

THE CHIMES

MAY 2026



St. Paul Lutheran Church

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FROM THE VICAR

Chime 5-1-26

We are currently in what the liturgical calendar identifies as the Easter Season. The Easter Season is part of the liturgical calendar of the church. The liturgical calendar sometimes called the church calendar is often found to be very confusing by many. Maybe after reading this article you will still be confused but I am going to make an attempt to explain how the different dates and season in the church year are established.

The liturgical calendar is primarily based on two days Christmas and Easter. Christmas is the easy day because we all know that it falls on December 25th each year but that is where the easy part ends. From Christmas day, the beginning of the liturgical calendar is established as the fourth Sunday before Christmas. This Sunday can fall on any day between November 27 and December 3 and it marks the beginning of Advent, the season of preparation of Christ's birth. Following Christmas we celebrate Epiphany on January 6 (note that Epiphany may not fall on a Sunday). The Baptism of our Lord then falls on the Sunday after Epiphany making its date variable between January 7th and 13th. Then comes Lent and Easter both based on the date on which Easter falls which varies each year. The date for Easter was formalized at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD and we still use it today (note also that this is the same Council that produced the original Nicene Creed). The determination of the date of Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox. So, what does this mean? The vernal equinox is when the sun passes over the equator as it moves to the northern hemisphere and has been set as March 21st. The full moon can follow the vernal equinox on dates between March 21st to April 24th resulting in Easter falling between March 22 and April 25 in any given year. Once Easter is determined then Lent is established as 40 days prior to Easter, not counting Sundays, and begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Within Lent we find Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We celebrate Ascension Day 40 days after Easter and Pentecost 7 weeks after Easter. Trinity Sunday is then the first Sunday after Pentecost. There is then a long period of time before Christ the King Sunday which is the last Sunday before Advent.

So, the only two days in the liturgical calendar that you can count on are Christmas (December 25th) and Epiphany (January 6th) the rest including the date of the start of the liturgical calendar vary from year to year. Hopefully you are not more confused now than you were before you read this article but rest assured that there are those that keep track of all this and let us know where we are in the calendar.

Vicar Roger

Council Corner

Over the past several years, this column has offered thanks and recognition to the many volunteers who keep St. Paul running smoothly and efficiently. From worship assistants of all types to those who provide and guide social services and meet community needs on a regular basis, St. Paul is blessed to have a core of volunteers who put their Christian beliefs into action. As I write this column for May 2026, two major tasks are at hand: the Spring Rummage Sale on May 1-2, and the annual spring property clean-up, which will be announced in the next few weeks. I generally don't mention individuals connected to these many tasks because there is always a fear of missing someone (or two or three). St. Paul is blessed to have a core of loyal and dedicated individuals who show up quietly, complete their volunteer tasks without expecting formal recognition, and go home with the reward of knowing that they have served God and our community well. Still, occasionally it is especially important for our St. Paul community to offer recognition for a special reason. This is one of those times.

Ron and Ingrid Unternahrer will be transferring their membership to a Lutheran church in the Nazareth area this summer. A few years ago Ron and Ingrid relocated to the Nazareth area to be closer to their son Neil and his wife Alyssa, as well as their grandsons, Hans and Fritz. For the past few years they have been "regulars" on the Route 33 commute and have faithfully maintained their membership and loyalty to St. Paul despite the time and distance. Now, as their grandchildren are of school age, additional help is needed to assist in the daily and weekly routines. Plus, it's time for them to slow down a little and enjoy their family as the boys are growing up. It all takes time. Before that time comes, however, we'd like to mention some of the many things Ron and Ingrid have done during their years at St. Paul.

Ingrid, a retired Mathematics teacher from the Pocono Mountain School District, has served St. Paul in many capacities. She has been active with Sunday School teacher dinners, the rummage sale planning and preparation, the Church Council, and most recently, has served as our congregation's Treasurer for the past several years. During her time as Treasurer, Ingrid guided the congregation through the elimination of the mortgage debt for the construction of Spies Hall (saving us thousands in forgiven interest). In her skillful and thoughtful work as Treasurer, Ingrid provided prompt service to the Church Council and monitored our expenses responsibly, efficiently, and fairly. Her fiscal responsibility and concern for the congregation's financial welfare is well known to anyone who has teamed with her in St. Paul's financial work.

