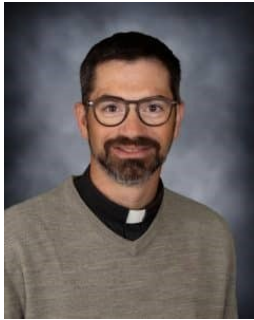


MAY EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

MAY 2026

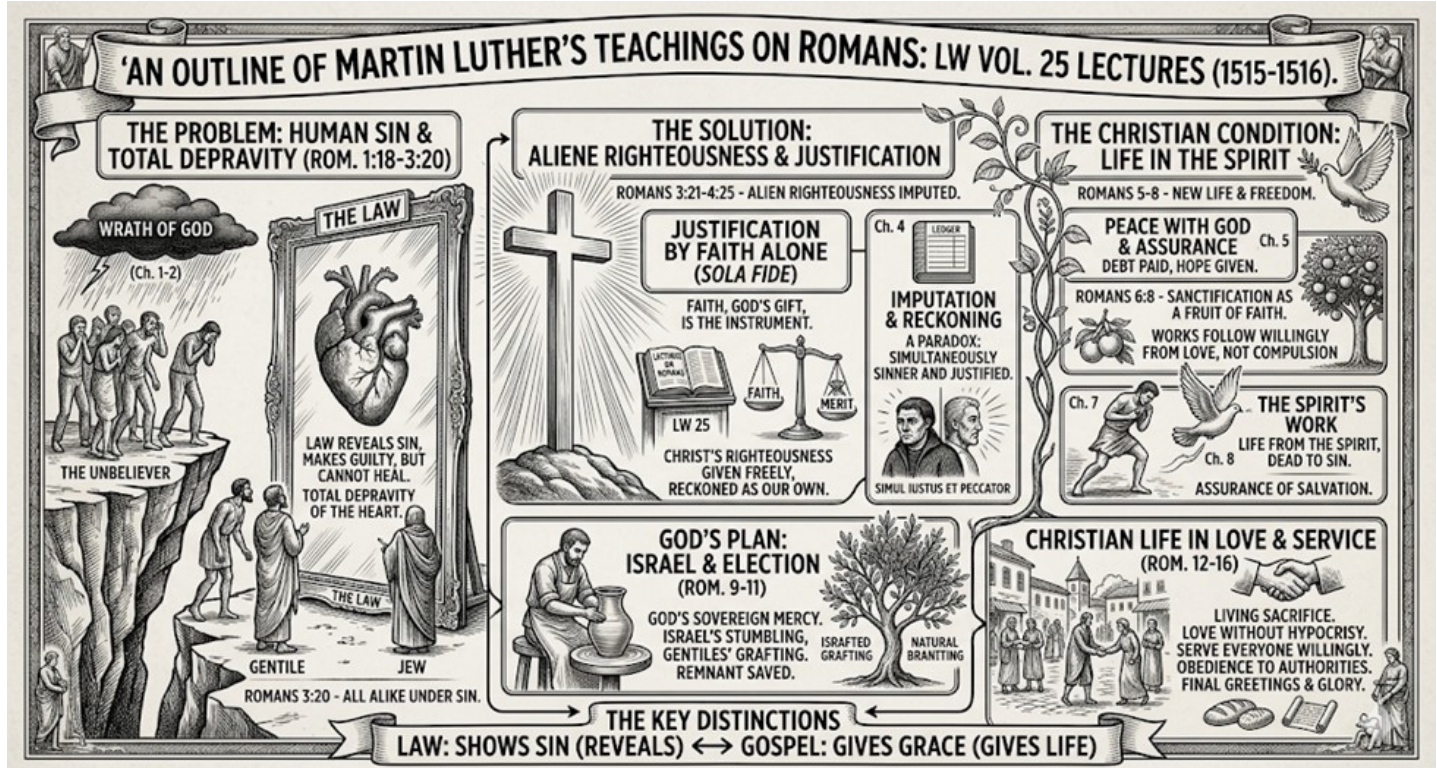


The Epistle to the Romans

Jason A. Schockman, Associate Pastor

Starting May 10th, our Life Application Bible Study begins a study of the book of Romans. As June rolls around the Epistle readings from the lectionary are from Romans beginning with the fourth chapter and continuing through Paul's letter to the church in Rome all through the summer. This is known as lectio continua (Latin for continuous reading) refers to the practice of reading Scripture in sequence over a period of time. By reading through entire books in this way, congregations are helped to see the context of one reading with another, the logical argument and flow of the Scripture. Lectio continua is a practice that stretches back to the early church and was revitalized during the Reformation. While we will spend the summer examining Romans in study and sermon, Luther spent an entire year (1515-1516) teaching through this epistle. Notice that this was the year before his famous 95 Theses were posted on the chapel door in Wittenberg. It was in that year of reading Romans so closely that Luther "learned that the righteousness of God is mercy, and that he makes us righteous through it..." (AE 54:309)

Just for fun, I asked Google AI (Gemini) to create a sketch of Luther's year of teaching Romans.



While there is a lot of ground to cover in Romans, with Pastor Matt Thompson's help, I am excited to walk with you through what Luther said was "...really the chief part of the New Testament, and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. We can never read it or ponder over it too much; for the more we deal with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes...it is a bright light, almost sufficient to illuminate the entire holy Scriptures." (AE 35:365) So come join us Sunday Mornings all summer long as we bask in the beauty of this Word of God to us.



Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

Forming Disciples to Live in God's World

"Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning. Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray. O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch." (Psalm 5:1–3, ESV)

All was still early this morning when I woke. At first, I tried to go back to sleep, but it didn't work. It was time to rise and pray. I am slowly memorizing Psalm 5 right now. I've come to treasure this time of meditation, a practice that I learned in earnest during my January 2025 month of respite. I'd always prayed, sometimes with more discipline than others, but habitual *meditation* on the Scriptures took a month of respite to learn. It has been life changing. Christian meditation, I suppose, is like jazz: there is structure, but there is great freedom within that structure. I work the text over and over again in my mind. I write it out. As the Word sinks