



St. Paul News

St. Paul Lutheran Church
100 7th St.

Ida Grove, Iowa
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www.stpauliq.org

MAY

2026

Every Sunday Communion: Part 2
Pastor Neil Wehmas

It is 2026, every Sunday (or Saturday) communion is at about 30-40% of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. What was the historical practice in Christianity? Well, let us start with looking at the scriptures.

First, it should be stated at the outset, that there is no scriptural requirement for communion frequency. Jesus made no command of frequency. He only expects that we do it, and that we do it often.

However, we do have three references to the practice of the early church. The first is in Acts 2:42, it states that ***“They (the disciples of Pentecost) devoted themselves...to the breaking of the bread.”*** It doesn’t depict an exact number for frequency. But it does tell us of devotion or a fervent commitment to “The breaking of the bread”. This would be code for “The Lord’s Supper”.

Acts 20:7, depicts a worship service. It states that ***“We were gathered together to break bread.”*** While, this doesn’t mention frequency, but it does demonstrate a regularity of gathering for the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week.

In 1 Corinthians 11:20, Paul is condemning the church in Corinth for its abuses regarding the Lord’s Supper. In his rebuke, he acknowledges that they receive the Lord’s Supper whenever they gather. However, due to their abuses of the Lord’s Supper, he says that it isn’t really the Lord’s Supper. So, they are gathering for the Lord’s Supper, but in their heart they gather for other reasons.

Now, let us turn our focus to the early church. The Didache (80-100AD) written in the life-time of the Apostles writes, ***“But every Lord’s day gather yourselves together and break bread.”*** Justin Martyr in 150AD, writes that on the day of the Sun (Sunday) Christians gather to partake of ***“this food we call Eucharist”***. Hippolytus in 215AD speaks of the Lord’s Supper being served every Lord’s Day (Sunday). St. Basil (330-379AD) talks about the Lord’s Supper being offered four-times per week. St. Augustine (354-430AD) talks about some offering it daily.

In the time of the Reformation: Luther states that ideally the Lord’s Supper would be offered daily. The Augsburg Confession & Apology insists that the churches of the reformation offers the Sacrament every Lord’s Day.

What happened then? Why had the Lord’s Supper become infrequent amongst Americans. Well first we need to keep in mind Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession: ***“Our churches teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly ordered call.”***¹

¹ McCain, Paul Timothy, ed. 2005. [Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions](#). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.

When the German Lutherans migrated to the United States, they found themselves in the midst of a wide-open country. They had very few pastors to fill all of the congregations. If the Lord's Supper can't be administered without an ordained pastor, then weekly communion simply wouldn't be an option.

Many of the pastors (known as circuit riders) were serving up-to 10 different congregations. Luther in his preface to the small Catechism expressed concern over Christians who didn't receive the Lord's Supper **at least** four times per year. Therefore, the early LCMS made sure that the Lord's Supper was offered at least four times per year at every congregation. The hope was to return to weekly communion as soon as they had enough pastors. Unfortunately, too much time passed, and practice of necessity and turned into belief and established tradition, and therefore very difficult to change.

Keep in mind that this was not that long ago. This is a world that even St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ida Grove was born into 139 years ago, as a plant of the circuit rider from Grant township.

Around the time of World War 2, the Lutheran Churches in the United States began to move towards weekly communion (baby steps). They started with monthly communion. In the 1980s & 1990s twice per month communion became the norm amongst LCMS congregations.

Having made it half-way to the historic practice of weekly communion, in 1995 the Synod at Convention agreed to pursue the goal of making the full return to offering the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day. In 2026, the entire church body of the LCMS is really and truly pushing itself to return to this practice.

As of September of 2026, St. Paul Lutheran Church of Ida Grove will begin a practice foreign to itself, but not to its ancestors of Germany and the church of almost 2,000 years. In the June newsletter, pastoral reasons for offering weekly communion will be explored.



RESULTS FROM THE VOTERS' MEETING it was approved to change the By-Laws, for reducing the number of Boards by combining the Board of Evangelism and Board of Missions and this combined board will be called Board of Discipleship. It was also approved to reduce the number of Elders from 6 to 5. There was also discussion of having Holy Communion every week, and after discussion, a motion was made to approve starting every week Communion beginning in September.

SENIOR RECOGNITION will be **Sunday, May 3 during the Worship Service** with reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall. Reception will be served by the junior class & parents, everyone is invited. 2026 Graduates are: Courtney Ackerman, Jack Gilbert, Sam Jamison, Whitney Johnson, Sydney Schreiber and Levi Swanger. Graduation is May 17.

MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS!

