

"Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER  
APRIL 11 / 12, 2026

## St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

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**Today's service is televised locally**

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.  
Channel 3 - Nuvera: Mondays at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**April 11/12, 2026**

*Welcome, Visitors! Please scan the QR code to sign our guest register.*

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Almighty God, whose power, glory, and wisdom so far surpass our ability to comprehend them that we can only stand in awe of your greatness and fall before you, confessing you as Lord of all. Deliver us from doubt and skepticism as we hear your Word and the promises of your grace and mercy. By your Holy Spirit cause us to see the risen Christ through the eyes of faith and embrace with joy that his resurrection means salvation for us all. Cause the joy of Easter to be ours every day throughout the year. We ask this in the name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.



**ORDER OF SERVICE**

*Service Setting 4*

**OPENING HYMN**

*I Know My Faith Is Founded*

CW 797

- 1 I know my faith is founded on Jesus Christ, my God and Lord;  
and this my faith confessing, unmoved I stand upon his Word.  
Our reason cannot fathom the truth of God profound;  
who trusts in worldly wisdom relies on shifting ground.  
God's Word is all-sufficient, it makes divinely sure,  
and, trusting in its wisdom, my faith shall rest secure.
  
- 2 Increase my faith, dear Savior, for Satan seeks by night and day  
to rob me of this treasure and take my hope of bliss away.  
But, Lord, with you beside me I shall be undismayed;  
and led by your good Spirit, I shall be unafraid.  
Abide with me, O Savior, a firmer faith bestow;  
then I shall bid defiance to ev'ry evil foe.

3 In faith, Lord, let me serve you; though persecution, grief, and pain should seek to overwhelm me, let me a steadfast trust retain.  
And then at my departure, at home with you I'll be,  
and there will I inherit all you have promised me.  
In life and death, Lord, keep me until your heav'n I gain,  
where I by your great mercy the end of faith attain.

### *Stand*

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

### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

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*

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.**

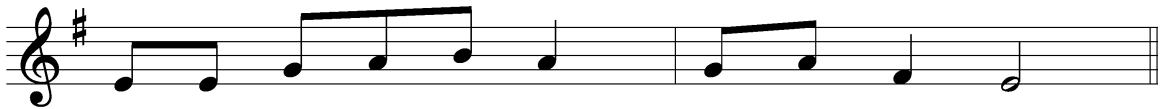
# LORD HAVE MERCY



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a - bove and for our sal - va - tion,



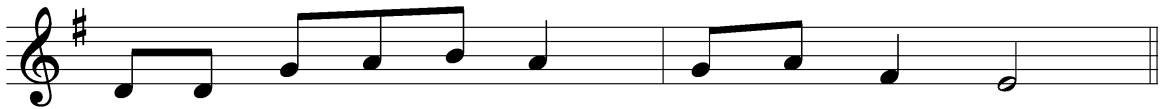
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - be - ing



of the Church of God, and for the un - i - ty of all,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this ho - ly house and for all who of - fer here their



wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, com-fort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

## GLORY TO GOD



Glo-ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



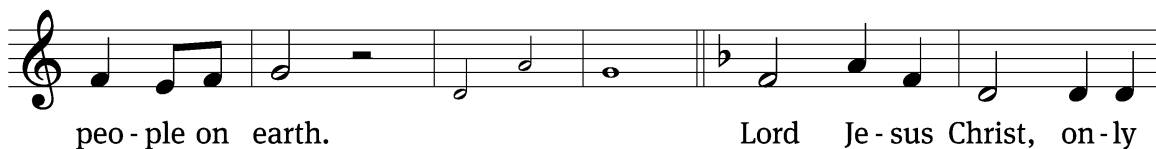
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther. We



