

**ST PAUL & ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**



**“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
— Psalm 119:105**

May 10, 2026

“Faithfully Reporting God’s Word”

THE PATHLIGHT (A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR)

May 10, 2026

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The Pathlight

*Your Word Is A Lamp To My Feet
And A Light To My Path.
PS 119:105*

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Ready For Anything!

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ maybe put to shame. 1 Peter 3:13-16

There's nothing more uplifting than being around someone who is positive, someone who has hope. That's especially true when their hope isn't merely "wishful thinking." Real hope comes from something that is greater than our best efforts, political desires, or technological ability. Real hope covers everything and excludes nothing. This is the kind of hope that Peter is talking about. He wants to make sure that his readers know they can have that kind of hope because of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection for everyone. Then he wants you to present that hope to others when the opportunity arises in all the relationships we have in this world.

What would it take to be ready to do that? Simply put, what it takes is being immersed in the faith you have in Jesus Christ through His Word and Sacraments. "Let His Word dwell in you richly", as Colossians 3:16 reads. Remember every day that you have been baptized into His Name and you are now His child. At worship, remember that you are invited to His Supper where He gives you food and drink for eternal life. There He gives you His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins so that you can face whatever comes your way in this world. When immersed in the faith through Word and Sacrament, then His gifts will "spill-over" from our lives into the lives of others. That's the Holy Spirit!

In the movie (2016) titled "Risen." throughout the movie one can see the "spill-over" that comes when Clavious (played by Joseph Fiennes who also played the part of Luther in the 2003 movie) comes into contact with people who are filled with the hope of the risen Jesus. Clavious is a FICTIONAL Roman centurion who was 1) present at the crucifixion of Jesus; 2) ordered to witness that Jesus is dead by finding His body; 3) Clavious finds Bartholomew and threatens him with death if he doesn't tell the truth; and 4) Bartholomew has such joy and hope in the resurrection of Jesus that even the threats of Clavious can't take that hope away. Even under threat, Bartholomew can't help but "spill-over" in the joy that comes from being filled with the hope that comes by faith in Jesus.

Are you ready to face whatever comes with that same hope? More and more these days we are facing the skepticism, ridicule, and hopelessness of an unbelieving world. Nevertheless, we will also meet the curious. Having the faith and trust in Christ that comes by the power of the Spirit it will "spill-over" as we speak to others in His name. Be ready for the questions, the challenges, and also... the Lord uses those whom He pleases. He pleases..... to use humble people like you with Christ-filled and Christ-created hope. Then, whatever comes, you'll be ready because, in Him, you already are!

Pastor Christensen

Lutheran Service Book
Order of Worship

HYMN #478 “The Day of Resurrection”

LITURGY Divine Service Setting Four pg. 203

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

INTROIT (see bulletin insert)

KYRIE pg. 204

SALUTATION and COLLECT pg. 205

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Acts 17:16-31

EPISTLE: 1 Peter 3:13-22

HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

APOSTLES’ CREED pg. 207

HYMN #821 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

SERMON

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD’S PRAYER pg.209

BENEDICAMUS pg. 212

HYMN #490 “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”

SILENT PRAYER

Serving Today

St. Paul

Usher/Greeters-Randy Renquist/Gerry Priest

Organist-Jeanie Boehm

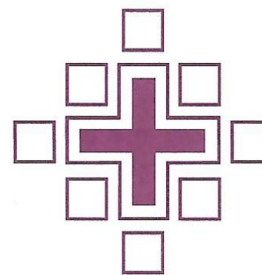
Zion

Altar Guild-Shelle/Jodi,

Organist-Jeanie Boehm

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026



INTROIT *Ps. 119:89–93; antiphon: Ps. 119:105*

Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.
Forever, O | LORD, your word*
is firmly fixed | in the heavens.
Your faithfulness endures to all gener- | ations;*
you have established the earth, and it | stands fast.
By your appointment they | stand this day,*
for all things are your | servants.
If your law had not been | my delight,*
I would have perished in my af- | fliction.
I will never forget your | precepts,*
for by them you have giv- | en me life.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL *adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6*

Christ has risen | from the dead.*
[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor,
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

DAILY READINGS

May 10: Num. 3:1–16, 39–48; Luke 14:25–15:10; **11:** Num. 8:5–26; Luke 15:11–32; **12:** Num. 9:1–23; Luke 16:1–18; **13:** Num. 10:11–36; Luke 16:19–31; **14:** Num. 11:1–23, 31–35; Luke 17:1–19; **15:** Num. 11:24–29; 12:1–16; Luke 17:20–37; **16:** Num. 13:1–3, 17–33; Luke 18:1–17.

