



St. Paul News

St. Paul Lutheran Church
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MAY

2025

The Rodney Dangerfield of Church Holidays By Pastor Neil Wehmas

Rodney Dangerfield was a popular comedian of the 1980s and 1990s. He was often heard saying, “I don’t get no respect, no respect at all”. In Acts, chapter 1 we read that the risen Jesus Christ appeared to many people (over 500 according to 1 Corinthians 15) during a period of 40 days. On that fortieth day, Jesus ascended into heaven. It is for this reason that the 40th day after Easter has been celebrated as Ascension Day.

In the early days of the Christian Church, alongside Easter and Pentecost, it was one of the three most important days of the entire year. This is not the case in 2025. In 2025, The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord, has become much like Rodney Dangerfield, “It gets no respect, no respect at all.”

A large majority of churches within the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod do not have an Ascension Day service. In our area, the Mapleton and Denison circuits have opted to promote and support a yearly Ascension Day service at Mission Central, outside of Mapleton. Most years there are about 100 people in attendance for this service.

“No respect, no respect at all.” Think about this, there are 6,700 members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod within a half-hour of Mission Central. Ascension Day gets no respect, and we are the ones who lose out on a message that God desires for us.

Ascension Day is an important day in the history of the Christian Church, and it is a day that all Christians should be celebrating. In the account of Jesus’ ascension in Acts chapter 1, we see the importance of this date:

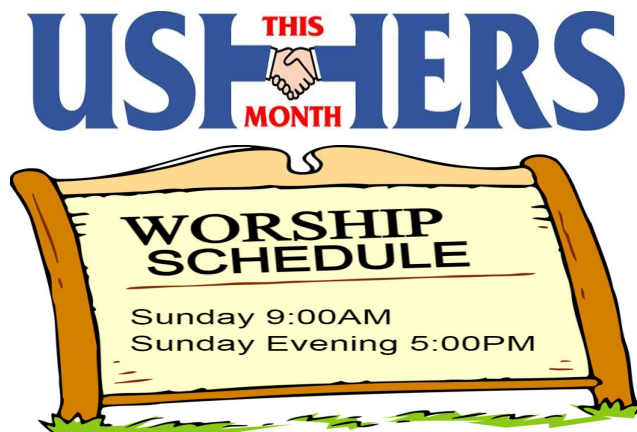
1. The disciples ask if Jesus was going to restore the kingdom to Israel. Jesus didn’t really give an answer, but in the Lord’s Prayer we pray “thy kingdom come”. Jesus’ kingdom comes to us in his word and in his sacraments. The task of the church, indeed was to preach, baptize, and eat/drink his supper.
2. Jesus told the disciples that they were to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and to the very ends of the Earth. This indeed is the task of every Christian and church. We are to be witnesses of Gospel to our friends, family, and neighbors (Jerusalem). We are to support nearby congregations in their Gospel mission (Judea). We are to support the work of other churches scattered throughout our country (Samaria). We are to support world-wide missionaries, like the ones sent out by Mission Central (ends of the Earth).
3. Jesus’ ascension into heaven allows us to look forward to when we ourselves will ascend unto heaven when we draw our last breath. Ascension Day is indeed a day to be mindful of the good things he has in store for those whom he has called to faith by the Gospel.
4. The Disciples are told that Jesus would return as he left. This reminds us that Jesus will indeed return to judge the living and the dead. Therefore, with Ascension Day we look forward to his return.

This year, I encourage you not to neglect Ascension Day. Attend the Ascension Day service at Mission Central near Mapleton. **Ascension Day is Thursday, May 29th at 6:30pm.** There is a meal prior to the service at 5pm.

Mission Central is indeed a fitting place to hold an Ascension Day Service. It is a place that is living out Jesus' call to be witnesses of Him to the ends of the Earth. I pray that we all gather for Ascension Day festival that we too may learn to be witnesses at home, to our state, our nation, and the very ends of the Earth.

I hope for a day when this great moment of history would get respect and honor. As it gives honor and glory to our Most High God. To our God be all glory, honor, and worship. Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Neil Wehmas



9:00AM Worship :
Acolytes are listed on the calendar

COMMUNION ANNOUNCEMENT we will now be adding Holy Communion on the 5th Sunday of a month –

About our Communion Practice

To our visitors and guests: In accordance with the apostolic command and in unity with the unbroken practice of the Church, St. Paul Lutheran practices Closed Communion. If you are not a member of a congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we kindly ask you to refrain from communing. We do so not to offend you, but because the Scriptures clearly teach that those communing together be unified in their confession of the Faith. In this Sacrament we are not only joined to Christ our Head who is present in His body and blood but are also knit together with one another as His Body, in which there should be no division of belief. Should you have questions or concerns about this Biblical and historic doctrine, please speak with our pastor. If this is your first time communing at St. Paul Lutheran Church, please speak with our pastor before the service. If certain factors prohibit you from partaking in regular wine, a non-alcoholic option is available in the center circle of each tray. **If not communing but desiring to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest when Pastor approaches.**

OFFERING BOXES In order to help with the overall flow and length of the worship service. we will be collecting the offering via the offering boxes in the Narthex. The main wooden offering box will still be available on the Welcome Center, there will be boxes available by each door that enters the Sanctuary.

