

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 28, 2023 10:00 AM

Day of Pentecost 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
Congregational Chair			Donna Maas
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director			Briana Bedford
Secretary			Elena Holub
Custodian			Tomasa Rosales
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator			DyAnn Lauzon
Organist			Elena Holub

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 worshipping 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.**
- Hearing Assist devices are available for those who need assistance in hearing worship service better. Please see a person in the Sound Room (Usher Room) to request the use of a device during worship.

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

INTRODUCTION

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God’s presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God’s presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different

capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God’s redeeming love to all the world.

PRELUDE – St. Paul Praise Band:

1. “Mighty Rushing Breath of God”
2. “Salt and Light”
3. “The Commission”
4. “New Creation”

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Rise Up” by Andra Day – chosen by Erich Cox

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.**

***SPECIAL MUSIC: “Me and God” by Josh Turner – chosen by Devin Oppermann
(performed by George Bergfeld III and Henry Jones, accompanied by
St. Paul Praise Band)***

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

A Our first reading is from Acts, chapter 2, verses 1-21.

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ’s resurrection.

The reading begins:

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs — in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” ¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

A The Psalm today is from Psalm 104, verses 24-34 and 35b. We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will please respond by reading the words in bold print.

²⁴How manifold are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number, living things both small and great.

²⁶There go the ships to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

²⁷All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.

²⁸You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

²⁹When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

³¹May the glory of the LORD endure forever; O LORD, rejoice in all your works.

³²You look at the earth and it trembles; you touch the mountains and they smoke.

³³I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being.

³⁴May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the LORD.

^{35b}Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

A Our second reading is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, verses 3b-13.

Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another’s diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.

The reading begins:

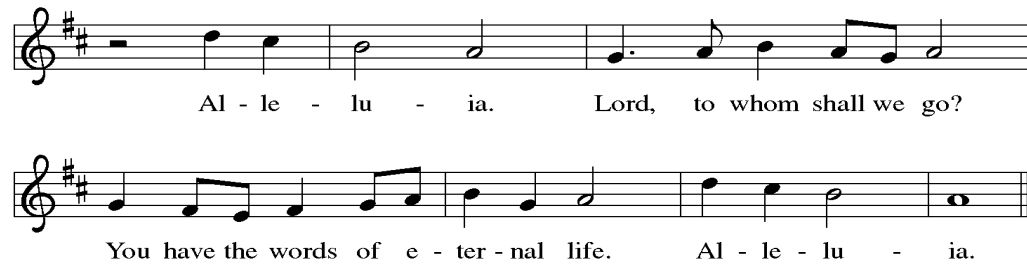
^{3b}No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. ¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

A Please stand as you are comfortable for the gospel.

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (Sung)



* **GOSPEL:** John 20:19-23

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

P The holy gospel according to St. John, chapter 20, verses 19-23.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Rescue" by Lauren Daigle – chosen by Leira Gonzalez
(performed by Paisley Stancik, St. Paul Trio and accompanied by St. Paul Praise Band)

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Refer to Insert

(The congregation may be seated during the prayers.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A Passionate God, you sent your Spirit through the gifts of fire, wind, and word. As you equipped the disciples for their work, equip us to bring the good news to all those who long for you. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Peaceful God, we pray for peace in all the world, especially in war-torn areas of Ukraine and Sudan. Bring an end to war and the destruction of lives and your creation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Heavenly God, we pray for the family and friends of Karl Hill who passed away this past week. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Healing God, we pray for all those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:

Gilbert Neidenthal; Deven Nelson; Cher Marino; Jimmy Kansteiner; Catherine Poppe; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you (*Pause*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great. {See all those we pray for on pages 12 & 13.}

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. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A As we observe Memorial Day, we remember those who died in military service. Comfort all who mourn, and usher in a world where war is no more. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

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 Blessed are you, O God,

C maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

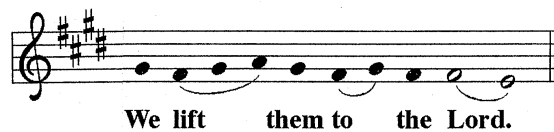
*** GREAT THANKSGIVING**

(Responses Sung)

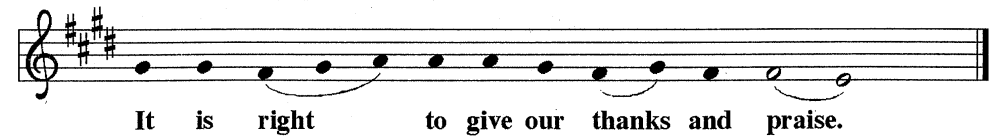
P The Lord be with you.



