

YOU ARE
THE
SALT
OF THE
EARTH



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 after the Epiphany
February 8, 2026
Service of the Word

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

+WELCOME

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

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

+CONFESSON

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Let us approach God with confidence knowing as we offer our personal prayers of confession, forgiveness is already occurring.

Silent Moment of Personal Prayers of Confession

Holy God,

forgive us for receiving so much from you and still turning away. Forgive us for times our thanks are absent. Forgive us for resisting transformation of our lives. Turn our hearts to you and to one another, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

+ FORGIVENESS

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 Minister, 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 \dagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

+ OPENING HYMN “Christ be our Light” ELW #715

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***You may be seated*

FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 58:1-9a*

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

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

PSALM 112:1-9 [10]

Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)

¹ Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments.

² Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

⁴ They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

⁵ It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.

⁶ For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

⁷ They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

⁸ Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

⁹ They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹ When I came to you, brothers, and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that

is within? So also, no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

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 Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

[Jesus said:]¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE WORD (CHILDREN AND ADULTS)

GATHER GROW GO

MESSAGE

HYMN "You are Mine" ELW #581 *sing only versus 1 & 2 and the refrain*

+APOSTLES' CREED

In holy baptism the triune God adopts us as children and makes us members of the body of Christ, the church. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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 Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

+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

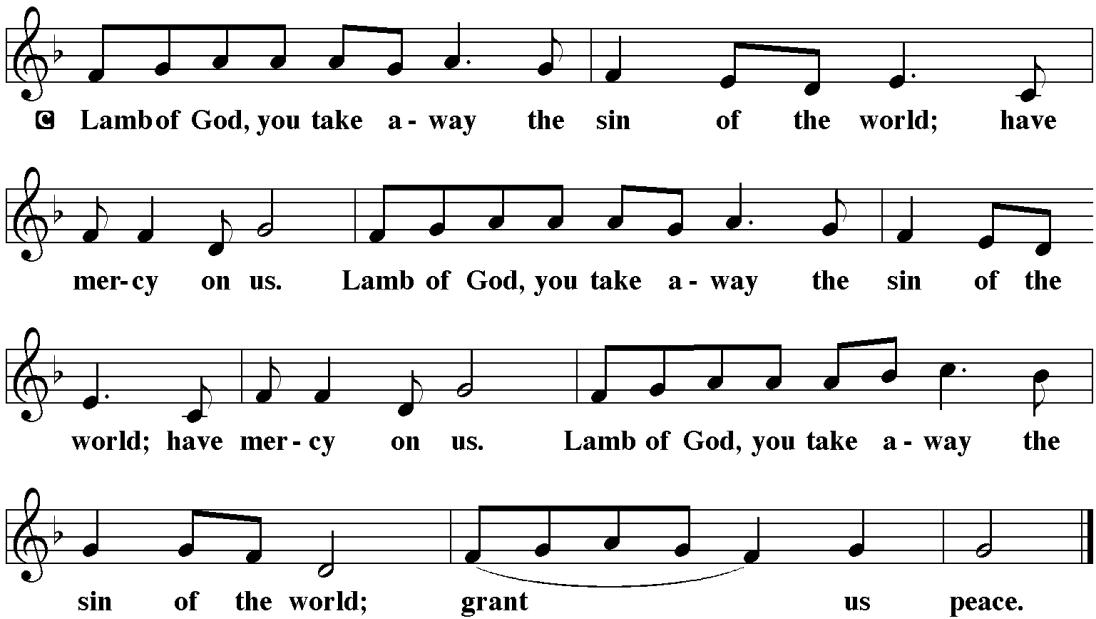
Thank you for your time, talents, and treasures. These offerings support the ministry of St. Paul. You may also visit www.stpaulgarrisonnd.com/giving to set up a one-time gift or regular, electronic giving. We are now also accepting donations via Venmo and PayPal.

**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!

ADULT CHOIR

+ 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 you, keep you, and give you peace. Amen.

