



*That where I am
you may be also*

JOHN 14:3

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (NALC)

Fifth Sunday after Easter

May 3, 2026

Prelude Bell Choir
Bell Choir
*Gathering Hymn "Christ is Alive" **G Hymn #363**
Announcements

THE WORD

*Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness Page 56
*The Apostolic Greeting Page 57
*The Kyrie Page 57
*Hymn of Praise Page 60
Prayer of the Day Insert
Anthem Choir
First Lesson Acts 6:1-9, 7:2, 51-60
The Psalm Psalm 146
The Second Lesson 1 Peter 2:2-10
The Verse "Alleluia" Page 62
*The Gospel Lesson John 14:1-14
Children's Sermon
Sermon Hymn "Oh Jesus I Have Promised" vs 1-2 **G Hymn #503**
Sermon Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Sermon Hymn "Oh Jesus I Have Promised" vs 3-4 **G Hymn #503**
Nicene Creed Page 64
The Prayers
Offering
*Offertory Psalm Page 66
*Prayers Page 67

THE SACRAMENT

*The Great Thanksgiving/Preface Page 68-69
*Words of Institution Page 69
*Lords Prayer Page 71
Distribution of Elements Page 71
Hymn "Lamb of God..." Page 72
Post Communion Canticle "Thank the Lord..." Page 72
*Benediction
Closing Hymn "I Received the...." **B Hymn #700**
Postlude
*Stand as you are able

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad to have you worship with us today.

Our prayers include those in nursing homes and home bound: Mary Ann McCallister, Helen Lyons, Susie Leonhardt, Servicemen: Andrew Gendron.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Janel & Mike Grube in honor of Mothers.

We extend our sympathy to Raman Durigg and family on the death of Joyce, who passed away April 25. Services were held at St. Paul on April 29 with internment in St. Paul Cemetery. Services were conducted by Pastor Andrea Taphorn. Also to the family of Ruth Knappenberger who passed away April 30. Services will be held May 5 at St. Paul.

Funeral Services for Pastor Andrea's mother, Deborah Esala will be held May 9, 2026 at 1:00 pm at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church, Lytham Road Campus. Visitation will be prior to the service from 10:30 –noon.

Congratulations to Julia Evak on her graduation from Bowling Green. She graduated May 2.

Thank you so much for the love, prayers, and generosity you shared with me during my Confirmation. Your cards, gifts, and encouragement made this moment in my faith journey so special. A big thank you to Pastor Andrea, John Britton, Mark Ebbeskotte, and St. Paul Helping Hands who made the day amazing. *With Gratitude,*
Abbey Karl

Posted on the bulletin board: Information about free First Aid Classes provided by Life First Ambulance District, our local ambulance service for Liberty Township, and are in celebration of EMS Week. These classes are for all ages. Included will be classes for pre-teen grades 4 –8 focusing on children staying at home and /or babysitting. Just scan the QR code to register.

Giving for The Lord's Ministry
April 26, 2026

Benevolence	195.00
Current	2,975.00
Feed Crawford County	180.00
Filling Home	65.00
God Squad	50.00
Lutheran Home of Mercy	15.00
Missionary	55.00
NALC Seminary	45.00
NALC Disaster Relief	40.00
Orphans and Old Folks Home	5.00
Special Projects	85.00
Total	\$3,710.00
Attendance 112 Communion 98	

Anyone wanting to donate to the NALC Disaster Response may mark your envelopes accordingly. Donations aid tornado and other natural disaster victims.

Looking to connect with Pastor Andrea? You're always welcome to stop by during office hours: **Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:00 AM—Noon**. If another time works better for you, feel free to call the church office or reach out directly to Pastor Andrea (614) 256-4318 to set up an appointment. She'd love to hear from you!

Those persons interested in applying for the Robert & Ruby Schimpf Scholarship can pick up information from Joyce Schanzenbach in the church office or see John Britton. Qualifications include: currently enrolled as a college senior (Fall of 2026), fulltime student (12 credits per semester), have a minimum 2.6 GPA, an active member of St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs. If no education majors apply, the scholarship is open to other major fields of study. All forms should be returned by June 1.

