



## *St Paul Epistle May 2026*

### What Does a Pastor Do?

Not many people know exactly what a pastor does, unless you are one or are married to one! My siblings often tease me, “You have all this education just to work one day a week?” But a few months ago, when my sister Bridget visited Dixon, as I took her on a driving tour, I told her the litany of duties a pastor might encounter in a given week. She responded in surprise, “You do ALL that?” Yes, the pastor’s job extends far beyond Sunday. This month’s article will take you through one week of my schedule (March). Keep in mind that our schedules change week-to-week and some seasons are busier than others.

**Monday:** The week began with Pr. Riley and I met at a local coffee shop to plan our week. I arrive early (7:30 am) and start by entering worship attendance and prayer requests to our Google Forms. I check each church’s Facebook for messages and comments. Then, I check through my emails. Then I prepare my to-do list. I also calculate my hours from the previous week. Once Pr. Riley arrives, we go through our week—what meetings are where, what we need to prepare, who goes where, if there is anyone to visit, and so on. After this we head to St. Paul—Pr. Riley goes to prayer team while I meet with a Property Subcommittee. Once that wraps up, I go to my office. I have 2 sermons to write this week. I head home around 3 pm because at 7 pm I have a Zoom call with the Synod Outreach Committee, which I was elected to last year. That call lasts two hours.

**Tuesday:** Another early day. Last year I joined the Dixon Kiwanis club to be involved in the community and share about our churches. I was elected to their board so today is our 7 am monthly meeting. After that I head to St. Paul to gather a few things. Our weekly staff meeting will be at Coffee Crush today to celebrate the hard work they do. After that I head back to St. Paul. I still have two sermons to write, but I received an urgent call and scheduled a pastoral visit for later in the day. After that afternoon visit, I recollect myself: we have Immanuel Finance and Exec meetings. I get home at 6:30 pm.

**Wednesday:** Today I got up early for my weekly Kiwanis meeting (7 am every Wednesday if you want to join!). After the meeting I head to Immanuel. It was my turn to lead prayer team and bible study, but we cancelled it because Immanuel hosted our Synod’s Central Conference meeting. Pr. Riley is sick today, so worship, preaching, and hosting falls to me. I have the sanctuary and Luther room set for guests by 8:30, and fellow pastors soon arrive. Worship begins promptly at 9 am, I preside and preach. After worship we gather in the Luther room for snacks and to do our monthly business. At 11:30 we left for lunch. As the host, I joined the group at the Red Apple. I still have a sermon to write. After lunch I head to St. Paul to attend the monthly finance meeting. All is well, but it was a long meeting, so I headed back to Immanuel to set up for Lenten evening worship—we are hosting but Pr. Brant preaching. I stay for soup and sandwiches and then head home.

Thursday: Pr. Riley is sick today too, unfortunately. I spend the day at St. Paul writing my sermon, checking over bulletins and leader's guides, setting up future meetings, and other things which pop up. We cancel our 1:30 meeting so I work until 3 pm before stopping home for a little bit. But I head back to St. Paul before 4 pm. My Ethics class is online from 4 to 7. While I don't count this as "working" it is part of my continuing education.

Friday: Pr. Riley and I's day off. We went to Woodstock, IL to see our friends.

Saturday: Pr. Riley and I spent the morning working. I finished my sermon. In the afternoon we had our taxes done. Ouch... Then we both went to St. Paul by 4:30 for Saturday evening worship. Home by 7 pm.

Sunday: Sunday begins at 8 am at Immanuel with worship at 9. After church we head over to St. Paul for worship again. Normally, we stick around for fellowship but today we quickly went home to let the dogs out, and then back to Immanuel because we taught Confirmation. We get home at 3:30 pm. I had been going to every Sunday night DACMA services, but decided to skip this one. The weather was supposed to be severe.