WE ARE BRINGING BACK “ASK THE PASTOR” which he will answer your questions on the 4th Sunday of the month, see box on black table in the narthex by Sanctuary glass windows, to submit your questions.



COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS for COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS for DONATIONS FOR MAY: Paper products: toilet paper, paper towel, garbage bags, napkins, Kleenex, etc.. Place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex or hallway. Any items are appreciated as well, as they can always use donations. The Community Basket is open on Thursdays (except 3rd Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM ****They can always use toilet paper, laundry soap, shampoo & conditioner, canned vegetables, canned fruits & canned soups. Mobile Food Pantry will be at the Odebolt Community Center on WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 from 4:30-5:30PM.** Its helpful to bring a laundry basket or container for your food items. Volunteers to help carry are always appreciated.

The Whole Story is our Congregation as a group reading the Bible in a year. Suggested Apps below if that is how you like to read **the daily Bible readings and included in this newsletter, on the back of the March Calendar and a print out of the month of March daily readings will be on the Welcome Center,**



Suggested Bible Apps

When you post on your personal Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Snapchat Use the #thewholestory25 and #stpaulidagrove



FLAT JESUS We encourage everyone (all ages) to take a Flat Jesus and carry Flat Jesus with you, keep him in your pocket, car, or at work, etc.. We also encourage you to share Flat Jesus with someone you know, grand kids, other adults. We also encourage you to have Flat Jesus with you as you read through the Bible.

Take him with you any time you're out having lunch, dinner, driving, etc..If you would like to take a picture of him by your Bible, Tablet, computer or at your lunch table, dinner table, or car, etc..Send in your pictures we would love to post them or share them on the screens, with our announcement slides stpaulidagrove@gmail.com

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANTS Pancake Breakfast



National Youth Gathering participants will serve
Pancakes and Sausage
on Sunday, June 1, 2025, come and enjoy

FREE WILL OFFERING FUNDRAISER FOR
NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

This is the Youth's last fellowship breakfast til fall!

SENIOR RECOGNITION will be on Sunday, May 4, 2025, we will recognize our 2025 graduates during the Worship Service at 9:00AM and during the fellowship hour, please join us. **2025 Graduates:** Blake Corbin, Calvin Corr, Byron Godbersen, Bailey Hansen, Brylie Hansen, Keagan Hoaglund, Anna Hoffman, Ella Hoffman, Sierra Jepsen, Malia Lansink, Halle Montgomery, Sawyer Larsen, Blake Petersen, Hunter Wessel, Kaeley Wunschel, Hayden Zimmerman

**GRADUATE
RECOGNITION
SUNDAY**

**Class of 2025
Sunday, May 4th @9am**

MAY THE FOURTH
BE WITH YOU
AND ALSO WITH YOU!

**MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

May 9 (Friday) Ben Helge & Family will present about their work in the Czech Republic. Presentation begins at 1:00PM

May 20 (Tuesday) Rev. Arthur and Deaconess Eva Rickman & family will present their work in Panama. Presentation will begin at 1:00PM

May 24 (Saturday) Rev. David Baker & family will present their work in Asia. Presentation will begin at 1:00PM

May 29 Special Ascension Service (Thursday) Rev. James and Angela Sharp & family, Puerto Rico. Meal at 5:00PM and Worship at 6:30PM

SOME OF YOUR OPTIONS FOR BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY EARLY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets at **7:00AM** Zimmy's

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from **9:30-10:30AM** in the Conference Room in the lower level.

THURSDAY MORE THAN BREAD BIBLE STUDY meets at **6:00PM** at Subway, no Bible Study on Thursday, May 29 due to the Ascension Service at Mission Central.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS join us in the Fellowship Hall starting at **10:15AM**

LWML LADIES BIBLE STUDY MAY



Lutheran Women
in Mission

RUTH (2) will meet on May 1 at Zimmy's at noon and meet at the church for Bible Study at 1:00PM. Linda BSL. We had 12 present for our April meeting. We made plans for Easter, paraments, Easter lilies, etc. We decided to get an Easter Lily in memory of Sandy Schreiber, who was one of our members. We also discussed Spring Rally plans.

LOIS (3) will meet on May 1 in the Conference Room at 1:30PM. Judy S. will be hostess and Janice will be BSL. We had 8 present for our April meeting.

