

St. Paul's Lutheran Church 6 Easter May 14, 2023

PRELUDE *"Morning Has Broken" and
 "Whisper a Prayer" (Children hand chimes)*

RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEDICATION OF CANDLEABRAS AND TABERNACLE

PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES AND DEVOTIONALS

Bibles

Eva Neukam

Reeve Potts

Elin Ruhe

Kix Smith

Will Werner

Devotionals

Max Holt

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, by whose
hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we
are given new life.

C Amen.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

C Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C Amen.

OPENING HYMN *“Jesus Loves Me & “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”*

GREETING

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



B Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through 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 17:22-31

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in

every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have

the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20

(Refrain: Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.)

⁸Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

C ⁹Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip. *(Refrain)*

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

C ¹¹You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

C ¹³I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

C ¹⁵I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats. *(Refrain)*

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

C ¹⁷I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

C ¹⁹but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

C *(Refrain)*

(Refrain: Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.)

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the

right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows

him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The gospel of the Lord.



HERITAGE SUNDAY PRESENTATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN SING

“The B-I-B-L-E”

“Down in My Heart”

“Zacchaeus”

SERMON

Bishop Bill Gafkjen

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Jesus in the Morning”

APOSTLE'S CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. 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 INTERCESSION

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

God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving. *(We pray especially for Keith Freyberger, Dennis Hautsch, Eugene Keller, Conner Kempf, Zach Leinenbach, Stacey Himsel-Matelic, Dennis Neukam, Sue Neukam, Kayden Parker, Steve Rothgerber, Annette Schepers, Becky Seibert, Calvin Seitz, Jr., Jim Seitz, Mary Sendelweck, Joe Shelton and all those we name before you either silently or aloud.)* Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

We pray that you guide the military serving to protect us. Grant them safety and wisdom to carry out their assigned duties. *(We pray especially for Austin Breitwieser, Luke Himself, Joshua Hoffman, Nathan Humbert and Cooper Uebelhor.)* Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

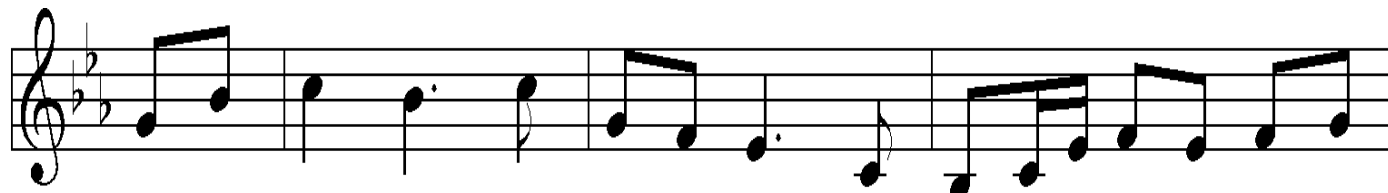
The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *"Engelberg"* *Handbell Choir*

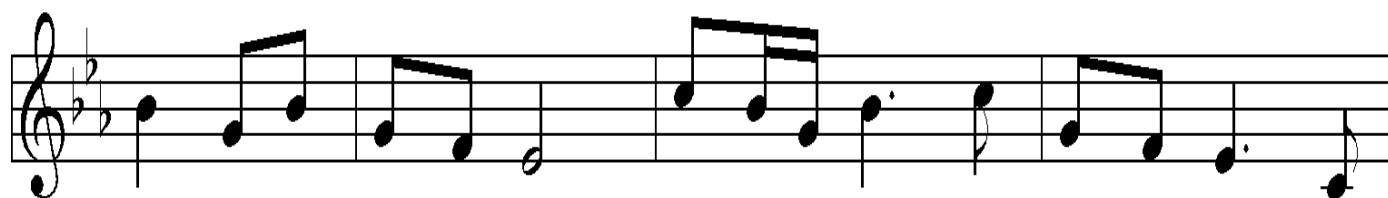
OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-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 dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION

All who are baptized are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Children who have not yet received instruction about Holy Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. As you approach the communion assistant, the first will hand you the bread. Take and eat it. Then take a communion cup from the acolyte. The second communion assistant will pour the wine into your cup. After you have taken the wine, place your empty cup in the tray table beside the pillar.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