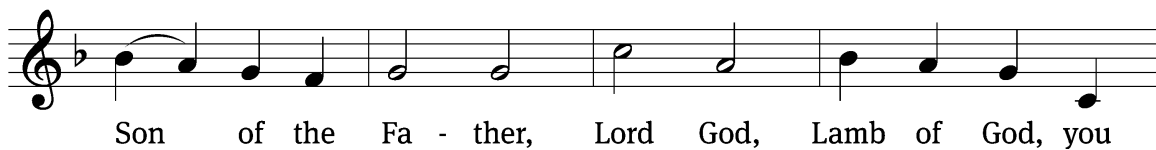
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his



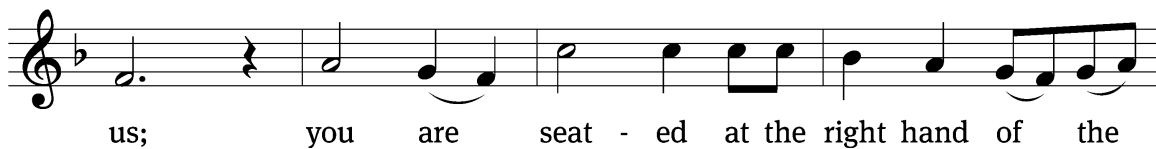
peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on



us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on



earth. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the



Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ,



with the Ho-ly Spir-it in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est and peace to his people on earth.



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

**HANDBELLS** *Crown Him With Many Crowns* arr. Matthew Compton  
8 & 9:30 am

**FIRST LESSON**

Acts 2:14a,22-32

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

<sup>22</sup> “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup> This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. <sup>25</sup> David said about him:

“ ‘I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, <sup>27</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

<sup>29</sup> “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Refrain*

My heart, there-fore, is glad, and my tongue re - joic - es;



my bod - y al - so will rest, will rest se - cure.

*Tone*

LORD, you alone are my portion / and my cup;  
you make my / lot secure.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant / places;  
surely I have a delightful in- / heritance.

I keep my eyes always / on the LORD.

With him at my right hand, I will not be / shaken. *Refrain*

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue re- / joices;  
my body also will / rest secure,

because you will not abandon me to the realm / of the dead,  
nor will you let your Holy One / see decay.

You make known to me the / path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at / your right hand.

**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***

## SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

<sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 20:29



*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Tone*



Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have be - lieved.

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *O Sons and Daughters of the King* CW 456 st. 1-4

- 1 O sons and daughters of the King, whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,  
today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 That Easter morn, at break of day, the faithful women went their way  
to seek the tomb where Jesus lay. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 An angel bade their sorrow flee, for thus he spoke unto the three,  
"Your Lord will go to Galilee." Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 That night th' \_apostles met in fear; among them came their Lord most dear  
and said, "My peace be with you here." Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**SERMON**

Peace Be With You

John 20:19-31

*Stand*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.  
**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.  
**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.  
**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.  
**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.  
**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.  
**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.  
**Amen.**

## OFFERING

**HYMN**                    *O Sons and Daughters of the King*                    CW 456 st. 5-9

- 5 When Thomas afterwards had heard that Jesus had fulfilled his word,  
he doubted that it was the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 6 “Thomas, behold my side,” said he, “my hands, my feet, my body see;  
and doubt not, but believe in me.” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 7 No longer Thomas then denied; he saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
“You are my Lord and God,” he cried. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 8 Blessèd are they that have not seen and yet whose faith has constant been;  
in life eternal they shall reign. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 9 On this most holy day of days to God your hearts and voices raise  
in laud and jubilee and praise. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### *Stand*

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours 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.**

## CLOSING HYMN

*This Joyful Eastertide*

CW 449

1 This joyful Eastertide away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow. (Refrain)

Refrain Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain: but now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;  
but now has Christ arisen!

