# **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH** 701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

# **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

Growing in faith. Growing in community. Welcoming all in Jesus' name.

#### **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** 10 AM Service of Sunday, October 20, 2024 **Holy Communion**

Today's gospel starts with disciples obsessing over who will be closest to Jesus, leading to Jesus teaching his followers about God's take on importance and power. Here Jesus makes it explicit that the reversal of values in God's community is a direct challenge to the values of the dominant culture, where wielding power over others is what makes you great. When we pray "your kingdom come" we are praving for an end to tyranny and oppression. We pray this gathered around the cross,



a sign of great shame transformed to be the sign of great honor and service.

# Catch the excitement! Witness the joy! Shape the vision!

ST. PAUL'S VISION STATEMENT (adopted 02/25/2018)

- To worship as a diverse community of all ages •
- To engage in faith formation as a community grounded in God's word •
- To maintain with depth and integrity the work of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless
- To nurture a strong foundation of generosity, giving, and caring for creation
- To provide a music ministry that encompasses congregation and surrounding • communities

# Worship at Home and Away

When we cannot be together in person, we can still hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Therefore, we offer the 10 AM service through simultaneous live streaming St. Paul's Facebook page. The service is then posted to the website, to www.stpaulsnewarkde.org and can be found in the upper right hand corner of the home page, along with a digital copy of this worship folder, as well as a copy of the sermon.

Large print worship folders and hearing assistance devices are available in the narthex. Ask an usher for assistance. A Prayground is available for young children in the rear of the sanctuary.

#### ✤ GATHERING ✤

Worship begins with God who takes the initiative and calls us into being. We gather at the Holy Spirit's invitation and assemble as the community of faith on the first day of the week, the day of Christ's resurrection.

Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.

The sanctuary doors will be closed as worship begins with the prelude.

| PRELUDE | "O Master, Let Me Walk with You" | Emily Maxson Porter |
|---------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
|         | MARYTON                          |                     |

# WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

# **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

#### Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ,

the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

#### Amen.

**ENTRANCE HYMN** 



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806



#### **GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

#### 🕸 WORD 🕸

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

#### FIRST READING

### Isaiah 53:4-12

The suffering servant

A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. <sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed, and was afflicted, yet did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a ewe that is silent before the shearers, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup>By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. <sup>9</sup>They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. <sup>11</sup>Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

#### **RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 91:9-16

Antiphon: Ps. 91:9

You have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation. You have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation.

<sup>9</sup>Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,
<sup>10</sup>no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.
<sup>11</sup>For God will give the angels charge | over you, to guard you in | all your ways.
<sup>12</sup>Upon their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.

# You have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation.

<sup>13</sup>You will tread upon the lion cub and viper; you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
<sup>14</sup>I will deliver those who cling to me; I will uphold them, because they know my name.
<sup>15</sup>They will call me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.
<sup>16</sup>With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

# You have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation.

# SECOND READING Hebrews 5:1-10

Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation

A reading from Hebrews:

<sup>1</sup>Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. <sup>2</sup>The high priest is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; <sup>3</sup>and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. <sup>4</sup>And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

<sup>5</sup>So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,

today I have begotten you";

<sup>6</sup>as God says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever,

according to the order of Melchizedek."

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Alleluia! from the

Peter S. Klemp

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.





#### HOLY GOSPEL

#### Mark 10:35-45

Warnings to ambitious disciples

# The Gospel according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>35</sup>James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." <sup>36</sup>And Jesus said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" <sup>37</sup>And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." <sup>38</sup>But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" <sup>39</sup>They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; <sup>40</sup>but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

<sup>41</sup>When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. <sup>42</sup>So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers are domineering, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>43</sup>But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup>and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup>For the Son-of-Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

Be seated.

#### **SERMON**

Pastor Barbara Melosh

Feel free to take notes or write down your own reflections on this morning's message. Spirit-led doodling is also acceptable.