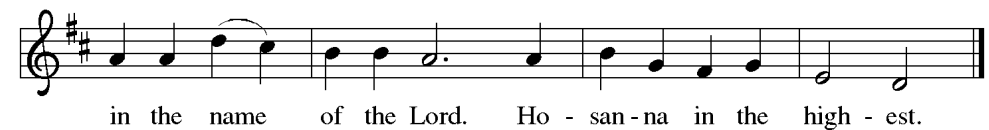
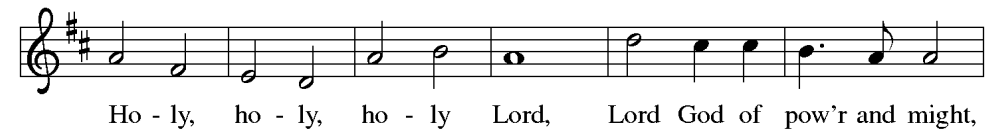
P Lift up your hearts.



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:



*** EUCHARISTIC 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 Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

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. 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: ELW - #471 "Let Us Break Bread Together" –
chosen by Alex Rester**

1. Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

REFRAIN:

***When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.***

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. **REFRAIN**

3. Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. **REFRAIN**

Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual

* **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 Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

* **BLESSING**

P The God of all, who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

C Amen.

* **SONG:** "10,000 Reasons" by Matt Redman – chosen by Nate Muir

CHORUS:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, worship Your holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul, I worship Your holy name.

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning. It's time to sing
Your song again! Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening come. **CHORUS****

**You're rich in love and You're slow to anger. Your name is great,
And Your heart is kind. For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing.
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.**

CHORUS:

***Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, worship Your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul, I worship Your holy name.***

**And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near and
My time has come; Still my soul sings Your praise unending,
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.**

CHORUS TWICE:

***Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, worship Your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul, I worship Your holy name.***

***Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, worship Your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul, I worship Your holy name.***

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*** DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

C Thanks be to God, and we will.

POSTLUDE – “New Creation” performed by St. Paul Praise Band

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USHERS: Kevin & Wendy Page; Ryan Thomas

LAY READER: Ashlyn Pugh

ACOLYTES: Paisley Stancik; Madsion McRee

STREAMING: Janel Barten

POWER POINT: Kay Wesson

ALTAR GUILD: Belle Dungen and Barbara Kautz

WELCOME: This weekend, Pentecost weekend, we celebrate the Holy Spirit's establishment of the church — the body of Christ that still embraces and empowers all. Welcome!

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by Ken & 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.

We extend our congratulations to those students who are being confirmed today! They are: Erich Cox; Leira Gonzalez; Nate Muir; Devin Oppermann; and Alex Rester. May God bless them and guide them as they continue their faith journey.

** This weekend we are recognizing our graduates! **High School Graduates:** Matison David; Edward Pesak; Mayson Post; Kaldon Roensch; Jordyn Templeton; and Thomas Ulbricht. **College Graduates:** Madison Johnson; Dylon Neisner; and Gabrielle Weido. **Congratulations and best wishes** to you all as you begin new chapters in your lives! ☺*