+CLOSING HYMN “This Little Light of Mine” ELW #677

+DISMISSAL

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

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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 archive button.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

- Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18th! Details below.
- **Raffle Tickets:** the women are selling raffle tickets for a fundraiser at the church Spring Supper, March 1st. We have lots of great prizes. We would love for you to take tickets to sell/buy. There are tickets on a table in the fellowship hall, help yourself. Return tickets by the morning of March 1st. The women provide Camperships to youth going to camp; donate quilts to many organizations and people; give benevolences to organizations in our community; support Camp of the Cross and our church; and many other things. Please help us with this fundraiser. See Linda Heer, Loree Jeffers, or staff if you need tickets.

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 February and March. A sign-up sheet and a copy of the readings is on the signup table in the entry.

Upcoming

- **The Spring Supper will be March 1st.** We need your help with the different jobs for the Spring Supper. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Please help us out however you can.
- **Ash Wednesday will be Wednesday, February 18th.** The free-will offering meal will be at 5:30PM. Worship will be at 6:30PM- Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes will be celebrated. Confirmation Mentor meeting to follow.
- **Confirmation parents, students, and mentors meeting will be Wednesday, February 18th following the evening worship.**

Outreach

- **Sonshine Friends could use your help with snacks.** Please visit Holly if you have any questions.
- **Bridges of Hope:** St. Paul Social Action is collecting items/money for Heart River Lutheran Church on the Youth Correctional Facility's Campus. Bridges of Hope is a program that gives a backpack with startup essentials to each youth as they leave the facility. There is a table set up in the Narthex to collect items and/or money and some information on the program along with a list of items needed. They also have a newborn Baby Shower going on at the eye clinic in Garrison. Call them for more details or see FB for more information. This is to help new mothers with the items they need.
- **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

Offering envelopes and online giving cards are on the table in the church entry, and there are some scattered throughout the back of the pews in the Sanctuary. You do not have to have an envelope, but if you give cash, that is the only way Loree can record your giving.

The Giving Statements were given out or mailed in January. Thank you for supporting our church.

***The council for the purposes of safety and security have decided the following:**

1. The sanctuary (worship space) will be always locked when we do not have worship. 2. During office hours only the main entrance door will be unlocked, and the fellowship hall door will remain locked. Unless an activity is taking place in the fellowship hall.

You are invited to visit 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...

Baby Owen Behles, Rachelle Ravnaas, Shane Sagert, Val Hartman, Terri Torgerson, Glenn Renner, Diane Madsen, Scott Hodenfield, Clair Eslinger, Lisa Otteson, Duke Kastner, Linda Ravnaas, Rachel Everett, Becky Tebby, Laken Beyer, Pete Stanus, 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 Janet Schlichting Bergquist.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS THIS WEEK

Andrew Iglehart	February 09
Carla Hodenfield	February 10
Albert Klain	February 10
Wes Brandt	February 11
Jenny Collings	February 12

Office Hours
Mon.-Thurs. 9-3
Fri. 9-12

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Today, Sunday, February 8th

8:30 a.m. Choir warms up
9:00 a.m. Worship w/ Choir
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. LOL
10:20 a.m. Choir Practice

Monday

1:00 p.m. Quilting

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Women of Faith DVD's

Wednesday

3:00 p.m. Sonshine Friends B
NO Confirmation Classes

Thursday

10:00 a.m. Community Bible Study

Friday Girls Varsity District Tournament

Saturday Girls Varsity District Tournament
4:30PM-7:30PM Garrison Fire Department Buffalo Feed

Next, Sunday, February 15th

9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Fellowship
10:00 a.m. NO Sunday School
10:30 a.m. 9th Grade Confirmation Classes