Ron, a retired Industrial Arts/Technology teacher from the Bangor Area School District, has been a member of the Property Committee and served as its chairperson for many years. There are very few building projects around St. Paul that Ron has not been part of since we moved into our new building in 1992, and he has brought professional level skill and insight to whatever has been needed. For example, when we first moved into the "new" St. Paul in 1992, it took us a

year or two to become acclimated to the spacious and thoughtfully designed sanctuary and instructional areas. One shortcoming was the three speaker towers (8-12 feet in height) designed for the new organ. Although the towers were very attractive, they were not especially functional or sound-efficient. With his carpentry skills, Ron worked with Gary Raish and Bob Riday to develop a better system. Ron disassembled the towers and designed the speaker shelves that fill the front walls of the sanctuary in between the dramatic, sweeping beams. The speakers were remounted facing upward, and the sound now shoots up the back walls and fills the sanctuary with the organ's natural music. Later, Ron shortened the pews on the left front side of the sanctuary, creating a performance area for the choirs, contemporary musicians, and visiting vocal and instrumental groups. No matter where you go in St. Paul, you'll find something that Ron designed, built, or modified. Finally, Ron served as an advisor to his son Neil, whose Eagle Scout project was the permanent St. Paul sign (including the 1910 steeple bell) at our property entrance.

Ingrid and Ron, we wish you both the very best as you move forward to the next chapter of your church life together. We hope you will be able to visit St. Paul occasionally as your new schedule permits.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10)

Instead of the usual monthly summary of Council meeting highlights, we'd like to share the joy of a very special St. Paul family celebration.

Eli L. Kresge Attains the Rank of Eagle Scout

On Saturday, April 18, approximately 120 family, friends, and honored guests joined in the Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony for Eli Lovene Kresge, the son of Nicole and Mark Kresge. The Kresge family, along with sister Emily, are members of our St. Paul congregation, and both Nicole and Mark are active as Scouting leaders.

Eli's Eagle Project was to design and construct the Jane Cilurso Memorial Trails at Pocono Township's Learn Road Park here in Tannersville. He created new hiking trails, placed guides on the paths, added tree identification signs on twelve different trees, and removed trash from the entire area. *Although a prescribed group of 21 merit badges is required to earn the rank of Eagle, Eli earned an additional 27 badges for a total of 48!*

Congratulations, Eli, from your family at St. Paul. You are, indeed, a "Super Scout."

A LICENSED LAY MINISTER JOURNEY

My journey since last summer:

I had the pleasure of attending the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod Assembly at Christ Hamilton Lutheran Church on May 30 and 31st in 2025. One of the first people I met was Pastor Jira Albers, whom Pastor Woody Santiago introduced me to. Pastor Jira and I struck up a conversation, and as we talked, I learned about the Licensed Lay Ministry Program that Jira oversees for our Synod. I also spoke with Pastor Woody and Pastor Neils Neilson about the program over lunch. I've felt a strong calling to do more and to serve God and Jesus. I shared my thoughts with my wife and prayed about it that night. The next morning, I started the formal application process to join the LLM Program of the NEPA Synod.

The program involves several steps. Here's a brief overview:

Becoming a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) in the ELCA requires a discernment process, which will take me 2 years. This includes theological education, background checks, and recommendations from our congregation. I was approved by the Church Council, our Pastor, and then by our Bishop to begin my LLM formation.

Here are some key requirements and steps:

- **Initial Discernment:** Work with the pastor and congregation council, submitting an application.
- **Education:** I'm completing a 2-year program that covers Lutheran theology, biblical studies, preaching, worship, pastoral care, and Lutheran history. I've already taken one class with the ELCA Online program and am now enrolled with the United Lutheran Seminaries in Philadelphia and Gettysburg, PA.
- **Background Check & Evaluation:** I've had a thorough background check, and I was admitted to the LLM Program in June 2025.

