

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

P. O. Box 267, 201 Veterans Dr., Columbus, TX 78934

PH# (979) 732-2423 Fax (979) 733-0489

E-mail: admin@splctx.org www.splctx.com **Pastor:** pastor.akethan@gmail.com

Sunday, May 22, 2022 10:00 AM

Sixth Sunday of Easter and Confirmation Sunday

Senior Pastor	Alan Kethan	<u>Home:</u> (979)-942-9060	<u>Cell:</u> (830)-708-1200
Deacon of Word and Service			Sandye Fletcher
Youth & Family Specialist			Stephanie Polasek
Music Minister			Robert Eaton
Congregational Chair			Donna Maas
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director			Briana Bedford
Secretary			Elena Holub
Custodian			O. C. S.
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator			DyAnn Lauzon
Organist			Joan Hunsicker

MISSION STATEMENT: Love God, Love Neighbor (*Luke 10:27*)

VISION STATEMENT: We will work to strengthen and grow closer in relationship to God and to one another.

- *As we enter into a sacred time and space, a friendly reminder to please set your cell phone to vibrate.*
- *We want to welcome all of our guests today and thank you for worshiping with us. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding our services, programs, day care, or preschool programs at St. Paul, please visit our Welcome Center in the narthex immediately following our service, and an attendant will be more than happy to assist you. If this is your first time at St. Paul, we hope you will take a gift along with you. We also have a gift bag for children.*

* **This symbol indicates that the congregation is invited to stand physically or in spirit.**

INTRODUCTION

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

PRELUDE – St. Paul Praise Band:

1. “Borning Cry”
2. “Faith”
3. “A Cup of Cold Water”
4. “God of Wonders”

SIGNING OF ATTENDANCE PADS

(Ushers will be handing out Attendance Pads during the announcements. Please be sure to sign your name and contact information.)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITION AND BLESSINGS UPON GRADUATES

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** (*Please rise if it is comfortable.*)

P We are gathered here because of what Christ has done for us through our Baptism, where we received the gift of the Holy Spirit. So in remembrance of our baptism we open this celebration service in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P It is God's wish that we realize our brokenness. It is the work of the Holy Spirit that reveals to us our sins and faults. It is the Holy Spirit that enables us to confess to God these private sins in which we are in need of forgiveness.

Silence for reflection and private confession of personal sins, then join in with combined voices this printed confession.

C We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, Word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Holy name. Amen.

P Martin Luther describes the authority and responsibility that a Pastor has in the Office of the Keys to pronounce to those who repent, the forgiveness of sins. From Holy Scripture Christ gave to his disciples this right from John 20:23. As a called and ordained minister of Jesus' Church, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(You may be seated.)

**PROCESSIONAL SONG: “You Say” by Lauren Daigle – chosen by Layla Schindler
(Performed by Ladies’ Choir)**

**I keep fighting voices in my mind that say I'm not enough;
Every single lie that tells me I will never measure up.
Am I more than just the sum of every high and every low?
Remind me once again just who I am because I need to know (Oooh-oh)**

CHORUS:

***You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing,
You say I am strong when I think I am weak.
And you say I am held when I am falling short,
And when I don't belong, oh You say I am Yours.
And I believe. Oh, I believe what You say of me. I believe.***

**The only thing that matters now is everything You think of me;
In You I find my worth, in You I find my identity (Oooh-oh)**

REPEAT CHORUS

**Taking all I have, and now I'm laying it at Your feet;
You have every failure, God, You have every victory (Oooh-oh)**

REPEAT CHORUS

END:

Oh, I believe. Yes, I believe what You say of me. I believe.

