

FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN

LENT

**YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!** May this hour be a journey of the heart, a renewal of spirit, a pause in our lives as we worship the Lord our God together. If you are a guest this morning, we extend a special welcome to you and invite you to sign our guest book located in the gathering space outside of the sanctuary, also known as the narthex. Following our worship service, we invite you to share in a time of fellowship over coffee, juice, and snacks in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in learning more about our congregation and becoming a member, please visit with any member of the congregation or the Pastor. Thank you for celebrating the love of Jesus Christ with us at St. Paul Lutheran Church!

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME HERE!** We feel strongly that the faith formation of youth—just as any adult’s—develops through experience; because of this, we welcome youth of all ages to participate fully in worship and invite them to serve in a number of roles, such as: ushers, greeters, readers, and musicians. While we expect that children will behave as children—giggles, wiggles, and all—we also understand that sometimes they (and their parents or guardians) need a break; on those occasions, you are welcome to utilize the nursery (unstaffed) located on the north end of the narthex. Additionally, there is a playroom for children and a couch room for older youth on the west end of the Fellowship Hall. You can also find children’s bulletins and crayons on the table as you enter the main church building doors.

**ABOUT OUR WORSHIP** As Lutherans, worship is connected with and central to everything we do—uniting us in celebration, engaging us in thoughtful dialogue, and helping us grow in faith. At the heart of our worship life is the presence of God through the word proclaimed and the sacraments—Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; this is because worship is—first and foremost—fundamentally about what God is doing in the world and in our lives, and then our response to God’s action. In the context of worship, we find our response in the liturgy, which is a way of living God’s story. The liturgical texts that form the prayers we pray, the texts we say, and the songs we sing find their roots in the Bible; for more information see the back of the hymnal, ELW pp. 1154-1159. Furthermore, these liturgical texts invite each and every one of us—not just the pastor or choir or any other worship leader—to use our voices to praise God. Through worship we are shaped to be participants in God’s life in this world.

**PLEASE ASK AN USHER, GREETER, OR STAFF MEMBER FOR...**

- Assistance with wheelchair seating • Assisted listening devices •
- Large print bulletins • Directions to restrooms • Communion in the pew •

**AED Unit** an AED is found in the coat area when you enter the main entrance.

# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

+Indicates to rise as you are able. Congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

*In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.*

### **+WELCOME**

L: God is good! **C: All the time!**

L: All the time! **C: God is good! All are welcome here!**

### **+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to us the entire forgiveness of all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**+ OPENING SONG** "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" *ELW #759 LBW #479*

## **+PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## **FIRST LESSON** Ezekiel 37:1-14

*Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."*

1 The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

11 Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' 12 Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 130**

*I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)*

1 Out of the depths

I cry to you, O Lord;

**2 O Lord, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

3 If you were to keep watch over sins,

O Lord, who could stand?

**4 Yet with you is forgiveness,**

**in order that you may be feared.**

5 I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

**6 My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,  
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

7 O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love;

with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

**8 For the Lord shall redeem Israel**

**from all their sins.**

## **SECOND LESSON** Romans 8:6-11

*For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.*

6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**      *“I Love You, Lord”*

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice,  
To worship You, O my soul rejoice.  
Take joy my King, in what You hear;  
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear. (Sing 2 Times)

**+GOSPEL**    John 11:1-45    Children’s Bible page #440

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” 4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” 5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” 8 The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” 9 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. 10 But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” 11 After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” 12 The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” 13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. 15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” 16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21 Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” 23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24 Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” 27 She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” 33 When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” 35 Jesus began to weep. 36 So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” 37 But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” 40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

45 Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GROWING TOGETHER IN THE WORD (CHILDREN AND ADULTS)**

### **GATHER GROW GO**

#### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **MESSAGE**

**HYMN** “Abide with Me” *ELW* #629 *LBW* #272

## +APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the  
Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third  
day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated  
at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living  
and the dead.

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.

## +PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

## +PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also, with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/BIRTHDAYS *"Happy Birthday dear friends, may Jesus bless you!"*

## OFFERING- CHILDREN'S OFFERING- ADULT CHOIR

*Thank you for your time, talents, and treasures. These offerings support the ministry of St. Paul. You may also visit [www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving](http://www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving) to set up a one-time gift or regular, electronic giving. We are now also accepting donations via Venmo and PayPal.*

*\*\*Members, for a record of your giving, please if you give cash put your name on an envelope.*

*Thank you for being a part of what God is doing at St. Paul Lutheran!*

## + LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

## + OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## +LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## +OUR MISSION

What is the mission we share together?

**Our mission is to GATHER as God's people; to GROW in faith, love, and service; and to GO into the community and world as disciples of Jesus.**

## +BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless us, keep us, and give us peace. **Amen.**

**+CLOSING HYMN** *“Children of the Heavenly Father” ELW #781 RED #44*

## +DISMISSAL

Go in peace. To Love and Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26818. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Songs reprinted under CCLI License #2416005. All rights reserved. Hymn words and music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-7187

PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE #A-000000.For Live-streaming. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

This worship service is being broadcast via Live Stream on our website. It is also being recorded and will be available on our website via the past worship services button.

## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Today

- **The office will be closed tomorrow morning.** It will open at 12Noon.
- **The April Action Group signup sheet is available in the fellowship hall.**
- **Next Sunday is Palm Sunday.** We will celebrate with Palms and Fellowship will be Caramel Rolls. Plan to join us.
- **We have added an extra Holy Week worship service.** Join us Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30PM as we celebrate First Communion for some of our children.

### Volunteer Opportunities

- **Fellowship:** We need your help serving fellowship! Please check out the sign-up sheets at the volunteer desk in the greeting area/narthex. Simple is acceptable. Please visit with Loree or Marian if you have any questions.
- **Readers & Acolytes** are needed in March and April. A sign-up sheet and a copy of the readings is on the signup table in the entry.

### Upcoming

- **Easter Lilly forms are available in the Gathering/Narthex Area.** Help us support the Little Lunches Backpack program and decorate with Lillies for Easter.
- **On Palm Sunday, the Western ND Synod will be hosting an event called the Palm Sunday Path in Bismarck.** You can find out more about this event by going to [wndpalmsundaypath.com](http://wndpalmsundaypath.com).

### Outreach

- **Little Lunches Backpack Program”** is hosted by St. Paul. If you would like to get involved, please let Dawn Kolden or Pastor Sloka know.

### General

**It is back. The wintry weather and worship and activities being canceled.** The hope is to decide on Saturday evening or Wednesday morning. It will be posted to our social media, our Web Site and be on KX News and KFYP/KMOT.

*You are invited to visit [www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving](http://www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving) to set up a one-time gift or regular, electronic giving.*



*We also now offer Venmo and PayPal  
Thank you for being a part of what God  
is doing at St. Paul!  
\*\*Members, for a record of your giving,  
please, if you give cash  
put your name on an envelope.*



**venmo**

## **In Our Prayers...**

Our military and their families, Neil Biwer, John Kallberg, Baby Owen Behles, Shane Sager, Steve Hartman, Glenn Renner, Duke Kastner, Linda Ravnaas, Rachel Everett, Becky Tebby, Laken Beyer, Pete Stanius, Jessica Johns, Chet Adam, Kayla Neilsen, Debbie Stratton, Jylann Hanson, Jan Clapper, Andy Zietz, Mary Thorson, Paul Hellebush, Jeff Wretling, Alton Krebsbach.

Family and Friends of those who have gone before us.

## **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS THIS WEEK**

Denise Kolden	March 22
Denise Mautz	March 22
Dennis Mautz	March 22
Kale Graeber	March 23
Nancy Livesay	March 23
Jamie Whitney	March 23
Isla Larson	March 24
Thomas Collings	March 25



# THIS WEEK <sup>at</sup> GLANCE



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### *Today, March 22<sup>nd</sup>*

9:00 a.m.      Worship  
10:00 a.m.      Fellowship  
10:00 a.m.      NO Sunday School

### *Monday*

12Noon        Office opens (**closed in the AM**)  
1:00 p.m.      Quilting

### *Tuesday*

10:00 a.m.      Revelation Bible Study

### *Wednesday Lent*

11:30 a.m. Bible Study on the book of Revelation  
3:00 p.m. Sonshine Friends (A)  
5:30 p.m. Supper  
6:30 p.m. Lenten Service  
7:15 p.m. Bible Study on the book of Revelation

### *Thursday*

10:00 a.m.      Community Bible Study (the Book of Revelation)

### *Friday*

### *Saturday*

### *Next Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday*

9:00 a.m.      Worship with Holy Communion  
10:00 a.m.      Fellowship with Caramel Rolls  
10:00 a.m.      Sunday School

# LENT 2026



## WORSHIP

March 25 Wednesday in Lent 6:30PM  
March 29 Palm Sunday 9AM  
April 1 Holy Wednesday- Celebration of First Communion 6:30PM  
April 2 Maundy Thursday 6:30PM  
April 3 Good Friday 6:30PM  
April 5 Easter Sunday 9AM Celebration of Holy Communion

## STUDIES

February 25-March 25 11:30AM and 7:15PM the Book of Revelation  
February 25-March 25 Mentor and Confirmation Students