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: Thurs., May 18, 2023 – 34

Contributions: Thurs., May 18 – \$408.00

Power of One: Thurs., May 18, 2023 – \$2.00

Attendance: May 20 & 21, 2023 – 172

Contributions: May 20 & 21 – \$5,345.01

Power of One: May 20 & 21, 2023 – \$32.00

Building Fund: May 20 & 21 – \$1,383.23

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.*

KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS: Those Battling Cancer: Kim Moerbe Welack; Misti Retzer; Zelda Lanford; Michelle Thraen; Pauline Gosnell; Nina Naumann; GayLynn Willms Burk; Carl Norton; Barbara Farley; Laura Harris; Todd Foster; Cher Marino; Cindy Tanner; Joe Reck; Melinda Rodiek; Melda Coleman; Donna Culton; Nancy Hartmann; Lydia Rojas; Catherine Poppe; Larry Stolar; Vivian Fortenberry; Rick Davis; Darryl Stancik; Jerry Ordner; Michael Yancey; Al Gene Canik; Jane Venghaus Taylor; George Wright; Sandy Mosley; Charlene Tesch; Karen Bailiff; Julian Divin; Nancy Biers; Pam Potter; Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Frnka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; Keith Korth; Jodi Sebesta; Cathy Siglow; Paul Casinger; Fran Gillett; DeQuincy Lister; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Gracie Brune; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Jessica Mauchlen; Donna Tiner; Libby Divin; 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: Kelsey Kethan McNeely; Montana Appelt; Dina Anton de Espinoza; Olivia Leyendecker; Daya Latiolais; Cassidy Zajicek Parks; Courtney Busselman.

Those in Care Facilities and Homebound: Helen Hammack; Joey Denby; Edwin Oevermann; Paul Minar, Sr.; Adrian Fritsch; Doug Hill; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Barbara McMath; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Jane Booker; Pat Brasher.

Homebound: Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Ronnie Rogers; Joyce Dehmner; Donna Dehmer; Rita Noska.

Those Law Enforcement Officers: Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Donnie Templeton; Jason Templeton; Johnny Kovar; Abigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; 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; Jan Willette; and Terri Neuendorff. **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.

► **Children's Activity Bags** are available 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! ☺

Attention Graduating Seniors and Current College Students: This is a reminder that if you are planning to or are currently pursuing a degree in education *or* nursing, you are encouraged to apply for the Frank & Ann Derr Scholarship here at St. Paul. For an application, please see Ms. Stephanie or stop by the church office. Complete your application and return it to the church office as soon as possible.



CRAFTING CAMP: Students that enjoy making art and crafting are invited to this summer's Crafting Camp. Children who have completed the 2nd grade up to 8th grade are invited to come craft on **Thursdays starting June 1 to July 6, 2023 from 1:00-2:30 PM** in the Lighthouse. Led by Debbie Eaton and her crew, students will have the opportunity to make a different craft each week. *Space is limited to 10 students, and the cost is \$10 per student*, which will cover the cost of their crafting supplies. Register online at form.jotform.com/spolasek21/craftcamp or contact Stephanie Polasek at 979-732-1858. **For the Crafting Camp, we are in need of the following items:**

- Cardboard tubes from paper towels

- Crayons – broken pieces are great! (no matter the size)

Items may be dropped off in the church office between now and the end of May. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Eaton at 512-757-2251. Thank you!

Men In Mission: Men In Mission is a group of men of all ages who meet at **7:00 AM** on the first Saturday of each month in The Lighthouse. Breakfast is served, which typically includes conversations pertaining to sports, the arts, entertainment, etc.. We then have a short devotion, discussion, then close with the Lord's Prayer around 8:00 AM. If you are seeking a closer connection to the men of St. Paul, this is an excellent way to do so. You will make friends for life. Come join us on **Saturday, June 3!**

**** Colorado County Senior Connections ** –**

A place for Seniors, 65 years and older, to socialize with others.

Beginning Wednesday, June 7, 2023, the group will meet at the Stafford Opera House – Columbus in the Buddy Rau Room from **10:00 AM-1:00 PM** the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month**. Lunch will be provided. Various activities will include: Card games/board games; Bingo; Movies; Educational Speakers; Field trips; and Social gathering time!

◆ Our **Peru Mission Trip Team** will be having a **drive-thru dinner fundraiser** on **Tuesday, June 13, 2023** at The Lighthouse from **5:00-7:00 PM**. The menu will be: hamburger steak, twice baked potatoes, corn casserole, broccoli salad, dinner roll, and banana pudding. *Tickets are \$13 and pre-sale ONLY*. Tickets are available for purchase from any Peru Team member or in the church office. Deadline to purchase tickets is Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

**** Senior Explorers!! Get Ready for Some Blue Marlin Fishing in Cabo, San Lucas! ****

Join us **Wednesday, June 21, 2023** (this is a date change) for the movie "Blue Miracle" in **The Lighthouse at 10:30 AM**. *A lunch will be served following the movie*. The movie is about Papa Omar and his kids that partner with a washed-up boat captain for a chance to win a lucrative fishing competition to save his orphanage. For questions, please contact Kevin Page at 979-732-0845. Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) by Sunday, June 18, 2023.