into memory I am able to abbreviate quickly (I've developed my own form of shorthand for this purpose.). I stretch farther and farther, word by word, phrase by phrase. In the midst of the memorization I write out prayers, sometimes in full sentences, sometimes in abbreviations. I let the Word of God have its way with me. I am walking with God, as it were. I'm not scurrying from one Godly task to another. It's marvelous, actually, and astonishing how much is accomplished in this meditative jazz: prayers for those who are sick, prayers for my wife and children, remembrances of those struggling and prayers related thereto, joys, sorrows; sometimes anger, fear, anxieties; sometimes, literally, "God, what in the world are you doing?" I love Ps 5:3: "*O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.*" (Psalm 5:3, ESV)

At some point between 3-4:00 a.m., I wrote in my little Murdy "pocket cut" notebook, "Re-write May Epistle." So, here I am, now at 9:30 a.m. thinking about how much Pastor Schockman and I love teaching the Sunday morning Life Application Bible Study. We're having growing pains with that study, and some have thought, "Maybe we need to do two adult studies." At first, that's a more than reasonable thought, but then both pastors had quick, gut reactions, "No," that have only deepened over time. Conversation between us led to the realization that we believe splitting the Sunday morning study is a mistake. For one, we have three worship services on the Lord's Day (Sat. evening and Sunday morning). Sunday morning gathers—in many respects—the active congregation. It is our best opportunity to teach and learn together with the most active members of the congregation. A number of Saturday attenders often come back for Sunday morning; the class—between services, as it is—becomes a mixing point for the whole congregation. Further, as we have said over and over and over again, the research shows that the percentage of the worshipping congregation in congregationally-sponsored Bible study (especially the pastor-led study) is the #1 indicator of congregational health.

The % of the worshipping congregation in congregationally-sponsored Bible study (especially the pastor-led study) is the #1 indicator of congregational health.

At our May voters' meeting you'll hear—thank God—about a number of significant markers of growth. We have shown steady growth in offering income. We have shown slight, steady growth in overall worship attendance. We have shown noticeable growth in young adult participation. We have shown marked growth in Sunday adult Bible study attendance. Presently, school enrollment for next year is projected a bit higher, which means that even with growth in expenses, our Church Leadership Team (CLT) expects to present a balanced or near-balanced budget. After some years of absorbing significant necessary expenses (staff for business and facilities management, in particular) there is positive news on many fronts.

