

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

"Saved by Grace. Reaching out in Faith."

Sunday, May 3, 2026

10:15 AM

**"And if I go
and prepare a place for you,
I will come again
and will take you to myself,**



**so that where I am,
there you may be also."**

John 14:3, NRSV

Welcome to Worship

5th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

Welcome to St. Luke's. Whether you are visiting the Lima area or looking for a church home, we hope you find St. Luke's Lutheran Church to be a people who reflect the joy and peace and love we have in Christ. More than that, we hope you hear, with us, the good news of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the forgiveness of sins.

Blue Welcome Cards help us welcome visitors, inform us of changes in your contact information, and let us know your prayer concerns. Welcome Cards may be placed in the offering plate stationed on a table for drop-off before or after service.

Holy Communion All who are baptized and believe that with the bread and wine we receive the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins and salvation are encouraged to come to the Lord's Supper. Those not receiving communion are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Rest Rooms are on the main floor at the south end of the office hallway.

Ushers and other members are here to help you if you need assistance.

Please stand, if able, for parts of the service marked †

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

Kevin Hildebrand

The organ chimes call us to worship.

INTRODUCTION

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM †

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

PEACE ††

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.

GATHERING HYMN ††

"Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"

#380

1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;
2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn-ful sigh?
3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;
4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - jice. Praise him, ran-somed of the earth.
5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom-y halls of death Christ, the con-quer-or, has gone,
 Christ who died our broth-er here lives our broth-er still on high,
 joined to Christ, your liv-ing head, where he is, you shall be too;
 Praise him in a no-ble song, cher-u-bim of heav'n-ly birth.
 Let your cho-rus swell the strain which our fee-ble voic-es raise:

bright fore-run-ner to the skies of his peo-ple, yet to rise.
 lives for-ev-er to be-stow bless-ings on his church be-low.
 with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic-tor you shall stand.
 Praise the vic-tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o-bey.
 Glo-ry to our God a-bove and on earth his peace and love!

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE †

Refrain
 Assisting minister

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
 free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and





strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY †

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Marcy Reeves

FIRST READING:

Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

“Gracious Spirit Dwell With Me”

Scott

SECOND READING:

1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION †

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL: †

John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of Our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Bob Gibson

HYMN OF THE DAY †

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

#645

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

APOSTLES 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 THE CHURCH †

Response after each petition: Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

Voluntary

“Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!”

G. Winston Cassler

OFERTORY HYMN †

“The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”

#531

2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.

Refrain

Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.
Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.
Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.
The feast is read - y to be - gin;





OFFERTORY PRAYER ††

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
 your steadfast love embraces all creation.
 You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
 and bring forth its bounty.
 Through these gifts of bread and wine,
 draw us into the death and life of your Son,
 who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
 We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING ††

DIALOGUE ††

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

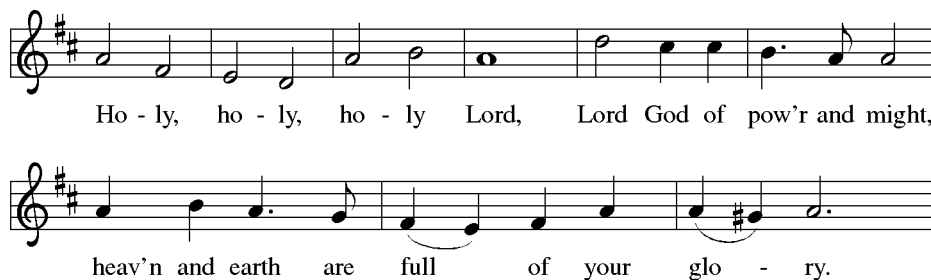
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE ††

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ††





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE ||:

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
 Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
 You have filled all creation with light and life;
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
 the promise to Israel,
 the rescue from Egypt,
 the gift of the promised land,
 the words of the prophets;
 and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
 who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
 and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
 we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER †

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

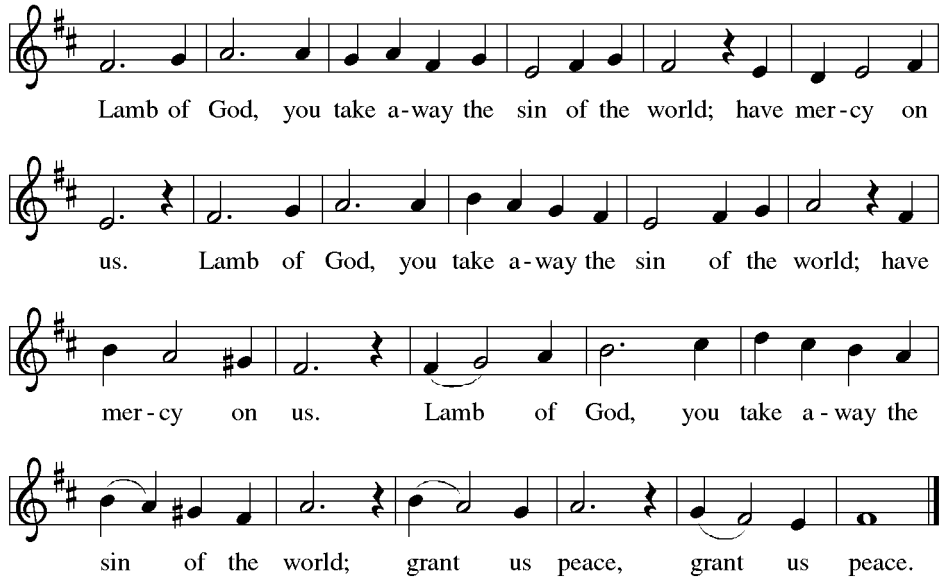
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER †

Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Holy Communion is served today from the communion rail. Approach from the center aisle and fill spaces from the back, under the Christ window, kneeling as you are able. Receive in your hand the host (bread) from the pastor. Take an empty glass from the first tray, then receive the wine from the communion server. (The pre-filled glasses are grape juice.) Place your used glass in the second tray. Return via the side aisles following the blessing from the pastor.

COMMUNION HYMNS


"I Received the Living God"

#477


Refrain



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.




I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,

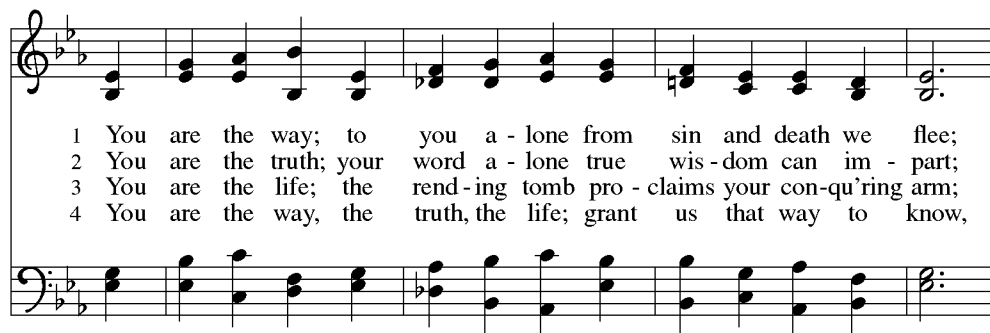
Refrain



you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
 so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
 You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
 but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

"You Are the Way"

#758



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,

all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
 you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
 and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
 that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING ††

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER ††

God of our salvation,
 Thank you for this meal that restores our souls,
 reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
 Through the body and blood of your Son,
 may we become Christ's body in the world,
 bearing witness to your love for all creation,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION ††

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
 God, who calls all things into existence,
 Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
 and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
 † bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN †

"Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

#389

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

DISMISSAL †

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*Silent prayer with chimes.*

POSTLUDE

"The Joyful Eastertide"

Charles Callahan

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	Today, SUNDAY 5/3	NEXT SUNDAY 5/10
Worship Leader	Pastor Bob Gibson	Pastor Bob Gibson
Organist	Cathryn Nihiser	Sandy Miller
Acolyte	Zoey Kennedy	Julianna Lewis
Children's Message	Marcy Reeves	Noisy Offering
Lector	Rachael Lewis	Mary Stepleton
Communion Servers	Beth Arheit McCarty, Julianna Lewis	Sandy Gray, Nancy Rudolph
Ushers	Lois Kennedy, Bob Williams	Mike Gray, Dick McCarty
Altar Guild	Jane Williams	Jane Williams

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC

If you have worshipped at St. Luke's for even a short time, you have likely noticed the abundance of musical gifts and talents with which we are blessed. Our chancel choir serves us weekly, throughout most of the year, offering praise to our Lord and guiding us in the liturgy and in our congregational song. We thank you, O God, for our choir!

During the summer months, our choir takes a break, allowing for individuals and ensembles from the congregation to offer their musical gifts. Have you been blessed by God with a musical talent? Would you consider offering your gift in worship? Please sign-up (a sign-up sheet is ready in the Gathering Area) or let Sandy Miller know if there is someone or something you would like to hear in your worship services this summer.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE HYMN?

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;
teach and admonish one another in all wisdom;
and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms,
hymns, and spiritual songs to God.”

- Colossians 3:16

It has been a tradition in recent years to invite the whole congregation to select hymns for use in our weekly liturgies during the summer months. Now is the time to begin submitting your requests. The requests need to be turned in by Sunday, May 24th. Forms will be in the gathering area. Try to pick just one!!