While some parts of this week were out of the ordinary, others certainly weren't. My hope in sharing this isn't to brag about how much we do, but rather, to share some of the behind-the-scenes work that is going on most people don't see. I want to make this clear, **we always have time to talk!** What's not included above are the dozens of conversations I had with people in my office, in the hallways, in the parking lot, and so on. My favorite part of my job isn't sitting at my desk; it's spending time with **you!** Ministry is fun because it isn't a 9-to-5 desk job. Every day brings new adventures and ways to serve God and God's people. I am thankful we share in this ministry together. Peace! -Pr. Anthony



On Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> after worship at St. Paul, Pastor Anthony will be giving a presentation about his recent paper, "Biography as Theology: Rev. Robert and Jean Gratez and Their Time in Montgomery" which he wrote for school.

Let Pastor Anthony know if you're interested in attending!

Please make plans to attend worship at St. Paul on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> as we celebrate our confirmands. Remember to wear red!

### Worship Assistants Serving in May

Saturday May 2 ~ at Immanuel

Saturday May 9 ~ Lester Hallquist

Saturday May 16 ~ at Immanuel

Saturday May 23 ~ Marian Myers

Saturday May 30 ~ at Immanuel

Sunday May 3 ~ Linda Patterson

Sunday May 10 ~ Robin Colglazier

Sunday May 17 ~ Sherry McCater

Sunday May 24 ~ Joyce Craney

## May Birthdays

2 Scott Maves, Jeanette McWethy  
6 Pastor Riley  
11 Mary Ortgiesen  
15 Nancy Dyche  
16 Sarah Petersen  
17 Vallerie Pennington  
18 Carolyn Marshall, Cindy Wilson  
19 Robert Tourtillott  
21 Mary Goral  
22 Millard Hicks  
25 Patricia Ost  
28 Michael Baar, Penny Billman  
29 Lyndon Farm  
30 Larry Clayton  
31 Betsy Thrasher



## Rummage Sale

Set up  
Thursday, May 21 ~ 9 am

**SALE**  
Friday May 22 ~ 9 to 2  
Saturday May 23 ~ 9 to 2

## WELCA Coffee

Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> ~ 9:00 am

*Plan to enjoy hot coffee, delicious breakfast,  
and delightful conversation!*

*You'll be glad you came!! All are welcome!!*



## Mother's Day Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>

If you are in need of pastoral care from Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> to Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, please call the church office to be connected to Pr. Bree Truax of Immanuel, Rock Falls. She has graciously offered to provide coverage while Pr. Riley and Pr. Anthony head to Montana.

The Church Office will be closed  
Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>



## BOOK STUDY GROUP!

Join us to explore John Hendrix's graphic novel, "The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler." Even though this is a graphic novel, all ages are welcome, and adults will get a lot out of it, too!

**Mondays at 5pm & Thursdays at 11am @ St. Paul Lutheran Church**

Contact the St. Paul or Immanuel Office to sign up!



*Meeting weekly beginning the week of June 1<sup>st</sup>*

Thank you to all who helped make the Easter season so meaningful!  
You are appreciated!



Thank you to all who helped at the Outdoor Church Workday!  
Thank you for all your work!



Mark your calendars for the dedication of Immanuel's Allen organ to the memory of Barb Wiggins. Dr. Steely will be playing.

Light refreshments to follow.

**Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.**

Be on the lookout for updates!

## *Joint Worship & Picnic in the Park*

SUNDAY, JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup> AT LOWELL PARK - 10AM

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THIS ONCE A YEAR CELEBRATION AS WE WORSHIP IN NATURE AND ENJOY A POTLUCK PICNIC TOGETHER WITH IMMANUEL

**Called**

Community Event. All are welcome!

**To SERVE**

*Come be the hands and feet of Jesus*

**VBS**

June 22-25, 2026

at Immanuel Lutheran Church 1013 Franklin Grove Rd, Dixon

**St Paul & Immanuel VBS**

**FREE!**

Dinner: 5pm  
VBS program: 5:30-8pm  
**EACH NIGHT**

**Ages PreK (3) - 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

**REGISTRATION OPENS**  
**MAY 1ST** →



## VBS Volunteers!!!

We need volunteers for this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS).