First Reading: Acts 17:16–31

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbling wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for

“In him we live and move and have our being”;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“For we are indeed his offspring.”

²⁹Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the

world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Epistle: 1 Peter 3:13–22

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Holy Gospel: John 14:15–21

¹⁵[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”



St. Paul

May 11-9:00AM-Bible Study

May 17-8:00AM-Bible Study

9:00AM-Worship Service/Communion

Servants for Worship-Jeanie Boehm/Dennis Aulston/Brad Ehmke

Zion

May 13-3:30PM- Midweek

May 17-10:00AM-Sunday School

11:00AM- Worship Service/Communion

Servants for Worship- Jeanie Boehm /Altar Guild- Jodi & Shelle



May 14-Angie Blessin & Cooper Evans

May 17-Lori Ehmke & David Orth

The annual Garage Sale and Bake Sale for Zion will be June 6, 2026.

We are accepting any treasures or junk that you would like to donate.

We will also accept your baking talents. Items may be dropped off at

the church basement. Call Jodi if you need us to pick

anything up. 308-464-1017

THANK YOU to the members of St. Paul and Zion congregations who contributed to the Mite Box on April 26 and May 3, 2026. A total of \$270.00 was collected for the LWML Mission Projects. May God bless your generous hearts and the LWML projects.



Name That Disciple (and a Hymn!)

I am not always the first to speak, but I am often remembered for the moment I could not quite believe what others had already seen. When my friends told me the Lord had risen, I struggled—not because I did not love Him, but because I longed for certainty. I wanted to see, to touch, to know for myself. Yet when He came and stood among us, He did not turn me away. Instead, He met me in my doubt and invited me closer. In that moment, my hesitation turned into one of the clearest confessions of faith in all the Gospels.

But that is not the whole story. Long before that moment, I was also the one who asked the question others may have been thinking but did not say aloud. When Jesus spoke of going to prepare a place, I admitted what I did not understand: “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” In response, Jesus gave one of His most well-known promises about being the way, the truth, and the life.

My story is not one of perfect faith, but of honest seeking—a reminder that even in uncertainty, Christ comes near. In this Easter season, as we hear promises of the Advocate, the Spirit of truth who abides with us, my journey points to the comfort that we are not left alone in our questions.

There is a well-loved Easter hymn that echoes this same movement—from uncertainty and sorrow to joy and confident faith. It proclaims Christ’s victory over death and celebrates the new life we share in Him, often ringing out with joyful alleluias.



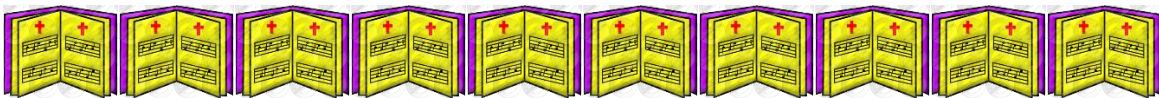
Now consider another voice among the disciples:

I am often quick to speak and just as quick to stumble. I stepped out boldly, even onto the water, yet fear sometimes overtook my courage. I declared great loyalty, promising to follow my Lord anywhere, but when the moment of testing came, I faltered and denied even knowing Him. Still, my story did not end there. The risen Christ sought me out, not to condemn, but to restore—asking me three times if I loved Him and entrusting me with the care of His people.

In this Easter season, my journey reminds us that failure is not the final word. The love of Christ restores, renews, and calls us forward again. As Jesus promises in John 14, we are not left alone—the Spirit strengthens us to live in that restored relationship.