CCLI Song #7071357 Words and Music by Bebo Norman, Jason Ingram, Lauren Daigle, Mike Donehey, and Paul Mabury.
© 2016 Appstreet Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) | CentricSongs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) | See You At
The Pub (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) | Fellow Ships Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) | Formerly
Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) | ICM Crescendo Royalty Publishing (Admin. By Essential Music
Publishing LLC) | So Essential Tunes (Admin. By Essential Music Publishing LLC) CCLI License #1729377

FIRST READING: Acts 16:9-15

A Our first reading is from Acts, chapter 16, verses 9-15.
A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

The reading begins:

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. ¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia

and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67

A The Psalm today Psalm 67. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God’s face shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22 -- 22:5

A Our second reading is from Revelation beginning with chapter 21, verses 10 and 22.
John’s vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God’s past actions. Yet in this new city, God’s presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.

The reading begins:

Chapter 21:

¹⁰And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. ²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day — and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Chapter 22:

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is

the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

A Please stand as you are able for the gospel.

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (Sung)

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

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

* **GOSPEL:** John 14:23-29

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

P The holy gospel according to St. John, chapter 14, verses 23-29.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

* **SONG: ELW - #779 "Amazing Grace" – chosen by Cullen Barrett**

1. **Amazing grace! – how sweet the sound – that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**
2. **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**
3. **Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**
4. **The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
he will by shield and portion be as long as life endures.**
5. **When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

CCLI Song #22025 Text: John Newton Music: William W. Walker; arr. Edwin Othello Excell
©Text: Public Domain Music: Public Domain CCLI License #1729377

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Refer to Insert

**Special Music as Confirmands come forward: "Grace Alone" performed by St. Paul Trio
(Tracy Baker, Sharon Johnson and Sharon Johnson)**

(The congregation may be seated during the prayers.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A Give a vision of increase and abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners who are beginning their growing season. Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations. When those in power seek to assert dominance over others, confound their ways and make them yield to your humble authority. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for peace in Ukraine. Help to end this war and the destruction of lives and your creation. Change hearts, bring peace and show the world your existence. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for the family and friends of Devon Tiffin. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:

Emily Rooks; Mary Ann Peirsol; Wesley Braden; Skylar Ordner; Adam Torres; Paul Saul; Scarlet Rangnow; Kirk Lowe; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you *(Pause)*. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for those battling cancer, all expectant mothers, those who reside in care facilities and the homebound, all law enforcement officers, fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers, 9-1-1 dispatchers, and active duty military personnel that they are protected and kept safe. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer. *{Individuals we are praying for are in the bulletin on pages 13 & 14.}*

A We pray for the church throughout the world. May we all proclaim the good news of your love effectively. We ask, especially, that you would bless the ministry of our sister congregations Cristo Rey and Iglesia Cristiana Camino de Santidad in Peru, all Missionaries, especially St. Paul's supported missionary, Dina Anton de Espinoza, and our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Assemble your people at rivers, streams, and fountains, where we remember our baptism and welcome others into the communion of saints. Gather us with those who have died when we meet together at your river of life. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

*** PEACE**

P As Jesus shared peace, let us also share His peace with one another. *(Share the "Peace of the Lord" with your neighbors.)*

(We will be collecting offerings before and after worship each week. This includes Power of One dollars.)

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

"Power of One" is a ministry sponsored by your Stewardship Team. We are asking each and every one of our members to give \$1.00 above what your normal giving would be. We are asking each member to place this \$1.00 bill or change in the offering plate each week. The team is also inviting all children to participate to develop the habit of giving as part of their worship experience. Parents, a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, or dollar bill, any of these will do to help your children develop a habit of giving. These "Power of One" dollars will be used to support local ministries and ministries abroad. The purpose of this ministry is to demonstrate that something as small as one dollar can be used to make a difference in the lives of others.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

P Living God, bless these offerings we place before you today; they are a thank you for all you have given us. Welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*** GREAT THANKSGIVING** *(Responses Sung)*

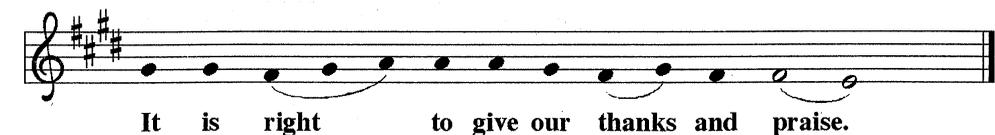
P The Lord be with you.