EUNICE (10) will meet on May 1 at Willowdale Nursing Home, Battle Creek at 2:30PM. Karen will be hostess and Karen will be BSL. We had 7 members present for our April meeting.

JOHANNA(12) will meet on May 2 at 7:00PM, in the home of Marlene Zobel, 506 Morningside St.. and Cecile will be BSL.

LWML BIBLE STUDY LEADER'S MEETING on Tuesday, May 20 at 1:00PM

A "BIG THANK YOU" TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR LWML ZONE SPRING RALLY AND TO ALL THOSE WHO ATTENDED!!! We enjoyed a great speaker, Rev. Dr. Keith Haney, and we collected so many things for our In Gathering for Hispanic Ministries. It was truly a wonderful morning of fellowship with our fellow Lutheran Women in Mission of the Mapleton Zone. Thank you as well to Greg Steenbock, who welcomed our ladies as they arrived that morning.





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| May 1 Betty Buffinton | May 18 Megan Wellendorf |
| May 4 Adrienne Chase | May 19 Jatelyn Sweeden |
| Brandon Johnson | May 20 Eli Wellendorf |
| Kaden Ladwig | May 21 Curtis Miesner |
| May 5 Journey Iversen | May 25 Karen Brown |
| Synda Jepsen | Brylie Lansink |
| Kollin Knudsen | May 27 Maggie Buns |
| May 9 Helen Ladwig | Mary Rohlk |
| May 10 Bradyn Barber | May 28 Barb Kacmarynski |
| Cindy Jacobsen | Chris Kennedy |
| May 13 Mark Bogue | May 29 Marty Knudsen |
| Myles Iversen | Carl Schable |
| Cordell Knudsen | May 30 Daxton Groves |
| Marc Knudsen | Scott Jepsen |
| May 14 Sierra Jepsen | Eugene Knop |
| Linda Paulsen | May 31 Jenny Larsen |
| Wylene Redenius | Nancy Schoen |
| May 15 Neil Senhen | |