Clearly, the congregation is growing in both depth and in breadth. (I would argue that the depth is the necessary precursor to the breadth.) In fact, as I look back at the last 10 -plus years, what I see is a congregation that has learned to embrace and celebrate its identity as a congregation of the *Unaltered Augsburg Confession* in worship. I believe that St. Paul's is growing because we have a clear identity in Christ, a deep commitment to His Word and to the Lutheran confessions to which we are pledged. There is obvious congruence between what we believe and how we worship. We are not comparing ourselves to other churches. We are not trying—quietly or otherwise—to be like someone else. We are not casting about with marketing programs, baiting people into our doors and then switching into our other colors. The tympanum (sign above the entrance to the church)—“St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church. U.A.C.”—says who we are, and when you walk in, that is what you get, with its depth and beauty. As a student of Christian missions, I believe there is a massive missiological advantage in such congruity.

My sense is that the next 10 years need to be about learning to better celebrate and embrace our U.A.C.-identity in education and service, even as we refine and improve upon our embrace of that identity in worship. I believe that the future growth of our congregation will flow from an even more joyful embrace our identity as a congregation of the U.A.C. in every aspect of congregational life. Already that is begun in—among other places—Sunday School with the whole group (adults and children) gathering together to recite and learn the *Small Catechism* and hymn of the month before our Bible study. This more classical approach to learning moves the disciple from mastery of the foundations (in classical terms, called the “grammar” stage), to deeper and deeper analysis of the faith (“logic” stage), toward catechesis on and practice of persuasion (“rhetoric” stage) of the faith and related vocational service as a disciple of Christ.

The Sunday study I'm presently finishing on “Lutheran Education at the Dawn of A.I.” has further solidified my resolve that the continued embrace of the U.A.C. in every facet of our life and of tried-and-true methods of teaching and learning, is the best way forward for us. In the end, I am sure, such an approach will result in disciples of Jesus Christ who are more faithful and grounded in Christ, better able than most others navigate the complexities that will face us.

I am scheduled to begin my sabbatical on May 20th. God-willing, I'll return to serve more rested, wiser, and, perhaps, having completed my first novel. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Lance O'Donnell
Friday of Easter 3
24 April, A.D. 2026



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet

Sponsored by Sisters In Service

Tuesday, May 12

5:30pm - Fellowship and Cocktails

6:30pm - Dinner

Program—Evening of Song

Presented by:

Oconomowoc Community Choir

Oconomowoc Golf Club

W360 N5261 BrownStreet, Oconomowoc

Adults - \$40 (includes gratuity) Children (3 to 12) - \$15 (includes gratuity)

Please make checks payable to: "Ladies Aid"

Menu:

French Pork Chop with peppercorn sauce

Au Gratin Potatoes

California Blend Vegetables

Salad

Rolls

Ice Cream Dessert

Menu:

Chicken Tenders

French Fries

Fruit

Ice Cream Dessert



Bring Hard Candy
Flavors: Root Beer,
Peppermint, Lemon



Purchase Tickets:

Church Office (262-567-5001)

Mary Lou Pagenkopf (262-308-8184)

Terrie Seifert (262-490-0649)

Vicky Tuder (414-699-8045)

Judy Braatz (262-266-4841)

Sue Lindemann (262-567-8985)



St. Paul's
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Their future.
Let's protect it
together. ♥*

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School & Church Families

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Use it wisely.



SCAM AWARENESS

Spot the signs.
Stop the scams.



EQUIP. EMPOWER. PROTECT.

Practical tips. Real examples. Stronger families.



