

ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN

SPRING GROVE, PA

May 12, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Worship Service

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

201 S. Main Street, Spring Grove, PA 17362
717-225-3466

Rev. Alison Bowlan-Kurland, Pastor

pastor@stpaulchurchsg.com

Website: www.stpaulchurchsg.com

***Our Mission:
To Know Jesus and to Make Him Known***

Welcome to St. Paul Church! We pray the Lord will bless you through our worship this morning. If you are a visitor, please introduce yourself to Pastor Alison after the service.

Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion: We welcome all believers to the Lord's Table who believe the risen Lord Jesus is truly present in the sacrament for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. Children may commune at any time at the discretion of their parent/guardian.

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"Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring," from *With One Voice*, #759.

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7th Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2024

9:00 a.m.

* Stand (as able)

LBW *Lutheran Book of Worship* (green book)

WOV *With One Voice Songbook* (blue book)

NRSV *New Revised Standard Version Bible*

P: Pastor

C: Congregation

Prelude: *Musical Selections by Ian Hoke*

Welcome and Announcements

- Senior Recognition – page 17
- Reception of New Members
- Baptism of Weston Robert Miller



RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

- Keith, Crystal, Carter, Wyatt, and Benjamin Gayman
- Keith and Jennifer Senft
- Evelyn Hartsough

*Order for Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection

P: Most merciful God,

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: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn: *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* (LBW #367)

Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Hymn of Praise: *This is the Feast of Victory for our God*

The image shows a musical score for a hymn in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of eight staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [I] Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [II] Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [I] Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and". The score includes repeat signs and first/second endings.

join in the hymn of all crea - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and
 might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
 ☩ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☪ For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
 ☩ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***The Prayer of the Day**

P: Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm: Psalm 1

L: Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**C: Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

L: They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

**C: It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

L: Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**C: For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

Second Reading: 1 John 5:9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

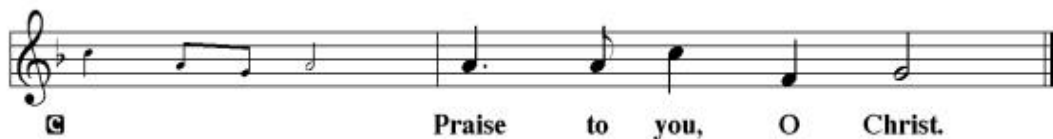
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 17th Chapter



Gospel: John 17:6-19

[Jesus prayed:] "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

P: The Gospel of the Lord!



Children's Message

Sermon

*Sermon Hymn: *How Firm a Foundation (LBW #507)*



Baptism of Weston Robert Miller

Prayers of the Church

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

Offertory: Selections by Ian Hoke

***Offering Hymn:** Let the Vineyards be Fruitful

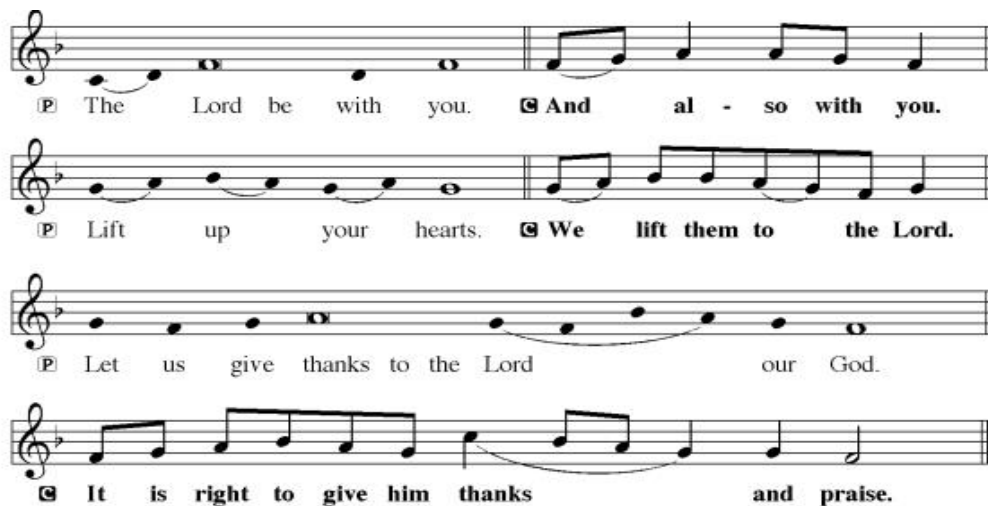
Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

P: Let us pray.