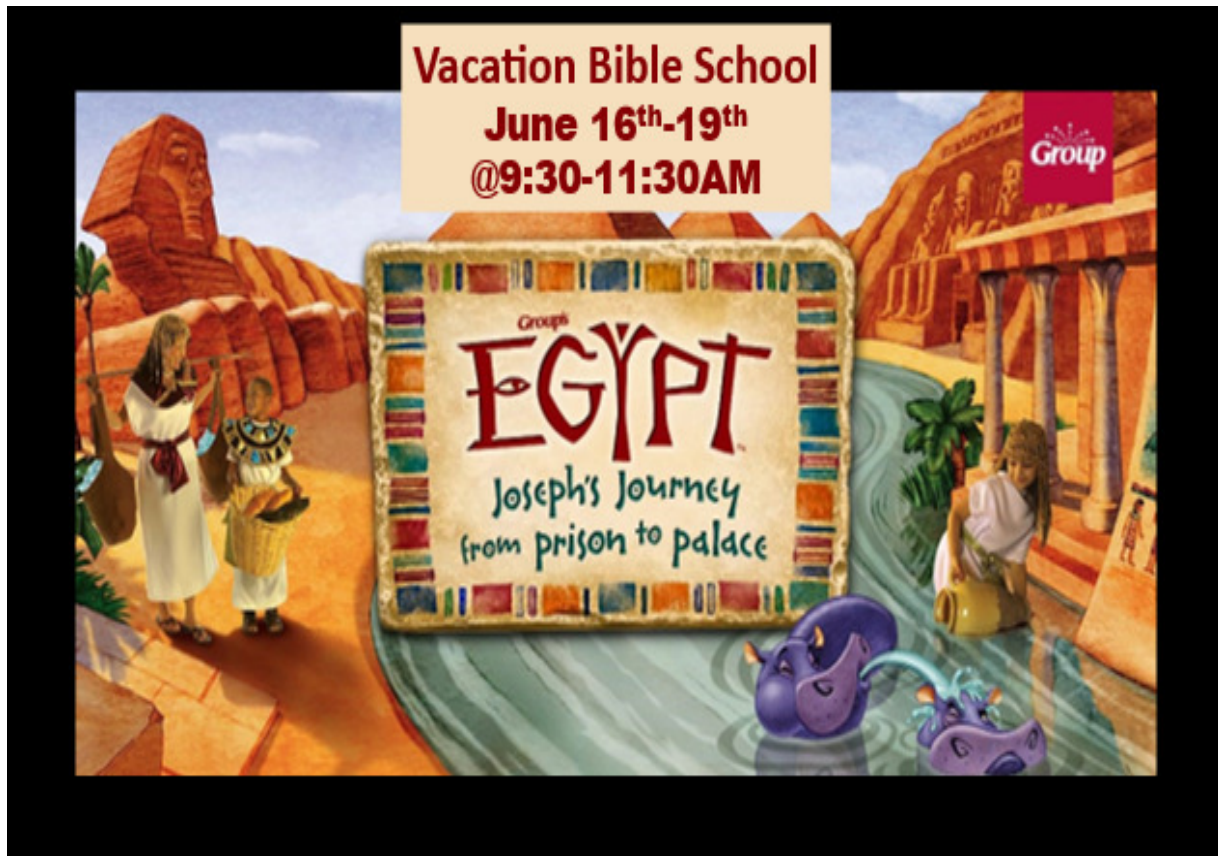


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| May 11 Gail & Christine Boysen | May 22 Michael & Katie Stehr |
| May 16 Dean & Patty Renfro | May 26 Pete & Kristine Erzen |
| May 19 Brad & Jackie Zobel | Roger & Shari Walter |
| May 20 Rodney & Lin Jensen | May 31 Bill & Pat Wellendorf |



You're going places!

Commencement marks the beginning of a new stage of life, with graduates heading off to discover opportunities and face challenges. *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* — a Dr. Seuss book that's now a popular graduation gift — whimsically explores life's ups and downs, twists and turns. Young adults will face excitement and slumps, fun and loneliness. They'll feel a sense of purpose as well as confusion and even fear. "There are some [things], down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on," writes Dr. Seuss. In the storybook, the life-traveler's sheer determination propels him beyond difficulties. But God's children don't need to journey alone. Our heavenly Father walks beside us on every winding path and around every corner. Life cannot take us anywhere God hasn't been first. Graduates — and all Christians — can trust in the promise of Joshua 1:9 (NRSV): "Be strong and courageous ... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."



VBS

June 16-19, 2025 9:30-11:30AM

St. Paul Lutheran Church

100 7th St. Ida Grove

Completed

4 year old preschool - 5th grades

Online Registration for VBS

<https://vbsmate.com/StPaulIdaGrove>

Paper registrations are available on a table in the narthex or
look for in a weekly bulletin

**SPECIAL ASCENSION SERVICE
AT MISSION CENTRAL ON MAY 29TH, 2025
WITH A MEAL AT 5:00PM –
WORSHIP AT 6:30PM**



Rev. James and Angela Sharp and family serving in Puerto Rico

What a JOY and blessing to have the privilege of having Pastor James Sharp, our newest missionary to Puerto Rico, as our guest speaker for the Ascension Worship Service at Mission Central on May 29th, 2025! A wonderful meal will be provided at 5pm, and then Rev. Sharp will have a very, very special message for everyone, sharing the exciting work that our Lord Jesus is doing in the mission fields of Latin America. Please mark your calendar for this special event at the world-famous Mission Central just 2 miles east of Mapleton, Iowa. It will change your life and it's a once in a lifetime opportunity to hear these amazing stories from the Lord's mission field.

NEW TESTAMENT

N G R A C E B B M M M M S N C N Z Y R W
 P A P O S T L E O N E D A O Q Z R J U O
 E W S K D H P G D V H R M L F J E M Y B
 T E Y N A K Y V G D E E A X I T Z A R H
 E H I K A R U M N T L S R L O V E G J I
 R T N B C M E S I P H U I X E E G Q T N
 Y T V O Y L O P K X T R T X L Y C O W M
 J A W O I F U R P Z E R A C P H J J B C
 A M A S L T W A J U B E N V M I M T R T
 M S K N H O A L P G S C Z F E H C U D Z
 E U J C T G S V K K M T A G T V C L V N
 S R V H C F E M L Q S I S V C I L U K E
 O A W R G T L A I A U O B A F Q L Q F K
 V Z L I S C C R H A S N S I L H T A H S
 K A N S U R A K Y D E T X W F G R P M A
 S L H T S O R T U U J I S E R M O N P B
 X Y O Y M S I I R H O S D I S C I P L E
 F S J D C S M T R N J R K G O S P E L J
 R W K M N B O U H E R O D N C E G E I W
 N I R T G U E S A R P D S P I R I T E E

WORD LIST

APOSTLE
 BETHLEHEM
 CHRIST
 CROSS
 CRUCIFIXION
 DISCIPLE
 GOSPEL
 GRACE

HEROD
 JAMES
 JESUS
 JOHN
 KINGDOM
 LAMB
 LASTSUPPER
 LAZARUS

LUKE
 MARK
 MATTHEW
 MIRACLES
 PAUL
 PETER
 RESURRECTION

ROMANS
 SALVATION
 SAMARITAN
 SERMON
 SPIRIT
 TEMPLE
 TITUS

Homemade
 GIFTS MADE EASY