Special Ascension Service (Thursday) Rev. Richard Snow, the Nebraska District President. He will be sharing about Mission Work right here in the Midwest.
Meal will be at 5:00PM and Worship will be at 6:30PM

- May 16, 2026 – Cody and Aurelie Mock – Czech Republic – 1:00 pm
- May 23, 2026 – Rev Paul Nelson – Indonesia – 1:00 pm
- May 23, 2026 – Rev. Adam Lehman and family – Puerto Rico – 1:30 pm

BOARD OF HUMAN CARE is looking for volunteers to help with visiting shut in's, those in the nursing home, assisted living or other individuals. **If you are not able due to do in person visits would you be willing to be a "pen pal" with one of our shut in's.** We can provide you with stamps, cards, etc. If you are interested in either to help visit or to be a "pen pal", please let Synda Jepsen or Nancy Schoen know, there is a sign up sheet available in the narthex, please put your name and phone number down and they will contact you, or let Diane know at the church office. **Human Care Team will meet on Wednesday, May 13 at 11:30AM, if you are interested you can come then to find out more information.**



COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS FOR MAY: Paper Products: toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, garbage bags. 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 canned vegetables, canned fruits & canned soups. ESPECIALLY CEREAL. Also note: they can use outdated items that are within a year of expiration.**

Mobile Food Pantry will be at The Odebolt Community Center, on Wednesday, May 6 from 4:30-5:30PM . Its helpful to bring a laundry basket or container for your food items.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be June 15th – 19th, 2026 from 9:30AM-11:30AM

For grades that were completed this past year:
4 year old preschool -5th grade

Volunteer sign up sheets are on table in the Narthex or let Tracy Johnson or Megan Wellendorf know.

Registration online available for students and volunteers <https://vbsmate.com/StPaulIdeaGrove>



2026 MONTHLY SCRIPTURE READING CALENDAR – MAY is on the Welcome Center for you to pick up. It is also included in this newsletter on the back of the monthly calendar also available on our Website under the Calendar tab. As well as our Facebook page.

If you would like to go back and revisit reading the Bible in a year, a full year of The Whole Story monthly calendars for 2025, they are available in the Red Folder on the narrow table in the hall by the church office / past bulletins.



Stewardship Sentence:

Spring reminds us that staying rooted in Christ yields abundant fruit; our giving fosters growth of God's kingdom.

Scripture: *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5*



UPDATING INFORMATION: we always ask to update our records with any new addresses, any changes in phone numbers, etc. to **make sure we have all correct information of birthdates and anniversaries, as we have found missing information or in accurate information.** please let the church office know. stpaulidagrove@gmail.com or 712-364-2918



HOSPITALIZATION REMINDER : if you are admitted to any hospital, please let us know or have a family member or a friend let Pastor Neil or the church office know, so we know you are there to visit, or would just want prayers from Pastor.



SOME OF YOUR OPTIONS FOR BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY EARLY MORNINGS BIBLE STUDY meets at **7:00AM** at Jimmy's

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

SUNDAY MORNINGS BIBLE STUDY join us in the Conference Room starting at **10:15AM**

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY on 1ST AND 3RD Wednesdays (PLEASE NOTE DAY OF THE WEEK CHANGE) on the month at **6:30PM** meet in the fellowship hall. **DAYTIME WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** is on the 2nd & 3rd Thursdays at **1:00PM** in the Conference Room. We are currently using the Book Enough for Now by Sharla Fritz

LWML LADIES BIBLE STUDY MAY



Lutheran Women
in Mission

RUTH (2) will meet on **May 7** at noon at Jimmy's and will have Bible study following at 1:00PM at the church in the Old Conference Room. Linda will be BSL. We had 6 present at our April meeting.

LOIS (3) will meet on **May 7** in the downstairs Conference Room at 1:30PM. Lois will be hostess and Mary will be BSL. We had 7 present for our April meeting.

EUNICE (10) will meet on **Wednesday, May 6** at Willowdale Assisted Living, Battle Creek at 2:00PM.

JOHANNA(12) will meet **May 7 at 7:00PM**, at the Church in the Fellowship Hall. Marge will be hostess and Cecile will be BSL. WE had 5 at our April meeting.

LWML BIBLE STUDY LEADER'S MEETING on **Tuesday, May 19** at **1:00PM**

LWML IOWA DISTRICT WEST CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI from June 11-13, 2026
Information regarding the Convention and Registration forms are on the table by the **LARGE MITE BOX** on the narrow table by the glass windows.

THE LARGE LWML MITE BOX that is on the table in the narthex will be highlighted and along with the **Mission Mite** of the month, on the second Sunday of each month.

God Loves

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

merciful
 strength
 compassionate
 perfect
 forever
 son
 grace
 forgiver

blessed
 refuge
 protective
 jesus
 promises
 christ
 savior
 creator

redeemer
 worshiped
 powerful
 loving
 faithful
 won the battle
 lord
 almighty

comforter
 victorious
 holy
 caring
 trinity
 overcomer
 father
 everlasting

peace
 healer
 righteous
 patient
 holy spirit
 worthy of praise
 king