

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

May 29, 2022 Contemporary 11:05 AM

Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

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

It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history — to our day — and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIGNING OF ATTENDANCE PADS

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

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P We believe that the Bible contains instruction for us as followers of Jesus Christ to do what he asked of us. He taught the first disciples to help others to realize and then confess their sins and to proclaim to them the promise of forgiveness afterwards. So let us take a few brief moments in silence to open our hearts and minds to Jesus, to confess the things that weigh heavy on our hearts and the things we need help with so we might be more in line with what Jesus taught.

(Silence for private confession.)

P If you are truly sorry and asking God for help, here is the promise he commanded the leaders in his church to proclaim, "You are forgiven." May this forgiveness free you and help you to live; to live in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: COME TO US

Scattered and broken, bent in our way. We are Your people, gathered to praise You. A vineyard up-rooted, narrow in sight, Come, Lord of Glory! Come, Lord of Light!

CHORUS:

***Come to us, oh Lord of Glory and shine in our hearts.
Come to us, oh Lord of Glory and make us anew.
We adore You! We adore You! We adore You, sweet Lord of Glory!***

GOSPEL: John 17:20-26

Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.

A The holy gospel according to St. John, chapter 17, verses 20-26.

[Jesus prayed:] ²⁰"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name

known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

GOSPEL SONG: COME TO US

Come, Lord, our Dayspring, come from on high. As we Your people, gather to praise You. Unworthy to taste from Your heavenly vine, But Your word will heal us. Come, light divine!

CHORUS:

Come to us, oh Lord of Glory and shine in our hearts.

Come to us, oh Lord of Glory and make us anew.

We adore You! We adore You! We adore You, sweet Lord of Glory!

Come Root of Jesse, come David's Son, Come, Star of Morning. We come to praise You! Hope of Creation, of all humankind. Reign over body, spirit, and mind! *CHORUS TWICE*

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CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*** SERMON SONG: BECAUSE HE LIVES (AMEN)**

I believe in the Son. I believe in the Risen One.

I believe I overcome by the power of His blood.

Amen! Amen! I'm alive! I'm alive because He lives!

**Amen! Amen! Let my song join the one that never ends,
Because He lives!**

**I was dead in the grave. I was covered in sin and shame.
I heard mercy call my name. He rolled the stone away!**

Amen! Amen! I'm alive! I'm alive because He lives!

**Amen! Amen! Let my song join the one that never ends,
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.**

Because He lives, ev'ry fear is gone.

I know He holds my life, my future in His hands.

Amen! Amen! I'm alive! I'm alive because He lives!

Amen! Amen! Let my song join the one that never ends,

Amen! Amen! I'm alive! I'm alive because He lives!

Amen! Amen! Let my song join the one that never ends,

Because He lives! Because He lives!

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OPPORTUNITY FOR HEALING:

Those who wish may come down the center aisle to the altar rail to receive the laying on of hands, prayer, and anointing with oil. Please respond by saying, "Amen" after the prayer. Please return to your seats by the side aisle.

PRAYER AFTER HEALING

P Let us pray,

Living God, through the laying on of hands and anointing, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

(The congregation may be seated during the prayers.)

PRAYERS

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 Holy God, make your people one as you and your Son are one. Extend the gifts we have been given by your Spirit to all people, especially those experiencing division or questioning your love.

A brief silence.

A Keep in our minds those who have died in war, both military and civilians. May we honor them and their sacrifices.

A brief silence.

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.

A brief silence.

A We pray for the families and friends of Peggy Rodgers and David Wesson. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time.

A brief silence.

A We lift up the community of Uvalde, the State of Texas, our Country and especially the families of those most affected by this tragedy that lost loved ones. May your peace and love through others surround them.

A brief silence.

A We pray for those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:
Skip North; Emily Rooks; Dessie Steinhauser; Becky Gatzke; Jack See; Wesley Braden; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you.

A brief silence.

A We pray for those battling cancer that they may know strength and comfort. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*

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; 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; and Brenda Baker.

A We pray for all expectant mothers, and especially for:
Stephanie Miles; Eileen Yearwood; Katie Page; Brooke Dungen Pawlak; Mallory Dungen Cook; and Madisyn Horndt Neumann that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace.

A brief silence.

A We pray for those who reside in care facilities and the homebound that they receive your caring and compassion. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*

Adrian Fritsch; Don Morrison; Verna Coufal; Doug Hill; John Zwiegel; 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; Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Beatrice Zikuhr; Robert Eaton; Ronnie Rogers; Fritz Willms; Joyce Dehmer; and Donna Dehmer.

