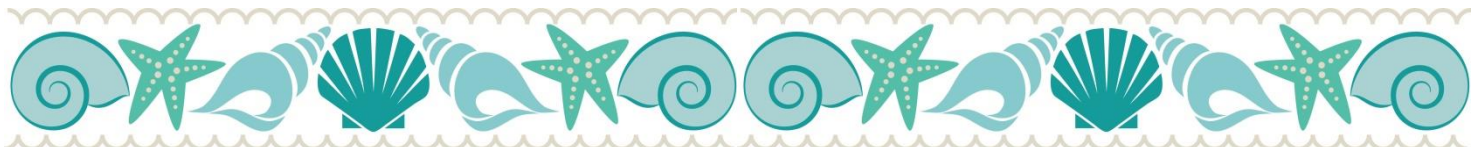
**WE PRAY:** Lord, restrain human pride that seeks to hide the truth of Your Word. Make me a bold witness for You. Amen.

This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Carol Geisler. It is based on the hymn, "Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide," which is number 585 in the *Lutheran Service Book*. Lutheran Hour Ministries

#### Reflection Questions:

1. Are there distractions in your life that keep you from drawing closer to God?
2. Can you think of examples of people with "itching ears" who are finding "teachers to suit their own passions" today?
3. How can you be an instrument of God's light for others in an area where people are struggling?

Today's Readings: Proverbs 30-31 Acts 5:22-42



He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Psalm 91:1-2



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMS

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

| Sunday                                                                                                  | Monday | Tuesday                       | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|                                                                                                         |        |                               |           |          |        | 1        |
| 2 Worship Service<br>9am                                                                                | 3      | 4                             | 5         | 6        | 7      | 8        |
| 9 Worship Service<br>w/communion 9am                                                                    | 10     | 11 Prayer<br>Shawl<br>12:30pm | 12        | 13       | 14     | 15       |
| 16 Confirmation<br>Worship Service<br>9am<br>Meal 11:30am-<br>12:30pm<br>Closing Worship<br>Service 1pm | 17     | 18                            | 19        | 20       | 21     | 22       |
| 23                                                                                                      | 24     | 25                            | 26        | 27       | 28     | 29       |
| 30                                                                                                      | 31     |                               |           |          |        |          |



Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23