C: **Merciful Father, we offer with joy and Thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Liturgy of the Holy Communion



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you....
....we praise your name and join in their unending hymn.



☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
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.

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth...
...as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: ...Do this for remembrance of me.

P: And so we pray with confidence, as our Lord has taught us:

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.

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Communion Distribution**

All are welcomed forward to receive communion. Our ushers will dismiss each row to come forward and receive communion elements from the pastor. While coming forward to receive the elements, you are invited to take a communion cup from one of our acolytes. You will then receive bread from the pastor and wine or grape juice will be poured into the cup you previously received by a communion assistant.

Children are invited to receive at the discernment of their families. Any who would prefer not to partake are invited to come forward and receive a blessing from the pastor. You may signal this by crossing your arms across your chest.



*Communion Hymns

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

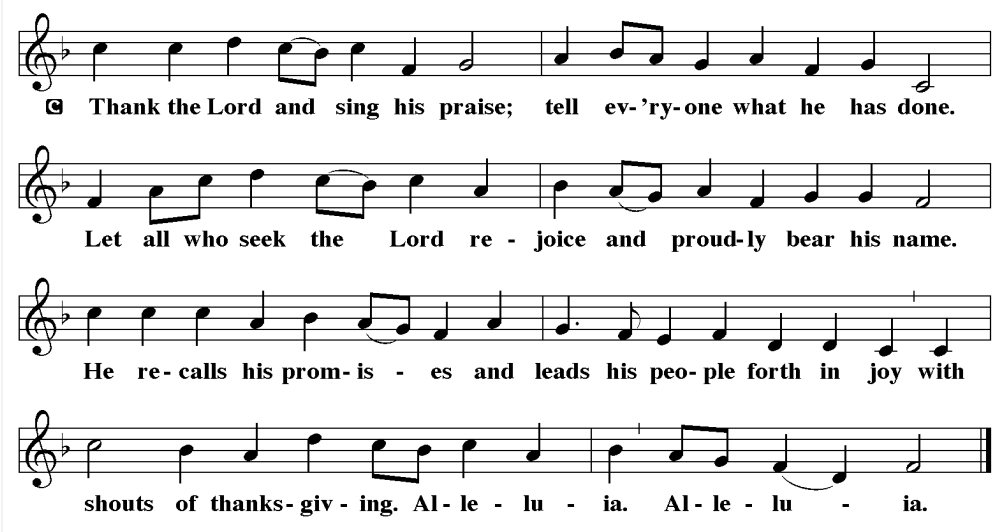
○ **Hymn #200 (LBW)** *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

○ **Hymn #370 (LBW)** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

*Post-Communion Canticle



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

Let all who seek 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.

*Post-Communion Prayer and Blessing:

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn: Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise (WOV #801)

BENEDICTION BY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALTAR FLOWERS in memory of our parents, Fay and Wayne Wagaman,
by their children and grandchildren.

ALTAR FLOWERS in memory and honor of all mothers, by the Marks family.

BULLETINS are in honor of the baptism anniversary of Everly Grace Hoover
and William Scott King, by Scott and Sandy Hoover.

COMMUNION ELEMENTS are in memory of our grandmothers,
by Mike and Tom Reichard.

WORSHIP AIDES

Acolytes: Titus Bowlan, Simon Bowlan

Audio/Visual Team: Michael Kurland

Communion Assistants: Hal Edris, Emily Wryk

Lector: Hal Edris

Music: Ian Hoke

Ushers - Captain: Brian Artz

CARING CORNER

Each week the Visitation Committee will share a name, number & address for you to reach out and send a card to and let someone know that you are praying for them:

Sue Smith, 205 Shady Lane, Suite 300, Manchester, PA 17345

PRAYER LIST

Tom Leese
Mary Jane Boone
Jonathan Sebring
Jason Myers
George Smith
Sue Smith
Tasha Aumen
Steve Ealy, Jr.
Irelyn Sprengle and family
Harper Leese
Bill Thoman
Elliott Leonard
Kathy Godfrey
Jesse Betlyon
Pat Berkheimer (cancer)
Barb Gault
Sheila Geuvin
Lou Long
Steve Tiehel
Sara Smith
Larry Hamby
Robyn Jirsa
Christine Smith
Doug Ewing
Sandy Mummert
Jan Hersh (heart problems)
Mary Kessler
Tom Uffelman
Scott Wisner (brain cancer)
Sue Smith
Sally Hoover (illness)

LECTIONARY/LESSONS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024

Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY ST. PAUL'S CLASS OF 2024



May 12, 2024



Michael Lee Hershey II

Michael plans to attend the University of Maryland majoring in finance and to play football.



