

Our Mission is to nurture each other in God's Word and spread the Good News of Christ to all.

**May 11, 2025**  
**4th Sunday of Easter**



**Prepare for Worship**

Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.

Amen.

# Setting One


## 551 Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep



1 Je - sus, shep - herd of the sheep, who your  
2 In your prom - ise firm we stand, none can  
3 By your blood our souls were bought, by your



Fa - ther's flock does keep, safe we wake and  
take us from your hand; speak— we hear— at  
life sal - va - tion wrought; by your light our



safe we sleep, guard - ed still by you.  
your com - mand, we will fol - low you.  
feet are taught, Lord, to fol - low you.

Text: Henry Cook, 1788–1868, alt. Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804–1876Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Confession

CW 155

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

## Declaration of Grace

CW 155

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**A - men.**

## 551 Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

4 Fa - ther, draw us to your Son; we with  
5 We, in robes of glo - ry dressed, join th'as -

joy will fol - low on till the work of  
sem - bly of the blest, gath - ered to e -

grace is done, there to live with you.  
ter - nal rest in the fold with you.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two lines of the hymn, the second staff contains the next two lines, and the third staff contains the final two lines. The key signature is G major, and the time signature is 4/4.

Text: Henry Cook, 1788–1868, alt. Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804–1876 Text and tune: Public domain

## The Word

### Salutation

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

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

## Acts 13:15,16a,26–39

After the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, “Gentlemen, brothers, if you have a word of encouragement for the people, say it.”

<sup>16</sup>Then Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, “Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen.

<sup>26</sup>“Gentlemen, brothers, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to you. <sup>27</sup>The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him, and by condemning him they fulfilled the statements of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. <sup>28</sup>Though they found no grounds for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. <sup>29</sup>When they carried out everything that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup>But God raised him from the dead, <sup>31</sup>and for many days he was seen by those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These same individuals are now his witnesses to the people.

<sup>32</sup>“We are preaching to you the good news about the promise that was made to our fathers. <sup>33</sup>God has fulfilled this promise for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm:

You are my Son.

Today I have begotten you.

<sup>34</sup>“That God would raise him from the dead never again to be subject to decay, God said in this way:

I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.

<sup>35</sup>“Therefore he also says in another place:

You will not let your Holy One see decay.

<sup>36</sup>“For David, after he had served God's purpose in his own generation, fell asleep, was laid to rest with his fathers, and saw decay. <sup>37</sup>But the One God raised did not see decay.

<sup>38</sup>“So, gentlemen, brothers, let it be known to you that through this Jesus forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you, also forgiveness from everything from which you could not be justified through the law of Moses. <sup>39</sup>In this Jesus, everyone who believes is justified.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 23A I Will Live in the House of the LORD

### Refrain

I will live in the house of the LORD all the  
days, all the days of my life.

### Alternate Tone

I will live in the house of the LORD all the  
days, all the days of my life.

The LORD is my / shepherd,

I lack / nothing.

He makes me lie down in green / pastures,

he leads me beside quiet / waters,

he refreshes / my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his / name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no / evil,

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they / comfort me. *Refrain*

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my / enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup / overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days / of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for- / ever.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**

**and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Tune: Mark Haas

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House Alternate tone. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518

## Second Reading

## Revelation 7:9–17

After these things I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They called out with a loud voice and said:

Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb.

<sup>11</sup>All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup>saying:

Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>13</sup>One of the elders spoke to me and said, “These people dressed in white robes, who are they and where did they come from?”

<sup>14</sup>And I answered him, “Sir, you know.”

And he said to me:

These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>Because of this they are in front of the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple.

He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

<sup>16</sup>They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again.

The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat,

<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd.

He will lead them to springs of living water.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*



## Gospel Acclamation

CW 161



### Refrain



### Tone



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## Gospel

John 10:22–30

Then the Festival of Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple area in Solomon's Colonnade.

<sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around Jesus, asking, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.”

<sup>25</sup>Jesus answered them, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I am doing in my Father's name testify about me. <sup>26</sup>But you do not believe, because you are not my sheep, as I said to you. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## Reception of New Member

## 552 The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with



good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 Sav - ior gent - ly leads me, and where the ver - dant  
 yet in love he sought me and on his shoul - der  
 you, dear Lord, be - side me, your rod and staff my



I am his, and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feeds me.  
 gent - ly laid and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still, your cross be - fore to guide me.