- Approval & Commissioning: Once I finish my studies, I'll get final approval from the bishop and participate in a service of commissioning.
- Continuing Education: I'll keep my authorization up-to-date through annual renewal forms, supervisor reviews, and regular continuing education, like boundaries training, social justice training, and other seminars and retreats. I've already completed two retreats and there are two more planned. These retreats are two full days of formation education and learning and discussions.
- I have two local mentors, Vicar Roger Ruggles and Pastor Sue Ruggles. I meet with Vicar at least once a month to discuss how things are going and where I can improve. As my formation continues, I'll be working more closely with Vicar and Pastor Sue.
- LLM Candidates: I'm part of a group of fellow LLM candidates who work together as a cohort during our retreats and seminars. We meet at our retreats and for our continuing education classes.
- Our Synod is quite the big one in Pennsylvania! The Northeast Pennsylvania Synod stretches from Bradford County all the way to Berks County, then heads east to the State Line. It covers fourteen counties, home to 240 churches and 119,000 people. Right now, we have 20 candidates getting ready, and over 20 have already graduated and gotten their licenses in the past year.

By the fall of 2027, I'll be all set with my LLM education, and I'll get to meet with the bishop before having a commissioning service. I'm really excited about serving our Church and community, and I'd be grateful if you could support me on this journey.

Blessings to all of you.

Tom

FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

A commonly asked question from my Sunday school class is “Why didn’t God answer my prayer”? It is difficult to explain to a child why they feel their prayer was not answered. I have shared with them that God answers prayers in his time and it is His answer. This may not be the answer we are looking for and it’s difficult sometimes to accept that this is His plan and not what we were expecting.

I often refer to Bible heroes and talk about their lives. We talk about the person and how they might be similar to ourselves. Then we talk about the challenges that they faced. How do we relate to these challenges? David and Goliath are always a favorite story or Noah’s Ark. What must David the little shepherd have thought when he faced Goliath? Did Noah worry about what his friends and family thought about the ark? And imagine the tremendous task of building the ark without modern tools! And, let’s not forget the women – We have Esther the brave queen, Deborah a strong leader and, of course, Mary the mother of Jesus. Mary trusted God despite being “with child” and not married. The children always remark about how busy the angel Gabriel was!

I made a hand outline on my Cricut machine. The children wrote “Glory to our Father in Heaven” in the palm of the hand. This helped remind the children to pray for others, share the Gospel, and believe in the gift of forgiveness. Then, each finger was numbered and a message was written on the fingers:

1. Help me believe
2. Help me share the Gospel
3. Save my family and friends

4. Forgive me and help me forgive
5. Deliver me from evil

Some great prayer advice for all of us!

Blessings,

Sherry Gallagher/Parish Administrator

THINGS TO DO

AMERICAN RIBBON & CRAFT OUTLET - American Ribbon Manufacturers is one of America's oldest makers of ribbon. During WWII it signed up for duty and produced military badge ribbon and parachute cord. Today, the outlet offers a wide selection of standard and custom-made ribbons as well as baskets, wreaths, picture frames, plaques, craft books and supplies. Visit the display of turn-of-the-century ribbon making and dyeing machinery. It is located in the Ann Street Outlet Center, one block off Main Street Stroudsburg, PA. You will also find fabric, patterns, notions and more!

The Potting Shed - The Potting Shed is a floral and gift gallery. They specialize in silk florals and greens. They also have an extensive line of linens, pillows and home décor. Their gift lines include Moon Shadows Farm food products, Black Crow Candle line and flour sack towels. There is a fine selection of houseplants including succulents, African Violets, and more. The Potting Shed has a fabulous collection of handmade wreaths. It is a shopping experience you will not forget! It, too, is located in the Ann Street Outlets, one block off Main Street in Stroudsburg, PA.