- Kitchen helper(s)
- 3 Group leaders (adult/teen guides)
- Devotion/lesson/music-hand motions leader
- Register online at: <https://www.myvbs.org/ilc-called-to-serve-2026>



## May-June Inkind offering for VBS service project: Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Baby Care Kits

During the months of May - mid-June, we are collecting items needed for LWR baby care kits. VBS students will be assembling the kits during the week of VBS, June 22 - 25 at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Bring donations to the dropbox in the gathering area at St Paul. Thanks for your help!

### INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH BABY CARE KIT

- TWO lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)
- TWO long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- TWO receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 32" and 52" square or rectangular
- FOUR cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- ONE jacket, sweater, sweatshirt or cape with a hood, or include a baby hat
- TWO pairs of socks
- ONE hand towel, dark color recommended
- TWO or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
- TWO diaper pins or large safety pins

# 2026

# SPLC

# May **YOUTH** ILC Newsletter

## Affirmation of Baptism - May 31st, 2026

### @ SPLC

### Luis Alvarez -



**“The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.” *Psalm 121:7-8 (NRSVUE)***

Luis is a freshman at Dixon High School. He enjoys sleeping and playing games, especially soccer. His favorite things about church are the events and the community. People he admires are his mom, John Strom, Gerad, Somar and Kali. He gives thanks to God for his life, and in the future he would like to explore the world more. We give thanks to God for Luis and his faithfulness to God.

**May the Holy Spirit guide this year's confirmands all of their days!**

### Rafael Alvarez -



**“For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.” *Matthew 17:20 (NRSVUE)***

Rafael is a freshman at Dixon High School. He enjoys hanging out with friends and gaming. His favorite thing about church is getting to explore new things. People he admires are his family. He gives thanks to God for water. During his life he hopes to make permanent friends. We give thanks to God for Rafael and his faithfulness to God.



# YOUTH MINISTRY



## Sunday School

### ILC - 9:15am

May 3 - God's House

**May 10 - NO SS**

May 17 - The Ascension

May 24 - The Holy Spirit

**Last Day is May 24th.**

### SPLC - 9:30am

May 3 - The Ascension

**May 10 - NO SS**

May 17 - Faith Lab (**last day**)

May 31 - Affirmation of  
Baptism worship

(10:45am)



## SPLC

### Teacher-Student blessings!

Sunday, May 24 at SPLC we celebrate and bless our students and teachers at worship as we conclude another great year in Sunday school and confirmation!

## Confirmation Class

May 3 - Projects Due!

May 17 - Last Class, Let's Celebrate Community

### **Affirmation of Baptism**

**May 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:45am @ SPLC**

**All are required to participate.**

## LWR Baby Kits for VBS

Thank you Immanuel folks for your generous donations for the LWR kits. Cart will remain available through the month of May!

St Paul will be collecting items for LWR baby kits through the month of May as part of the May Children's offering. For a list of items needed visit [stpauldixon.org/babykits](http://stpauldixon.org/babykits)

## Called

Community Event. All are welcome!

# To SERVE

*Come be the hands and feet of Jesus*

# VBS

June 22-25, 2026

at Immanuel Lutheran Church

**FREE!**

## SPLC & ILC VBS

**Dinner: 5pm**

**VBS program: 5:30-8pm  
EACH NIGHT**

**Goodwill offering: PADS**

**Ages:**

**PreK (3) -  
5<sup>th</sup> grade**

SCAN ME!



Register Here



# UPCOMING...



**REMINDER**

**Lifest**  
Sharing LIFE Together  
2026 • OSHKOSH



Current Pricing:

Adults \$91/full event

Youth \$51/Full event

See Somar for more information or...

Sign-up on Youth Information Station Board at ILC

**May 31st**



GREAT AMERICA

*CLOSING SOON*

**Deadline: June 1st**

**6th-12th Grade Trip: Tuesday, June 30th**

Get your name to Somar or Tori or Sign-up at Youth Information Station Board by Somar's office @ ILC

**FAMILY GAME NIGHT**

**MAY 8 - 5-7PM**  
YOUTH ROOM

Join us for a night full of fun, laughter, and friendly competition!