Zach Smith

Zach is going to Millersville University in the fall for media arts production.

*We wish our graduates God's Blessings
as they begin a new chapter in their lives.*

FINANCE NEWS

This financial information shows the total receipts and expenses for the general fund for the current calendar year, as well as the current deficit or surplus.

Please forward any questions to Amy at Amy.Thompson@stpaulchurchsg.com

General Fund Summary March 2024

Total Revenues	*124,363.04
Total Expenditures	132,661.68

Net	-8,298.64
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*This amount includes \$15,000 transferred from the Reserve Fund to ensure the church had cash available to pay for the second and third floor fire alarm project, which totaled \$28,500. This project was paid for in March of 2024.

GIVE ELECTRONICALLY TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF ST. PAUL

Did you want to contribute during the offering today, but you have no cash or check? Scan the QR Code below to go straight to the St. Paul Electronic Giving Page. Thank you so much for contributing to the ministry happening at St. Paul Lutheran!

If you would like help setting up recurring giving, please contact Amy Thompson at Amy.Thompson@stpaulchurchsg.com or by phone at 484-336-4077.



PLANT SALE - MISSION, SERVICE & OUTREACH

- **Thank you** to all who helped with and supported our Plant Sale on Sunday! Because of the generous donations from Cashman's Hardware and the congregation, there was a variety of plant selections for all of our eager gardeners. The profit from the sale was \$408.00 and will help support the Mission, Service, & Outreach projects. Happy gardening!
 - Thank you to all who donated coffee and tea for veterans who are served by the local Roots for Boots organization. The coffee and tea along with several walker bags from our quilters will be delivered next week.
-
-

PENTECOST GERANIUMS

Thank you to all those who sponsored red geraniums which will decorate the church on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. *A list of dedications will be in the May 19 bulletin.*

If you purchased Pentecost geraniums, you may take them home after worship on Pentecost Sunday or leave them to be planted on the church lawn.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE ALUMINUM TAB COLLECTION

We are collecting aluminum tabs from cans and will donate them to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA. The funds generated from recycling these tabs help support the Ronald McDonald House programs and services. The mission of Ronald McDonald House is to keep families together, inspire strength, and give comfort and support to families whose children are receiving essential medical care. Donation containers will be in the Fellowship Hall. When everyone “pulls” together, you can make a difference!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING – TUESDAY, MAY 21

The Historical Society will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall.
Tuesday, May 21, at 7:00 p.m. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!



Church Office Hours

Memorial Day thru Labor Day

Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

SPONSORS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

VBS will be held from June 10th to the 14th, and we are so excited to welcome our kids and kids from our local community into the church for a week of fun, learning, and friendship. We are hoping to find fifty \$25 sponsors to help offset the cost of the VBS this year. Envelopes are hanging along the bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to sponsor a kid (or kids) for VBS, please take an envelope and return it with \$25 to the offering plate any Sunday morning in May or June. Thank you so much for your support of our kids here at St. Paul!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

St. Paul Church is excited to announce that registration for Vacation Bible School is now open! **June 10-14, 9:00-11:30 a.m. / Kindergarten thru Grade 6**

To register, scan the QR Code:



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

EVENTS:

- **All Church Sunday School Year End Celebration - May 19 at 11:30 a.m.**
All Church Invited – dress comfortably to church, ready to play wiffle ball
(Rain backup – Bible Trivia in Fellowship Hall)
 - **Last day of Sunday School** – May 19
 - **York Revolution Game** – All Church Event – Wednesday, June 26, arrive at 6:00 p.m.
 - **Vacation Bible School** – Monday, June 10, thru Friday, June 14, from 9:00-11:30 a.m.
-
-



All Church Event:

YORK REVOLUTION GAME – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

St. Paul Night at the Revs open to all ages!!

To purchase tickets (\$12 each), scan the QR code or click the link below. After the website opens, you must scroll down and click on our logo for our church to get credit for the ticket sale!!

