

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter



# SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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## WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SHARING THE PEACE

### OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands! Come into God's presence with a song. **For we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.** We listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd, who calls us each by name. **Though we sometimes wander, we return to the shepherd and guardian of our lives.** Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving! **Christ has come that we might have life and live it to the fullest. All: Let us worship God together!**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends, in as much as we are the sheep of God's pasture, let us come into God's presence honestly. Trusting that God's steadfast love is everlasting, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Holy One, we confess to you and to one another that we have not always followed Christ's example. When we have been abused, we have been abusive in return. We have gone astray. Lead us back into your fold and guard our souls in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Friends, the promise of our faith is that if we entrust ourselves to the One who judges justly, we need not feel threatened, for we will be returned to righteousness. Having been brought back into the safety of God's fold, let us share our peace with one another.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**HYMN: #883 All People That on Earth Do Dwell**

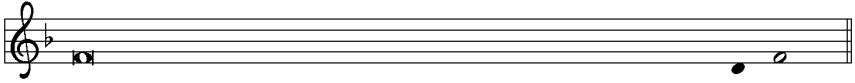
### GREETING (p. 203)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

# KYRIE (p. 138)



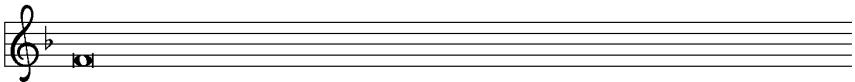
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



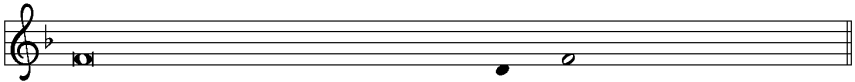
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



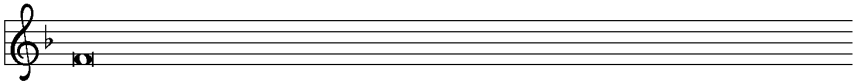
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



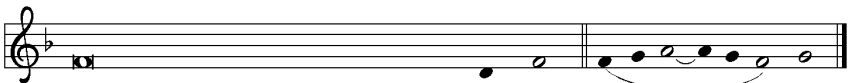
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 140)



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Good Shepherd, you call us by name, and we know your voice. Open the gate for us, that we may come and go freely, have life, and have it abundantly. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC Sunday School "If I Were a Butterfly"**

**First Reading: Ezekiel 34:7-15 (CEB)**

*God will shepherd Israel*

<sup>7</sup> So now shepherds, hear the Lord's word! <sup>8</sup> This is what the Lord God says: As surely as I live, without a shepherd, my flock became prey. My flock became food for all the wild animals. My shepherds didn't seek out my flock. They tended themselves, but they didn't tend my flock.

<sup>9</sup> So, shepherds, hear the Lord's word! <sup>10</sup> The Lord God proclaims: I'm against the shepherds! I will hold them accountable for my flock, and I will put an end to their tending the flock. The shepherds will no longer tend them, because I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and they will no longer be their food.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord God proclaims: I myself will search for my flock and seek them out. <sup>12</sup> As a shepherd seeks out the flock when some in the flock have been scattered, so will I seek out my flock. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered during the time of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> I will gather and lead them out from the countries and peoples, and I will bring them to their own fertile land. I will feed them on Israel's highlands, along the riverbeds, and in all the inhabited places. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them in good pasture, and their sheepfold will be there, on Israel's lofty highlands. On Israel's highlands, they will lie down in a secure fold and feed on green pastures. <sup>15</sup> I myself will feed my flock and make them lie down. This is what the Lord God says.

**Psalm: Psalm 100**

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!

**<sup>2</sup> Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.**

<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong; we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

**<sup>4</sup> Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;  
give thanks and bless God's holy name.**

<sup>5</sup> Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25 (CEB)**

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

<sup>19</sup> Now, it is commendable if, because of one's understanding of God, someone should endure pain through suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> But what praise comes from enduring patiently when you have sinned and are beaten for it? But if you endure steadfastly when you've done good and suffer for it, this is commendable before God.