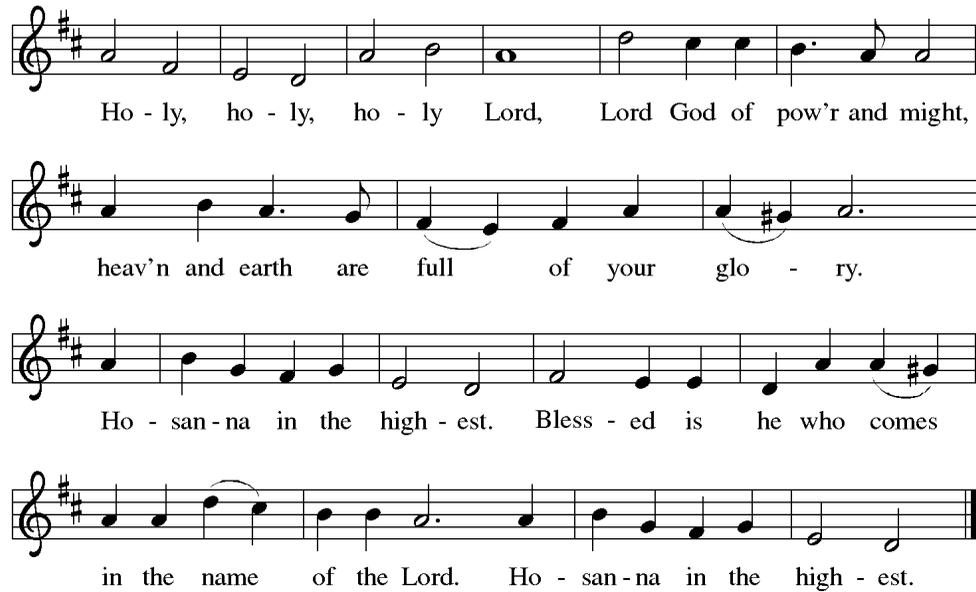
P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

* **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. . . . as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection. . . . Grace our table with your presence.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P Reveal yourself to us. . . . Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P With your holy ones. . . . O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C Amen.

* **LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C 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 COMMUNION**

P The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (Continuous with Individual Cups)

{Distribution will be continuous. All are welcome for communion. Please come down the center aisle starting from the front. Follow directions of the ushers, coming up one side at a time. Please keep 6 feet between those who are not your family members. Pastor will hand you the bread. If you wish to have a gluten-free wafer, please tell Pastor "Gluten-free, please." Afterward, you will choose either wine or white grape juice from the individual cups in the tray – white grape juice in the center with wine surrounding. Place the empty cups in the baskets located off to the side. Although communion is continuous, you are welcome to kneel at the rail in prayer after receiving communion. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.}

SPECIAL SONG DURING COMMUNION: "Lord, I Need You" by Matt Maher –
chosen by Brook David (Performed by St. Paul Praise Band)

**Lord, I come. I confess. Bowing here, I find my rest.
And without You, I fall apart. You're the One that guides my heart.**

CHORUS:

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense my righteousness. Oh, God, how I need You.**

**Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more. Where grace is found,
Is where You are. And where You are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me. REPEAT CHORUS**

BRIDGE (twice)

**So teach my song to rise to You when temptation comes my way.
When I cannot stand, I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay.**

LAST CHORUS:

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense my righteousness. Oh, God, how I need You.
You're my one defense my righteousness. Oh, God, how I need You.
My one defense my righteousness. Oh, God, how I need You.**

CCLI Song #5925687 Words and Music by Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, and Matt Maher.
© 2011 sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) | Sweater Weather Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) |
Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) | Valley Of Songs Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) |
worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI License #1729377

* **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

P Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

* **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** (Sung)



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

* **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

* **BLESSING**

P God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

* **RECESSIONAL SONG: "Reckless Love" by Cory Asbury – chosen by Makayla Woolery-Price**

Before I spoke a word, You were singing over me.
You have been so, so good to me.
Before I took a breath, You breathed Your life in me.
You have been so, so kind to me.