This Week at St. Paul

Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM Worship/Communion 10 AM
Sunday	Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM

The St. Paul worship services and sermons are recorded and available to watch on the web page at www.stpaulsulphur.com or on St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs, Ohio YouTube. A live feed of the worship service is available downstairs in the high school room.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4707 Ridgeton Rd. Bucyrus, Ohio
419-562-5858
Pastor Andrea Taphorn
Pastor Brodie Taphorn
David Halsey, Lay Assistant
Organist Kathy Sheets, Assistant Karen Schimpf
Secretary, Joyce Schanzenbach
Choir Director, Roxanne Shipman
Bell Choir, Cindy Hopkins
Church Council President, John Britton
Sunday School Superintendent, Jill Rittenour
Email: stpaul Lutheran@embarqmail.com
Web Page: www.stpaulsulphur.com
Webmaster, Sam Hopkins
samhopkins@columbus.rr.com
Pastor Andrea's number 614-256-4318
Pastor Brodie's number 614-204-3064

The Only Way to Heaven

We live in a pluralistic society in which we attempt to be tolerant of others' beliefs and lifestyles. And we should reach out in love and compassion to others—no matter their background.

As Christians, however, we must also reconcile ourselves with John 14:6: "No one comes to the Father except through Me." The Bible clearly states that there are no other options, no potpourri of choices when it comes to salvation. There is one way, and His name is Jesus.

It's tempting to be wishy-washy on this. In a misdirected sense of compassion, we may wish to soften the message. But the Bible cannot be more clear. The message, however, is not harsh—not in the least. The truth is that there is only one way, and His name is Jesus. That same Jesus loved us more than anything in order to reconcile us to the Father. This is wonderful news, and when we share it, we show the mercy and kindness of Christ, who loves us with an everlasting love. And that love is given to all.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for the compassion You extend to every person. Please help us share that message of mercy with others. Amen.



Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
cph.org/magazines

About the Cover: Jesus' work on the cross and His resurrection was all done so that we may be with Him forever. There is no good apart from Jesus. Jesus is indeed with us this day by the promises of Baptism. We have the promise that He will never leave us. In His Word, He is with us by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Lord's Supper, He is with us in His very body and blood to bring us forgiveness and strengthen our faith. When we die, we will be with Jesus. Finally, when we are raised on the Last Day, we and all believers will be in heaven with Him forever.



The Word of God



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

Prayer of the Day

O God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who

belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.

^{2a} And Stephen said:

⁵¹“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” ⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Psalm 146*

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, | O my soul!*

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

²**Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth,*
for there is no | help in them.**

³When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,*
and in that day | their thoughts perish.

⁴**Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help!***
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁵Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them,*
who keeps his prom- | ise forever;

**⁶Who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,*
and food to | those who hunger.**

⁷The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind;*
the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

**⁸The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares | for the stranger;*
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way | of the wicked.**

⁹The LORD shall | reign forever,*
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation — ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gospel: John 14:1-14

¹{Jesus said,} "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. ¹²Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

Lessons for Next Week: Acts 17:16-31; Psalm 66:8-20;
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

For Strength and Comfort of the Word

Lord, we thank you that you have taught us what you would have us believe and do. Help us to keep your Word in pure hearts, so we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and in death. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Care of Creation

You abide throughout all creation, O God. Open our eyes to see your power and majesty in the detailed beauty of our world, and open our hearts to be gently caretakers of the earth. Let the glory of creation be a testimony to your power and greatness, that we may live in praise and awe each day. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Those Making Decisions

Almighty God, you lead us in paths of righteousness for your name's sake. We ask for guidance, and pray for all those who are faced with difficult decisions. We pray that in all we do, whether in word or deed, our choices and decisions will serve your will and bring glory to your name. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.

For Those in Need of God's Comforting Presence

Lord Jesus, you have promised to be with us always, even to the close of the age. By your comforting presence abide with those who feel unloved, who deal with crisis, and who struggle with illness. Surround them with people who will show compassion. Lord in your mercy...

C. Hear our prayer.