The poster features a dark blue background with a grid of white dots in the top left corner. The title "ST. PAUL NIGHT AT THE REVS" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below the title are the logos for the York Revolution (a blue duck) and the Long Island Ducks (an orange duck), separated by "VS". Underneath the logos, the text reads: "\$12 A TICKET", "WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH, 6:30 PM", "IF WE SELL 50 TICKETS, \$5 PER TICKET WILL BE DONATED BACK TO THE CHURCH!", and "GATES OPEN AT 5:30". Below this, it says "ARRIVE BY 6:00 TO SEE OUR CHILDREN'S CHOIR SEE THE NATIONAL ANTHEM!". On the right side, it says "Click on our logo!!". At the bottom, there is a QR code on the left, a large white baseball with red stitching in the center, and a logo for St. Paul Episcopal Lutheran Church on the right, which includes the text "St. Paul" and "June 26".

Link to purchase tickets (you must click on our logo after going to this link): [York Revolution Group Theme Nights](#)

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP: St. Paul Playgroup is held every Wednesday from 10:00-11:30 a.m. on the third floor. To join the St. Paul Playgroup email list, scan the QR Code below:



IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

TODAY, MAY 12 – Mother's Day

Senior Recognition, New Members Received and Baptism of Weston Miller

9:00 a.m. Worship - Children's Choir

9:00 a.m. "LIVE Stream Worship Online" Worship available through YouTube Live

Fellowship Hour – Fellowship Hall

10:30-10:45 a.m. Children's Choir Practice – Pre-K thru 4th Grade – 3rd Floor

SUNDAY SCHOOL: - Last day of Sunday School will be May 19

Youth Sunday School (5th -12th grade) – meets on 3rd floor immediately after worship until 11:00

10:30 a.m. Young Adult Forum (faith and family) – 2nd Floor Conference Room

10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School – Parlor on 1st Floor

10:30 a.m. Forum Class (current events and faith) – 1st Floor Conference Room (Lemon Lounge)

10:45-11:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School (Age 2 w/ parents thru pre-k) - Pineapple Rm -3rd

10:45-11:30 a.m. Childrens' Sunday School (K-4) - Kiwi Room – 3rd floor

MONDAY, MAY 13

1:00 p.m. Finance Committee – 1st floor conference room

6:30 p.m. All Committee Night – Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, MAY 14

10:00 a.m. Bible Study – Parlor

11:00 a.m. Lunch Bunch at Genova's in Spring Grove

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

10:00 a.m. Playgroup

7:00 p.m. Traditional Choir Practice

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 12, 2024

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

United in Christ

The concept of the Trinity, one God, three in one, one in three, can be a little hard, sometimes, to get ahold of. But perhaps what scripture's witness to the Trinity boils down to is this: Jesus is in constant communication, continual, active relationship with the Father. The Father is in constant communication, continual, active relationship with the Son. And the Spirit is in and with and between both, always its own presence, but always, nonetheless, one in active relationship, one in ceaseless communication, with both the Father and the Son. Jesus prays that we may be "one" in the same fashion.

Conflict happens in the body of Christ all the time. Sometimes it is over matters of great significance: how we read scripture, how we are to conduct our lives, how the church is to think and act as it comes head-to-head with the constant pull and tug of the culture within and around it. Sometimes the conflict is personal. We resist the neighbor, and worse, out of hurt, anger, and anxiety. Sometimes the conflict can seem to be over a matter of pure nonsense: which way pickles should be sliced, and why they should be sliced that way.

Where and how, then, is our hope of being "one," as our Lord has so prayed?

It is in this: whatever our conflict, we belong to one another. Whatever our conflict, we are called to work at staying in active relationship, honest communication. We are not one, finally, when the issues between us wane, or cease. We are one because the Lord of life holds us together in the promise of his love even when powerful forces, at one and the same time, pull us apart. We are one because the body and blood of Christ have been given to each of us, and all of us.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor	Rev. Alison Bowlan-Kurland	717-381-1393
Church Musician	Ian Hoke	667-207-0550
Parish Administrator	Sandra Moler	717-225-3466
Financial Administrator	Amy Thompson	484-336-4077
Director of Faith and Family Ministries	Amy Thompson	484-336-4077
Council President	Karen Myers	717-495-5117