## MAY CHILDREN'S CHANGE/OFFERING

**ST PAUL:**

**LWR BABY KITS**

**IMMANUEL:**

**LOMC**

# RUMMAGE

**S  
A  
L  
E**



**9am - 2pm**

**Fri-Sat, May 22nd - 23rd**

At St Paul Lutheran Church

**St Paul Youth Fundraiser for the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis**

## 1st Communion Class

Saturday, May 9th from 10am to 12:30pm @ Immanuel



Reach out to Pr. Anthony to sign-up

# May

# 2026

SUN

MON


TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

26	27	<b>CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUATES! ...MAY THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE UPON YOU!</b>				1	2
3 SS ILC - 9:15am SPLC - 9:30am SPLC Youth Committee mtg - 9:15am 1pm Confirmation @ ILC	4	5	6	7	8 5-7pm Family Game Night @ ILC	9	
10 SS ILC - 9:15am SPLC - 9:30am <b>HAPPY Mother's DAY</b>	11 3:30pm -FtBY @ ILC	12	13	14	15	16	
17 SS ILC - 9:15am SPLC - 9:30am SPLC LAST DAY! 1pm Confirmation @ ILC LAST DAY	18 3:30pm -FtBY @ ILC	19	20	21	22 St Paul Youth Rummage Sale fundraiser @ SPLC - 9am - 2pm	23 St Paul Youth Rummage Sale fundraiser @ SPLC - 9am - 2pm	
24 SS ILC - 9:15am LAST DAY!	25 No Youth Group 	26	27 5pm @ ILC VBS Planning Meeting	28	29 Youth Group Soft Lock-in @ ILC 5-11pm	30	
31 Affirmation of Baptism @ SPLC - 10:45am <b>Lifest Deadline</b>							

**CONTACT US**

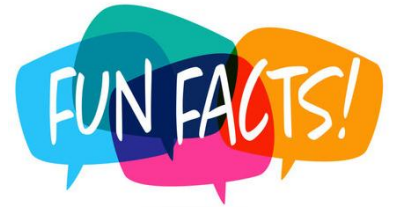
SPLC: Gerad Von Holten  
Email: [youth@stpauldixon.org](mailto:youth@stpauldixon.org)

ILC: Somar Bryson  
Email: [yfdirector@ilcdixon.org](mailto:yfdirector@ilcdixon.org)

## The Rolls-Royce of Pipe Organs

### DID YOU KNOW?

The other day we had a visitor from Wisconsin. Bruce, an organ rebuilder, and his wife, Sue, drove to Dixon with the sole intention of seeing our organ. Bruce had recently rebuilt the sister to our organ and wanted to see ours for himself. Here's some things I learned. First and foremost, when our Aeolian-Skinner organ was built in 1951, it was considered to be *the Rolls-Royce of pipe organs*. Bruce said that to find one in rural Illinois is very uncommon. Aeolian-Skinner organs are played in places like The Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the Washington National Cathedral. With its rebuilding in 2011 by Randy, it is *still* a top-of-the-line instrument and will easily last another 75 years. Since its construction, it has been added onto significantly-- Bruce was a little disappointed the console wasn't original but with tripling its size, some changes were necessary! Bruce said the instrument is priceless, but the replacement value is roughly \$2.5 million. When Bruce played, I was nearly moved to tears at its beauty. Then he pulled out all the stops and shook the building! Make sure you're here next time Ross plays!



Aeolian-Skinner Organ Co. Opus 1238. 1951. 2 manuals, 18 stops, 17 ranks. 1,033 pipes. Today we have 3 manuals plus the foot pedals, 50+ stops, and just over 3,000 pipes.

