



# St. Paul's EPISTLE

May 2026 edition

## ON CHRIST'S ASCENSION I NOW BUILD

The first Ascension Day was not a comforting moment for Jesus' disciples. Acts 1 tells us that as they gathered on the Mount of Olives, they thought Jesus was about to establish God's kingdom visibly on earth. When he rose up to heaven instead, they stood gaping at the sky in surprise. It must have been hard for them to understand why Jesus was leaving.

Ascension Day, which we'll celebrate in worship on May 10th, can also be confusing for Christians today. It isn't always easy to see why it was a good thing for Jesus to go back to heaven instead of staying with us, teaching us, and leading us to build his kingdom.



In our Ascension service, we'll sing the hymn "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build" (476). This hymn gives comfort, hope, and purpose in Jesus' ascension by helping us meditate on one of the most beautiful truths in the Bible—we are connected to Jesus. Our real lives are with him. The fact that he is in heaven means that we will go there, too.

This is the point that this hymn makes with its opening line: "On Christ's ascension I now build the hope of my ascension." We don't often talk about Christians having an "ascension" in the same way that Jesus did, but this idea is alluded to in 1 Thessalonians 4. There Paul writes that God will bring the believers with Jesus through death and resurrection. And then, it says, on the Last Day, believers, living and dead, will be "caught up together... in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."

The New Testament has several passages that discuss the concept of a Christian's life being patterned after Jesus' life. For example, Hebrews 6:19–20 refers to Jesus as our forerunner. It says that his ascension to God's sanctuary is "hope... an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Jesus leads the way for Christians—we follow the path to the Father's side that he has laid out.

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Shaped by the Word,  
we grow as one family  
equipped and transformed  
through the power  
of the gospel.

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Worship  
Sunday at 9:00 AM

[www.stpaulswr.org](http://www.stpaulswr.org)

# ON CHRIST'S ASCENSION I NOW BUILD

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The hymn connects this idea with another beautiful picture. “Where the head is, there as well I know his members are to dwell” (st. 1). The Bible often compares the relationship between Jesus and his Church to a body’s head and its “members” — the rest of the body. The point of this picture is that Jesus and his Church are one. Where Jesus leads, we will always follow. He can’t, and won’t, leave us behind. We might think of 2 Timothy 2:13: “[Jesus] cannot disown himself.”

This hymn helps us see that Jesus’ ascension is an answer to “all doubt and apprehension” (st. 1). It is a promise that we will go to heaven, too. We will live with Jesus when he calls us.

After the comfort of the first stanza, the hymn changes direction slightly. If we are united with Jesus who lives for us in heaven, what should our perspective on earth be?

The second stanza points that question at our hearts. “My heart will rest in him alone, no other rest remaining.” Our hearts “rest” in Jesus, both in the sense that they should find their peace in him and in the sense that it is he to whom they should naturally

turn. In today’s language, we might say that Jesus is where our lives should find their meaning.

The hymn goes on, “For where my treasure went before, there all my thoughts will ever soar.” This line calls to mind Matthew 6:21: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be

[We] will be caught up in the clouds ... to meet the Lord in the air.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

also.” It also references ideas in Colossians 3:2–3: “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things,” because “your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” These words tell us that our real lives are already with Jesus and that our focus should be with him as well.

The last stanza asks God to help us live and die with Jesus’ ascension in mind. We might not often think of serving God as something that we do because of Ascension Day, but it is quite reasonable to picture it that way. In a sense, Jesus taking his throne

in heaven was the last piece of the puzzle—the culmination of his work for us until he comes back on Judgment Day. Until then, Jesus’ ascension is the capstone of everything for which we should thank him.

And when we die, we have a promise that Jesus himself made about his ascension: “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am” (John 14:3).

Dear Jesus, Thank you for joining yourself to us—through your coming to earth and becoming a human being; through your life, death, and resurrection for us; through our baptisms which unite us to you. Now, as we celebrate your ascension into heaven, fill us with comfort, hope, and joy as we look forward to our own ascension. Let that future life with you at the Father’s side overflow into our lives now, so that all our thoughts, words, and actions display the confidence we have through you. Amen.

Look for this hymn in worship on May 10th and recall the significance its words convey to us! †

## Special Services in May

May 6 - Compline Service  
 May 10 - Ascension Observed  
 May 17 - Teen Confirmation  
 May 24 - Pentecost



Scenes from  
Easter for Kids



You are invited to St. Paul's Lutheran School's God be the Glory Night 2026 on Thursday, April 30 at 6:00 pm. Join us for a special evening where we reflect on the academic, creative, musical, and artistic gifts and talents that God has given the students of our school.

