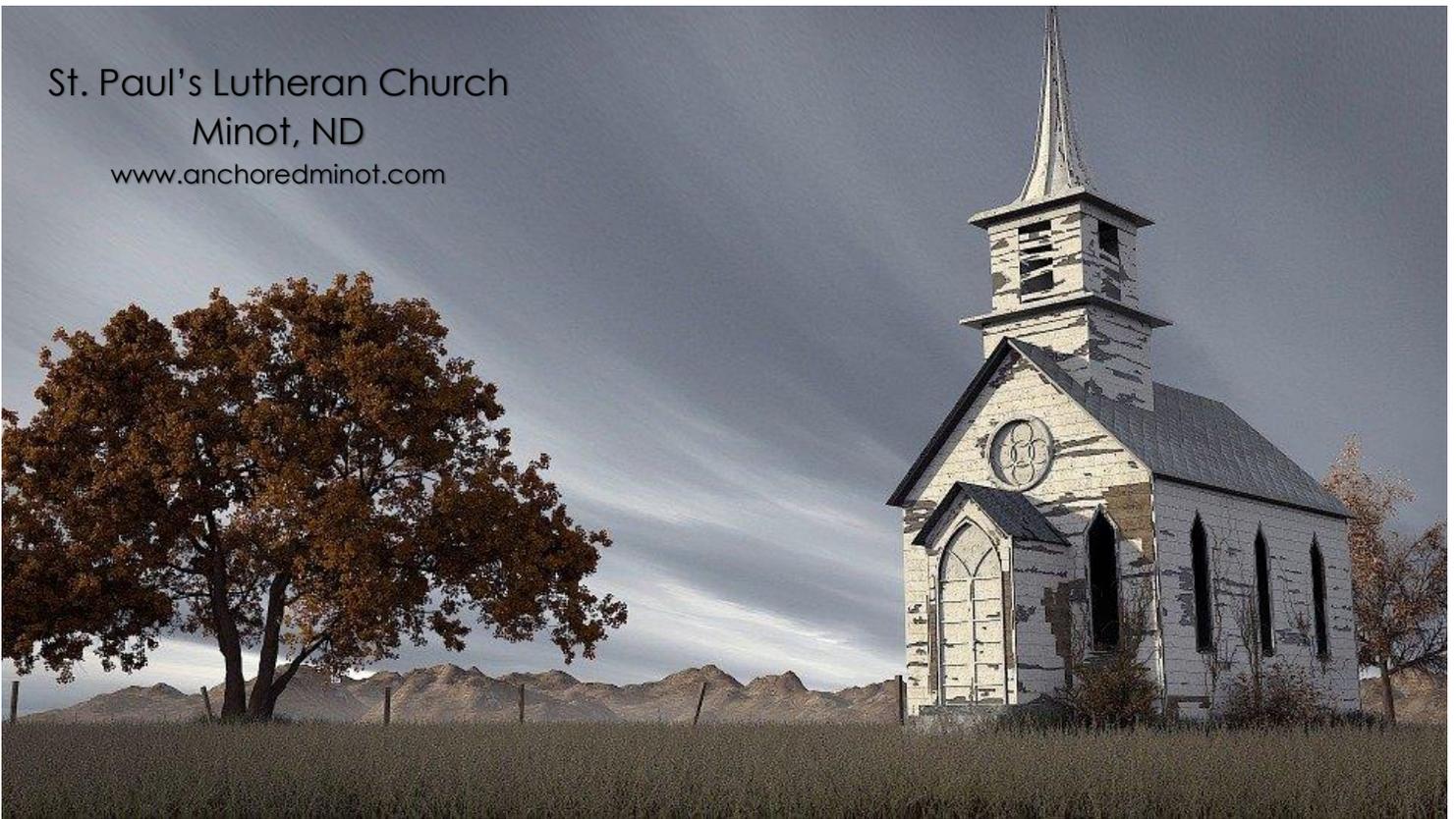


St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Minot, ND  
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# The Acts of the Apostles

The Ministry of the Gospel in a Messy Church & Conflictive World

Acts 4:1-22

Peter and John were arrested that day! But what for? Well, the Religious Leaders and Temple Police would've said that they were disturbing the public. However, in reality, they were arrested to prevent them from speaking.

We must keep in mind that Acts chapter four takes place within the context of the lame beggar being healed. From the context, everyone was going to the temple to pray. But the lame man was healed, which then brought forth a crowd. And then, amid the crowd, Peter started preaching. And then what happened? They most likely missed the Temple evening sacrifice. Ask any preacher, and they can tell when parishioners are skipping church and talking in the church kitchen. Ha!

So, long story short, the Religious Leaders – along with Temple Security – came out to the

group where Peter was preaching. And what they heard from Peter was diametrically opposed to what the Sadducees believed and taught. Peter was talking about Jesus and the resurrection, something that the Sadducees disagreed with. Thus, the Religious Leaders had Peter and John arrested for 'what they were teaching.'

Keep in mind that for persecution to occur and for a person to be classified as a martyr, it must be over the Gospel – what is being said and taught! For example, several years ago, a church was shut down and prevented from meeting by a local city council. Persecution! Martyrdom! Right? Nope! What was not properly told in this story was that the church was meeting at a person's home in a residential area, and the church had grown