Senior Explorers are going on a cruise! We will **depart** from St. Paul at **7:30 AM** on Thursday, July 6. We will board the ship before 10:00 AM for a 90-minute Sam Houston Boat Tour. It will be a narrated, educational ride along the Houston Ship Channel. There is an outside deck and inside air conditioned area. Free tour and ride. One free beverage provided mid-cruise. Walkers are OK. **PHOTO ID REQUIRED**. You may bring water, but you cannot bring any other food or drink on board. We will stop for lunch on the way home and expect to be home about 3:00 PM. **We currently have 20 spots reserved.** Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) by Sunday, July 2, 2023. Please call Kevin Page at 979-732-0845 with any questions.

Stellar VBS!! Mark your calendars for “Stellar” VBS! Join us at Vacation Bible School **July 10-14, 2023** as kids go on a cosmic quest and have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world! A meal will be served 5:30-6:00 PM, and VBS will be held 6:00-8:30 PM. VBS is open to children in preschool up to students who have completed 5th grade. Registration is free, however, t-shirts will be available to purchase for \$8 each. *Space is limited so register early!* Parents may register their students online by visiting vbspro.events/p/spfu2023. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or by email at stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

Be a Vacation Bible School Volunteer!! 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. Last year we hit our capacity of 100 students! This year we have increased our capacity to 125 students, but, in order to accomplish this, more volunteers are needed. We all have gifts to give no matter what age, and we invite you to join our team. You may register online by visiting vbspro.events/p/spfu2023. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or by email at stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

• **VBS FOOD DONATIONS:** To help defray the cost, we are asking for donations to help with the meals served each evening before Vacation Bible School. We served about 200 kids and volunteers *each night* of VBS last year. If you would like to help, you can either give a **monetary donation or** donate **specific food items**. For monetary donations, an envelope will be on the table in the narthex (foyer) that can be placed in the offering bowl. If you wish to donate specific food items, just pull a slip off the board and return it with the donation on the date specified to the St. Paul Lighthouse. If you have any questions, please contact Loraine Gast at 979-732-1296. Each donation is and will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

♣ **Day Camp at Lutherhill!** Youth completing K-5th grade are invited to experience a week at camp without the over-night stay during the week of **July 30-August 4, 2023**. Camp starts each day at 8:00 AM and will end at 5:15 PM. Stephanie Polasek will shuttle youth each day to and from camp. We will leave the church at 7:20 AM and will return at 5:50 PM. **Cost is \$195 for the week**. Register online at lutherhill.org and then contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 for transportation. It's always a great time for the kiddos!

♥ **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 29 –	Office Closed! (Memorial Day)
Tues., May 30 –	12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)
Wed., May 31 –	9:00 AM – CLA Chapel 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting
Thurs., June 1 –	10:30 AM – Pastor Alan to The Oaks 1:00-2:30 PM – Summer Craft Camp (Lighthouse) 6:00 PM – Property Team (library)
Fri., June 2 –	10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)
Sat., June 3 –	7:00 AM – Men In Mission (Lighthouse) 7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship
Next Sun., June 4 –	9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship 10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School 11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Monday, May 29, 2023 **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.

Wednesday, May 31, 2023 **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.

Thursday, June 1, 2023 **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.

Saturday, June 3, 2023 **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.