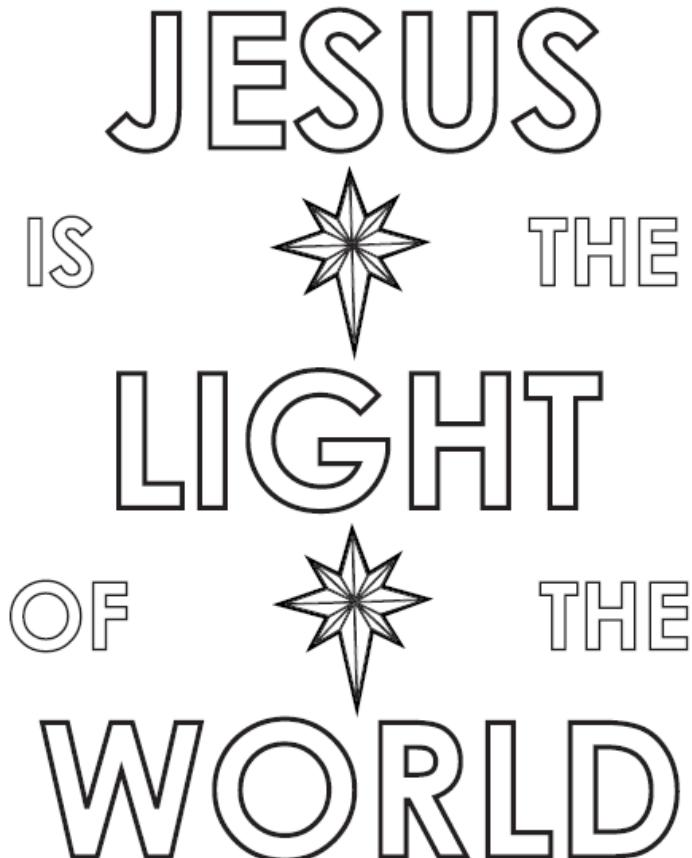


PRE-READER

Epiphany 5

- Today is the 5th Sunday in Epiphany.
- We use the symbol of a star during Epiphany. A star reminds us of **light**.
- God shines light on us. We can **shine** light in the world!

Color this picture to remind yourself of God's light.



LENT 2026

Join us during this

**LENTEN
SEASON**



WORSHIP

February 18 Ash Wednesday 6:30PM
February 25 Wednesday in Lent 6:30PM
March 4 Wednesday in Lent 6:30PM
March 11 Wednesday in Lent 6:30PM
March 18 Wednesday in Lent 6:30PM
March 25 Wednesday in Lent 6:30PM
March 29 Palm Sunday 9AM
April 1 Holy Wednesday- Celebration of First Communion 6:30PM
April 2 Mandy 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 7:00PM the Book of Revelation
February 25-March 25 Mentor and Confirmation Students

MEALS

February 18- Ash Wednesday Meal- 5:30PM
February 25-March 25 Wednesdays in Lent Meals- 5:30PM
April 5- Easter Breakfast- 8AM
April 1 First Communion Celebration Meal- 5:30PM

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!



2026 SPRING SUPPER

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Garrison
622 5th Street NE

Sunday, March 1st

SERVING 4-6:30PM

BUFFET STYLE
TURKEY & ROAST PORK

(TAKE OUT & DELIVERY MEALS AVAILABLE)
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE 463-2019

\$20 ADULTS \$10 6-12 (5 & UNDER FREE)

ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE
CHURCH OFFICE

RAFFLE ITEMS INCLUDE:

2 QUILTS; CENEX GIFTS CARDS; 2 TABLE
RUNNERS; JEWELRY; PILLOW; NORWEX,
CHOCOLATE & KITCHEN BASKETS

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

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 Macheleldt & 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>	Lisa Haugen
<i>Ushers</i>	Ferguson Family
<i>Greeters</i>	Ferguson Family
<i>Door Greeter</i>	Ferguson Family
<i>Acolyte</i>	Nora Klemisch
<i>Fellowship</i>	The Livesay's
<i>Technology</i>	Lisa Maki
<i>Council Member</i>	Tamara Engel

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.