

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD ~ MAY 17, 2026



**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 250 * 205 West Jefferson Street
Cole Camp, MO 65325**

“Being Transformed By God’s Grace To Love And Serve.”

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If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.



Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

please stand in body or spirit

Litany for Ascension Day

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new world has broken into ours - **a world in which justice does come for the oppressed, freedom comes for the prisoners, and healing for the sick.**

Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new community has been formed - **a community that loves and cares for all members, a family that welcomes all who are abandoned and rejected, a place where all find belonging.**

Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, a new creation has begun - **all that was distorted is being restored, all that is corrupted is being renewed, all that was broken is being made whole.**

Because Jesus ascended and sits at the right hand of God, God's new world has begun.

Let us join the choir in singing praises to our God. Alleluia! Amen!

Opening Hymn

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

#392

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

please be seated

First Reading

Acts 1: 1-11

[Luke writes:] ¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- ¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.
- ² **For the LORD Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,**
- ³ who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;
- ⁴ **who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**
- ⁵ God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.
- ⁶ **Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.**
- ⁷ For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.
- ⁸ **God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.**
- ⁹ The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham. The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1: 15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

please stand in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!” #634 vs. 3 & 4

Gospel

Luke 24: 44-53

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 24th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**

⁴⁴ [Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

please be seated

Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

please stand in body or spirit

Hymn of the Day “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!”

#393



Apostle's Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

please be seated

Offering



please stand in body or spirit

Offertory

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" #634 vs. 5 & 6

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Hear, O Lord, the prayer you taught us to pray.....**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.**

please be seated

HOLY COMMUNION

By Stations

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.

Red wine or white grape juice is available.

Communion Hymns

"O Christ, Our Hope"

#604

"Beautiful Savior"

#838

please stand in body or spirit

Post-Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray....Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Blessing

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Rejoice, for Christ Is King”

#430

Dismissal

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



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Ascension Dialog written by Christine Sine.

“CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! HALLELUIA”



Welcome: "Welcome! The King of Glory has ascended to the right hand of God, ruling over all things. As we wait for his return, may we be empowered by his Spirit to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth."

We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!

In Our Prayers: “Unspoken prayer concerns”, Ellen Harms, Ken Holland, Kevin Tatum, Dennis & Claudia Moellman, Gene Beckman, Jerome Goosen, Nathan Vanderlinden, Gordon Ives, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman, Scott Cash, Judie VonHolten, Greg Ives, and Kyle Luetjen.



Jim Kammeyer, Fred John Kreisel and Family (cousin of Ruth Ann Kreisel), Junior Garr, Heidi Hopp (grandmother of Nicole Rice), Mike Wingerter (brother of Susan Goosen), Kathy Harms, Deanna Browning, Kylie Simon, Hazel Karstons, Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Larry Haase (brother-in-law of Gene Beckman), David Mobely (brother-in-law of Randy Healan), Joyce Jones (sister of Connie Gerken), Kris Barnes (friend of Julie Cronin), Joe Campbell, Cliff Eckhoff, Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), and Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel).



Nursing Home & Homebound: Vern Dean Bohling, Shirley Cash and Larry & Judy Schlesselman: *Anew*. Eugene Beckman, Florence VonHolten & Arlene Schlesselman: *GSCC*. Earl Bauer: *Windsor Nursing Home*.

Prayers: If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.



Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: Rank E3 Jensen Hamilton (grandson of Dennis Hamilton), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen), J. Phillips Navy Petty Officer E-4 MMN (nephew of Katy Schlesselman), Lt. Col. Ron Poe, SSG Nick Smith and Major Joseph Strathman.



One Stitch at a Time: The Sewing Group will meet **every Monday** at 9:00am in the Gathering Space. Everyone is welcome to join!

Circle: Esther Circle will meet on Monday, **May 18th** at 7:00pm at the home of Rhonda Schlesselman.



Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **May 21**, from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.