<sup>21</sup> You were called to this kind of endurance, because Christ suffered on your behalf. He left you an example so that you might follow in his footsteps. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, nor did he ever speak in ways meant to deceive. <sup>23</sup> When he was insulted, he did not reply with insults. When he suffered, he did not threaten revenge. Instead, he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He carried in his own body on the cross the sins we committed. He did this so that we might live in righteousness, having nothing to do with sin. By his wounds you were healed. <sup>25</sup> Though you were like straying sheep, you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your lives.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Before:* The holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**  
**Gospel: John 10:1-10 (CEB)**

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> “I assure you that whoever doesn’t enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They won’t follow a stranger but will run away because they don’t know the stranger’s voice.” <sup>6</sup> Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn’t understand what he was saying.

<sup>7</sup> So Jesus spoke again, “I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn’t listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.

*After:* The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON: “The Voice in the Crowd”**

**HYMN: #789 Have No Fear, Little Flock**

## **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM & WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

**PRESENTATION Pastor:** Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom the Good Shepherd has gathered into our fold today. We joyfully welcome them as new members of this congregation. *(The pastor may introduce the new members by name.)*

**Pastor:** In baptism, we are claimed by God and made sheep of God’s own pasture. Today, we invite you to affirm the promises

made at your baptism, trusting in the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH Pastor:** I ask you all to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? **New**

**Members & Congregation: I renounce them. Pastor:** Do you

renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **New**

**Members & Congregation: I renounce them. Pastor:** Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? **New Members & Congregation: I renounce them.**

**Pastor:** Do you believe in God the Father? **All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**Pastor:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God? **All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**Pastor:** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? **All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**COMMITMENT Pastor:** *(Addressing the new members)* You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful flock, to listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd in the word and at the table, to proclaim the abundant life of Christ through word and deed, to care for those who are scattered or vulnerable, and to serve the Lord with gladness in all the earth?

**New Members:** I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

**Pastor:** Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Sustain these your beloved sheep

with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **All: Amen.**

**WELCOME Pastor:** Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers and welcome them into our fellowship. **All: We welcome you into the sheepfold of God's pasture! Enter these gates with thanksgiving, and join us as we follow the Shepherd's voice. Together, we will share in the abundant life of Christ and serve the Lord with gladness. Thanks be to God!**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition concludes: Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

### **OFFERING**

Church, our God has searched for us, gathered us, and fed us in good pastures. Because we are the sheep of God's pasture, let us serve the Lord with gladness, giving generously so that others may also experience God's abundant care.

**Offering Song: #186 Create in Me a Clean Heart**

**Offering Prayer: Holy and generous God, you are our maker and we belong to you. Bless these tithes and offerings that they may become green pastures and open gates to abundant life for any and all who need your steadfast love. Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 145)**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Now the God who calls us by name lead you out to green pastures and lead you into the safety of Christ's fold. **Amen.**

**HYMN: #764 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

### **CHARGE**

Devote yourselves to the way of the Good Shepherd. Go out through these gates to seek the lost, bind up the broken, and share God's abundant life with everyone you meet. **Thanks be to God.**

# SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran, Crookston, MN

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Today is sometimes called, "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

## PRAYER LIST

### **For those who need healing in body, mind, or spirit:**

Julie Love	Eunice Sondrol	Judy Luettjohann
Darleen Jackson	Katie Bakken	Julian Bertils
Marlo Moren	Evie Gunderson	Nancy Eia
Mike Ophus	Loiland family	Trevin Monahan
Nash Erdman	Stuart Hanson	Mark Peterson
Lenny Devos	Glorryne Casmey	Lucile Torkelson
Delores Sandager	Carol Chaffee	Kari L Trudeau
Leah Knotek Ellefson		

**For our missionaries:** Steve & Kelly Solheim  
City of Joy Rwanda

**For our servicemen:** Brandon Johnson      D.J. Brace

***Please keep them in your prayers this week.***

If you have prayer requests, please contact the church office at 218 281-3638 or our prayer chain coordinator, Marian Bakken: (h) 218-281-1584, (c) 218-275-3143, [marianbakken@gmail.com](mailto:marianbakken@gmail.com).