A We pray for all law enforcement officers, including Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Johnny Kovar; Abigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; Luke Kanz; Bruno Flores; Zane Weido; Josh Jones; as well as Donnie Templeton and Jason Templeton who are also fire fighters. For all fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers and 9-1-1 dispatchers, especially Brent Gorman, Sr.; Brent Gorman, Jr.; Reid Brasher; 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, as well as those active duty military members including 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; and Kevin Gonzalez that they are protected and kept safe.

A brief silence.

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.

A brief silence.

A Unite us with the saints who have died and been raised in Jesus. Train us to wait with eager longing for Christ to come again, even as we sense his presence with us now.

A brief silence.

A 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.)

OFFERING and POWER OF ONE

“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.

*** REMEMBERING JESUS' WORDS, PROMISES, AND COMMANDS**

*** 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, are welcome.

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.}

*** 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.

*** CLOSING SONG: ALL THE PEOPLE SAID, “AMEN!”**

**You are not alone if you are lonely. When you feel afraid you're not the only.
We are all the same in need of mercy... To be forgiven and be free.
It's all you got to lean on but thank God it's all you need!**

CHORUS:

And all the people said Amen! Whoa – oh – oh;

And all the people said Amen!

Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends.

And all the people said Amen! (2nd time to BRIDGE)

**If you're rich or poor it doesn't matter. Weak or strong you know love's what we're after.
We're all broken but we're all in this together... God knows we stumble and fall.
And He so loved the world, He sent His Son to save us all. CHORUS**

BRIDGE:

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart.

Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart.

Blessed are the people hungry for another start.

For theirs is the kingdom, the kingdom of God.

CHORUS TWICE

TAG END

And all the people said, “Amen!”

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*** DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, one with God and one with each other.

C Thanks be to God, and we will.

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USHERS: Sandi & Kaldon Roensch

LAY READER: Gary Schindler

ALTAR GUILD: Kay Wesson

ACOLYTE: Devin Oppermann

WELCOME: The Spirit invites all: “Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life” (Revelation 22:17, NLT). Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by Ken and Kay Wesson in loving memory of Kay's grandparents Otto & Viola Chollett and Ken's mother Jane Wesson whose birthdays are in May – Otto on May 9, Viola on May 24, and Jane on May 30.

The Rose on the Altar announces the birth of Grace Faye Wright to Keaton and Miranda Wright. Grace Faye was born Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 10:08 AM. She weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. and was 20 inches long. Proud great-grandparents are Mike and Donna Maas.

We extend our Christian sympathy to the following families: to Susan Rogers and her family for the loss of her sister-in-law Peggy Brune Rodgers who passed away last week, and to Ken Wesson and his family for the loss of his brother David Wesson who passed away this past week. May God comfort them during their time of loss.

Thank you!! Thank you to all who helped make our 50th wedding anniversary so special. It seems our daughter Kim announced via social media of the anniversary, and we started getting anniversary cards in the mail around March 4th . . . and we wondered? We planned a getaway to Port Aransas with our kids and grandkids for the end of April for our anniversary. We had our old 8mm film put on a disc to give to each child, which brought lots of laughs and memories. Kim surprised us with a gold box filled with notecards from our church family wishing us much happiness. A special thanks to Elena who passed out these notecards and for all she did and for Kim who took each card and decorated them beautifully. Danny and I truly appreciate everyone's part in making this a memorable anniversary. God bless, *Danny and Barbara Kautz*

**** REMINDER!!** *Pastor Alan will be on sabbatical during the months of June and July, 2022. In case of an emergency, please contact Deacon Sandye Fletcher at 979-530-8368. ***

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 21 & 22, 2022 – 228

Power of One: May 21 & 22, 2022 – \$30.00

Contributions: May 21 & 22 – \$6,042.18

Building Fund: May 21 & 22 – \$401.44

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

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.*

**** 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.

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.