Daily Devotions

Each day, Monday through Saturday, Pastors Beth and Dave publish brief devotions based on the Sunday texts. You may also access them on the St. Luke's website:

www.stlukeslima.org

Lima Lutheran Cookbook

We are about 200 recipes short of our goal for the combined recipe book they are needing cakes and desserts. If anyone has something they would like to share, please leave them on Robin's desk. Thank you!

Adult Bible Study

Each Sunday morning, 9 am, come and explore the Bible with your friends at St. Luke's. Meeting in the Pastor's Office, and led by Mila, the class discusses the Bible passages scheduled for that Sunday. Come, enjoy the conversation, and find renewal in the Word of the Lord.

Mark Your Calendars

"The Messiah" composed by G.F. Handel is a beloved oratorio throughout the world. **Starting June 7, from 9:00 until 10:00** in the pastor's study, you will have an amazing opportunity to enjoy the scripture and the music of "The Messiah". You will discover things that may surprise you and maybe enhance your enjoyment of "The Messiah". The leaders for this study are Mila Schwabero and Sandy Altenbach. We look forward to seeing you on June 7 from 9:00-10:00 in the pastor's study.

Our Daily Bread, the soup kitchen of Downtown Lima, serves thousands of trays of food every year. Open every day but Sunday, the kitchen serves meals for those in need in Lima.

Reaching out in faith, St. Luke's helps with volunteers on the fourth Friday each month, 11 am – 1 pm. This month, our service date is **Friday, May 22nd**. You may volunteer to serve by contacting Linda Mann at 419-303-9793.

WOMEN OF THE E.L.C.A. (WELCA)

YOUR WELCA BOARD

President: Sarah Oleson **Vice President:** Mary Trueblood
Secretary: Sandy Gray **Treasurer:** Alison Williams
Missions Director: Jane Williams

They will meet on the 1st Thursday of the month, at 10:30 am in the Gathering Area

Mary/Martha will be held on Tuesday, May 26 @ 11:00am

Spring Luncheon Sunday, May 17th, 11:30am - 1:00pm in the NLC. Discussion continues for this luncheon. A “good-will” offering will be taken with the proceeds going to support the Samaritan House. It will be held immediately following our church service. The menu will be: Shredded Chicken Sandwiches, Ham Sandwiches, Chips and beverages (provided by WELCA) and side dishes and desserts being provided by the congregation. A Sign-up sheet for dishes will be available in the gather Area.

WHAT’S UP AT CUP?

In March 2026. CUP served 1,068 people with 9.612 meals provided. CUP registered 56 new households to us and 21 of those were new to any food pantry in our area. That is compared to last year when we registered 34 new households to CUP and only 12 of them were new to any food pantry in our area.

St. Luke's hygiene product for the month of May is shampoo. As always we are glad to have any personal hygiene item you would like to contribute. Used grocery bags are very much appreciated. If you have reusable bags that you wish to get out of your home, we will take them too.

Thank you St. Luke's for your continued prayers, financial support, and your gifts of bags, food, and hygiene items for the ministry of CUP. Our hungry neighbors are very appreciative of the food and hygiene items we provide.

Mary Stepleton



June 6th Combined Church Picnic at St. Matthews starting at 3 pm. Think about the sides or desserts you might want to bring. Bring the family!

June 7th Lima Lutheran Night at the Ballpark with our Lima Locos! Game starts at 5:05 p.m. Watch for details on tickets soon.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK		
Tues, 5/5	6:00 pm	Altar Guild
Thur, 5/7	10:00 am	WELCA
Sun, 5/10	9:00 am	Choir
	9:00 am	Christian Education Hour
	10:15 am	Liturgy of Holy Communion

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Mennonite Home - Bonnie
The Greens - Dorothy
Lockhaven - Barb

Pat, Ida, Madison, Judy, Norman, Natalia,
Elizabeth, Mark, Mick

Scripture readings for 5/10/2026

Acts 17:22-31
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21



The flowers in the chancel this morning were given by
Sandy Miller in memory of Mom & Dad's anniversary
and
Lois Kennedy in celebration of Zander Kennedy's birthday

"NUMBERS" from Sunday, April 26, 2026"

Attendance: 52

Giving: \$1,217.00 given to the glory of God for the work of the Gospel of
Jesus Christ in Lima and beyond.

<i>Staff</i>	<i>Congregational Leadership</i>
Interim Hospital Visitation Pastor - Samuel Payne (Cell:419-371-9774) Organist – Sandy Miller Choir Director – Brian Reeves Office Secretary – Robin Hefner	President - Rich Moritz Vice President - James Williams Secretary - Lois Kennedy Treasurer - Alison Williams Tyler Arbeit Susie Cornell Perry Luhn Marcy Reeves Jane Williams
<i>E-Mail Addresses</i> Office Secretary – secretary@stlukeslima.org	