## MISSION

### To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people

1214 University Avenue – Crookston, Minnesota 56716

Website: [stpaulscrookstonmn.com](http://stpaulscrookstonmn.com)

[facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn](https://facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn)

Phone: 218-281-3638

Email: [stpauls@midconetwork.com](mailto:stpauls@midconetwork.com)

Ministers

St. Paul's members

Council President

Anna Peterson

Pastor

Rev. Curt Peterson

Organist

Mary Ann Knotek

Webmaster

Anna Peterson

Treasurer

Betty Arvidson

Financial Secretary

Kathie Barnes

Custodian

Marilyn Flateland

Administrative Assistant

Tammy Frohlich

### THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!

Ushers

Betty and Bruce Arvidson

Scripture Reader

Betty Arvidson

Acolyte

Colton Tronnes

Altar Guild

Judy Luettjohann

Offering Counters

Kathie Barnes and Vicki Trudeau

Fellowship

CYF (Yummy rolls!)

Livestream

### MAY WORSHIP SERVICES TEAM

We are grateful for the Spectacular May Worship Team. Please check out the sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board. 😊

Dan and Brandi Halland

Scott and Julie Kleven

Loren and Marjean Sanderson

Alvern Wentzel

Thank you April's Marvelous Worship Service Team for your faithful response to serving this month!

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Proverbs 4:10-18

Psalms 119:9-32

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Readings for May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9am- 2pm**

**Please leave a message after 2 pm on the answering machine/drop something in the mailbox (north side of building)/call ahead. Pastor Curt is usually in the building but may be out on other church business. Worship via Facebook: [facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn](https://facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn)**

### ***Sunday, April 26***

**8:45 am  
10:00 am  
11:00 am**

### ***4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter***

**SS/Adult Bible Study  
Worship/ New Member Welcome  
Fellowship**

### ***Monday, April 27***

**8:30 am  
6:30 pm**

**LWR Quilting  
Church Council Mtg**

### ***Tuesday, April 28***

**7:00 am  
9:30 am  
7:00 pm**

**Men's Coffee Fellowship  
Joanna Naomi Circle  
AA**

### ***Wednesday, April 29***

**7:00 pm  
7:00 pm  
8:00 pm**

**Confirmation  
Choir Practice  
Confirmation Rehearsal**

### ***Thursday, April 30***

### ***Friday, May 1***

**Church office closed    Pastor's Day off**

### ***Sunday, May 3***

**8:45 am  
10:00 am  
  
11:00 am**

### ***5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter***

**SS/Adult Bible Study  
Worship  
Confirmation  
Fellowship**

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Attendance: 62

### *Our gifts towards Budget:*

Sunday Envelopes	\$3,849.02
Loose Offering	\$ 42.38
Over and Above Benevolence	\$ 10.00
General Treas/No Benevolence	\$ 155.00

### *Other (non-budget) Receipts:*

Improvement Fund	\$ 35.00
Flower Bed/Tree Fund	\$ 92.00
Quilting Fund (Thrivent Choice Dollars)	\$ 223.00

### *Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:*

Total received towards Budget	\$4,675.42
Total (non-budget) Receipts	\$4,056.40
Total Received	\$ 350.00
	\$4,406.40

The most recent Treasurer's Report was approved at the last Church Council meeting. You can review it in the bulletin or web bulletin from March 29<sup>th</sup> or contact Tammy in the office and she can provide a copy.

We have incredible news to share; we have reached our parsonage siding fundraising goal of **\$29,385.96!** Thank you so much!

## **SPECIAL MESSAGES**

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

#### **Joyful Welcome to Our New Members.**

This Sunday, as we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, we rejoice as the Good Shepherd gathers new members into our fold! Please join us during worship in giving a warm welcome to our newest sisters and brothers in Christ.