Saturday, June 3, 2023 **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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SERVICE OVERVIEW: GOD GIVES MORE THAN ENOUGH

Pentecost is the crowning achievement of the Jesus story. Now, more than ever, these huddled disciples would have just cause to sing the “*Dayenu*” (“It would have been enough”) verses from the Passover seder meal, but revised: It would have been enough for the Word and wisdom of God to have been born in the flesh. It would have been enough for the Word to grow to adulthood and share his stunning parables about God’s gracious activity in the world. It would have been enough for this Word to say to his enemies, “Father, forgive them.” It would have been enough for this Word to have died on a cross for us. It would have been enough that he rose again in blessing, not vengeance. But now, beyond what we would even expect - the Word becomes *our* word and it is written on our hearts at Pentecost. It is enough... *more than enough* to enflame our ministry of reconciliation in a world in need of a healing word.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Today we celebrate Pentecost, the fiftieth day of Easter. We keep the resurrection of Christ by celebrating the Spirit of the Risen Christ in our midst. Welcome to worship! Jesus Christ has not gone away, but is here with us. We stand to greet him as we hear him speak in the gospel reading, and we share in his body in the meal.

It is the first day of the week in today’s gospel, but to those locked away in the upper room in fear, the world is as it always has been. The disciples are so entrenched in grief and guilt that the Risen One in their midst needs to offer his life-giving invitation twice: “Peace be with you.” The logic of this new age is peace, not retribution; forgiveness, not vengeance. With the invitation to new life comes also the means: the gift of the Holy Spirit, breathed upon them and within them. Just as the Father sent Jesus into the world, so now are these disciples, and each one of us, sent as witnesses to God’s saving work.

Jesus’ instructions in the gospel can also be understood as, “*Any you hold fast are held fast.*” The mission of the disciples, and us, is to overcome violence by forgiveness. The creative Spirit empowers followers of Jesus to embrace or hold fast one another in forgiveness. In such an embrace we are transformed into a community of reconciliation that requires no scapegoating sacrifice to create or maintain it. At Pentecost, the Spirit enlivens the church to be the organizing body which “re-presents” Christ for the world. As such, Jesus’ followers now have the authority to continue the work of forgiving and embracing in Christ’s name, not merely in a metaphorical sense, but as lived reality.

Today we emphasize the dramatic ways the Holy Spirit shows up and unites us. The light of God that we received in baptism is that flame of the Holy Spirit. What does it look like for both you as an individual and all of us in the church to live from a place where we might interact in a profound way with the living God? Today is also our first day of the week – the day of the new creation.

KID STUDY:

Where do you see flames in worship? Do you see real fire and pictures of flames? We compare the Holy Spirit with fire because when the Pentecost story is told, the Spirit is described as a

“tongue of fire.” The Holy Spirit is here to unite us with everyone else, no matter how different or alike we are, and the fire is one way for us to remember to be excited about being Jesus’ hands and feet. When we know we are loved by God, we live as people of God by taking care of each other. What is your special gift you have to serve? If you don’t know, talk to your family, Pastor Alan, Deacon Sandye, or an adult leader to figure it out.

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

The Christian story of Pentecost is a story of wind and fire, our images for talking about God as spirit. Fire we can usually contain and put into our service, but fire can be an overzealous or unwelcome servant which consumes much more than we wish. No wonder that one of the oldest names for God in the Hebrew Scriptures translates to English as Consuming Fire. This Consuming Fire of the Spirit of God blew rushing and mightily upon the disciples and drove them out of Jerusalem, scattering them like seeds all over the earth, filling them with words which changed many lives but which eventually, if we can believe all the legends, got almost every last one of them killed. We often pray in words like those of J.S. Bach’s Pentecost cantata, “O eternal fire, kindle, ignite our hearts. Let the heavenly flames flare up and penetrate them, for we wish to be thy temple.” Do we who dwell in tents dare pray for wind and fire? The Spirit will hold us, and with sighs too deep for words she will breathe us back to life. The Spirit is ready, too, one day, when the tents which we are become burnt and ashes, to hold us in peace forever. Come, O eternal fire! - Frederick A. Niedner, Jr. [Frederick A. Niedner, Jr., in Homilies for the Christian People, 283-286.]

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Next Week’s Theme (June 3 & 4): Holy Trinity – The Great Commission – Go and Baptize to the ends of the Earth

Next Week’s Scriptures (June 3 & 4):

First Reading: Genesis 1:1--2:4a
“The creation of the heavens and the earth.”

Psalm: Psalm 8
“How majestic is your name in all the earth!” (Ps. 8:1)

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
“Paul’s farewell to the church at Corinth.”

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20
“Living in the community of the Trinity.”