

# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH VISITOR MAY 2026

The mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is to  
Celebrate and Proclaim to all the saving grace of JESUS CHRIST in word and deed.



## “The Pastor Jeff Wick Camp Luther Fundraiser”

### “MAY THE FAITH BE WITH YOU”

Sunday May 3 after worship

sponsored by the St. Paul youth

We will be having a taco bar with beverages and desserts. This festive event is to help fund our youth for a week at Camp Luther. Our youth will be decorating, serving, and cleaning up after the meal.

Please mark your calendars and join us for a wonderful lunch, fellowship, and fiesta.



### Register Here!



### Scholarships available!



Follow us on Facebook  
@ Camp Luther - WV



Follow us on Instagram  
@camp Lutherwv

June 21-27

All students who have completed second grade are welcome to join us for a week at Camp Luther!

Scan the QR code to register your child before June 1<sup>st</sup>. The cost for a week at camp is \$500.00. You can receive a \$50.00 scholarship from the camp and a \$250.00 scholarship from St. Paul. Be sure and indicate this on your registration. Also, make sure you let the church office know that your child will be attending so we can send in the scholarship money for your child.

## Pastor's Reflections

I have been thinking a lot lately about gates. This is because this past Sunday (April 26), which was Good Shepherd Sunday, Jesus speaks of being the gatekeeper. It brings me back to the days of ministry when I served parishes in Nebraska and Iowa. In both of those places the bulk of the parishioners were farmers and ranchers. I learned a lot about our food supply from the ones who supply it.

The ranchers who took care of cattle and pigs had gates for distinct reasons throughout their property. I was told this was to keep the "stock" separated for reasons I did not fully understand and politely nodded my head in the affirmative and smiled. I did come to understand that gates were important for safety of the stock.

I wonder why Jesus says he is the Gatekeeper. It is an interesting metaphor to use. I also then wonder about how we at times want to be a "gatekeeper." Do we keep people out of our circle of friends for some reason? Are we, as Christians, even meant to be gatekeepers? In some ways our humanness gets in the way. We gatekeep because we want to be safe. We gatekeep because we do not like change. We gatekeep because we have always done it that way. It also keeps us in control. Control is not a terrible thing, but it can be detrimental to the work of the Holy Spirit that always pokes and prods us into sharing the Gospel in different and engaging ways. Being gatekeepers keeps the Holy in a place we can recognize.

Jesus of course brings the Holy into the entire world not just the church. It seems to me that Good Shepherd Sunday is also about listening. Listening to the voice of Jesus. Listening to the voice of Jesus all around us as we live our lives as followers of Jesus. My prayer is that as the month of May rolls into June and June rolls into July and July into August you can hear the voice of Jesus in your everyday life. It is that voice "or gatekeeper" who keeps us, love us and forgives us.

Alleluia! Amen!

Pastor KLM <><

## A WORD ABOUT OCMMUNION ON MAY 3

The Worship committee and Council/ Pastor have decided to bring back communion at the rail. Many of you may know that we did away with this practice during COVID restrictions. Today is an "experiment" to see if we want to put this form of distribution into our regular worship in some way. **THE COUNCIL / PASTOR AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK! Please let us know your thoughts/ feelings about having communion distributed in this way.** Below is an explanation of how communion will go.

1. There will be "two stations" one on the pulpit side of the sanctuary (left side) that will offer communion in the way we have been currently doing it. That is with a "bread giver" and someone with a pouring chalice. This form of communion is commonly referred to as continuous.
2. The second station will be at the rail in "tables".
3. **As you come down the center aisle move to the line on the left if you want to receive continuous communion (on the floor of the sanctuary). If you choose to partake of communion at the rail please move to the line on the right (side the organ and piano is on).**
4. As always pastor and the communion deacon will come to you and bring the elements to you if you choose to remain in your seat.

Dear St. Paul Congregation:

April was a busy month for the choir. Between Holy Week in the beginning of the month and the ecumenical Worship two weeks later, we prepared twice as many anthems as usually. On Maundy Thursday, Dylan Morgan accompanied the anthem "Remember Me" as guest flutist (thank you, Dylan!). On special request, we are working on a brand-new anthem, an arrangement of "The Old Rugged Cross" by Mary McDonald that you will hear in May.

