

SPRING GROVE, PA

May 5, 2024 9:00 a.m. Worship Service

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

201 S. Main Street, Spring Grove, PA 17362 717-225-3466 **Pastor: Rev. Alison Bowlan-Kurland** pastor@stpaullutheranchurchsg.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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Sixth Sunday of Easter May 5, 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: PastorC: Congregation

Prelude: *Musical Selections by Ian Hoke* **Welcome and Announcements**

- Senior Recognition pages 18-19
- The red rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of Nicholas Theodore Michalisin, Jr. born on April 25, son of Nick and Meghan Michalisin and brother to big sister Vivian.

*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 \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (LBW #551)*

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 Prayer of the Day

- P: O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

- L: The Word of the Lord
- C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm: Psalm 98

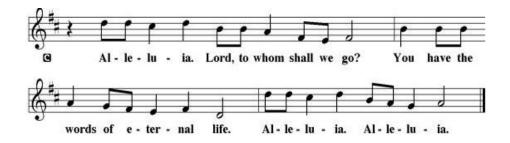
- L: Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.
- C: O Lord, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- L: You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- C: Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- L: Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.
- C: With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the Lord.
- L: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.
- C: Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.
- L: The Lord will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

- L: The Word of the Lord
- C: Thanks be to God!



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15th Chapter



Gospel: John 15:9-17

[Jesus said:] As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

P: The Gospel of the Lord!



Children's Message Sermon *Sermon Hymn: I Come with Joy (ELW #482).....bulletin page #27

- P: Let us Confess the faith of the Church with the Apostles' Creed.
- C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

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.

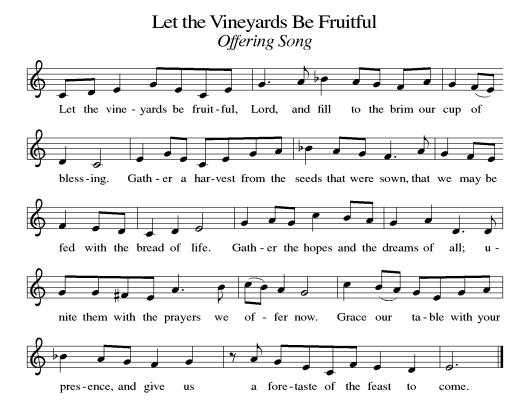
*Passing of the Peace

- P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.
- C: And also with you.

Offering

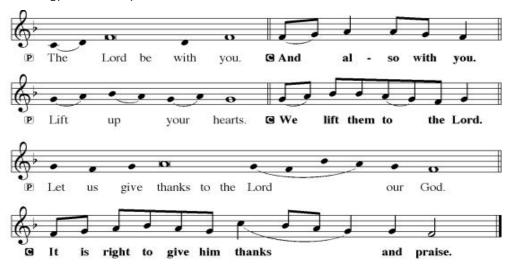
Anthem: Traditional Choir / Pick Up Choir

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



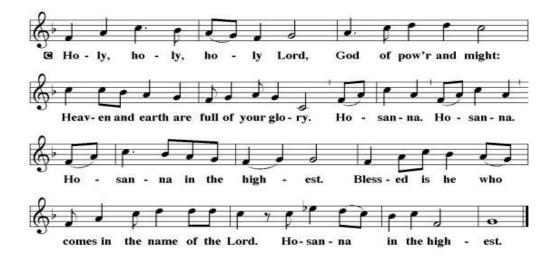
- P: Let us pray.
- C: Merciful Father, we offer with joy and Thanksgiving what you have first given us ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Liturgy of the Holy Communion



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.



- 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.

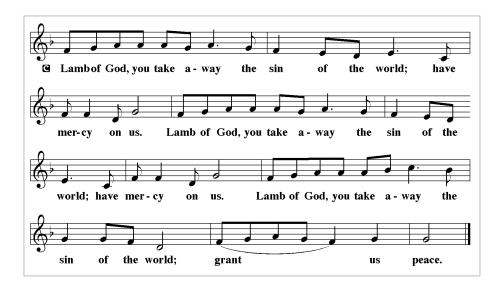
***Communion Distribution**

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.



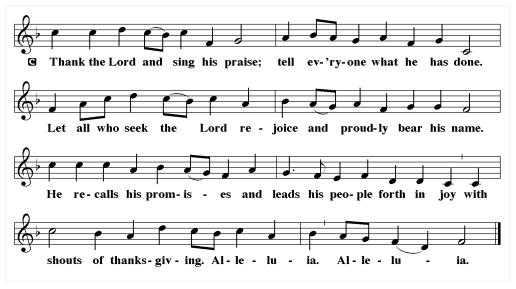
***Communion Hymns**



• Hymn #518 (LBW) Beautiful Savior

• Hymn #439 (LBW) What a Friend We Have in Jesus

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



*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.
- C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn: Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing (LBW #363)

*Dismissal

- P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

ALTAR FLOWERS in memory of Chuck and Louis Hayes, by Ann Hayes.

ALTAR FLOWERS in memory of our mother, Joy Glatfelter, by the family.

BULLETINS are in honor of our granddaughter's Allison's birthday, by Tim and Kathy Gladfelter.

COMMUNION ELEMENTS are in honor of our sons', Chad and Travis, birthdays, by Tim and Kathy Gladfelter.