2 Death's flood has lost its chill since Jesus crossed the river.  
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver. (Refrain)

3 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber  
till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number. (Refrain)

PREACHER

Pastor Jeff Bovee

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pastor Rob Guenther

ORGANIST

Jon Roux

HANDBELLS

Becky Berg

## Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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### **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

Sunday	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class and Sunday School
	7:30 pm	Women's Bible Class
Wednesday	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Thursday	10 am	No Bible Class
	7 pm	No Bible Class
Saturday	9 am	Church Cleaning
	6:30 pm	Worship

### **NEXT WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

Sunday, Apr. 19 <sup>th</sup>	8, 9:30 & 11 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Bible Class and Sunday School
	7:30 pm	Women's Bible Class
Monday, Apr. 20 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 pm	Worship Meeting
Tuesday, Apr. 21 <sup>st</sup>	7 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, Apr. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7 pm	Examination
Thursday, Apr. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10 am	Bible Class ~ Simple Way to Pray
	6 pm	Handbells
	7 pm	Choir
Saturday, Apr. 25 <sup>th</sup>	7 pm	Bible Class ~ Life of David
	6:30 pm	Worship

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attendance last weekend was 570 with 349 receiving the Lord's Supper.

### **Fruits of Faith:**

\$24,705 Home Operations ~ Needed: \$241,212 / YTD: \$253,596  
\$2,565 WELS Missions ~ YTD: \$24,782 (2026 Goal: \$100,701)  
\$1,453 MVL ~ YTD: \$16,473 (2026 Goal: \$62,278)  
\$500 Wish List: Piano ~ YTD: \$21,875 (\$21,400)  
\$1,128 Building Fund  
\$145 Food + Fellowship  
\$67 Altar and Flowers  
\$70 K-12 Education Assistance  
\$45 Miscellaneous Income  
\$200 Technology Equipment  
\$70 LWMS  
\$100 Benevolence Fund  
\$50 Christian Family Solutions  
\$50 Lutheran Charities  
\$50 MLC Auxiliary  
\$50 MLC/WLS Ministerial Student Fund  
\$50 St. John's Endowment Fund  
\$21 Women of St. John's

**New Women's Bible Study** ~ Join us Sunday evenings for a Bible Study for women by women. All lessons are pulled directly from the WELS Women's Ministry website, under the oversight of the pastors. Being a woman can be challenging, but it can also be so rewarding! Please come, bring a friend, bring your questions, and be ready to have a fun time learning about the Bible! What to expect: Fellowship! Random games! Guest pastor appearances! Learning about our Savior! Fun! When: most Sunday evenings at 7:30 pm in the St. John's basement. Upcoming dates: 4/12, 4/19 (both with Pastor Guenther), 4/26, 5/3, and 5/10. Contact Rachel Lang ([rachelandabbott@gmail.com](mailto:rachelandabbott@gmail.com)) or Pastor Guenther (507-240-2433 or [pastorguenther@gmail.com](mailto:pastorguenther@gmail.com)) with questions.

**LWMS International Convention** ~ Join us for the 63rd Annual LWMS Convention in Madison, WI from June 25th through June 28th. Registration is now open online, but is due to close June 1st (earlier if capacity is reached). The table in the new narthex has mail-in registration forms as well as detailed information sheets. We hope to see you there!

**Ask the Pastors** ~ May 7, 7-8pm Come to the next “Ask the Pastor” evening and bring a friend! We have had really enjoyed listening to and learning from the pastors' responses in the past events we have had! Bring your questions that evening or place your questions in the box on the table in the narthex area. There is a sign-up sheet next to the box to help us plan for refreshments. Hope to see you there!

**Church Cleaning** ~ An indoor/outdoor work day is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th from 9-11 a.m. It is a come and go event. Men, women, and children are needed. For the outdoor work garden rakes, wheelbarrows, and shovels will be needed; please bring what you can. Many hands make light work! All cleaning supplies will be provided. Questions? Contact Sarah Logston (507-766-6455) or Mikal Schwark (507-304-3121).

**Pick up Kitchen Items** ~ Items to be picked up from the round table at the back of the fellowship hall: Salad fork/spoon (initials EN), cake pan & Tupperware bowl (J. Roux), pie plate (MaryJo Johnson), plastic storage container with clovers (L. Fisher). All unidentified and/or unclaimed items remaining on the table on April 18<sup>th</sup> will be taken to the Treasure Haus. Thank you for helping keep our kitchen neat by reclaiming your serving containers.