## MEALS

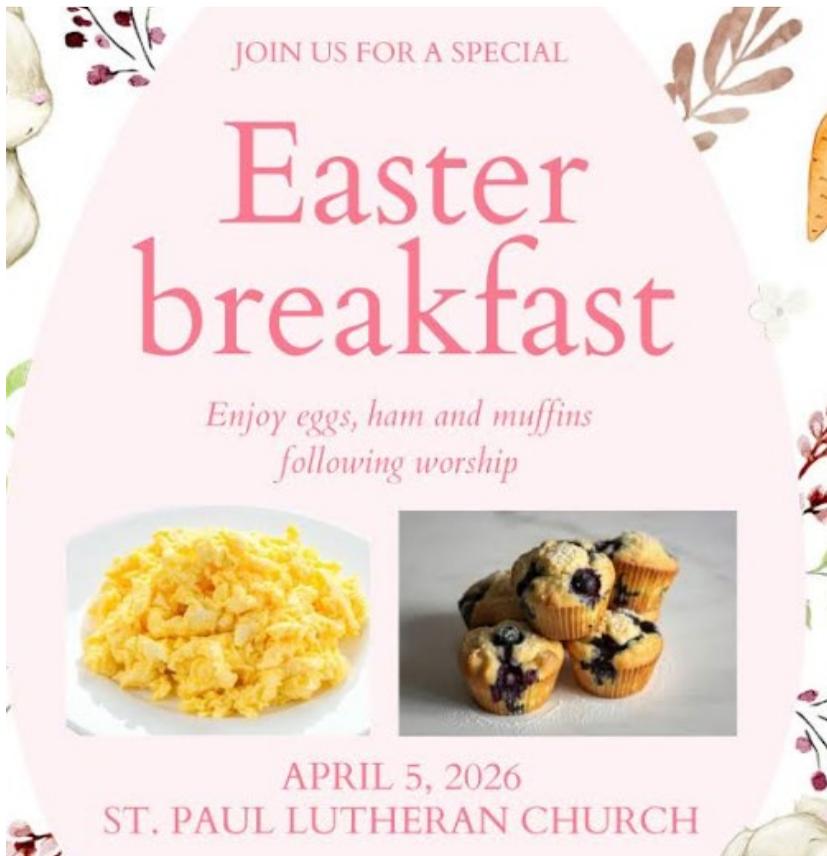
February 25-March 25 Wednesdays in Lent Meals- 5:30PM  
March 29- Palm Sunday Caramel Rolls during Fellowship  
April 1- First Communion Celebration Meal- 5:30PM (if you would like to participate, please RSVP with Pastor Sloka)  
April 5- Easter Breakfast- *Following worship (NOTE TIME CHANGE)*

### A WAY TO GIVE DURING LENT

M&M's containers and collecting quarters for  
the Central African Republic.  
\$14 for each container.



If you put a check or bills in the M&M container, please also put a coin so that we hear or feel that something is in there. Thanks!



**Puerto Rico Mission Service Trip Summer of 2027**



Would you like to help others out? Share your faith with others? Learn about their faith? Experience another culture? Join Pastor Sloka and Holly K. to find out about more information for a mission service trip that is being planned to Puerto Rico the summer of 2027. We will discuss logistics, projects, and costs.

This is going to be an event for junior high youth, high school youth, young adults, and adults of both our congregations. We will fly and share housing and some activities together, but our projects will be separated between youth and adults.

Join us: Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM or Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5PM

## Financial Goal

Our congregation has approved \$600,000 and given their commitment toward this project. We are required to pay 50% of the total cost of the project when the project begins. Our goal would be to fundraise \$600,000, but we would like to have \$300,000 (roughly half of the total cost) by the start of the project. Any money not fundraised would have to be financed.

Specifics of the project:

- concrete parking lot
- rebar
- remove asphalt
- curbing
- resloping & dirt work



## Our Plan

The council is seeking grants, fundraising ideas, and will continue to share information and updates on the project.

**We ask that you prayerfully consider helping us with this project beyond y upcoming year.**

## Parking Lot Project



# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH + ELCA

P.O. Box 726 – Garrison, ND 58540  
stpaul@restel.com  
Church Office: 701-463-2019  
Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School Sept-May – 10:00 a.m.

[www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com](http://www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com)  
pastorsloka@gmail.com  
Pastor Janis Sloka, III Cell: 701-861-9915  
Lisa Haugen, SAM Cell: 701-898-0277  
Mike Youngs, SAM Cell: 701-898-9893

## SERVING IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH

<i>Ministers</i>	The People of St. Paul Lutheran
<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. Janis Sloka, III
<i>Faith Formation Director/Treasurer</i>	Holly Klemisch
<i>Synodically Authorized Ministers</i>	Lisa Haugen and Mike Youngs
<i>Partner in Ministry</i>	Our Savior Lutheran Church, Max
<i>Church Council Officers</i>	Randy Essler, Kayla Macheledt & Deb Youngs
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Loree Jeffers
<i>Custodian</i>	Pam Kolden
<i>Missionaries</i>	Anne & Willie Langdji; Katie Narum Miyamoto
<i>Sweet Sounds Coordinator</i>	Loree Jeffers
<i>Choir Director</i>	Lisa Haugen
<i>Musicians</i>	Kim Gehring and Sundi Lagge
<i>Reader</i>	Val Hartman
<i>Ushers</i>	Alan Mautz and Mike Maki
<i>Greeters</i>	Becky Schmitke and Robbi Maki
<i>Door Greeter</i>	Eli Maki
<i>Acolyte</i>	
<i>Fellowship</i>	Val and Steve Hartman
<i>Technology</i>	Lisa Maki
<i>Council Member</i>	Traci Ruhland

## MISSION STATEMENT

As we share the gospel of Jesus Christ, our mission is to **GATHER** as God's people; to **GROW** in faith, love, and service; and to **GO** into the community and world as disciples of Jesus.