Various projects, art work, and experiments from the entirety of the school year will be on display. Our students have shown unique gifts and talents and diligence in their work and studies throughout the course of the year. You will have an opportunity to walk around at your own pace and view the various pieces throughout the campus. Following the walk through, we will meet in church to celebrate with some musical talents as well as joining together to praise God in the timeless hymn, "To God be the Glory." The entire night will last from 6:00 to 7:00. Whether you have a student in school or not, we would love to have you join us for this one-of-a-kind night. Refreshments and snacks will be provided by our PTO. †

The champs in action!  
(Our Bible Bowl team is on the right: Malina, Sarah and Amberlyn)



## UP FOR THE CHALLENGE!

by Randy Pahl

Up, up and away as our "up"per grade students headed "up" to the annual "Academic Challenge" which was held on Friday, March 27th at Northland Lutheran High School. Below you will learn how well our students fared against some stiff competition from several other area WELS schools...

Grades 5-6 = Securing **1st place overall** was the team of Dax Aumann, Ethan Burgess, and Jack Eron! Also grabbing the **gold** medal for their efforts in the Bible Bowl were Amberlyn Engel, Sarah Jordan, and Malina Kloskowski! And individually Sarah was crowned the **champion** for math! **2nd place overall** and for the team math portion of the challenge were Amberlyn, Sarah, and Malina. Meanwhile Dax, Ethan, and Jack secured the second spot in the Bible Bowl. One 3rd place finisher for grades 5-6 was Dax in the individual math competition.

Grades 7-8 = **3rd place** in the team science competition was earned by Walker Gear, Noah Rullman, and Josiah WhiteEagle. Plus, a 3rd place finish for the individual spelling competition was also captured by Walker. Finally, there were a number of ribbons awarded for the artistic ability that was displayed by our students in each of the grades.

And, so, with another year in the books a hearty congratulations goes out to all of our St. Paul's winners and participants who, once again, did such a wonderful job of representing our Lord and our school...well done Panthers!!! †

## TOGETHER WE SHINE AT NLHS

By Mike Anderson

Northland Lutheran High School in Kronenwetter hosted *Together We Shine* this past Sunday, April 12, 2026. The format was different from years past – gone were the raffle baskets, the soup challenge and the other activities that usually took place at the event. The focus this year was thanksgiving. The event began with a worship service of thanksgiving for the many blessings the school has received in its existence, but especially for the recent payoff of their outstanding debt. The worship service focused on how opportunities can present challenges, and how challenges can present new opportunities.

After the worship service, there was a brief fellowship period with beverages and snacks provided. A second presentation from Development Director Guy Russ and Principal Ryan Weichmann focused on where the school has come from in the early Merrill classroom days to the building they now call home. With the increase in enrollment in recent years and the removal of the debt load, preliminary plans are in the working stages to see about expanding the campus to accommodate the needs of the educational program offerings. A “first look” was shared of what might be, but nothing is confirmed at this point in time.

Please keep Northland and its faculty and students in your prayers as they strive to prepare all students for this life and eternity through premier Christ-centered education. †

## OUR NEW INFORMATION CENTER

By Laurie Meister

The space including our mailboxes and the beautiful new cabinetry installed establishes our new Information Center at St. Paul's. This is the area to obtain and receive printed information.

The new cabinetry installed is our Ministry Center, a replacement of the Ministry Table. This area will continue to fulfill all of the previous functions. This is the area any St. Paul's group can place sign-up sheets. It is the area any group can share other handouts or information about the ministries of St. Paul's. No permission is required, let us know if you have any questions or we can help in any way.

St. Paul's is a warm and caring family of believers who generously support causes in the community and beyond. The Ministry Center is designed to continue to serve as the hub for these causes. Behind the right cabinet doors are four waste bins. Inside the left cabinet doors are two pantry pullouts. Additionally, drawers may serve this purpose. We have the space for approximately eight different donation causes simultaneously.

If you would like to be a Donation Advocate for a new cause, please complete the Donation Collection Approval Form. To retain the beauty of the cabinetry, the Welcome Center team would prefer to not mark the locations of causes on the exterior of the cabinetry. Each cause is labeled on the receptacle or pantry drawer front. Feel free to open the cabinetry to locate each cause. We will communicate changes and highlight these causes in pre-service slide decks and in this newsletter in the future.

We currently have three donation causes.

