

Welcome to Worship!

Order of Worship – Confession and Prayer

The Fifth Sunday in Easter

May 2 & 3, 2026

Announcements and Greeting

Bells

Opening Hymn #480

He's Risen, He's Risen

Baptism (9:30)

Vincent Charles Duso

(Apostles' Creed - 9:30)

Call to Worship - Psalm 146

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Praise the Lord!

C: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

P: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

C: I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

P: Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man,

C: in whom there is no salvation.

P: When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;

C: on that very day his plans perish.

P: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C: whose hope is in the Lord his God,

P: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

C: the Lord loves the righteous.

P: The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless,

C: but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

P: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

C: Praise the Lord!

Confession

P: Trusting in the grace and mercy of our Heavenly Father, we speak our confession together before Him:

C: Lord God, Heavenly Father, we admit to You this day that our sins, selfishness, and shortcomings separate us from You and from other people. We have turned away from Your Word for our lives in what we think, what we say, and what we do. We are sorry for these sins, and we ask for Your forgiveness. Because of the person and work of Your Son, Jesus, please forgive us. Help us by Your Holy Spirit to trust in Your power and promises for our lives. Amen.

Forgiveness

Hymn of Praise #469

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Prayer of the Day

First Reading – Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

Choral Response (*Sunday*) “Jesus Is My Guide and Friend”

P. Bowman

Epistle Reading – 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel Reading – John 20:24–29

Apostles’ Creed (*6:30/8:00*)

Hymn of the Day #472

These Things Did Thomas Count as Real
(Sung to the tune of #426 - When I Survey the Wondrous Cross)

Message

“Thomas - From Doubt to Joy”

Offering

Voluntary

Offertory (*Sunday*)

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

H. Friedell

Milestone Ministry Recognitions (*9:30*)

Prayers

Lord’s Prayer

Departing Word

All: Jesus said to [Thomas], “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Blessing

Sending Hymn #685

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



Altar Flowers have been placed by Janet Shetlar in memory of Dr. James and Janet Shetler's 24th wedding anniversary and also in celebration of Janet's birthday, both on May 4th.

Please join us for Coffee Hour on Sunday, in the church parlor between worship services, from 8:45-9:45 a.m.

Baptism

Vincent Charles Duso was born on Jan. 12, 2026. He is the son of Joseph & Chelsea (Kueffner) Duso, and his sponsors are Justin Kueffner and Stephanie Craig.

Serving in Today's Worship:

Worship Leaders

Pastor Joel Kaiser

Pastor Brad Hubbard (*Sunday*)

Organists

Donna Haubenstricker (*Saturday*)

Myles Hayden (*Sunday*)

Service Coordinators

Keith Knoll (*Saturday*)

Gary Schiefer (*Sunday*)

Choir – (*Sunday*) Mixed Choir - Myles Hayden, director

Media – Troy Zehnder, Tony Grasel, Alan Maurer, Leo Daenzer, Josh Haubenstricker

Greeters

(8:00) Ben & Rose Lucio, Karyn Crabtree

(9:30) George & Gaylene Gugel, Paul Roose, Laura and Harvey Bierlein

Church Tour Guide (9:30) – Kathy Scutter

Coffee Volunteers – Cheryl Schutt and Mary Naples

Ushers

(6:30) Andy Zehnder, Vera Bamberg, Amanda Gaudreau, Gary & Carmel Hochthanner, Tom List, Gary Maurer, Jim Meyerhuber

(8:00) Doug Kueffner, Jerry Andrews, Dan Attenberger, Caleb Auernhamer, Bill Chapman, Brevin Ross, Ken Spencer, David Volz, Tim & Susan Weiss

(9:30) Rob DeSimpelare, Eugene Block, Steve Crook, Aaron List, Frank List, Jared List, Dave Savage, Brian, Cole, and Jack Streiter



If you'd like to tour the church sanctuary and hear about our congregation's history, come to the Christian flag under the pulpit after the 9:30am service. A volunteer guide will meet you there.

MAY 2 & 3, 2026

Milestone Ministry Recognitions 2026

55 Year Anniversary

Pastor Bill Hoesman

35 Year Anniversary

Dave Palmreuter

30 Year Anniversary

Dawn Mueller

Dan Reinert

20 Year Anniversary

Bonnie Bell

Carol Bickel

Jill Bronner

15 Year Anniversary

Sheila Babcock

Jodi Reinert

Rachel Strieter

10 Year Anniversary

Madeline Bickel

Mandy Liddle

Candice Saleska

Thomas Winterstein

5 Year Anniversary

Reagan Bickel

John Compton

Jessica Schluckbier

Nancy Schmandt

Retirement

Mary Bierlein



Mary Bierlein was born on January 14, 1966, in Saginaw, Michigan, to George and Dolores Bauer. She grew up in Richville alongside her brother, Bryan. She attended St. Michael's Lutheran School in Richville, and Reese High School.

Mary continued her education at Saginaw Valley State University, where she earned a degree in Elementary Education with minors in English and Social Science, along with an Early Childhood endorsement. She later completed her master's degree in Early Childhood Education at SVSU and participated in the Colloquy Program through Concordia College.

Mary began her career in education serving as a substitute teacher at Reese, Fairgrove, USA, and Vassar schools and working with the Reese Migrant Program. She also worked at the Reese Unity District Library where she designed and started the Story Hour program. Mary additionally served in Cass City Public Schools, where she designed and launched the At-Risk 4-Year-Old program.

Mary's 33 years of ministry at St. Lorenz have had a lasting impact on early childhood education at our school. During her time at St. Lorenz School, she helped design and start the 3-year-old preschool program, launched Storytime, and created the Kindergarten Plus program. She also played a key role in developing the all-day kindergarten program. Over the years, Mary faithfully served students and families by teaching 3-year-old and 4-year-old preschool, young 5's, kindergarten, and first grade. Her quick wit, love for each student, and passion for learning will be missed!

Beyond the classroom, Mary has been active in many areas of ministry and service. She has volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters in Caro, served in Stephen Ministry, and taught Sunday School at both St. Lorenz and St. Michael's. She has also participated in many ministries, including VBS, Science Olympiad, MOPS, Girls of Grace, Night to Shine, Rainbows at St. Lorenz, Breakthrough Bible Class, and served as the historian for the LWML ministry.

Mary and Tom Bierlein were married on July 15, 1989. Together they have two daughters. Elizabeth recently graduated with a PhD in Neuroscience. Mariah will receive her Doctor of Optometry degree in May 2026.

In her free time, Mary enjoys reading, crafts, and quilting.

Mary's dedication to education, her love for young learners, and her faithful service to her church and community leave a lasting legacy. We give thanks for the many lives she has touched throughout her career and wish her God's blessings in retirement!