CHORUS:

*Oh, the overwhelming, never ending, reckless love of God!
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine.
I couldn't earn it; I don't deserve it, still You give yourself away.
Oh, the overwhelming, never ending, reckless love of God!*

When I was Your foe, still Your love fought for me.
You have been so, so good to me.
When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me.
You have been so, so kind to me. **CHORUS**

BRIDGE: x2

There's no shadow You won't light up,
Mountain You won't climb up, comin' after me.
There's no wall you won't kick down,
Lie You won't tear down, coming after me.

CHORUS

CCLI Song #7089641 Words and Music by Caleb Culver, Cory Asbury, and Ran Jackson ©2017 Watershed Publishing Group, Bethel Music Publishing, Richmond Park Publishing. CCLI Lic #1729377

* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace with the Holy Spirit's guiding.

C **Thanks be to God, and we will.**

POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006327. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

USHERS: Curtiss Schonenberg; DyAnn Lauzon; Marilyn Yearwood

LAY READER: Brad Hajdik

ACOLYTE: Leira Gonzalez

ALTAR GUILD: Belle Dungen and Barbara Kautz

WELCOME: On the sabbath, Paul and his companions worshiped with Lydia and the other women (Acts 16:13-14). May God open our hearts today as he did theirs.

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by Don & Charlene Morrison in celebration of their 71st wedding anniversary on May 27 and also as a congratulations to the confirmands and graduates being honored and recognized this weekend.

We extend our congratulations to those students who are being confirmed today! They are: Cullen Barrett; Brook David; Layla Schindler; and Makayla Woolery-Price. May God bless them and guide them as they continue their faith journey.

* *This weekend we are recognizing our graduates!* **High School Graduates:** Hailey Johnson; Caleb Magness; Kyla Rester; Brooke Roecker; Ava Schindler; Courtney Westphal; and Alea McGrew. **College and Trade School Graduates:** Magen Schindler Altieri; Dalton Oppermann; and Brant Prause. **Congratulations and best wishes** to you all as you begin new chapters in your lives! ☺

We extend our Christian sympathy to Joe Wayne and Hope Schindler for the loss of their daughter Devon Schindler Tiffin who passed away this past week. May God comfort them during their time of loss.

COLLECTION OF OFFERING: Offering for the worship services is collected before and after worship. Offering bowls are placed in the back entrance and inside the side sanctuary door for you to place your offering in. This includes "Power of One" dollars.

Amount needed for average weekly budgeted expenses: \$8,405.00

Attendance: May 14 & 15, 2022 – 172 **Contributions:** May 14 & 15 – \$7,284.43
Power of One: May 14 & 15, 2022 – \$45.00 **Building Fund:** May 14 & 15 – \$1,550.02

Thank you to those who contributed to last week's offerings. Loving God/Loving Neighbor.

Wednesday Night Attendance: – Wed., May 11 – **76 Total**
BLAST/Confirmation: 59 **Adult Bible Study:** 3 **Support Staff:** 14

Wednesday Night Attendance: – Wed., May 18 – **79 Total**
BLAST/Confirmation: 63 **Adult Bible Study:** 2 **Support Staff:** 14

ATTENTION: *Names on the prayer list in the bulletin will be printed for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the names will be removed from the bulletin unless the church office has been notified to keep them.*

KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS: Those Battling Cancer: Elrose Kollatschny; Sarah Stancik; Irving Schneider; Shelly Bowden; Larry Poenitzsch; Sandy Mosley; Charlene Tesch; Cynthia Coufal; Jeffrey McDaniel; Karen Bailiff; Julian Divin; Nancy Biers; Angie Beggs; Pam Potter; Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Frnka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; Kenny