DATE:

May 14, 2026



TIME:

6:00 – 7:30 PM



LOCATION:

210 E. Pleasant St.,
Oconomowoc, WI



WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Parents, Guardians,
Students & Church Families



PRESENTED BY:

April DeValkenaere,
Fortress Forensic Investigations



**STRONGER ONLINE.
STRONGER TOGETHER.**
Faith. Family. Future.



Celebrating a Year of Blessings – and Looking Ahead Together

As we come to the close of another successful school year, we give thanks to God for the many blessings He has poured out on our school community. From the classroom to the stage, from the playground to chapel, from the court to the home, it has been a joy to watch our students grow academically, socially, and in their faith.

To our parents—thank you. Your partnership, encouragement, and countless acts of support have made a lasting impact. Whether volunteering your time, supporting events, helping with homework, or simply entrusting us with your children each day, you are an essential part of what makes our school so special. We are deeply grateful.

As we celebrate all that God has done this year, we're also excited about what's ahead. We warmly invite you to join us for an upcoming **FUNraising event**—a time not just to support our school, but to enjoy fellowship, laughter, and connection as a community. This event is designed to bring our parents together, strengthen relationships, and continue building up the Body of Christ within our school. It's a chance to relax, have fun, and deepen the sense of belonging that makes our school feel like family.

Please mark your calendars and join us on Saturday, May 9, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (or so), at *Johnny Pizzas* in the party room. We will be providing hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks, and two adult beverage tickets to each adult that attends. This is intended to be adults only. We will be asking for your RSVP for planning purposes but will be welcoming drop-ins, as well. A formal invitation will be sent out next week via email.

During the event, we'll also be sharing an exciting new initiative focused on **welcoming and supporting new families**. As our school continues to grow, we are committed to creating a warm, intentional pathway for families joining our community—helping them feel known, connected, and supported from day one. We look forward to inviting you into this effort as we extend Christ's love to others.

Thank you again for a fantastic year. We pray that your summer is filled with rest, joy, and time together. We can't wait to gather again soon—both to celebrate and to continue the important work God has given us.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up..." – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A RADIO BROADCAST?

Our radio broadcast over WTKM is a very important outreach for our congregation. Below are the dates open for 2026. Please prayerfully consider sponsoring one of these Sundays. The cost is **\$135.00**. We praise God for this valuable community outreach.

May 17	Jun. 28	Aug. 9	Oct. 18	Nov. 22	Nov. 29	Dec. 13	Dec. 27
Jun. 14	Aug. 2	Aug. 23	Oct. 25	Nov. 26	Dec. 6	Dec. 20	

If you are interested in sponsoring a Broadcast please fill out the bottom portion of this page and hand it into the church office. Thank you. Any questions please call Heather in the church office 567-5001.

NAME _____ DATE: 1st CHOICE _____ 2nd CHOICE _____

Please dedicate to (i.e. in memory of, wedding anniversary, to the Glory of God, in honor of...etc.)

MARCH MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Baptisms

Audrey Violet, daughter of Jacob & Lauren (Laatsch) Taber
Bridget Daisy, daughter of Jacob & Lauren (Laatsch) Taber
Nathaniel Oliver, son of Dustin & Ashley (Buell) Westphal

Transfer from another LCMS Church

Scott Newton – Covenant Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI
Lance & Lynda Sinclair, TJ – Divine Savior Lutheran Church, Hartford, WI
Zander Simaras – Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hartland, WI

Baptized 2047 Confirmed 1258

May Hymn of the Month: *Now, All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* (number 465 in *Lutheran Service Book*)

This powerful tune first appeared in a German hymnal in the seventeen hundreds, but it was based on tunes that were even older. Since it was written it has been paired with majestic and celebratory texts, four of which are included in LSB. This text was written by Paul Zeller Strodach while he was serving on a committee for a new hymnal in 1947.

The hymn begins with all of heaven proclaiming Christ's triumph over sin, death, and the devil through His resurrection. The third stanza is a simple prayer asking Jesus to fill us with His love so that we can live in the truth of His victory each day. The hymn ends with a doxology, singing praise to our Triune God.

Sisters in Service

Hopefully we can leave behind all the April showers we've had recently and look forward to the beautiful flowers we can expect in May. Yes, May will be here before we know it and so will our next Sisters in Service meeting. We're back on schedule for the first Thursday of the month with our meeting on May 7th, at 5:30pm. Join us for food, fun and fellowship and learn about our biblical woman of the month - Leah.