Sunday School: It's hard to believe that it's that time of year, but our Sunday School classes will soon be taking a break for summer. The Confirmation class and Sunday School classes for children will conclude **Today**. The Sunday School class for adults will conclude on Sunday, **May 24th**. We want to thank all of our teachers for their leadership again this year, and everyone who participated throughout the year. We'll be back in the fall!



Confirmands: On Sunday, **May 24**, two of our youth will Affirm their Baptism in worship as part of the Confirmation Service. Those youth are: Logan Jackson and Jace Tinney. Please join us for worship that day as we surround them on their important milestone.

World Hunger Fish Fry: Our annual World Hunger Fish Fry will be held on **Sunday, May 31**. Serving will be from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. As always, the menu will include fried fish, roasted turkey, green beans, potato salad, drinks, and homemade desserts. If you are able to provide filets of crappie for the event, please let Krista Poe or Angela Alcorn know. We will also need volunteers to provide homemade desserts, potato salad, or to work in the kitchen. Sign up sheets will be available soon at church, including on the Offering Cards in worship. All the proceeds from the free-will offering will be used to support World Hunger ministries and programs. Please help us spread the word!



Synod Assembly: Synod Assembly is **June 6th**. Please remember our delegates Glen Webb, Rhonda Schlesselman and Pastor Stephen Zeller in your prayers on that date.

A "New Look" for our traditional annual Ice Cream Social. The Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday, **June 28**, with **new** hours of 11:00 am -1:00 pm. The social will take in an atmosphere of a "Sunday Picnic", with grilled hamburgers and hot dogs (also chili dogs), chips, drinks (tea, lemonade and water), and the traditional good ole' ice cream, pies, and cakes. Invitations will be extended to area churches and throughout the community. Come and enjoy the picnic atmosphere, good food and fellowship!!



Mid-MO Bible Camp: Mid-MO Bible Camp will take place **July 12-16** at Camp Rising Sun in the Lake of the Ozarks State Park. This is for youth who have completed 4th through 9th grade. Registration packets are located at the usher stands in the back of the church. Registration packets are due by **June 27th**. Adult volunteers are always needed, whether for specific tasks or a few hours or a few days: kitchen help, swimming supervision (especially trained life guards), final-day cleanup, providing cookies & snacks, etc.



Vacation Bible School: Join us for Vacation Bible School **July 20-24!** Youth from Pre-K (potty-trained, please!) through 6th grade are invited to a fun week of VBS for the theme of "Magnified" where we will explore God's awesome creation to discover just how big and powerful God really is! We'll gather each evening from 6:00-8:30 pm here at St. Paul's for fun activities, games, crafts, snacks, stories, songs, and more! Mark your calendars!

St. Paul's Little Blessings Preschool is accepting new enrollments for the upcoming preschool year 2026-27. Our preschool curriculum is designed for children aged 3 and 4 years. (Children must have turned age 3 by July 1.) In the upcoming year, we will be expanding our classroom time to three mornings weekly (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday - 8:00-11:30). The preschool kiddos will meet once again in the classroom just off our Fellowship Hall. Annette Vogel will be our lead teacher, with Winter Dieckman assisting. Both come with many years of experience with preschool and day care children. With the increased classroom time, the monthly tuition will be raised to \$90. With the enrollment form, the following must be submitted:



- * An enrollment fee of \$25 (used for materials)
- * A physical exam
- * Birth certificate
- * Immunization record

For questions, please contact Annette Vogel (816-500-3999) Or Janice Gerken (660-281-7380)

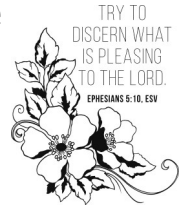
thrivent® If you are a Thrivent member and haven't yet used one or either of your Action Grants for this year, please let us know and we can put them to use! Contact Pastor Stephen if you have an Action Grant available. Thanks!