Our soul waits for the LORD;  
he is our help and shield.  
Our heart is glad in him,  
because we trust in his holy name.  
Let your steadfast love, O LORD,  
be upon us, even as we hope in you.  
Psalm 33:20-22



### Petunia Festival Parade

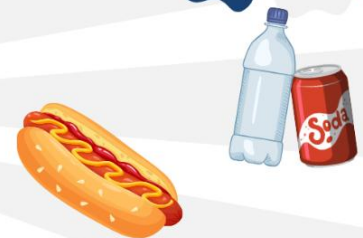


# YOUTH FOOD TENT FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, JULY 5,  
11 AM - END OF  
PARADE

PEORIA AVE.  
(in front of  
St Paul)

In support of Immanuel and St Paul youth ministry events and trips.



# May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5:30 pm Worship at ILC
3 9:15 am Youth Committee 9:30 am -10:30 am Sunday School/Youth Group 10:45 am Worship ~ Praise Band 1 pm-3 pm Confirmation Class at ILC	4 10 am Prayer Team  6 pm Property Team Meeting	5 9 am Joint Staff Meeting at St. Paul 9 am Line Dancing	6 1 pm Worship & Music Committee  3 pm Christian Ed/Faith Formation Committee	7 11 am Chair Yoga	8 1:30 pm Libery Court Worship  5 pm -7 pm Family Game night at ILC	9 10:00 am -12:30 pm Joint 1st Communion Class at ILC 5:30 pm Worship at St. Paul
10 No Sunday School/Youth Group 10:30 am Worship Executive Committee Mother's Day	11 10 am Prayer Team	12 9 am Joint Staff Meeting at St. Paul 9 am Line Dancing 10 am Social Committee Meeting	13 9 am WELCA Coffee 2:30 pm Finance Committee Meeing 5:30 pm Praise Band rehearsal	14  11 am Chair Yoga	15	16  5:30 pm Worship at ILC
17 9:30 am -10:30 am Faith Lab last day of Sunday School 10:45 Worship ~ Praise Band Pastor Anthony's presentation following worship 1 pm -3 pm last day of Confirmation Class at ILC	18 10 am Prayer Team  2 pm Church Council	19 9 am Joint Staff Meeting at St. Paul 9 am Line Dancing Epistle items due	20 10:30 am Heritage Square Worship	21 11 am Chair Yoga (upstairs) 6 pm Bingo/Pie & Ice Cream Social at McReynolds Towers	22 9 am - 2 pm Rummage Sale	23 9 am - 2 pm Rummage Sale 5:30 pm Worship at St. Paul
24 10:45 am Worship Sunday School Teacher/student Blessing Day Pentecost Sunday	25 Church Office Closed  Memorial Day	26 9 am Joint Staff Meeting at St. Paul 9 am Line Dancing	27 10 am Care Ministry Meeting 5 pm VBS meeting at ILC	28 11 am Chair Yoga	29 5 pm - 11 pm Youth Soft Lock In at ILC	30 5:30 pm Worship at ILC
31 10:45 am Worship Confirmation Sunday Trinity Sunday						

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
421 S. Peoria Avenue  
Dixon, IL 61021  
Email: [office@stpauldixon.org](mailto:office@stpauldixon.org)  
Website: [www.stpauldixon.org](http://www.stpauldixon.org)  
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Phone: 815-288-2757  
Email: [pastoragwindau@gmail.com](mailto:pastoragwindau@gmail.com)  
[pastorreedwindau@gmail.com](mailto:pastorreedwindau@gmail.com)

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



### Staff

Rev. Riley Reed-Windau & Rev. Anthony Windau  
Co-Pastors

Gerad Von Holten - Director of Youth and Family  
Ministries

Rhonda Thomas - Secretary

Brenda Nailor & Sharon Colglazier - General Funds  
Treasurers

Lorraine Hussung - Special Funds Treasurer

### Church Council

Robin Colglazier – President  
Linda Patterson – Vice President

Patty Hallquist – Secretary  
Jeanette McWethy

Cyndi Starr  
Char Huff  
Tim Garnhart