Oh, and don't forget about our Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet on May 12th (see pg. 4). Tickets will be available for purchase at our May meeting. Oconomowoc community choir is looking forward to entertaining us at the banquet...34 members have been selected to go to Carnegie Hall this year. We hope to see you on the 7th!



Just because the school year is ending, doesn't mean Sunday School is over. We are keeping Sunday School going during the summer! The kids will be meeting as one big group.

- Dates- June 7th through August 9th
- Who- 4k (potty-trained) through 6th grade
- When- Sunday mornings starting with the Adult Bible Study until 10:15 am



Please sign up for Summer Sunday school through the QR code or email amber.butler@splco.org

May 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 St Phillip & St. James Apostles 25¢	2 Athanasius of Alexandria* Pastor/ Confessor 25¢
3 Praise God for the gift of His Son 25¢	4 Fredrich Wyneken* Pastor/Missionary 20¢	5 Fredrick the Wise* Christian Ruler 20¢	6 Warmer than 70 today? 25¢	7 C. F. Walther* Theologian 20¢	8 Rain today? Yes-10¢ No-25¢	9 Job* 25¢
10 Thank God for our MOTHERS 50¢	11 Cyril & Methodius* Missionaries to the Slavs 20¢	12 Sunshine today? Yes-15¢ No-5¢	13 Took a walk today? Yes-15¢ No-20¢	14 5¢ for each dandelion blooming in your yard	15 TGIF 50¢	16 Armed Forces Day 40¢
17 Thank God for our Pastors 50¢	18 Black or White car 25¢ Other color 15¢	19 Egg for breakfast? 10¢ Cereal? 15¢	20 Visited EBERTS this week? Yes 15¢ No-30¢	21 Emperor Constantine* Christian Ruler Helena-Mother 40¢	22 10¢ for each soda you drank this week	23 Wore sandals today? 20¢
24 Thank God for freedom to attend church \$1	25 MEMORIAL DAY 50¢	26 Visited a cemetery this weekend? Yes-15¢ No-30¢	27 25¢ if you have planted a garden If not-40¢	28 Volunteer for Lord's Cupboard? Yes 20¢ No-30¢	29 TGIF 40¢	30 15¢ for each trip to the grocery store this week
31 THE ANNUATION 50¢						

MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 3:00 pm Confirmation Practice 5:00 pm Divine Worship
3 8:00 am Divine Worship (Confirmation) 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Confirmation Reception 10:30 am Divine Worship	4 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru	5 6:00 pm LWML 6:30 pm SPLCO Young Adults Bible Study	6 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Lutheran Basics	8 5:30 pm Sisters in Service 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	9	9 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Divine Worship
10 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	11	12 5:30 pm Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet 5:30 pm Board of Operations Mtg. 6:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg.	13 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Lutheran Basics	14 1:00 pm New Member Sponsor Committee Mtg. St. John's Sullivan: 5:00 pm Circuit Ascension Dinner 6:30 pm Circuit Ascension Worship	15	16 8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship
17 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 12:00 pm Voters' Meeting 5:00 pm Reformation Tap Society	18 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru & Meal	19	20 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Lutheran Basics	21 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	22 NO SCHOOL	23 7:30 am Journeymen 5:00 pm Divine Worship
24 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship	25 NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED	26	27 6:30 pm W.O.W.: Lutheran Basics	28 6:30 pm Church Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	29	30 9:00 am Gabrielle Ligrow/Samuel Ewert Rehearsal 1:30 pm Allis Cain/Timothy Conner Rehearsal 5:00 pm Divine Worship
31 8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 2:00 pm Gabrielle Ligrow/Samuel Ewert Wedding						



The Ascension of Our Lord

Thursday May 14, 2026

Dinner 5:30pm Worship 7:00pm

St. John's Lutheran Church

W407 Highway 18

Sullivan, WI. 53178

Collected offering will be split between
Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission and
Journeys Lutheran School Flood Relief.