5 You spread a table in my sight,  
 a banquet here bestowing;  
 your oil of welcome, my delight;  
 my cup is overflowing!

6 And so through all the length of days  
 your goodness fails me never;  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise  
 within your house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt. Tune: Irish, 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon We Know Jesus is Trustworthy and True John 10:22-30

Stand

## **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Church

Loving Shepherd of the sheep, fill us with contentment and confidence during this season as we celebrate your Easter victory. You laid down your life for the sheep and then rose again to assure us that you give us eternal life.

**Good Shepherd, save us.**

Strengthen our faith to follow where you lead, to the green pastures of your Word, the quiet waters of our baptism, and the gracious table of your body and blood where our cup overflows with your forgiving love. Guide us to find in you the gate that leads to safety and good pastures.

**Good Shepherd, lead us.**

Guard and protect us from those who want to lead us astray and snatch us out of your hand. Give us courage to fight against the devil and wisdom to recognize false teachers. Lead us to honor and follow those you have called to shepherd your flock, the Church.

**Good Shepherd, guide us.**

Let your rod and your staff comfort us and all your sheep in times of sickness and sadness and especially when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. May we find in your redemption and your Father's resolve the unbreakable promise that we will dwell in your house forever.

**Good Shepherd, console us.**

Move us to reach out to sheep who are not yet a part of our sheep pen but whom you have claimed as your own. Give us your passion to search for the sheep who are lost and lead us to rejoice when they have been found.

**Good Shepherd, inspire us.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We thank you for all the blessings we have gained from your goodness: family and friends, wealth and health, work and leisure. Give us wisdom to long for and cherish your more precious gifts, your Word and sacraments, so that your goodness and love may follow us all the days of our life.

**Good Shepherd, hear us. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## The Sacrament

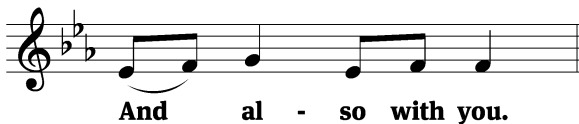
*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. The Lord's Supper makes a second statement. It says, "We are one in all that we do." We don't know if this type of bond exists with our guests, so we ask that if you are not a member of a WELS or ELS congregation you refrain from the Lord's Supper today and meet personally with our pastor if you desire to receive the sacrament in the future.*

Stand

### Preface

165

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



## Proper Preface

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -

san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,

bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**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.**

## **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**Amen.**

## O Christ, Lamb of God

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

*Be seated*

## Distribution



## 553 The Lord's My Shepherd



1 The Lord's my shep - herd; I'll not want. He makes me  
 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain and me to  
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I  
 4 My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed in pres - ence  
 5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly



down to lie in pas - tures green; he lead - eth  
 walk doth make with - in the paths of right - eous -  
 fear no ill; for thou art with me, and thy  
 of my foes; my head thou dost with oil a -  
 fol - low me, and in God's house for - ev - er -



me the qui - et wa - ters by. He lead - eth  
 ness, e'en for his own name's sake; with - in the  
 rod and staff me com - fort still; for thou art  
 noint, and my cup o - ver - flows. My head thou  
 more my dwell - ing place shall be; and in God's



me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
 paths of right - eous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.  
 with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
 dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
 house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing place shall be.

Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, Edinburgh, 1650

Tune: James L. Macbeth Bain, 1860–1925

Text and tune: Public domain

## 654 Jesus Sinners Does Receive



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; oh, may all this  
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, yet his words, rich  
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray are not by the  
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to you with a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
 grace re - veal - ing, par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
 Lord for - sak - en; wea - ry souls who lost their way  
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



and from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope for  
 here their ills have per - fect heal - ing who with hum - ble  
 are by Christ, the Shep - herd, tak - en in his arms that  
 grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.  
 hearts be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.  
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.  
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know, were as scarlet my transgression,  
 it shall be as white as snow by your blood and bitter passion,  
 for these words I do believe: Jesus sinners does receive.
- 6 Now my conscience is at peace, from the law I stand acquitted.  
 Christ has purchased my release and my ev'ry sin remitted.  
 Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners does receive.