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service ELW 712 (harmony)



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844 Text © Oxford University Press

# **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

# the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

#### A brief silence.

Holy One, we give thanks for all servant leaders of the church. Bless bishops, pastors, and deacons, especially Bishop Gohl and Pastor Melosh, with humble wisdom and ground them in your love. God of grace,

#### hear our prayer.

Creative One, we give thanks for the delicate balance of the natural world. Kindle in us a spirit of caring strength in the preservation of habitats, food availability, and centers of refuge, that all wildlife may thrive. God of grace,

#### hear our prayer.

Empowering One, fill the leaders of governments with a spirit of service that prioritizes those on the margins due to job loss, underemployment, unsafe working conditions, and immigration status. May economic equity be achieved for all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

Restoring One, send your angels to watch over, rescue, and protect those who are injured or ill. Nurse those who suffer hardship, disease, injury, or difficulty with your comfort and peace, especially Stan, Ethel, Janice, Claude, Robin, Nancy, Jane, Paul, Chuck, Earnie, Silas, Pat, Margaret, Sheri, Jay, Kara Beth, Rob, Christopher, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Melissa, Ginny, Gary, Isabella, Heyward, Olive, and Jim. God of grace,

# hear our prayer.

Abiding One, you call pastors to shepherd the congregation toward faithful living as servants and followers of Jesus. Inspire all ordained ministers and seminarians, especially our pastoral candidate, to ministry that challenges, engages, and comforts those in their care. God of grace,

#### hear our prayer.

Uplifting One, whose love streams like fresh water in the deserts of our hearts, you turn us from greed and partiality to healing and justice. Make us and our partners in ministry, especially Bethel Lutheran Church in North East and Unity Church in Wilmington, companions of those who long for your deliverance and give us safe passage at the last into the land of your shalom.

God of grace,

### Hear our prayer.

Saving One, we give thanks for the disciples James and John and all saints who have faithfully served you, especially Naomi. We rejoice in a promised place at the feast of victory that we receive by your grace alone. God of grace,

#### hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

# Amen.

# PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

The assembly exchanges Christ's peace in word and gesture, saying, **Peace be with you.** 

### Be seated.

At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask visitors to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask members to update any changes to their information so our records can be maintained.

#### ₩ MEAL ₩

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### **GATHERING OF GIFTS**

In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, we offer our gifts for service and mission.

| OFFERTORY | "Surely, He Hath Borne Our Griefs" | Heather Sorenson |
|-----------|------------------------------------|------------------|
|           | Sanctuary Choir                    |                  |

Please stand, as you are able.

# PRAYER OF DEDICATION

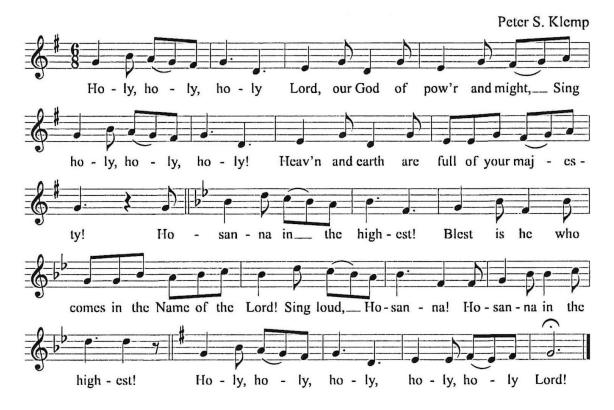
Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 our thanks and praise.** 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 merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

> Sanctus (Holy) from the Liturgy for the Family of God Found on p. 12



# **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,

you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,

and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son

to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.** 

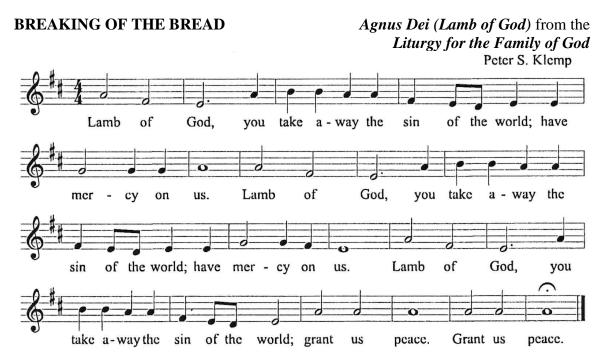
# LORD'S PRAYER

And now, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

# INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Come, here is your God. **Jesus welcomes us to this table.** 



Be seated.