There is a beloved hymn that reflects this confidence and mission. It is a triumphant Easter proclamation, inviting all creation to rejoice in the risen Christ and the victory of life over death.

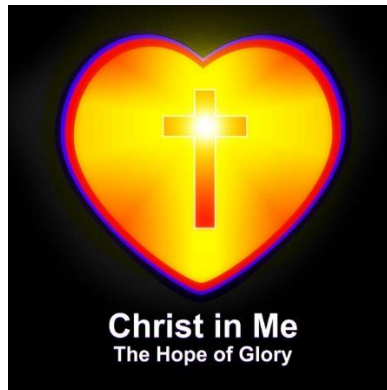
Can you name the two disciples... and the two hymns?



Answers:

First Disciple: Thomas the Apostle
First Hymn: "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Second Disciple: Peter the Apostle
Second Hymn: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"



“Not Left Alone”
Hope in the Midst of Struggle
(John 14:15-21)

Life can sometimes feel overwhelming. There are seasons when burdens seem too heavy, when grief lingers, when uncertainty clouds the future, or when we quietly wonder if God feels distant. The words of Jesus in John 14 were first spoken to disciples who were anxious, confused, and afraid. He had told them He was going away, and they did not know what would come next. Into that fear, Jesus speaks a promise that still holds today: *you are not alone*.

Jesus says, “I will not leave you orphaned.” This is more than comforting language—it is a deep assurance of relationship. To be “orphaned” is to be left without protection, without belonging, without care. Jesus rejects that reality for His followers. Even when He is no longer physically present, He promises the coming of the Advocate—the Holy Spirit—who will be with them and in them. God’s presence is not distant or temporary; it is near, active, and enduring.

For those who are struggling, this matters. Faith does not mean a life free from hardship. It does mean that in the middle of hardship, God is present. The Spirit works quietly but powerfully—bringing comfort in grief, strength in weakness, and truth when everything feels uncertain. Sometimes that presence is felt in prayer, sometimes in Scripture, and often through the care and support of others in the body of Christ.

Jesus also says, “Because I live, you also will live.” This is Easter hope. The resurrection is not only something that happened to Jesus long ago; it is a promise that life—not death, not despair, not failure—has the final word. Even when circumstances do not immediately change, the promise of new life stands firm. In Lutheran understanding, this hope is pure gift—grace given freely, not something we earn by being strong enough or faithful enough. God comes to us as we are, especially when we feel at our weakest.

There is also a gentle invitation in this passage: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” This is not a burden placed on already weary shoulders. Instead, it is a description of a life shaped by love. When we know we are not alone, when we trust that Christ

abides with us, our lives begin to reflect that love in small but meaningful ways—through patience, kindness, forgiveness, and care for others. These are not requirements to earn God’s presence; they are the fruit of already being held by it. If you are walking through a difficult season, hold onto this: Christ has not abandoned you. The Spirit is with you, even when you cannot feel it. You are known, you are loved, and you are not alone. Easter declares that even in the darkest moments, new life is still possible.

Reflection Questions: Where in your life do you most need to hear Jesus’ promise, “I will not leave you orphaned?” How have you experienced God’s presence—through people, Scripture, or moments of peace—even in difficult times? What might it look like, in one small way this week, to live in response to Christ’s love?

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, in times of struggle and uncertainty, remind us that we are never alone. Send your Holy Spirit to comfort and guide us. Strengthen our hearts with the promise of the risen Christ, and help us to trust in your abiding presence. Renew us with your grace, and lead us in your love. Amen.



Happy Mother's Day.....

The Christian Mother

*Sometimes I take for granted
The Christian Mother who is there.
The mother who has raised me,
Who gave her love and care.
The Mother who helped me grow
In a fine, Christian home.
The Mother who has taught me
With God we're not alone.
The Mother who has laughed with me,
When all was going well.
The Mother who has picked me up
The times that I have failed.
The Mother I didn't appreciate
Until I was fully grown.
The sacrifices she made for me
As time quickly moved along.
The Mother with such Christian faith
That helped me from the start.
The Mother who I love and cherish,
And treasure in my heart.*

© Loving Lives and More

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