7 Jesus sinners does receive, even I have been forgiven.  
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.  
Dying, still to him I cleave: Jesus sinners does receive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1699 Text and tune: Public domain

*A suggested prayer to use after receiving Holy Communion*

*Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood. Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.*

*Stand*

## Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## 804 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb; ev - er glad at  
 2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my  
 3 Who so hap - py as I am, e - ven now the



heart I am, for my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,  
 staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,  
 Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



knows my need and well pro - vides me, loves me ev - 'ry  
 in - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; when I thirst, he  
 by his an - gel host at - tend - ed, he shall fold me



day the same, e - ven calls me by my name.  
 bids me go where the qui - et wa - ters flow.  
 to his breast, there with - in his arms to rest.

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724–1782; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
 Tune: Choral-Buch . . . Brüder-Gemeinen, Leipzig, 1784 Text and tune: Public domain

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## Welcome to Lincoln Heights!

We are glad you are here today to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Restrooms** with changing tables are past the library on the left.

**Quiet room.** We love for children to be in the service, but if you need to take your child out for a moment, you may use the classroom past the restrooms on the right. The service will be showing on the television in this room.

**Assisted Listening** devices available in the entry. Pick up a receiver and headphones in the entry. You may use your own headphones also.

Please speak with an usher for any other help.

### **Yellow Cards**

Please fill out a yellow card and place it in the offering plate when passed. Thank you.

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## In Our Prayers

The Lord is eager to hear the prayers of thanks and petitions for help from his people. Please keep these members and families in your prayers. Contact Pastor to add someone to this list:

Ukraine

Ray & Gloria Overson, Sherry Just and Randy Michael- shut-ins

Merle Carter, Linda Thielke, Larry Borchert, Jeff Overson, Pat Oswald, Makenzie

Phippen - health

Daniel Pfeifer & Paige Harman, Addyson Pender & Zach Ostendorf, Caleb Winecke &

Makayla Gallentine, - engaged couples

## Online Giving

Thank you for your generous and cheerful offerings to the Lord.

[www.LHELC.org/giving](http://www.LHELC.org/giving)



## Prepare for Next Sunday

For a simple devotional reading plan, review the readings for this week on Monday through Wednesday. Then read the Scripture for next Sunday on Thursday through Saturday. The Word for next Sunday:

*Acts 11:1-18, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, John 13:31-35*

## **Thank You to Today's Helpers**

**Accompanist:** Buffy Kokke

**Altar Guild:** Karen Pippett & Karen Pippett

**Counters:** Greg Lewis & Steve Winecke

**Streaming:** Brad Pippett

**Mowing:** Lee Bowman

**Ushers 8 am:** Brad Pippett & Dennis Moural

**Ushers 10:30 am:** Open

## **Next Sunday's Servants**

**Accompanist:** Donna Bakken

**Altar Guild:** Karen Pippett & Karen Pippett

**Counters:** Steve Winecke

**Streaming:** Brad Pippett

**Mowing:** Lee Bowman

**Ushers 8 am:** Brad Pippett & Dennis Moural

**Ushers 10:30 am:** Open

## **New Member**

Caleb Lalonde will be joining our congregation this morning. Please greet him and welcome him to Lincoln Heights!

## **Evangelism Committee**

The restarted Evangelism Committee meets for the second time on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. If you are someone who loves to connect others with the gospel of Jesus, we would love to have you join us for one meeting or more. Talk to Fred Jensen, Steve Winecke, or Pastor Pfeifer to find out more. May the Lord bless our efforts to bring the good news of Christ to our unchurched friends and neighbors.

## **Kingdom Workers Mission Programs - Disability Care**

Jesus Cares is dedicated to building inclusive communities and sharing God's love with individuals who have disabilities in the United States. This is done by offering love, support, and empowerment to those with disabilities and their caregivers, and transforming lives relationally and spiritually through Dear Christian Friend Bible studies, Worship at the Cross services, and New Friend fellowship event.