Neuendorff; Keith Korth; Jodi Sebesta; Cathy Siglow; Paul Casinger; Fran Gillett; Tiffany Murley; DeQuincy Lister; Angela Mazoch; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Joyce Templeton; Gracie Brune; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Jennifer Aleman; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Bill Stolle; Jessica Mauchlen; Larry Guthrie; Donna Tiner; Libby Divin; Anthony Baumbach; Diane Brooks; Bob Loy; Stanley King; Monty Gillett; Dawn Foster; Edward Halcolm; Amber Smith Kutach; Louis Camacho; Melvin Schobel; Janet Greene; Sabrina Galindo; Debbie Grimes; Horst Traub; Margie Fisk; Preston Carter; Penny Miller; Carl Hahn; Megan Cain; Amanda Fuchs; Cyndi Wallace; Karen Broussard; Donna Young; Sharon Heimann; Brenda Baker.

Expectant Mothers: Miranda Wright; Stephanie Miles; Eileen Yearwood; Katie Page; Brooke Dungen Pawlak; Mallory Dungen Cook; Madisyn Horndt Neumann.

Those in Care Facilities and Homebound: Adrian Fritsch; Don Morrison; Verna Coufal; Doug Hill; John Zwiengel; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Deanna Lee; Dolores Wessels; Doris Poppe; Barbara McMath; Linda Munos Rodgers; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Delores Purcell; Jane Booker. **Homebound:** Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Beatrice Zikuhr; Robert Eaton; Ronnie Rogers; Fritz Willms; Joyce Dehmner; Donna Dehmer.

Those Law Enforcement Officers: Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Donnie Templeton; Jason Templeton; Johnny Kovar; Abigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; Luke Kanz; Bruno Flores; Zane Weido; Josh Jones. **Fire Fighters, First Responders, Healthcare Workers and 9-1-1 Dispatchers:** Brent Gorman, Sr.; Brent Gorman, Jr.; Reid Brasher; Donnie Templeton; Jason Templeton; Dusty Dittmar; John Maertz; Ron Luedke; Pastor Alan Kethan; Kristi Weyand; Eric Weyand; Bradley Berger; Jon Berger; James Chollett; Edward Thraen, Jr.; Garrett Flores; Kyle Burris; Dylan Walcik; Randy Wendt; Travis Neuendorff; Brenda Henkes; and Jan Willette. **Active Duty Military:** Brian Anderson; Michael Graham; Bryan Kubena; Brad Bergfeld; Cody Jowers; Kyle Appelt; Montana Appelt; Douglas Neuendorff; Scott Cherniss; Kameron Page; Ryan Neisner; Anthony D'Angelo; Dalton Kapel; Kindra Dawson; William Phillips; Kevin Gonzalez.

**** NOTICE REGARDING BULLETINS:** Please take your bulletin home after worship. We will not be reusing them. Thank you! **

► **Children's Activity Bags** are available once again for use by our young members and guests! You can find them on the coat hooks in the coat area of the narthex. After worship, **please place the used activity bags and their contents in the receptacle in the narthex.** Thank you! ☺

Attendance Pads Reminders: **Thank you** to everyone for doing such a good job signing the attendance pads each week when you attend worship! Our records are more accurate when you sign the attendance pads. Here are a couple of things that will help get our records even more

accurate and up-to-date: **1) When signing in, please write *everyone* in your family who is attending worship.** When you write “John Doe Family”, we do not know how many people that is and we don't know who exactly attended worship. Was it John, Sue and Sally Doe, or the whole family of John, Sue, Jim, Tom and Sally Doe? **2) Please include your address and phone number.** This is helpful especially when we have guests signing in. When they see the members writing addresses and phone numbers, guests are more likely to do the same. We like to welcome our guests by sending them a card after their visit. That is hard to do when we do not have contact information. It is also a way for us to keep up with our members when they have a change of address or phone number. Thank you for taking the time to do these items. Our staff and volunteers who take care of the personal records and oversee attendance records greatly appreciate your help.