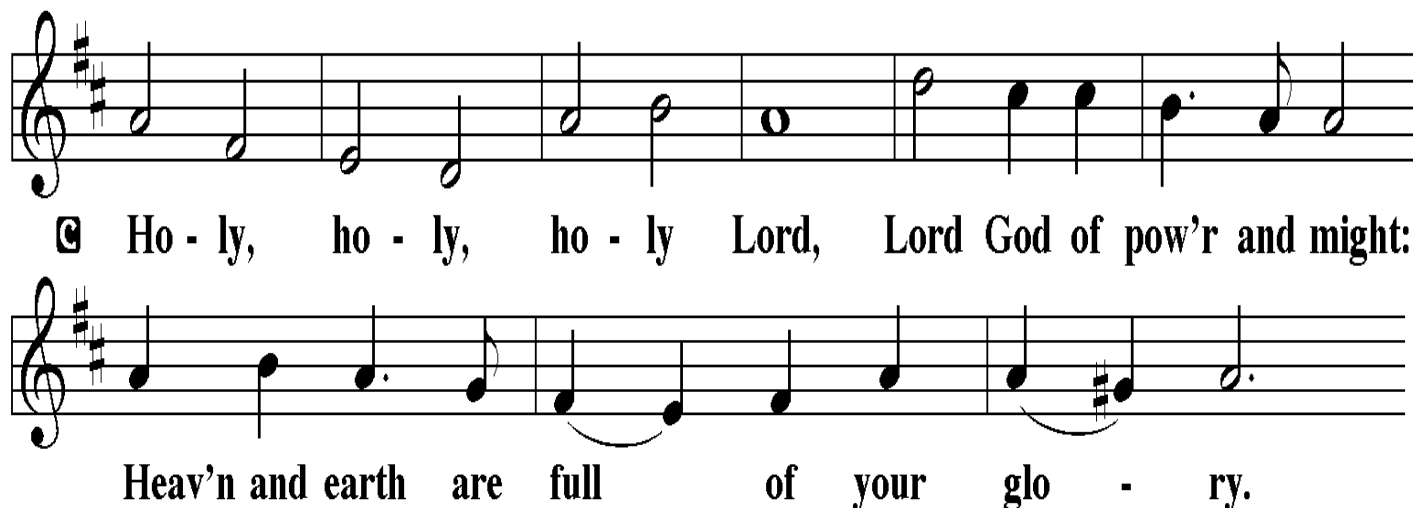
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and ever-living God, but chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim, and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD



C 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.



COMMUNION HYMNS

LBW 315 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

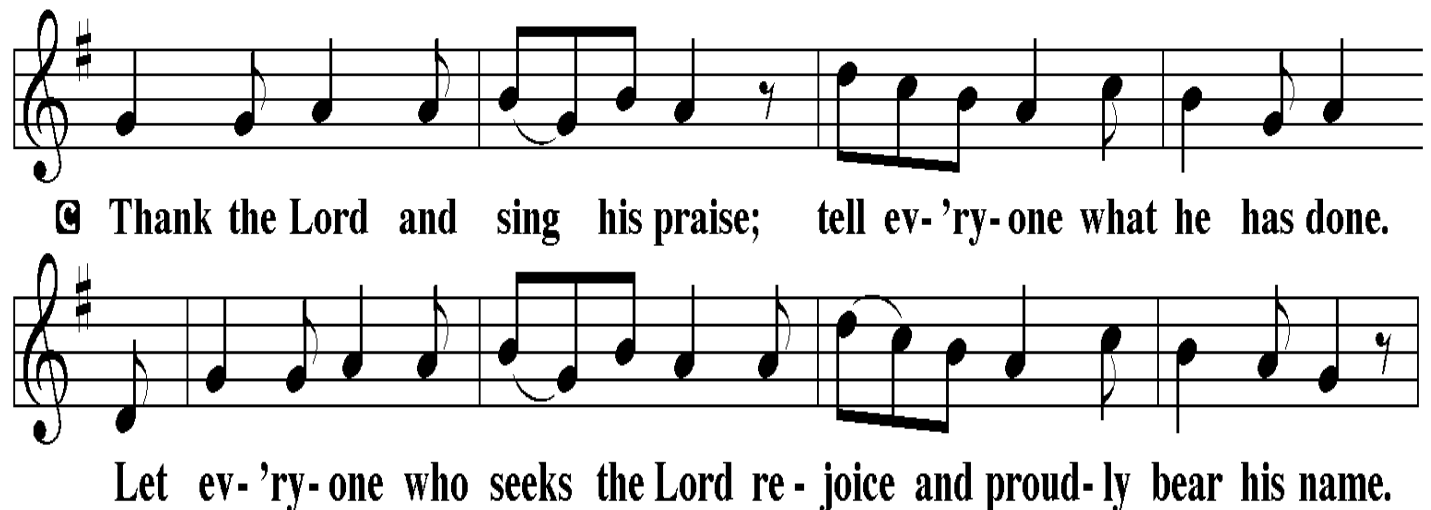
WOV 738 "Healer of Our Every Ill"