Claws N Paws Wild Animal Park - Discover over 120 rare and exotic animal species in the Poconos, PA! Bring the whole family along to get up close to animals normally not found in this part of the world. This educational and fun experience is not to be missed. Book your visit online today! The park is located at 1475 Ledgesdale Road in Lake Ariel, PA. They can be reached by telephone at 570-698-6154 or check out their website.

**THE TANNERSVILLE CRANBERRY BOG PRESERVE | RARE TRAILS & WILD BEAUTY
IN TANNERSVILLE**

The Tannersville Cranberry Bog Preserve in Tannersville, PA protects one of the most unusual natural areas in the [Pocono Mountains](#). Owned by [The Nature Conservancy](#), this remarkable preserve was once a glacial lake. Over thousands of years, it transformed into the southernmost low-elevation boreal bog on the eastern seaboard. Today, it supports a rare ecosystem filled with distinctive plant life and sensitive habitat. Visitors can explore the preserve on two public trails. The North Wood Trail follows a flat loop along the wetland edge and through mature forest. The Fern Ridge Trail offers a longer route through woods, old field habitat and areas near the bog. These trails provide a chance to experience the landscape while protecting its most fragile areas. The preserve is known for native orchids, carnivorous plants and several endangered species. Because the bog ecosystem is so delicate, the Boardwalk Trail is open only during guided walks through the [Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center](#). [Dogs are allowed](#) on the public trails, but not on the boardwalk trail.

The Tannersville Cranberry Bog Preserve in Tannersville offers a rare look at one of Pennsylvania's most remarkable natural landscapes.

STEAMTOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Explore the Historic Train Museum in Scranton, PA

All aboard! Step back in time and experience the sights, sounds, and stories of the steam-powered engines that fueled America's growth during the Industrial Age at the [Steamtown National Historic Site](#). Located in [Downtown Scranton](#), this must-visit train museum is where history, innovation, and storytelling come to life. Learn about the evolution of the steam engine, marvel at the giant locomotives that helped expand the nation, and hear the true stories of the people who rode, operated, and built these powerful machines.

Steamtown is located at 350 Cliff Street in Scranton PA. Check out their website for information about the various train rides and attractions that you can enjoy.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Rummage Sale Set-Up 9:30am - Adult Bible 10:15am - Childrens 11am - Church Service	27 Rummage Sale Set-Up 6:30pm - Bells 7pm - Moo Shim	28 Rummage Sale Set-Up 11am - Food Pantry @ 6:30pm - NA Meeting 6:30pm - Pocono	29 Rummage Sale Set-Up 6:30pm - AA Meeting	30 Rummage Sale Set-Up 7pm - Moo Shim	1 9am - Rummage Sale 6:30pm - Just for	2 9am - Rummage Sale 9:30am - AI Anon
3 Communion Sunday 9:30am - Adult Bible 10:15am - Childrens 11am - Church Service	4 6:30pm - Bells 7pm - Moo Shim	5 10am - Sewing 11am - Food Pantry @ 6:30pm - NA Meeting 6:30pm - Pocono	6 6:30pm - AA Meeting	7 7pm - Moo Shim	8 6:30pm - Just for	9 9:30am - AI Anon
10 Mother's Day 9:30am - Adult Bible 10:15am - Childrens 11am - Church Service	11 6:30pm - Bells 7pm - Moo Shim	12 11am - Food Pantry @ 6:30pm - NA Meeting 6:30pm - Pocono	13 6:30pm - AA Meeting	14 Ascension Day 7pm - Moo Shim	15 5pm - Video Game 6:30pm - Just for	16 9:30am - AI Anon
17 Communion Sunday 9:30am - Adult Bible 10:15am - Childrens 11am - Church Service	18 6:30pm - Bells 7pm - Moo Shim	19 PA Primary Election 11am - Food Pantry @ 6:30pm - NA Meeting 6:30pm - Pocono	20 4:30pm - Christ Cafe @ 6:30pm - AA Meeting	21 7pm - Moo Shim	22 6:30pm - Just for	23 9:30am - AI Anon
24 Pentecost 9:30am - Adult Bible 10:15am - Childrens 11am - Church Service	25 Memorial Day Whit Monday 6:30pm - Bells 7pm - Moo Shim	26 11am - Food Pantry @ 6:30pm - NA Meeting 6:30pm - Pocono	27 6:30pm - AA Meeting	28 7pm - Moo Shim	29 6:30pm - Just for	30 9:30am - AI Anon
31 Trinity Sunday 9:30am - Adult Bible 10:15am - Childrens 11am - Church Service	1 6:30pm - Bells 7pm - Moo Shim	2 10am - Sewing 11am - Food Pantry @ 6:30pm - NA Meeting 6:30pm - Pocono	3 6:30pm - AA Meeting	4 Corpus Christi 7pm - Moo Shim	5 6:30pm - Just for	6 9:30am - AI Anon