Senior Explorers are ready for the Harvest!! Let's go berry, fruit, vegetable and flower picking! We will load onto our new bus at **9:00 AM on Thursday, June 9, 2022** at St. Paul and head to Neal's Berry Farm near Waller. It is an active working farm, and we hope to get a brief tour. Then on to picking huge, thornless blackberries, fruits, veggies and flowers. There is also an indoor farmer's market on site to shop for pre-picked produce and jar items. The picked produce is priced per pound. The flowers are priced by the stem or cup full. We will provide clippers and pay your gate admission. You are responsible to pay for any produce/flowers you want to pick and take home. Then on to lunch on your own at Gaby's Grill near Waller. A Trip Advisor rated 5 of 5! Known for their Tex-Mex and Seafood. Enchiladas to fried seafood and grilled red fish, with Gumbos and Po-Boys! We plan to return to St. Paul by 2:00 PM. **Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) by Sunday, June 5, 2022**, and call Kevin Page at 979-732-0845 with any questions.



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 Sunday, June 5, 2022!**

We are here to help! We, as the **Men-In-Mission of St. Paul**, realize that there might be things that we can help assist you with in and around your home. If you need a lightbulb or battery in a smoke detector changed, or need assistance with things you or someone else used to do but can't because it is not safe, physically possible, or they are not around, please let us know. As Jesus taught us, we are called to help and serve one another. Please call Danny Kautz at 979-732-7897.



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:

Mon., May 30 –	Office Closed! (Memorial Day)
Tues., May 31 –	9:30 AM – Staff Meeting 12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)
Wed., June 1 –	9:30 AM – CLA Chapel 10:30 AM-12:00 PM – Sewing Camp (Lighthouse)
Thurs., June 2 –	6:00 PM – Youth & Education Team (choir room) 6:00 PM – Property Team (library)
Fri., June 3 –	10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)
Sat., June 4 –	7:00 AM – Men In Mission 7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship

Next Sun., June 5 – *Deadline to Register for HS Matagorda Trip!*

9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship

10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School

11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship

12:30 PM – Bus Driver Training

2:30 PM – Bus Driver Training

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Sunday, May 29, 2022 *Jiri Tranovský, hymnwriter, died 1637*

Tranovský is considered to be the father of Slovak hymnody as well as an important reformer of the Slavic church. He translated the Augsburg Confession (the basis of Lutheran teachings) and published a collection of Slovak hymns.

Tuesday, May 31, 2022 *Visit of Mary to Elizabeth*

This festival marks the occasion when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant with John. Elizabeth pronounced Mary "blessed among women," and Mary responded with the song called the Magnificat.

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 *Justin, martyr at Rome, died around 165*

Born of pagan parents, Justin was influenced by an elderly Christian in Ephesus. He became a teacher of philosophy and the Christian faith. Jailed for practicing an unauthorized religion, he refused to renounce his faith and was beheaded.

Friday, June 3, 2022 *The Martyrs of Uganda, died 1886*

On June 3, 1886, thirty-two young men were burned to death for refusing to renounce Christianity. The confident manner in which these Christians went to their deaths contributed to a much stronger Christian presence in Uganda.

Friday, June 3, 2022 *John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, died 1963*

When elected pope, the former Angelo Roncalli was expected to be a short-term caretaker. He showed great spirit, though, and convened the Second Vatican Council which helped bring great changes to Roman Catholic and other churches.

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OTHER READINGS: Acts 16:16-34

Those who had enslaved a girl and used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for ordering the spirit to come out of her and consequently ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family.

The reading begins:

¹⁶One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to

you a way of salvation." ¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. ¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

PSALM: Psalm 97

¹The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad. ²Clouds and darkness surround the LORD, righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne. ³Fire goes before the LORD, burning up enemies on every side. ⁴Lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. ⁵The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth. ⁶The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD, and all the peoples see your glory. Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before the LORD, all you gods. ⁸Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD. ⁹For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. ¹⁰You who love the LORD, hate evil! God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked. ¹¹Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart. ¹²Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name.

OTHER READINGS: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.

The reading begins:

¹²“See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” ¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁶“It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” ¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let everyone who hears say, “Come.” And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. ²⁰The one who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

SERVICE OVERVIEW: PRAYING AND REVEALING

Today’s gospel reading is first and foremost a prayer. It is Jesus’ prayer, and we are given the privilege of listening in as he prays on behalf of his disciples and people of all times and places. Listeners are given a glimpse of Jesus’ mission for the world: all may be drawn into the life of the triune God! On the eve of his death, Jesus entrusts this particular community of disciples (but also our communities, our lives, and our world) into God’s care.

What is it Jesus is doing when he prays? What is it the church does when it prays on behalf of the world and other people? To be prayed for by another is to know one’s life is cared for and has value to the one praying on your behalf. It is to know that much of the future is out of one’s own control but rests instead in the care of the Triune God. To be prayed for is to be vulnerable, dependent, and deeply loved.