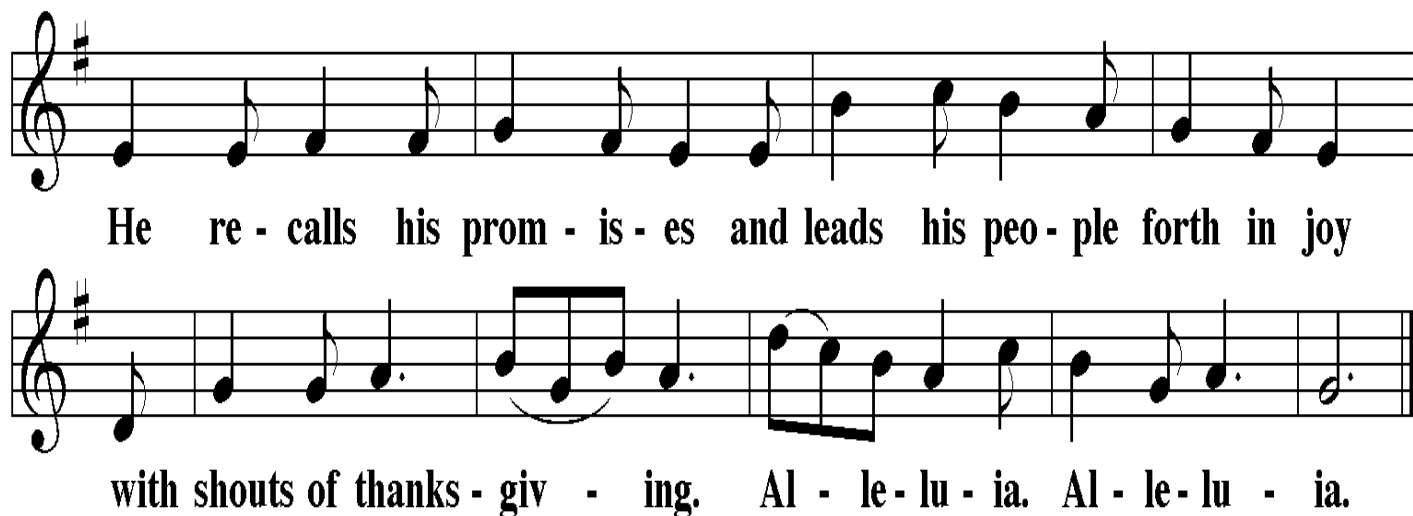
WOV 733 "Our Father, We Have Wandered"

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

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE





PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray

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. Amen.

BLESSING

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.

SENDING HYMN

*WOV 721 "Go, My Children,
with My Blessing"*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mission Statement: *Worship Boldly, Empower for Discipleship,
Cultivate Spiritual Maturity, Strengthen Community, Serve.*

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175th Anniversary Heritage Sunday Spotlight

Darlene Ziegler

In the fall of 1977 Darlene Ziegler, then Children's Choir Director, went to Pastor Schroeder to inquire about any churches in the area which had handbells. She wanted to borrow 3 bells to use for an anthem the choir was working on. Pastor Schroeder said he had a better idea. He would see if someone in the congregation would be willing to purchase a set (25 bells) for the church. He contacted Oscar and Clara Hoffman. After much discussion, they agreed to purchase a set for the congregation thinking they were similar to the cow bells used on Hee-Haw, a popular TV show at the time. The bells arrived in October and Pastor Schroeder wanted to dedicate them at Christmas. We threw a choir together with eight members of the confirmation class and played one hymn on Christmas Eve. Those members were Marilyn (Hoffman) Bredhold, Barbara (Buchta) Schnarr, Kim (Fuhrman) Olry, Sheila Weisheit, Gregg Lottes, Brad Schroeder, Tim Hoffman and Jeff Schmitt. Marilyn Bredhold and Barbara Schnarr are still members of the handbell choir today. In June, Darlene attended a week-long workshop at Pokagon State Park in Angola, IN to learn how to ring handbells properly. This was the beginning of the handbell choir we currently have at St. Paul's. The choir has had three directors since its inception: Darlene Ziegler, Arlene Vonderheide and currently Barbara Dell.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR YOUR SERVICE TODAY:

Greeters: Ron & Debbie Bauer
Comm. Asst: John Potts
Video: Lori Keller
Organist: Arlene Vonderheide
Lay Reader: Sunday School Kids
Audio: Keith Keller
Acolytes: Jaxson & Caroline Kellar

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 112 SS: 13

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF May 14th – May 21st, 2023

Sun. May 14 th	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service (Mother's Day) <i>(Heritage Sunday with Bishop Gafkjen)</i> <i>(Distribution of Bibles and Devotionals)</i> <i>(Scholarship Award)</i>
Mon. May 15 th	-----	<i>Senior Spotlights Due</i>
Wed. May 17 th	6:30 PM	Joint Ascension Eve Service <i>(at Christ Lutheran)</i>
Sun. May 21 st	7:30 AM 9:00 AM	Church Council Meeting Sunday Worship Service

ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are presented in honor of Heritage Sunday by the 175th Anniversary Committee.

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We would like to extend a sincere thank you to several people for their generous donations. To the Wening and Ruckriegel families for the donation of the new candles and candelabras on the altar. These were purchased in memory of Ioma (Sendelweck) Wening and Lovella (Sendelweck) Ruckriegel. Also, a to Mary Ann Jerger for the donation of a tabernacle. These donations are very much appreciated!

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Newsletter Correction: Oops! The Evangelism Committee will not be setting up a photo station for Mother's Day this year. We apologize for any confusion.

.....

St. Paul's will be doing the senior spotlight section again this year in the June newsletter. If you have a high school or college senior graduating in 2023, ***please submit a small article with a picture by Monday, May 15th***. Pictures and articles can be submitted by hard copy or email. Please bring them to the church office or email them to: secretaryst.paul@frontier.com

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On Sunday, April 23rd, there was a special congregational meeting to discuss the purchase of a new sound system for the sanctuary. A motion was approved during the meeting to move forward with that purchase. Donation envelopes have been made and are available in the narthex and welcome center if you would like to make a contribution to this project.

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The Women of the ELCA received two-\$250 action team Visa cards from Thrivent. One card was used to purchase batting for the baby quilt project and the other to purchase items for personal care kits. With the Thrivent action team Visa card and your donations, 78 personal card kits will be donated to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to Thrivent and the congregation for your continued support.

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The Anniversary Committee has added more photographs highlighting 2023 events to the Welcome Center. All the positive comments are greatly appreciated.

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St. Paul's 175th Anniversary Celebration to continue on Sunday, May 14th

St. Paul's will welcome Rev. Dr. William O. Gafkjen, Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to our worship on Sunday, May 14. The appearance by the bishop is in honor of our 175th Anniversary celebration in 2023.

Bill Gafkjen has served as bishop for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod since 2010. The eight years before that he served as Assistant to the Bishop. Before joining the Indiana-Kentucky Synod staff in 2002, Bill served as pastor and campus pastor for ministries and congregations in Minnesota, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. Our May 14 worship will be hosted by the Christian Education Committee with special roles in the service being led by youth of the congregation.



William Gafkjen is the Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He is also chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, a group that includes the 65 Synod Bishops as well as the Presiding Bishop and Secretary of the denomination. The Conference advises the Presiding Bishop on matters of church policy and planning, ecumenical and inter-religious relations, and the mission and ministry of Lutheran pastors. Prior

to his election as Bishop, Bill served as pastor to congregations in Minnesota, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. He also has experience as a campus pastor, serving in Lutheran Campus Ministry at Pennsylvania State University. Bill is currently a member of the St. Olaf College Board of Regents. He earned his bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College, his M.Div. from Luther Theological Seminary, and his D.Min. from Columbia Theological Seminary.