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Chase Weiss	May 2	Greg Gill	May 5
Nora Kinsley	May 5	Judy Michael	May 7
Rick Jacoby	May 9	Nicole Bartron	May 11
Nicole Kresge	May 12	Robbie Kinsley	May 13
Chris Kinsley, Jr.	May 17	Linda Below	May 19
Gwen Mertens	May 19	Jennifer Bond	May 21
Daniel Bartron	May 23		
Rich Galente	May 26		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO YOU!

Fred & Margaret Wyckoff May 27

SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Sr. Master Sargent William F. Allen (Air Force); Specialist William "Blake" Allen (Army); Major Matthew Blessing (Air Force); Major Katy Blessing (Air Force)

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Ruth

J Y O U M X Y K X U T Z E W A
D Z O T B B U E M U T E B A Q
G U H O B E D L J A Z R A I H
E A A H X T N I L J M E B M K
L W H H L H S M I G F P Y O F
K I P H M L A E M P I Q B A U
V N R B A E N L R Q R N O N Y
M N O O H H D E B I V U Y Z U
K O Y A L E A C B O F P T U O
J W B Z O M L H Z R V R V H R
B I K N N E S S E T I B A O M
J N D S F C B I W V Q K I H O
Z G O Y U D T J X S X J X V X
T O H T L W Q J S W O D I W K
T R C B G N I N A E L G G J X

BABY BOY
BETHLEHEM
BOAZ
ELIMELECH
GLEANNING

MAHLON
MOABITNESS
NAOMI
OBED
ORPHAH

PEREZ
RUTH
SANDAL
WIDOW
WINNOWING

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

Date	Acolyte	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assistants	Counters	Altar Guild
3-May	Barb Allen	Donna Warner Bev Otten	Bill Below	Deb Storman Dawn Barrton	Barb Allen Deb Storman	Bev Otten Gloria Russell
10-May	Linda Below	Linda Below Beth Werkheiser	Bev Otten		Donna Warner Beth Werkheiser	
17-May	Dawn Weiss	Deb Storman Linda Below	Dawn Weiss	Dawn Weiss Linda Below	Barb Allen Deb Storman	Bev Otten Gloria Russell
24-May	Deb Storman	Dawn Barrton Deb Storman	Linda Carrasquillo	Linda Carrasquillo Dawn Weiss	Deb Storman Barb Allen	Bev Otten Gloria Russell
31-May	Barb Allen	Carl Reindl Beth Reindl	Joan Rincker		Deb Storman Donna Warner	

PUNS

My wife said I have two major faults. I don't listen and something else.

Biologists have recently produced immortal frogs by removing their vocal cords. They can't croak.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

A group of animals wanted to discuss an issue but avoided talking about it because there was an elephant in the room.

Why can't cats play poker in the jungle? Because there are too many cheetahs.

You can tune a piano but you can't tuna fish.

Where do fish practice their yoga? The river bend.

I was told that a frog has a strict dress code at work...he has to wear a jumpsuit!

Why didn't the cat go to the vet? He was feline fine!

Which reindeer likes to clean? Comet!

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a donation for the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water!

One bird cannot make a pun – but Toucan!

I just got kicked out of a secret cooking society – I spilled the beans!

Where do monkeys go to grab a drink? The monkey bars!!!!