- Prison Ministry (Meditations & Time of Grace publications) – Inside top right drawer
- St Paul's Food Pantry – Inside the left side cabinet doors
- Matthew 25 Ministries (pill bottles) – Inside the right side cabinet doors

We are grateful to Mike Paul for his craftsmanship and the donation of his time on this project. Any questions or comments may be directed to Laurie Meister. †



Saturday, April 25 ~ 8:00-2:00

register at [stpaulswr.org/everyone-outreach](http://stpaulswr.org/everyone-outreach)

# CHURCH LIBRARY CORNER

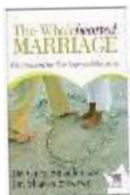
by Pam Negus

With Easter behind us, the bookstore has been updated for upcoming graduations, confirmations, Mother's Day, and birthdays. We continue to offer a selection of small gifts in the Resource Center, along with individual cards and boxed sets for all occasions. If you are looking for something specific, please feel free to leave a note.

The church library is also transitioning to a new computer system for inventory management. As you check out books, your information will be added to this new program. Please note that if an item is checked out for an extended period, you may receive an automated email reminder. Rest assured, there are no fines in the church library!

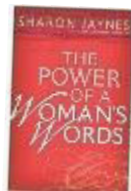
When returning a book, please place it on the shelf next to the card box so I can update the system. I appreciate your patience as we perfect these new processes.

This month's book reviews:



**The Power of a Woman's Words** by Sharon Jaynes (248.8 JAY)

Ms. Jaynes states that there are 2 types of people—those that brighten a room when they enter, and those that brighten a room when they leave. Which are we? Our lives are letters from God to the world. "We have the power in our words to make people thirsty to know Christ. It doesn't necessarily come through preaching. It comes through loving, listening, and learning." How we utilize our



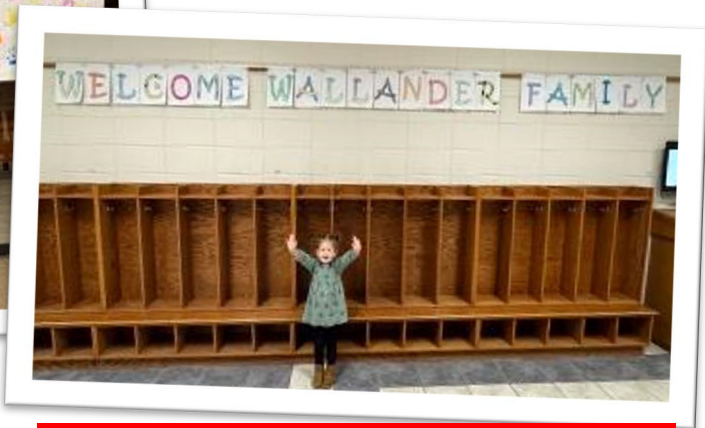
**The Wholehearted Marriage** by Drs. Greg Smalley and Shawn Stoeber (248.8 SMA)

Drawing from their experience in marriage ministries, their opinion is that a closed heart is the source of marital issues. Life experiences wound our hearts, and Satan imprints lies on our hearts. The authors offer guidance on "diagnosing" your heart issues, and determining how to get your heart back on track.

These books can be found on the library table in the Resource Center. †



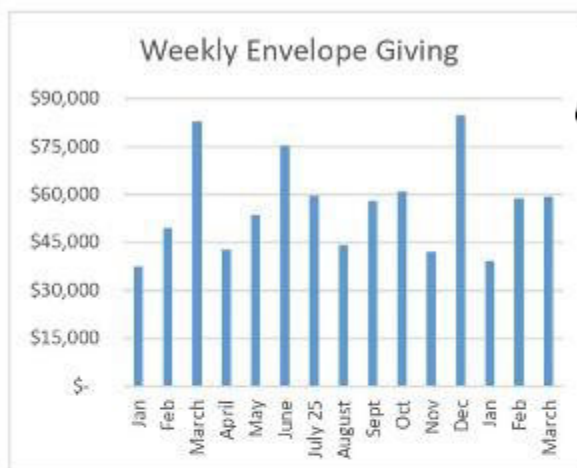
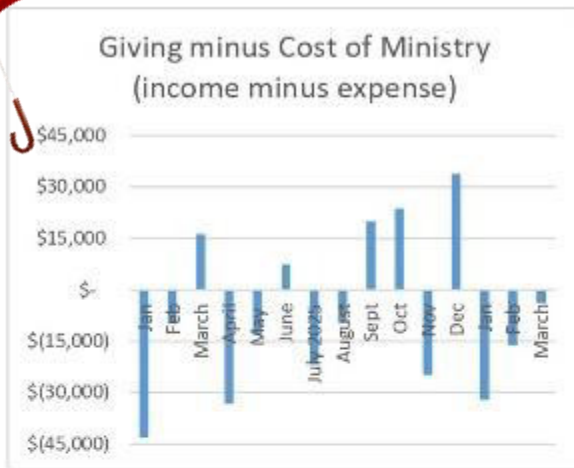
Pastor Wallander and his family came for a visit during Holy Week. The schoolchildren made welcome posters. Although, school was cancelled because of the ice storm, the Wallanders joined us for Holy Thursday worship, and many members had a chance to introduce themselves.