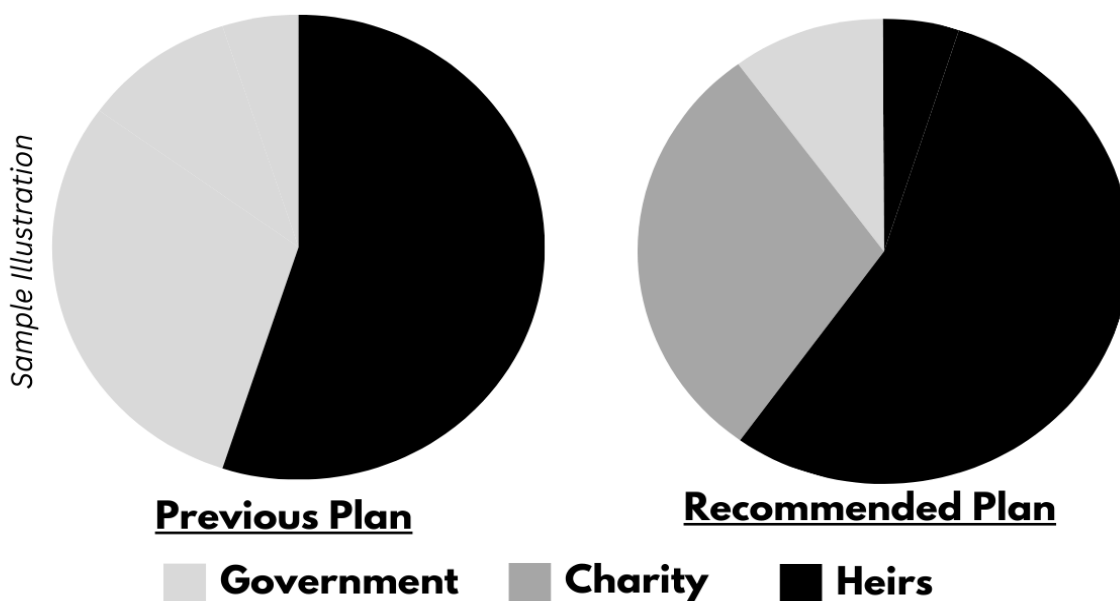
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Sponsored by the Little Company of Mary Sisters - USA

If you could leave money to your favorite charity, such as St. Paul's, or give it to the government in taxes... what would you choose?

Did you know that the Memorial Hospital Foundation offers complimentary values-based estate planning services for community members? Even if you have an estate plan in place, read on to see if it would make sense for a free second opinion.

PREVIOUS PLAN TO RECOMMENDED ESTATE PLAN



Thompson & Associates developed their comprehensive planning process over several decades. The process helps you create a thoughtful estate plan that transfers assets to people you love and the causes you support. This often uncovers ways in which you can secure your future, provide for loved ones, and self-direct all or part of your estate that otherwise would have been collected as tax. This is a no-strings attached, confidential process that is paid for by the Memorial Hospital Foundation as a community benefit. The lawyer from Thompson & Associates will act as your coach and will provide a comprehensive recommendation that you can take to your own lawyer or advisor to make active. It typically takes 5-6 meetings (one meeting/month) to complete the process.

If you're interested or would like to learn more, please contact Deidra Church: 812-996-8426 or dchurch@mhhcc.org.



**American
Red Cross**

Community of Giving

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Blood Drive

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

St. Paul's Fellowship Hall

556 W. Haysville Rd.

Jasper, IN 47546

*(at the corner of 231 and Haysville Rd. by the flashing
yellow light)*

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

© The American Red Cross 2023

On March 31st many tornadoes wreaked havoc across many states including Indiana. There is a Christian based organization in Vincennes called “Helping His Hands” that specialize in immediate disaster response, to regions and people stricken by natural disasters, followed by continual aid in their journey of rebuilding. The council was approached last Sunday about collecting items for “Helping His Hands” and have already given \$250 to purchase items needed. The items purchased were 10 cases of bottled water, trash bags, sponges, wire brushes, scrub brushes, rubber gloves and Lysol disinfectant. These items have already been delivered to Sullivan, IN. For the next few weeks there will be a tub by the welcome center if you would like to donate items. We will be focusing on items for hygiene kits and kids’ activity kits. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Rasche. **Last day to donate is Sunday, May 14th.**

Hygiene Kits

hand towels, wash cloth, comb, razor, nail file, bar of soap, tooth brush, tooth paste (4-7 oz.) band-aids, deodorant, after shave lotion, shaving cream, feminine sanitary napkins, travel size facial tissues, travel size shampoo and conditioner

Kids Activity Kits

coloring books, crayons, activity books, stickers, small stuffed animals, baby dolls.

In Service to Our Country

Austin Breitwieser

AM-1 Luke Himsel

Joshua Hoffman

Maj. Nathan Humbert

Cooper Uebelhor

San Antonio, TX

Virginia Beach, VA

Washington (*State*)

Fort Campbell, KY

Colorado Springs, CO