As you may have noticed, I started a little series of Bach Preludes and Fugues for preludes and postludes. These are taken from the so-called 8 Short Preludes and Fugues for organ (not to be confused with the Preludes and Fugues for piano/harpsichord from the Well-tempered Clavier – it was typical for Bach to pair a prelude with a fugue in the same key). They are a challenge for me, as they require more independent pedal work in the feet, especially the fugues. A fugue is basically a complicated round (or canon), in which the theme (we call it "subject") enters in different voices at different times. If it's a three-voice fugue on the organ, for instance, one hand will have one voice, the other hand the second voice, and the third voice will be in the foot pedals.

The ecumenical service on April 19 was wonderful, I think. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone involved. Members of the choir met independently to clean the balcony (which we ended up not using) and choir and bell choir lofts. Others prepared snacks for Saturday after the extra rehearsal and Sunday, after Worship, set up chairs etc. Kathy changed the bulletin to accommodate three anthems and an adjusted liturgy. Pastor Kevin met with me and also Pastor Scott for FUMC to decide on liturgy, Communion (Methodists don't use wine...) and other matters. It really takes a village. Thank you again to everyone, you know who you are. Normally, I start the newsletter with the "thank you's". This time, they are last, because they are related to the ecumenical service and I'd like to end with something to look forward to: many people in both choirs and congregations have expressed that they enjoyed and would like to repeat the collaboration...

Henning



Dear St. Paul, Lutheran Congregation,

April has been a joyful and Spirit-filled month for our youth, and we are excited to share all that God has been doing among them. We began the month celebrating our risen Savior with a beautiful Easter breakfast, Resurrection Egg Hunt, and worship service. Families gathered in faith and fellowship, lifted by the Holy Spirit as we gave praise to our risen King and Savior. It was a meaningful time of joy, reflection, and togetherness for all who attended.

Our youth were thrilled to return to CCC for our welcome back make-your-own pizza and game night. There was laughter, fun, and plenty of food as the youth reconnected and enjoyed the fellowship they greatly missed during Wednesday evenings together.

Each Sunday, our youth continue to grow in faith during Sunday School, where they study the gospel, read their Bibles, and discuss the stories of Scripture. They especially enjoy exploring how God's Word connects to their everyday lives, helping them live out their faith beyond the classroom.

We are also thankful for the St. Paul Girl Scouts, who generously gave their time to clean out the pots in front of the church and the planters behind the building, planting new perennials to brighten our grounds. Thank you, girls, for giving back to our church and helping beautify our landscape.

Looking ahead, our youth have been busy planning and preparing for an exciting upcoming event, "The Pastor Wick Camp Luther Fundraiser – May the FAITH Be with You." They have been decorating, choosing desserts to make, and organizing items to bring for this festive gathering. Please join us on Sunday, May 3, 2026, after worship for fiesta and fellowship at our Taco Bar. All funds will aid children in need who wish to attend Camp Luther.

Camp Luther is a wonderful week held in Cowen, West Virginia at Camp Caesar, where children grow closer to God, learn about His unconditional love, and discover how to share that love with others, both during camp and when they return home. Our youth continue to learn, grow, and shine as they share their light with everyone they meet. Thank you for your prayers and continued support for our youth.

Gracious and loving God, we thank You for the gift of our children and youth, for their joyful hearts, willing hands, and growing faith. Thank You for the opportunities to worship, learn, serve, and fellowship together as one church family. Bless the seeds that have been planted in their hearts through Scripture, service, and community, and help them continue to shine. Your light in all that they do. Guide and protect them, strengthen their faith, and inspire them to share Your unconditional love with everyone they meet. We place all our plans, our ministries, and our children into Your loving care. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Your loving sister in Christ,  
Jill May





### COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP

Please join us for coffee and fellowship each Sunday after worship. We meet in the church parlor. If you would like to help by providing treats or making coffee there is a sign up sheet in the parlor.

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Amy Dowis, Starla Kising
- 2 Tom Kist
- 4 Keely Tucker
- 8 Joel Jones; Jared Tucker
- 9 Brynlee Andrus
- 10 Creigh Pemberton
- 12 Dan Beals
- 13 Tim Konzett
- 20 Jaylyn Garnett
- 24 Madelyn Fizer
- 25 Joseph Williams
- 26 Addison Handley
- 31 Mary Lou Pratt



The Book Club will meet on May 20 at 10:00am. We will be discussing "Queen Esther" by John Irving. Please join us!

### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Tim and Cheryl Konzett
- 14 John and Nola Scott
- 15 Jared and Keely Tucker
- 17 Dennis and Brandy Andrus
- 22 James and Susie Wagner



### Cridlin Food and Clothing Pantry

In May we will collect boxes of mac and cheese. Please leave your donations in the containers in the narthex.

### WORSHIP HELPER SCHEDULE

DATE	READER	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION DEACON	CRUCIFER	ACOLYTE	USHERS	BREAD
5/3	Jenny Murray	Emma Arneson	Keith Wellman	Daniel Kist	Jaylyn Garnett	Poppy Cartee/Tom McGill	Ruthann Arneson
5/10	Mary Lou Pratt	Ruthann Arneson	Emma Arneson	Daniel Kist	Jackson Wellman	Poppy Cartee/Tom McGill	
5/17	Linda Schneider	Steve Golder	Cheryl Konzett	Daniel Kist	Kennady Kist		
5/24	David Stuart	Jenny Murray	Martha Danelle	Daniel Kist	Willow May		
5/31	Bernadette Wellman	Linda Schneider	Steve Golder	Daniel Kist	Jackson Wellman		

Altar Guild: Annette DuVall and Judy Wade

Chapel and Sanctuary Lamps: Betty Church



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls are available in the narthex if you would like to give one to someone in need of comfort and prayer. Cards are also available to give with the shawls. These shawls are made by members of St. Paul and are offered free of charge.



### COMMUNION RECORD

Please fill out a communion card each time you take communion. Cards are in the pews in the same section as the offering envelopes. Cards can be placed in the offering plate. If you are in the choir, cards are available in the choir room to be placed in the basket along with your offering.



We pray for: LaDonna, Helen, Opal, Stephen, Helen, April, Rene, Elisha, Tessa, Bill, Eric, Teresa, Steve, Luke and Jake.

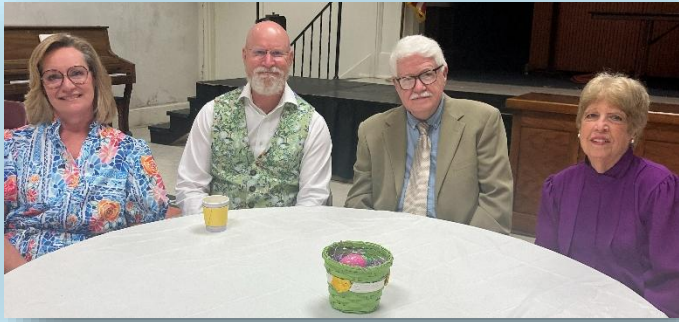


Backpack items are an ongoing need throughout the school year. **We are providing 30 backpacks each week to Southside Elementary!** If you can help by donating any of the items below, please leave them in the containers in the narthex or bring to the church office.

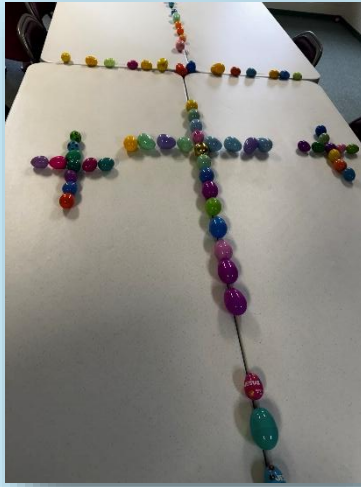
- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| fruit cups          | applesauce             |
| Mac and Cheese      | Beef-a-Roni            |
| Beef sticks         | Cereal                 |
| Pop Tarts           | Fruit snacks           |
| Drink boxes         | Shelf stable milk      |
| tuna salad/crackers | chicken salad/crackers |

**All items need to be individual sizes and not contain peanuts.**

**Please leave your items in the container in the narthex or bring to the church office.**







# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00am Worship 11:15am Camp Fundraiser Meal	4 1:00pm Woman's Club	5 9:30am Quilting Pastor at QRT	6 6:00pm CCC 7:00pm Choir	7	8	9
Mother's Day 10 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee and Fellowship	11	12 9:30am Quilting	13 7:00pm Choir	14 6:00pm Scouts	15	16
17 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee and Fellowship Pastor on vacation	18	19 9:30am Quilting	20 10:00am Book Club 6:00pm CCC 7:00pm Choir	21	22	23
Pentecost 24 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee and Fellowship	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26 9:30am Quilting	27 7:00pm Choir Pastor at QRT	28 6:00pm Scouts	29	30
Holy Trinity 31 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School 11:15am Coffee and Fellowship						