► **God's Gals** will meet **Sunday, May 22, 2022 at 6:00 PM at Nancy's Steakhouse** for good food, good fellowship, and good fun! All women of St. Paul are invited! If you have any questions, please contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127. We look forward to seeing you there! ◀

**** Peru Team** – There will be a Peru Team meeting **Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 6:00 PM** in the church library. **



Beach Retreat!! High School students are invited to our **Summer High School Beach Retreat** in Matagaorda, Texas **July 28-31, 2022**. Join us for some time at the beach, kayaking, fishing, devotion and enjoying some downtime at the coast. **Cost is \$65 per student.** Contact Stephanie for registration. **Deadline to register is Wednesday, June 1, 2022!**

If you have a child, grandchild or great-grandchild in **grades 3-12** and he/she is interested in sewing, then be sure to tell them about the **St. Paul Lutheran Church Youth Sewing Camp!** This Sewing Camp will be held on **Wednesdays, June 1-July 6, 2022 from 10:30 AM-12:00 PM in The Lighthouse.** Debbie Eaton and her helpers will teach the students a variety of different stitching techniques. The students will then have the opportunity to show off those techniques through different projects each week. **Cost to register is \$10** to cover the cost of each student's sewing kit. The camp is limited to 10 students, so sign up soon! To register, visit <https://form.jotform.com/220874573767166>. For more information, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858.



Bus Driver Training: There will be two bus driver training sessions of our *new* wheelchair lift and handicap bus on **Sunday, June 5, 2022 – one at 12:30 PM and the other at 2:30 PM** at the church. Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) or call Kevin Page at 979-732-0845. Include your phone number when signing up. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin.



Register for Vacation Bible School – July 18-22, 2022!!

Mark your calendars for this year's Vacation Bible School! Join us as we “Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the Southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead!” **VBS dates are July 18-22, 2022 from 6:00-8:30 PM each evening** and is open up to children who have completed 5th grade. Registration is free, however, t-shirts will be available for \$7 each. Parents may register their students online by visiting vbspro.events/p/events/stpaul2022.

BE A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER! Volunteers are Needed . . . VBS is a wonderful way to connect with the youth and to share how God has worked in your life. Sharing your love for Christ with the younger generation can be a humbling and rewarding experience and can impact the youth in so many ways. We all have gifts to give no matter what age, and we invite you to join our team. You may register on line by visiting vbspro.events/p/stpaul2022. Questions? Contact Stephanie Polasek at 979-732-1858 or stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

* *Whenever you have a question about our church, whether it be the facilities, worship services, or just want to know who to talk to about a certain Ministry Team, our **Church Council members** are always there to help, answer questions, and guide us. Posted on the bulletin board across from the church office is a list of all of our hard-working council members and the Ministry Teams they work with and represent. Please use that as a guide to help you contact the appropriate council member with your questions.* *

• **THE GATHERING:** The Gathering, a young adult group, meets twice a month for food, fellowship and devotions led by Stephanie and Bradley Polasek. **They meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:00 PM** at the Polasek Residence and different venues in town. For more information, contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858.

♥ **Grief Support Group:** Are you experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of friend who has moved? The Grief Support Group is a place to share and discuss these issues with other individuals. The group meets the **third Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 PM in the church library.** For questions or more information, contact Peggy Geisler at 979-732-0350.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Today (May 22) –	6:00 PM – God's Gals to Nancy's Restaurant
Mon., May 23 –	9:30 AM – Staff Meeting
	6:00-7:30 PM – Women of JOY Bible Study (Hackfeld Family Room)
Tues., May 24 –	9:00 AM-12:30 PM – Quilters (Lighthouse)
	12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)
	6:00 PM – CLA Board

Wed., May 25 – 9:00 AM – CLA Chapel
Thurs., May 26 – 6:00 PM – Peru Team Meeting (library)
 8:30 PM – CHS Graduation (Memorial Stadium)
Fri., May 27 – 10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)
Sat., May 28 – 7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship & Healing
Next Sun., May 29 – 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship & Healing
 10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School
 11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship & Healing
Next Mon., May 30 – Office Closed! (Memorial Day)

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 **Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists**

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.