We are especially blessed this morning to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for three of our new members as they are claimed by God and made sheep of God's own pasture.

**Please welcome:**

- **Becky Strand**
- **Emily Giannotta**
- **Hattie Whiting, and her children Mark and Wendy Chen** (*Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism*)

As we affirm our baptismal promises together today, let us rejoice with these individuals and welcome them into our fellowship. Be sure to greet them after worship to officially welcome them into the sheepfold of God's pasture!

### **HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS – WOMEN OF ELCA**

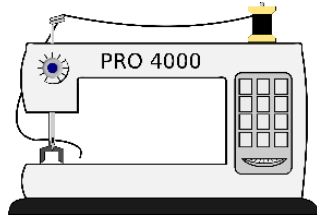
If you or anyone you know is a high school senior graduating this spring, and is planning to attend an ELCA College, you may be eligible for a scholarship through the SWO W/ELCA. A letter detailing the qualifications, plus a form to fill out can be found online at: [nwmnsynod.org/assets/High-School-Scholarship-Letter-andApplication.pdf](http://nwmnsynod.org/assets/High-School-Scholarship-Letter-andApplication.pdf) or contact the church office. The four criteria for eligibility are:

1. Be a graduating High School Senior with a “C” average or above.
2. Be a member of an ELCA Church.
3. Be a resident of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA.
4. Be attending an ELCA College.

If you have questions, please contact the church office.

## QUILTER'S WISH LIST

As people are doing their spring cleaning, the quilters would appreciate any of the following items: sheets, pillowcases, mattress pads, bed skirts, blankets, bedspreads, comforters, drapes, curtains, tablecloths, fabric, and yarn. Many of these items are fillers for quilts; the age/use of them is not significant. **Thank you!**



## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** Confirmation Sunday
- **Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** Last day of Sunday School
- **Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** Quilt presentations to St. Paul's graduating seniors

## SPRING OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the church office hours have been updated. All remains the same except Tuesday hours will be 12:00 – 5:00 pm. Thank you. 😊

## RHUBARB FESTIVAL

Trinity Lutheran Church is hosting their annual Rhubarb Festival on Thursday, June 18, from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. There will be a luncheon, dessert, and bake sale. Cost is \$12.00 per person. Take out is available.

## LWR PACKING

The wonderful ladies of our Lutheran World Relief Quilting group will soon be packing and sending another shipment of quilts, baby kits, and health care kits. If you are able to help on May 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 8:30 am, we would be very grateful. 😊



## **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

Sunday is a very special day in the life of our church! Four of our youth will complete their confirmation journey by affirming their baptism during worship. Please join us in celebrating this important milestone. **CONGRATULATIONS** to our confirmands!



Confirmation is seen as a rite of passage where young people take personal responsibility for their faith, transitioning from the promises made by parents and sponsors at their infant baptism to a public, mature confession of their own. Common promises:

- ❖ To live among God's faithful people.
- ❖ To attend services, hear the word of God, and share in the Lord's Supper.
- ❖ To proclaim the good news of God in Christ.
- ❖ To serve all people, following the example of Jesus.
- ❖ To strive for justice and peace on all the earth.

## **ONLINE SAFETY PRESENTATION**

Keeping our kids safe in the digital age we live in: Information every parent, grandparent and guardian need to know.

**May 13, 2026**

**Wednesday evening @ 6:30 pm**

**St. Pauls's Lutheran Church**

**1214 University Avenue, Crookston MN**

The Polk County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday, May 13, will be presenting a timely program which will highlight topics of concern for families, including:

- Sextortion – what it is and is it happening in NW Minnesota.
- The dangers of kids using social media which can expose them to on-line predators.
- Privacy concerns and exposure to inappropriate content.
- The importance of parents checking their kid's activity on social media and gaming platforms.
- The resources and apps that are available to parents to aid in monitoring and controlling where your kids are going on-line.

There will be time for questions. All parents, grandparents and guardians are invited.