~ * ~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~ * ~



Outdoor Concert: Friends and family of the Cole Camp Community; you are all invited to the 5th Annual Bluegrass Concert Event **Today**, beginning at 12pm until 6pm. The **NEW LOCATION** is at the Maple Street Social Club (Across from the museum) 111 S Maple downtown Cole Camp. Three groups will be performing, The Crawford Crew, Potters Wheel and The Ties That Bind. Admission is free, please bring lawn chairs as no seating structures available. If you need help walking with your chairs, let us know and a ride via club car will be provided. Call 660-619-1052 to set-up getting a lift to the event. Cole Camp Chamber will provide food and drinks, the Cattlemen's Association will be providing cobbler and ice cream, all for purchase. Open Jam session to follow, bring your own acoustic instrument. What a great way to start the summer!

Discernment Event: Have you ever felt a nudge to explore ways that God might be calling you to serve the church? Maybe through lay ministry, ordained ministry, or anywhere in between. Do you know someone who has gifts to serve the church whom you could encourage? Pastor Chad Langdon, Bishop's Associate with the Central States Synod, will be hosting a casual Discernment Event at different locations throughout Missouri and Kansas. Our local event will be from **7:00 pm on Friday, June 19**, through **4:00 pm on Saturday, June 20**, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 442 W US Hwy 54, in Camdenton. There is no cost, breakfast and lunch on Saturday are provided, and a hotel room can be provided if needed. You can register online at www.css-elca.org/discernment by **June 14**. Other dates and locations are available if you cannot make that weekend. There is a flyer on the bulletin board in the Link or talk to Pastor Stephen with any questions.



SERMON NOTES for kids

AS YOU ATTEND CHURCH SERVICE WITH YOUR FAMILY, USE THIS SHEET TO HELP YOU PAY ATTENTION AND LEARN. WE WANT YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US BY SINGING TO GOD AND LISTENING TO THE MESSAGE!

WHO IS SPEAKING? _____

DATE: _____

MESSAGE TITLE: _____

WHAT IS THE MAIN PASSAGE WE ARE READING TODAY?

BOOK: _____

CHAPTER: _____

VERSE: _____



WHAT ARE YOU LEARNING ABOUT FROM THIS PASSAGE:

DRAW SOMETHING YOU HEARD IN THE SERMON OR IN A SONG TODAY!

MY QUESTIONS & NOTES

? THINGS I HAVE QUESTIONS ON TODAY:

IMPORTANT POINTS / VERSES FROM TODAY:

MY FAVORITE SONG FROM TODAY WAS...

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, May 17:	8:45am	Confirmation Class
	9:00am	SS/Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations
Monday, May 18:	9:00am	Sewing
Thursday, May 21:	8:00am	BCHD
Saturday, May 23:	5:30 pm	Casual Worship Service
Sunday, May 24:	9:00am	Adult Class
	10:00am	Worship Service
		Holy Communion by Stations



~ * ~ Coming Events ~ * ~

May 17	Ascension of our Lord
May 18	Esther Circle
May 24	Day of Pentecost
May 24	Confirmation Sunday
May 25	Memorial Day
May 27	Sunbeam Committee
May 31	World Hunger Fish Fry
June 6	Synod Assembly

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist Sandy Schlesselman
Pianist Jeannette VonHolten
AV Technicians Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk
Altar Guild Tiffinay Nash & Norma Schlesselman
Ushers Melinda Strathman, Head Usher
..... Chad Schlesselman, Mark Oelrichs, Randy Schlesselman and Steve Triplett



Ascension of our Lord ~ May 17, 2026

Assisting Minister Anne Goosen
Communion Assistants Luther League
Reader Jim Gumbel
Children's Sermon Pastor Stephen Zeller
Acolytes Kale Kruep & Hudson Kullman
Flowers Norma Schlesselman



Day of Pentecost ~ May 24, 2026

Assisting Minister Tom Oelrichs
Communion Assistants Norma Schlesselman & Sharel Wienberg
Reader Sara Jackson
Children's Sermon Joyce Schlesselmann
Acolytes Evan Randall & Mason Randall
Flowers Wanda Viebrock