

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 18, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Visions of the end time work their way into our Easter worship. A strange and wondrous vision from God instructs Peter about how wide the new fellowship in Christ might be. John's vision of a new Jerusalem suggests that beginnings and endings are tied to Jesus. And in the gospel, Jesus begins to prepare his disciples for his departure. We, too, gather this day as Jesus' end-time community, with one foot planted in this world and the other in the world to come.

WELCOME PASTOR CHRISTINE

We welcome Pastor Christine Therriault-Merkel as presiding minister and preacher this morning while Pastor Cris is on vacation. He will return to the office on Tuesday, May 20. Pastor Robbie Ketcham (Tree of Life, Odessa) will be on call for pastoral emergencies. He can be reached at 614-554-1226.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dr. Rae Watts brings over a decade of experience in the field of Early Childhood Education, with a strong background in Educational Leadership. As the new School Director, she is deeply committed to fostering a nurturing, faith-based environment where young children can grow, learn, and thrive. Dr. Rae is passionate about combining her love for early childhood development with her devotion to Christ. She is honored to lead the school into a bright and purposeful future, grounded in love, learning, and spiritual growth.

NOISY OFFERING

We will be collecting an offering for the DE-MD Synod's World Hunger appeal to be taken to Synod Assembly at the end of May. Please bring your spare change and drop it in the designated container on the narthex welcome table. We will be collecting change on **Sundays, May 18 and 25**. You can also place a check in the offering plate designated for "World Hunger" or give through Tithe.ly (QR code on the back of the bulletin).

CONCERT NEXT SUNDAY

The New Ark Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Michael Larkin, will present their eighteenth annual *American Tapestry* concert on **Sunday, May 25, at 3PM** here in the sanctuary at St. Paul's. Come enjoy music celebrating the American experience. While tickets are available at the door, they can also be purchased online by visiting: www.brownpapertickets.com (a modest fee applies). Tickets are \$20.00; those eighteen and under are admitted for free. A reception will follow the concert.

ADULT FORUM

Please note, this will be the last Adult Forum this spring. We'll be back in the fall with more interesting topics for your consideration. Thank you for your participation this year and we look forward to seeing you again in September.

BOOKS AND BANTER

St. Paul's avid readers meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1PM in the Youth Room. If you have a book that you would like to share with the group, please let us know. Please join us for conversation and fellowship.

May 28 "Tomorrow Will Be Different" by Sarah McBride

NEW MEMBER OPPORTUNITY

If you are ready to take the next step and become a member of St. Paul's, you are invited to join us for two AMAZING GRACE discussions - the first discussion will take place just after our 10 AM service on **Sunday, June 1**, and last about 90 minutes. The second discussion will take place just after our 10 AM service on **Sunday, June 8**, and last about 60 minutes.

Then, on **Sunday, June 22**, the service of affirmation of faith is your moment to be welcomed as new members during the Sunday worship service.

Please RSVP your intention to join us no later than today, **Sunday, May 18**, by emailing coordinator Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com. If this timing does not work for your schedule, we will be offering another opportunity in the near future. Meanwhile, we look forward to seeing you at church.

HOLY HIKE

We will be hiking today after worship, at Carousel Park off Limestone Road in Wilmington. This is a four-mile trail, with mixed terrain and some hills.



	Apr 2025 Activity (\$)	YTD Balance (\$)	Budget YTD (\$)	Over/Under YTD + (-) (\$)	Apr 2025 Avg. Sunday Attendanc e	YTD Average Sunday Attendanc e
TOTAL INCOME	33,911.27	105,898.6 7	109,512.0 0	(3,613.33)		
TOTAL EXPENSES	34,192.00	112,974.2 0	109,584.0 0	3,390.20		
VARIANCE	(280.73)	(7,075.53)	(72.00)		99	93

- **Income:** YTD is 3% (\$3,613.33) behind YTD budget projections. Pledged giving is 9% ahead of budget, while unpledged giving continues to lag budget by 42%. Please note that several families have completed their pledges for the year, but only the year-to-date equivalent portion of these pledges is shown.
- **Worship & Music Expenses:** YTD are 85% (\$1,806.06) above budget due to vocal music, instrumental music, online resource licensing, instrumental maintenance & tuning and miscellaneous worship expenses. Several of these items are seasonal, annual or semi-annual expenses.
- **Total Property Expenses:** YTD are 21% (\$4,825.51) above budget YTD due to high utility, cleaning supplies, HVAC repairs, inspections and property insurance expenses. Again, several of these items are annual, semi-annual or seasonal expenses.
- **All Other Expense Categories (Personnel, Administration, Faith Formation, Committee, Mortgage and Benevolence):** All these categories are running at or under budget.

OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

Join us on the Perfect Day Trip. The OWLS will be taking off to Hamilton, New Jersey on **Wednesday, June 11**, to visit the *Grounds for Sculpture*. You'll experience phenomenal art in a gorgeous park as well as enjoy a delicious lunch at the onsite Van Gogh Cafe.

Grounds for Sculpture is a magical place where art and nature are always at play. We'll experience more than 270 sculptures, each thoughtfully positioned on meticulously landscaped parkland full of thousands of exotic trees and flowers. We'll conclude our visit with some delicious salads and sandwiches (lunch on your own).

We'll be carpooling from the school side parking lot – leaving promptly at 9AM and arriving at approximately 10:30 AM. We'll stroll around the grounds until about 1:30 PM, then enjoy our lunch. We anticipate heading home by 2:30 PM, arriving back at the parking lot about 4 PM.

Cost per person is \$25 for 18 and over, and \$18 for 65 and over. Please RSVP with your cash payment to Linda Grund no later than Sunday May 25. Carpooling is strongly encouraged.

Contact your host Linda Grund at 302-738-5491 or lgrund923@gmail.com.

CONNECTIONS WITH CREATION

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Psalm 148 is a chorus of praise by everything in creation, from distant stars down to the atmosphere, then to mountaintops and tall trees, wild animals and creepy-crawlies, and humans of every age and gender. Praise! Praise! Praise! Then amid the abundance of creation's praise, the "new heavens and a new earth" of Revelation 21:1 descend because, in love, "the home of God is among mortals" (v. 3). The image of God's gracious presence is intensified with Peter's vision of unclean animals—it's worth reading lists in Leviticus 11 of what was unclean, enumerating pigs, shellfish, buzzards, bats, bugs, mice, geckos, and so on. Yet God created them and saw they were good (Gen. 1), and they, too, join the chorus of praise. Hallelujah!





St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: www.stpaulsnewarkde.org

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



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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

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

prayonstpauls@gmail.com

the church office at office@stpaulsnewarkde.org

**WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES
OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?
THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE**