Learn more at [kingdomworkers.com/our-work/disability-care](http://kingdomworkers.com/our-work/disability-care).

Donate by visiting [kingdomworkers.com/donate-now](http://kingdomworkers.com/donate-now).

## **May Forward in Christ**

The May 2025 issue of Forward in Christ is available on the shelf outside the sanctuary. It is always at [forwardinchrist.net](http://forwardinchrist.net) if you prefer.

Many good articles are included, especially the following:

May 26, 2025 marks the 175th anniversary of the constituting convention of the Wisconsin Synod. WELS President Mark Schroeder reminds us of this humble beginning on page 6.

When do you use the law and when do you use the gospel when speaking to unbelievers? Jon Buchholz digs into that important distinction on page 10.

A pastor shares his struggles with bipolar disorder and how he found his identity in Christ. Read this on page 18.

Stephen Helwig's devotion on Jesus' ascension on page 5 can remind us of Jesus' continued presence in our lives.

The Bible study on misused Bible passages is a must-read for congregation members to help in correctly applying and using God's word. See page 32.

## Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of WELS

“Look and see here a multitude from six church bodies which, only a few years ago, stood opposing each other—today they praise God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ in one spirit with a single voice.”

- C. F. W. Walther, at the constituting convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America in 1872

### FINDING FELLOWSHIP

When the Wisconsin Synod was organized in 1850, two other German Lutheran synods were already in the area. Conservative Missouri Synod leaders were not initially impressed by what they saw. They knew that many of the early Wisconsin Synod congregations were functionally “union” congregations where Lutherans and Reformed worshiped together. It was also well known that the Wisconsin Synod relied on help from unionist mission societies in Germany. Some Wisconsin leaders, such as the first synod president, Johannes Muehlhaeuser, held a mutual disdain for the Missourians and considered them to be too strict and unevangelical. Matters only got worse when Wisconsin Synod pastors began serving splinter groups from Missouri Synod congregations. Missouri Synod leaders, such as C. F. W. Walther, printed harsh criticisms of the Wisconsin Synod. The younger generation of Wisconsin Synod pastors, including Johannes Bading (elected synod president in 1860), saw that most of these criticisms could not be ignored or downplayed and worked to bring the synod into better alignment with God’s Word.

The Wisconsin Synod desired the godly goal of fellowship with fellow Christians who believed and taught God’s Word faithfully. At first, it was hoped that connections with mission societies in Germany and other Lutheran synods in the eastern part of the United States would work out. But it soon became clear to most that faithful teaching and practice were often compromised for external forms of unity. A turning point came in 1868 when the Wisconsin Synod cut ties with the mission societies. The Wisconsin Synod reached out to Missouri Synod leaders to clarify its commitment to genuine Lutheran doctrine, and fellowship was established. Both sides rejoiced in their shared public confession of all the teachings of Scripture. In July 1872, at Bading’s congregation in Milwaukee, the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America held its constituting convention—a federation of six synods joining together: Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and Norwegian. It was the largest association of Lutherans in North America and provided many areas of cooperation to build God’s kingdom for almost one hundred years.

WELS Historical Institute

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## THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN HEIGHTS

### May 11 - 18, 2025

|           |          |                              |
|-----------|----------|------------------------------|
| Sunday    | 8:00 am  | Worship with Communion       |
|           | 9:00 am  | Homeless Meal Delivery       |
|           | 9:15 am  | Sunday School/Bible Class    |
|           | 10:30 am | Worship with Communion       |
|           | 10:30 am | Kunama Worship               |
| Monday    | 6:00 pm  | Evangelism Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday   | 10:00 am | Pastors' Study Club          |
|           | 5:15 pm  | Church Council               |
| Wednesday | 6:45 pm  | Bible Class                  |
| Thursday  | 10:00 am | Women's Fellowship Group     |
| Sunday    | 8:00 am  | Worship                      |
|           | 9:00 am  | Homeless Meal Delivery       |
|           | 9:15 am  | Sunday School/Bible Class    |
|           | 10:30 am | Worship                      |
|           | 10:30 am | Kunama Worship               |

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