# HOLY COMMUNION

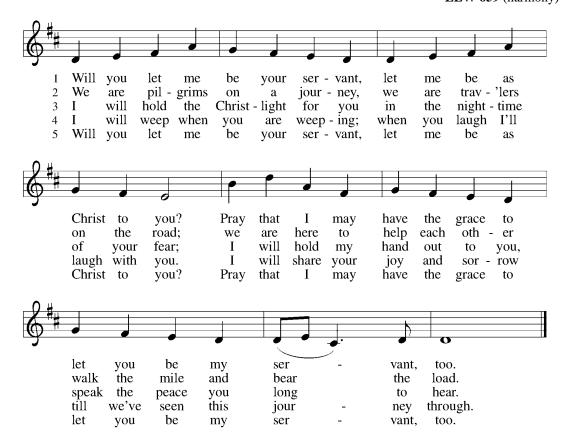
In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

Non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** 

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant ELW 659 (harmony)



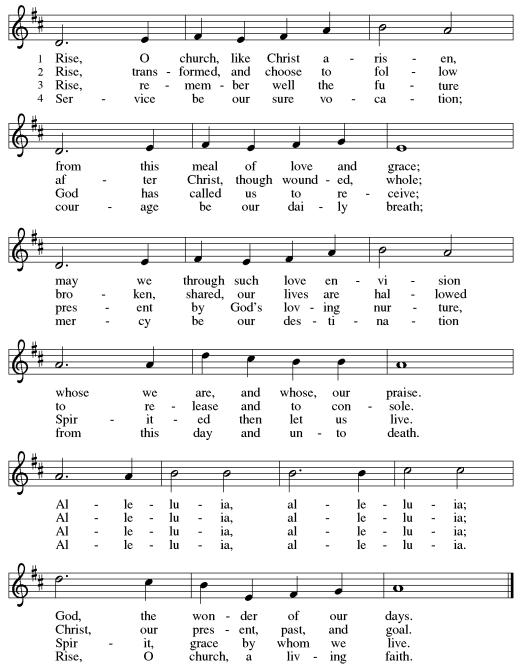
Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song (c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music)/ASCAP,

c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Coady Road, Mobile AL 36695.

# Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

ELW 548



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Music: SURGE ECCLESIA, Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958 Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

After all have returned to their places, please stand, as you are able.

# **BLESSING AND PRAYER**

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

#### Amen.

Let us pray.

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Amen.

### ✤ SENDING ✤

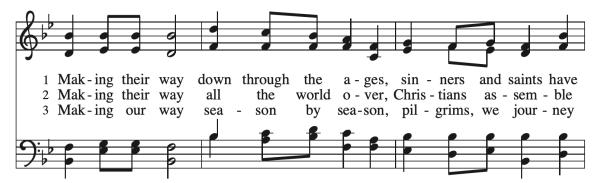
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### BENEDICTION

God all mighty, God most merciful, + bless you, keep you, and give you peace. Amen.

### SENDING SONG

Making Their Way ACS 979





Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandtsch Gedenckclank*, 1626; arr. Adrian Engels, 1906–2003 Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Arr. © 1967 Gooi en Sticht, BV, Baarn, The Netherlands, admin. OCP, 5536 N. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.



### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God.** 

POSTLUDE

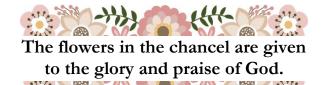
#### Introduction and Trumpet Tune on "You Servants of God" LYONS

arr. David Lasky

The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45

| ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY |                     |  |  |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Assisting Minister:        | Mary Beth Bergstrom |  |  |
| Lector:                    | Marjorie Chin       |  |  |
| Bread Provider:            |                     |  |  |
| Altar Guild:               | Janet Mease         |  |  |
| Flower Guild:              | Sue Wallden         |  |  |



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# **ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE** Important News for the Week of October 20, 2024

# LECTIONARY 29, PROPER 24 (YEAR B)

Baptism into Christ is our entrance into the Lord's mission. This calling is made abundantly clear at the end of the liturgy when the assembly is charged to go in peace and serve the Lord. Such service cannot avoid the cup of suffering. Indeed, the good news is that, in Christ, God has embraced us in love where we are most weak and frail. How shall we do this for each other and for those in need?

### **PASTORAL CONCERNS**

Pastor Barbara and Gary will be away October 24-27, visiting their son Mike in Wilmington, North Carolina. For urgent pastoral care concerns, please call or text Pastor Kathy Ierien, at 302-688-3823.

#### **REFORMATION NEXT SUNDAY**

Over the centuries, Lutherans have kept a special day to thank God for the freedom that the word of God grants to believers and to pray that with the help of God's Spirit, the church will be continually reformed and renewed. You are invited to worship with us next Sunday, October 27, in praise and petition to God for the ongoing health of the church. Pastor Greg Johnson will preach and preside, and JP and friends will provide a special children's message. Show your spirit for the Spirit by wearing the liturgical color red.