WORSHIP AIDES

Acolytes: Ava Plummer, Audrey Plummer Audio/Visual Team: Michael Kurland Communion Assistants: Ann Hayes, Tina Becker Lector: Ann Hayes Music: Ian Hoke Ushers - Captain: Jim Gingerich

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:

Jean Thieret, 2288 Grandview Road, Hanover, PA 17331

PRAYER LIST

Dennis Grimes Tasha Aumen Steve Ealy, Jr. Irelyn Sprenkle and family Harper Leese **Diane** Lepson **Bill Thoman** Elliott Leonard Kathy Godrey 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 12, 2024

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19

PLANT SALE TODAY

Mission, Service, & Outreach is planning a Plant Sale fundraiser today in the Fellowship Hall. The Plant Sale will be a good opportunity to purchase a variety of inexpensive plants just in time for spring planting. Proceeds from the plant sale will help fund Mission, Service, and Outreach projects. If you have questions, contact Brenda Bowersox.

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!

PENTECOST FLOWERS - Orders due May 6

Pentecost Sunday is May 19 and again this year we are offering red geranium flower dedications. If you wish to remember loved ones or honor someone special in your life, St. Paul is taking orders for RED geraniums in 4 ½ inch foiled pots (each \$5.50) which will be placed in the church for worship service on Pentecost Sunday. Order forms are available in the Fellowship Hall and the church office.

A complete list of the dedications will be included in the worship bulletins on Pentecost Sunday.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR ORDER FORM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE, **NO LATER THAN MONDAY, MAY 6,** make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church and specify "Pentecost flowers" in the memo line.

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.

SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY May 5, 2024



Ava Plummer

Ava will be attending Slippery Rock University in the Fall. She plans to major in Developmental Psychology.



Cameron Shane Smith

Cameron will be working at the family business after graduation.

ST. PAUL'S CLASS OF 2024





Austin T. Ural

Austin's plans after graduation... taking a 5-week trip with his best friend to drive cross country and visit the lower 48 states. In the fall, Austin will attend York College where he will major in Mechanical Engineering.

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

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!

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 <u>Amy.Thompson@stpaullutheranchurchsg.com</u>

General Fund Sur	nmary
March 2024	
Total Revenues	*124,363.04
Total Expenditures	132,661.68
Net	-8,298.64
*This amount includes \$15, the Reserve Fund to ensure available to pay for the seco alarm project, which totaled was paid for in March of 202	the church had cash ond and third floor fire I \$28,500. This project

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 <u>Amy.Thompson@stpaullutheranchurchsg.com</u> or by phone at 484-336-4077.



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

St. Paul Church is excited to announce that registration for Vacation Bible School is 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)
- o 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.



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

TOILET PAPER ROLLS NEEDED!

Amy is looking for donations of empty toilet paper rolls for a May playgroup craft. There will be a box on the stage to collect the empty rolls starting Sunday, April 28th.

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:





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!!



Link to purchase tickets (you must click on our logo after going to this link): <u>York Revolution Group Theme Nights</u>

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

TODAY, MAY 5 – Senior Recognition

9:00 a.m. Worship - Traditional Choir9:00 a.m. "LIVE Stream Worship Online" Worship available through YouTube Live

Fellowship Hour – Fellowship Hall (PLANT SALE TODAY)

10:30 a.m. BECOME A DEMENTIA FRIEND PRESENTATION – 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 6 Pentecost Flower Orders due to the Church office (No Scout meeting)

TUESDAY, MAY 7 10:00 a.m. Bible Study – Parlor

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 10:00 a.m. Playgroup No Choir Practice

THURSDAY, MAY 9

(6:00-8:00 p.m. Scouts meeting – 1st floor conference room)

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 5, 2024 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER The Unconditional Love of Disciple-Friends

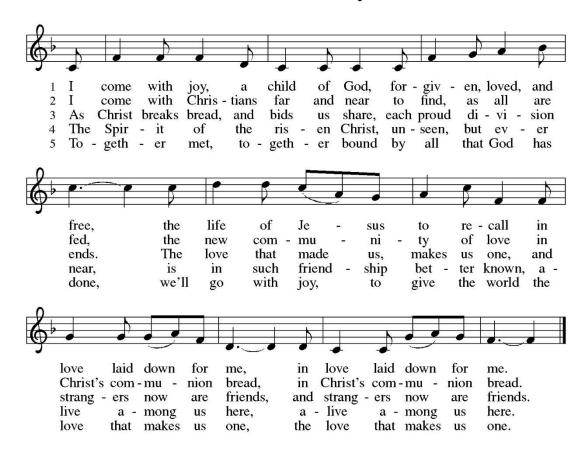
Friend requests are a common feature of Facebook and similar digital platforms. When it comes to social media, "friends" are just a click away. But there is no automatic guarantee of accountability, warmth, relationship, or true belonging in a virtual community. In stark contrast, Jesus invites the disciples to become part of a community where selfless, sacrificial, unconditional agape love is the core criterion. The kingdom, or "kin-dom," of God is present wherever God's people are affirmed as children of God and siblings in Christ. But Jesus gives his disciples an additional identity: that of "friends."

In the new status Jesus confers on his disciples, the single most important criterion is love, including the readiness to lay down one's life for another. Jesus has just taught this lesson by example when he washed the feet of his disciples, including Judas Iscariot. The new commandment to love one another as Jesus loved us summarizes the whole of the gospel mandate. It is not an easy commandment by any human standards, but it is possible because Jesus himself showed us the way and forgives us when we fall short. The status of "disciple-friends" is not a request for the church, but a faith mandate.

How can we live as disciple-friends of Jesus in this world? When we believe, trust, obey, and follow the word, and the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples, a real new community is born. When we learn to embrace the other—those who are marginalized and "othered"—we partner with God in enabling the image of God to blossom to its fullest.

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I Come with Joy



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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