REGISTRATION DEADLINE for the 2026 SWD LWML Convention, June 19-20 at the Sheraton- Brookfield is **MAY 18th**. This is the 80th Year Celebration. Special t-shirt orders are also due by May 18th for pick up at the convention. Both forms are available on the bulletin board or online at lwml-swd.org.

FRIDAY EVENTS include Servant Event, Mission Walk, Exhibits, Bible Study, Banquet with speaker Deb Burma and Vespers Service.

SATURDAY EVENTS include Convention business, Voting for Mission Grants and New Officers, Mission Speakers, Lunch and seeing Our Mites in Action.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART will benefit Orphan Grain Train with Layette Kits and St. Paul's Lord's Cupboard. Items needed are:

- * Baby wipes
- * Pull-Ups sizes 3T/4T; 4T/5T; 5T/6T
- * Soup
- * Cloth Diapers
- * Rubber or reusable swimmer pants (not diapers)
- * Onesies
- * Blankets
- * Diapers sizes 4, 5, 6
- * Cereal
- * Peanut butter
- * Diaper Pins
- * Washcloths
- * Sleepers
- * Receiving blankets

These items can be placed in the bin by the LWML bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Please have items in the bin by Sunday, June 14th.

Heart 2 Heart Sisters of All Nations Event will be on Saturday, **May 30th**, at Trinity Freistadt in Mequon. The theme is *One in Christ* with speaker Rev. Dr. Tom Mark, LCMS Missionary in Taiwan.

Join us for our next meeting, Tuesday, May 5th, at 6:00 pm in room 219. Remember your MITES!

REFORMATION TAP SOCIETY

Theology and conversation with a bit of hops.



*ADULTS 18 AND OLDER

May 17, 2026

Ask the Pastor

Presenter: Panel of Pastors

5:00-7:00 pm
@ BrewFinity

N58 W39800 Industrial Rd., Suite D
Oconomowoc WI 53066
www.brewfinitbrewing.com

**First time guests
get a free
beer or soda on us!**

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 5th
Ian McMillan

May 7th
Larry Vasatko

May 8th
The Rev. Dr. Richard Thompson

May 14th
Al Mueller

May 17th
Gerald Prockl

May 18th
Gale Lindemann
Russ Meyer
Dick Paul

May 19th
Roxie Gerlach
Anne Lindquist

May 20th
Jean Anderson
Julayne Sullivan

May 22nd
Dutch Holland

May 26th
Tony Brockway
Karen Meyer

May 27th
Dorothy Duchow

May 30th
Donna Andrus
Marian Faltersack

For our members 70+ years

**ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
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(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

210 E. Pleasant Street

Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

262-567-5001

WORSHIP & STUDY

Saturday Worship 5:00 pm

Sunday Worship 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Bible Class 9:15 am

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 262.567.5001 x217

Pastor Jason Schockman 262.567.5001 x216

Director of Parish Music, Allison Mackie 262.567.5001 x214

Principal - Jill George 262.567.5001 x213

Website: www.splco.org

LIVE BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship

Live on WTKM 104.9 FM

& www.wtkm.com

Live-streamed at www.splco.org

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

Christian Pre-School & Day Care

Director Christine Flores 262.567.4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

Newsletter deadline for articles,
announcements and features is the

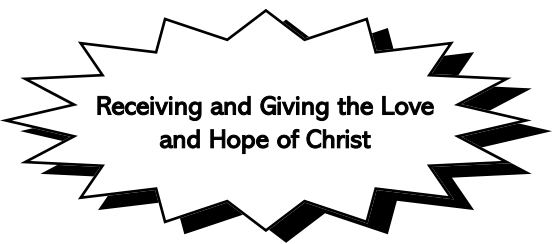
2nd Wednesday of the month

**PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES**

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Cereal boxes for

The Lord's Cupboard

The Lutheran Junior Honors Association
is collecting cereal boxes for

The Lord's Cupboard

in the month of April. Before we donate
the cereal boxes, we are going to make a
domino run on **May 4**. Our goal is to
create a domino run that starts in the
middle school hallway and travels through
the 2nd/3rd grade hallway, down the
stairs past kindergarten, all the way to 4K.



The classroom that
collects the most cereal
boxes will win a little

St. Paul's
prize