### ADULT FORUM

Join us as we complete our viewing and discussion of the film Luther on Sunday, October 27. We will again be led by Rev. Ronald Mease, starting at 8:30 AM in the Blue Room.

#### **BOOKS AND BANTER**

St. Paul's avid readers meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1 PM in the Youth Room. Please join us for conversation and fellowship. Have a favorite book to recommend?

Upcoming Books:

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October 23 "The Making of Another Major Motion Picture" by Tom Hanks
December 11** "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles (** Second Tuesday)
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# **BREWING THEOLOGY**

Fun-loving adults, age twenty-one and over, are invited to join in conversation and laughs while enjoying a beverage next Wednesday, October 30, at the Delaware Saengerbund. Join us at 7 PM at 49 Salem Church Road in Newark for fun and fellowship.

### STILL RELEVANT TODAY

Join Director of Music and Worship, Mike Bareham, on Sunday, November 3, as he discusses the first Lutheran hymnal of 1524. He will give us history of the "Achtliederbuch." He will also lead us in singing some of the hymns that have survived for 500 years and made their way into the ELW! Meet in the Sanctuary at 8:30 AM.

# HOLY HIKE

Outdoor adventurers of any age are invited to hike Sunday, November 17, after worship. Snow Goose Trail at White Clay Creek is a 3.1 mile wooded trail with some small hills, located at 199 Polly Drummond Hill Road in Newark. You can park at Pike Creek Bible Church lot. Questions? Contact hike leader Rudy Schock at 814-574-8243 or rschock324@gmail.com.

# **OWLS UPCOMING EVENTS**

Next month, on Wednesday, November 13, join the OWLS at Wilma's in Wilmington from 12:30 PM -2:30 PM for duckpin bowling and Cajun cuisine (brunch on your own). Cost is \$15.50 per person and there is a maximum of 16 participants for this event. RSVP to Linda Grund at <u>lgrund923@gmail.com</u> by this Sunday, October 20.

Then in December, celebrate the holidays with the OWLS at the Candlelight Dinner Theatre in Wilmington on Wednesday, December 4. They will attend the 1 PM performance of Irving Berlin's "Holiday Inn" and enjoy lunch and beverages prior to the show. The cost to reserve a ticket is \$56.00. Payment is needed by Wednesday, October 30. Contact Roy Palo at 302-456-9757 (home) or 302-561-0728 (cell) or email him at Palonpaa@aol.com.

### LCM FUNDRAISER

Lutheran Campus Ministry will hold their annual fundraiser on Saturday, November 2, at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, located at 1530 Foulk Road in Wilmington, starting at 1:30 PM. They hope you will join them for free food and other festivities including raffle baskets, auction items, student testimonies, and the signature stylings of our bishop, The Reverend William Gohl. Items for the raffle, other than baked goods, are to be dropped off by this Wednesday, October 23. Contact Chaplain Mindy Holland at <u>chaplain@lcmde.org</u> to make arrangements to stop by or have an item picked up.

# COMING WELCA ATTRACTION

On Saturday, November 16, the Women of the ELCA will join the Quilters for a fun morning of quilting, from 9 AM through lunch at 12 PM. There will also be opportunities for quill art with Barb Rhodes and making wreath of life prayer beads with Mary Beth Bergstrom. Please RSVP to Kaye Tyson (<u>kaye.tyson@comcast.net</u>) or Mary Beth Bergstrom (<u>mbbergstrom@verizon.net</u>) so they know how many to expect for fun, fellowship and lunch, which will be provided by WELCA.



October 9, 2024

I am pleased to announce that we are ready to introduce the candidate that the Call Committee and Congregational Council have recommended as our next pastor. Members of the congregation are warmly invited to attend a fellowship opportunity with the candidate on Saturday, November 2. Details still to come!

Then on Sunday, November 3, the candidate will preach and preside at our 10 AM Service of Holy Communion. After worship, all voting members are invited to attend a congregational meeting to vote on whether to extend a call.

Please join me in thanking God for the faithful service of our Call Committee, and please continue in prayer as we move forward in this process.