**Benefit for Angela Lingl** ~ Looking for donations: On Nov 30th 2025 one of our church members along with MVL alumni Angela Lingl experience a ruptured aneurysm aka hemorrhagic stroke after spending 60 days in the Rochester Mayo with 41 of them in ICU she is home now working on recovery. Her family is having a Ham Dinner Benefit for her on April 18th at Nicollet Legion & looking for donations for the silent auction. If you are willing to donate please email [supportangelalingl@gmail.com](mailto:supportangelalingl@gmail.com) or reach out to one of her family members. You can also call Amanda at 507-276-8953. Thank you for keeping her in your prayers.

## AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OWLS Meeting** ~ Our local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of Wels Lutheran Seniors) will be meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm on Monday, April 13. Fellowship begins at 11:30 AM. At noon, several MLC International Students will tell us about their experiences. We will have a devotion at 12:45 PM and then enjoy a Jimmy John's meal after the devotion. The meal cost is covered by Thrivent Action Team moneys. If you have not already signed up, contact Myron Fluegge at 507-359-2424 or [flueggemtj@hotmail.com](mailto:flueggemtj@hotmail.com) by Wednesday noon, April 8, for a meal count. Hope you can make it.

**MLC Wind Symphony Concert - April 18** ~ Please join the Martin Luther College Wind Symphony for *Soundscapes*, an aural journey across the country. Music on the program represents American people, places, and things, from early American barn dances to magnificent national landscapes to late summer storms and sunsets. We're also excited to welcome the St. Paul School's Raider Band for a joint performance of Clare Grundman's "Kentucky 1800." The concert is free and open to the public on Saturday, April 18, at 7:30 pm in the MLC Auditorium. Can't make it in person? The concert will stream live on MLC's YouTube channel.

**Dig In Gala** ~ We are looking forward to celebrating the blessings of our school with the 7th Annual St. Paul's School Dig In Gala! The Gala will be held on Friday, May 8, at Turner Hall in New Ulm, with doors opening at 6:00pm. Individual and full-table tickets for the event are on sale from April 6-30, at <https://digingala2026.ourschool.support>. Ticket proceeds, as well as donations made during the silent and live auctions - and other fun activities - will go to Phase 4 of the School Mortgage Campaign, It's Time. Encouraged dress for the event is business casual or dress with our Retro 70's theme for this year, if you wish. If you own a business that would like to be an event sponsor, have a vintage car you'd be willing to show in the Gala's car show, or have any questions, please contact Amy Rich at [stampinnut@me.com](mailto:stampinnut@me.com).

**MVL Drama Presents!** ~ We're Crazy for You! Get ready to tap your toes and fall in love with our spring musical, *Crazy for You*! This high-energy romantic comedy follows Bobby Child, a New York banker with dreams of being a Broadway star, who's sent to a sleepy Nevada town to foreclose on a struggling theater. Instead, he finds himself falling head over heels for the spirited Polly Baker—and hatching a wild plan to save the theater with song, dance, and a whole lot of mistaken identity! Packed with classic Gershwin tunes, big dance numbers, cowboys, showgirls, and plenty of laughs and silliness, *Crazy for You* is a feel-good celebration of chasing your dreams. Join us this spring for a show that's full of heart, humor, and show-stopping fun—you won't want to miss it! Show Dates & Details: May 1st & 2nd at 7:00 PM, May 3rd at 2:00 PM All performances will be held in the MVL Fine Arts Center. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

**About The Cover** ~ The image on the cover is a copy of the painting by Danish artist Carl Bloch (1882) entitled "Doubting Thomas." The dramatic depiction of the encounter between the risen Christ and the incredulous apostle causes us to know exactly what the exchange is between the two men: Jesus is saying: "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" It is the glad conclusion God would have all people come to as they realize that Jesus who died for the sins of all people, also rose from death to prove their salvation.