**SAVE THE DATE:  
INSTALLATION SERVICE ~ July 19**

Left: Pastor Jeremiah Wallander and his wife, Kelli. Right: daughter Myra (not pictured: son Titus)

**St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church  
March and 3rd Fiscal Quarter 2026 Comments**



- > For the second consecutive month Weekly Envelope giving for March was nearly right at budget at \$59,316 (budget is \$59,500), and for the 3rd fiscal quarter total Weekly Envelope giving was \$157,288 compared to the budget figure of \$178,500. For the fiscal year, Weekly Envelope giving is \$506,893, or 94.7% of the budgeted total of \$535,500.
- > The cost to carry out the Ministry Plan for March was \$82,124, which is more in line with the YTD average of \$86,369 compared to last month during which two mortgage payments impacted the the month (one was actually January's intended payment). For the quarter, the total cost of Ministry was \$266,538 compared to the budgeted cost of Ministry for the quarter of \$279,231. For the fiscal year the Cost of Ministry is \$777,322 compared to the budget total of \$829,654.
- > Overall, for the month of March the total financial support of the Ministry plan fell slightly short of cost by (\$3,843), which is the third consecutive month with a monthly deficit. No surprise, for the 3rd fiscal quarter the financial support of the Ministry plan fell short of costs by (\$52,163), requiring an "internal borrow" from our dedicated funds of \$30,000.



**Mortgage  
Balance:  
\$491,917**

**THANK YOU!**

**LENTEN MEAL VOLUNTEERS**

A special thank you this month for those who assisted in preparing, serving, and clean-up for our Lenten meals. If it weren't for the numerous groups who volunteer each Wednesday during this season, we'd miss an opportunity to fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. A side benefit is not having to prepare a meal at home as well. The food is great and your work is appreciated!

**SNOW REMOVAL CREW**

Winter snow is necessary, although sometimes not appreciated especially when it falls at an inconvenient time like just prior to a church service. Thankfully we have a volunteer crew to clean snow off our parking lot and sidewalks on any day of the week, not just Sundays. That's a lot of area. Thanks to those who arrive at all hours with shovels and plows to make access to church and school easier for the rest of us. †

## SPECIAL GIFTS & MEMORIALS

through April 12

**Current**

- In memory of Gerry Paul given by Linda Pollnow
- In memory of Georgene Provost given by Christian & Angie Feutz, Kim Mittelsteadt, James Dickman, Cynthia Henke, Donna Provost, Donald & Lori Bemke, Jed & Cynthia Keller, David & Sheri Haugly, Martin & Karen Obsuszt, Mark & Beth Krohn, Bob & Katie Schalow, Marilyn Foley, Terri Jackson, David & Robin Koeshall, Terry & Sandy Krause, Kevin & Laurie Meister, Marla Mueller, Linda Pollnow, Andy & Julie Reitz, Carol Newsom, Susan Feith Mead, and other Friends & Family
- In memory of Donna Bushmaker given by Kevin & Laurie Meister

**Easter**

- In memory of their parents given by Sandy & Terry Krause

**Mortgage**

- In memory of their parents given by Sandy & Terry Krause

**Principal Reduction**

- In memory of Gerry Paul given by Mike & Judy Anderson

**School**

- In memory of Georgene Provost given by Gregory & Tami Jackans

**School Library**

- In memory of Gerry Paul given by Ron & Marlene Schroeder, Ruth Taggatz

**Security**

- In memory of Lisa Brooks, Laurie Meister's sister, given by Tom & Gayle Bartelt

**Tuition Assistance Fund**

- In memory of Lisa Brooks, Laurie Meister's sister, given by Randy & Carla Mayes

**Worship Technology**

- In memory of Gerry Paul given by Terry & Sandy Krause

The Bible Book Group gave the proceeds from the fellowship meal they served on March 18 in memory of Gerry Paul. The funds were divided among the Decorating Fund, the School Library, and Worship Technology.



New Members  
Eugene & Mary Weber  
Chad & Sheila Beyer



### CATECHISM CORNER



**What makes our heavenly Father different from earthly fathers?**

Genesis 17:1 - I am God Almighty.

Deuteronomy 32:4 - He is a faithful God. He does no wrong. Righteous and upright is he.

Psalm 27:10 - If my father and my mother abandoned me, the Lord would take me in.

Hebrews 12:10 - They disciplined us for a little while, according to *what seemed best to them*, but God disciplines us for our good, so that we may have a share in his holiness.

James 1:17 - Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the lights, who does not change or shift like a shadow.

Luther's Catechism © 2017 Northwestern Publishing House.  
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May 2026 edition



**Teacher Appreciation Week  
May 5-8**

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