Here is the astoundingly good news: Jesus prays for you, and for the communities in which we find ourselves. Whether your cup is empty or full, whether your community is in crisis or experiencing joy, whether your future is foggy or clear, Jesus loves you deeply and your life is bound to the God who loved you before the foundations of the world. On the eve of his death, Jesus entrusted your life and the church’s life and its entire future to the Father. What glorious good news that the future rests in the care of the Triune God, and that we, the church, are set free to make God known to the world.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

It is the seventh Sunday of Easter. It is the last week of the Easter season, but Easter is *never* over! Today, the resurrection is proclaimed by means of a conversion narrative, a promise of Christ’s life beyond the grave and throughout time, and a prayer for Christian unity. Jesus prays that his followers may be one, just as he is one with God. Welcome to worship! Join the oneness of which Christ speaks.

Jesus speaks in prayer on behalf of his disciples. We trust that when Jesus speaks and acts on behalf of people, it is life-giving. He acts as our advocate. Already at the close of the first century the Johannine community was dealing with divisions that existed among Christians. Consider the divisions we see today. Who speaks and acts on behalf of whom in today’s world? Is this life-giving? Is it warranted? Whose voices are left out or silenced? How can we be one if we do not

make space for all sorts of voices? How does Jesus’ prayer invite us to listen more deeply to the diversity of stories and experiences represented in our society? For what or for whom are you and advocate?

Jesus says he is *in* the Father and that the Father is *in* him. He prays that his followers will also be *in* them. Later he prays that he will be *in* his followers. This may sound like an ever-changing metaphor, but the object here is unity: *a complete oneness in God*. That oneness is accomplished because God’s grace is the most powerful, not in a competitive sense, but in the way of love and reconciliation. Like Christ, we are also *in* the world and *not in* the world. The unity of the Son with the Father is meant to inspire and enable our unity. Not just as God’s people but of *all* people.

When we share a recipe with someone it includes ingredients, methods, and preparation or cooking times. Sometimes we share bits of wisdom or experience that bring the recipe alive. There is a lot of sharing in today’s gospel. Jesus speaks of his oneness with the Father, a relationship of unity he shares with his followers. He shares the glory that is given him with the disciples as well as the love of God. Those disciples also hear that others will come to believe because of their word. They too will share what they have been given. What might be a recipe for your witness? What are the ingredients of your sharing of the word? What are the methods that help you to share unity and love? What experiences of God’s grace can you share with others?

KID STUDY:

Each of you brings something different that adds something special to God’s kingdom. Even though we have different skills and talents, we all serve in Jesus’ name. We are united by our faith in God. Being united, or together, in God is how we show God’s love to the world. We are all different, but God still works through all of us. In today’s gospel story, Jesus prays for his friends, that they may be united in Him as he is united with God the Father. It means that we all work together to love and care for other people. It means we celebrate and have fun together like when we worship, when we go to day camp together, or when we share a meal and play games like in BLAST. It also means we support and comfort each other, help and encourage each other when we are sad, lonely, angry, or feel left out. When we are united in Jesus, others can experience His love.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

An essential aspect of relationships is thinking, hoping, dreaming, wishing, praying for and about the future. The portion of the prayer from John 17 that we hear today turns its attention to the future. In the complex and beautiful language of the prayer, we hear that the future of the disciples is possible because they are connected through Jesus to the Father. Jesus’ desire is for the continuation of the relationship. We must recognize that we too are connected to God, that we are among those who come to believe. We are bound in that relationship of faith into oneness with the Father. We are sent forth because of that love, as the disciples were sent. It is our yearning to be united and connected to God that gathers us together here around this table to celebrate the eucharist. Even though Jesus vanished from the sight of the disciples, the love

of the risen Lord did not disappear. It is among us and with us each time we come together to bread the bread and to share the cup. - Leslie G. Reimer [Leslie G. Reimer, in Homilies for the Christian People, pp. 470-72.]

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Next Week's Theme (June 4 & 5): Pentecost

Next Week's Scriptures (June 4 & 5):

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21 *"Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds."*

Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

"Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth." (Ps. 104:30)

Second Reading: Romans 8:14-17 *"The Spirit makes us children of God."*

Gospel: John 14:8-17 [25-27] *"The Father will give you another Advocate, the Spirit of truth."*