Friday, May 27, 2022 **John Calvin, renewer of the church, died 1564**

Gifted both as a systematic theologian and as an interpreter of scriptures, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the Reformed churches.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006327.

SERVICE OVERVIEW: WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO FOR US?

Jesus promises that though he is going away, he will come to his disciples in the power of an advocate, the Holy Spirit, and that both he and the Father will make their home in all who believe. The gathering of the faithful assembly to receive Christ's word and sacrament is a foretaste of that New Jerusalem, where God will finally and ultimately be at home with us, even as the Holy Trinity makes a home now in the hearts of all who believe. Into the anxieties and uncertainties of our everyday life we are offered both a vision of a glorious future when God will be at home with us and we will be at home with God, and a living foretaste of that same future: "We will come to them and make our home with them... Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

It is the sixth week of Easter, and we continue to celebrate the meaning of the resurrection by enacting our communal love in the greeting of peace and the sharing of bread and wine. Welcome to worship! Experience the comforting presence of the triune God. Live in the gospel promise that God will live within us.

Jesus is preparing for his departure by encouraging the disciples with his peace and with his assurance. He also lays the foundation of future faith by foretelling what is to come, and his

departure isn't the end of something as much as it is the creation of something. There is no gap between us and our creator. We have an accessible home in God, and he does not leave us orphaned. The Holy Spirit will be there with us.

Our earthly troubles are real. They are threatening. They hurt. They are not to be minimized, but Jesus' promise to prepare a place for us *and* his promise of presence through the Spirit ensures that these things do not define us. This is because God's grace and presence rule *within* us. God dwells in us. God's Son made the way for us. This promise reigns supreme.

Jesus, the Son of God the Father, is known through the word and experienced in love. He will send the Spirit, who will lead the community into peace and truth. John repeats his claim that the believers can live in peace, without fear, despite the present persecutions. It still rings true today. The comforting presence of the triune God is alive within the believing community. We are enjoined to keep God's word (what we as Lutherans call "law"), as we live in the gospel promise that God will live within us.

KID STUDY:

When Jesus told His disciples that He was going to return to His Father, they were afraid. What would happen to them? Would the enemies recognize them as His followers and try to harm them? Jesus knew that His disciples were afraid and He offered these words to comfort them. "I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. Don't be troubled or afraid. Remember what I have told you: 'I am going away, but I will come back to you again. I will come and get you, so that you will always be with Me.'" These words were a great comfort to His disciples and they are a great comfort to us today. When Jesus returned to His Father in heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit to comfort His disciples until the day when He returns. That includes you and me! What a wonderful gift Jesus has given us: peace of mind and heart! We no longer have anything to fear. Whenever we find ourselves in the dark or in the storms of life, Jesus is with us.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

"First and foremost, what makes our Christian Bible, "the written word" distinct is a word of judgment and mercy, of law and gospel. At its center, however, is the gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ. That revelation, that written word about the living word, has been with us from the beginning. It was there in creation, in the history of Israel and specifically in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. And it is there whenever we proclaim the gospel and receive the sacraments." - Herbert Chilstrom, the ELCA's first presiding bishop

+++++

Next Week's Theme (May 28 & 29): Jesus' prayer for his followers that they may be one/unified & reveal who God the Father is.

Next Week's Scriptures (May 28 & 29):

First Reading: Acts 16:16-34

"While in prison, Paul speaks to the jailer, who is then baptized."

Psalm: Psalm 97

"Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous." (Ps. 97:12)

Second Reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

"Blessed are those who wash their robes."

Gospel: John 17:20-26

"Jesus prays that the disciples will be one and abide in his love."