In Christ, Anne Sullivan, Council President



# LOOKING FOR HELP – FOOTBALL PARKING

Our School Board has been permitted by Church Council to manage parking in our lots for two UD Football games on Saturdays, October 26 and November 9. We are short staffed this year because we don't have parents available to assist, so we are looking for a few folks from the congregation who have a few hours on a Saturday to help out. Start time for the games is 3:00 PM on October 26 and 1:00 PM on November 9. We would need 3 to 4 hours of your time. If you're available and interested, please contact Bill Saylor at <u>bsaylor2@verizon.net</u> or 302-834-4074 for further details. Thank you!!



#### HERE AND BEYOND

Now that the annual campaign has blasted off, we have another way for you to make your pledge. You can print it at home! The link below will take you to an online version of the pledge card which you can print and return via the mail, or put in the offering plate gold box at church.

Please prayerfully and carefully consider your pledge for "HERE" in 2025 - and "BEYOND", in the form of an Endowment gift. Then return it in the next few weeks. Why the urgency? We'd like to be able to tell our new pastor that we've reached our goal prior to their arrival - a "Welcome!" gift for them - and us - to celebrate the start of their pastorate. https://stpaulsnewarkde.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Pledge-Card-Sept\_2024-1-1.pdf





# Lutheran Campus Ministry Tree of Life Fall Fundraiser

Join us for an afternoon of giving and fun! Enjoy hearty hors-d'oeuvres and a live auction led by our bishop, the Rev. Bill Gohl. Don't miss the silent auction and raffle basket prizes..

When? Saturday, November 2, 2024
Time? Doors open at 1:30 PM
Where? Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd 1530 Foulk Road, Wilmington, DE

For any questions, please call 302-368-3078.

\*You are invited to bring a personal care item to donate for FISH (Fellowship in Serving the Hungry)\*

#### **CONNECTIONS WITH CREATION**

Nearing the election, it may be disturbing that Jesus declares that "those whom they recognize as their rulers . . . are tyrants over them" (Mark 10:42). A democratic government is intended to serve the common good. But in the fight against climate change, the tyranny of the few has continued to inflict damage and ignore the servanthood Jesus commends. We ourselves may serve vulnerable humans and creation. Our service may be in preserving the wild or in sacrificially reducing our energy use. Servanthood includes "prayers and supplications" (Heb. 5:7) for "the well-being of creation" (*ELW*, p. 105). Service shapes our vote. We speak on behalf of the vulnerable. Sign up for action alerts at <u>elca.org/advocacy</u> to find ways to serve.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

The seemingly impossible role of service is possible for us all because it is not just a command. It is a gift of God. Service is God's gift because it is God who serves us. Other gods have been revealed so that women and men could serve them. This God, the God of the Suffering Servant, the God of Jesus Christ, begins from the other end. God is, first of all, not a king sitting on a pyramid of the world creating pyramids of domination and subjugation in the hierarchies of church and society. Rather, the humanity of God is seen in that God chooses to be related to human beings through service. Jesus helps us to see the humanity of God so that we too can become representatives of new humanity. This is the image of God: freedom to serve others.

—Letty Russell, in *Women and the Word: Sermons*, ed. Helen Gray Crotwell (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1978), 87-89

#### OUR HYMN FOR THE DAY

A hymn most appropriate for this Sunday is Albert Bayly's "Lord, whose love in humble service" (ELW 712). The text brings together the cross of Christ and ourselves as servants of all, and the stanzas list many human needs that cry out for our care.

#### **CURRENT EVENT**

God judges political leadership consistently according to this standard: that care was given to the poor, the stranger, the prisoner, the hungry, and those who have lost identity and means of support (in scripture that's frequently widows and orphans). As those who live in the United States enter the days before a national election, let us pray for, advocate for, and publicly support candidates who clearly articulate how their platform matches God's vision—whether they invoke God's name or not.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: <u>www.stpaulsnewarkde.org</u>

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.

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#### **Church Council**

Anne Sullivan, *President* Barb Rhodes, *Vice President* Heidi Burch, *Secretary* Mary Collins, *Treasurer* Kristine Cassar, Winnie Hull, Greg Johnson, Susie Olson, Emily Pierce

**St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry** Send prayer requests to: <u>prayonstspauls@gmail.com</u> or contact Pastor Barbara Melosh Michael Bareham Director for Music and Worship 302-368-0064 ext. 123 splcmusmin@gmail.com

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### Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

Articles due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM. Late submissions will be shared the following week. Please send articles to the church office at <u>splcstaff@gmail.com</u>.

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