



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

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



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Sunday, June 21, 2026

10 AM Service of Holy Communion



God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH **We believe all people are created in God's image.**

Rooted in Jesus' ministry of liberation, unconditional love, and hospitality, we strive to welcome all into our community. This welcome explicitly includes those who have traditionally been marginalized in the church and society due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, racial and ethnic background, physical ability, developmental ability, citizenship/documentation status, and socio-economic status.

We hope that our young people experience God in our gathering together. Families, you are welcome to use the Playground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Playground in the narthex if you need a break from the activities in the sanctuary. Most of all, know that the joyful noise of young people in our worship is welcome!

Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex.
If you need any other help with worship,
please speak with an usher at the doors to the sanctuary.

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from the Scripture Prayer for Proper 7A
© 2002 Consultation on Common Texts (CCT)

God of strength, in Jesus Christ
you set us free from sin and death.

**God of courage, you call us
to the risk of faith and service.**

Give us grace to follow him
who gave himself for others.

**By our service, may we find
the life he came to bring.**

Let us worship the Triune God
in the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit now and forever.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Let the Whole Creation Cry
ELW 876 (harmony)



- 1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
- 2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,
- 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
"Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832–1916, alt.

Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

As forgiven and reconciled people of God, let us greet one another.
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.*

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

May the blessing of the holy Trinity, one God,
whose compassion endures forever, be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do 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

Genesis 21:8-21

The rescue of Hagar and Ishmael

A reading from Genesis:

⁸The child [Isaac] grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." ¹¹The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹²But God said to Abraham, "Do

not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³ As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.” ¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸ Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. ²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Increase the number of those who believe in your word
so that all people may joyfully respond to your call.

PSALM 86:1-10, 16-17

Read responsively by verse

¹ Bow down your ear, O LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and in misery.

² **Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful;
save your servant who trusts in you.**

³ Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God;
I call upon you all the day long.

⁴ **Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

⁵ For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
and abundant in mercy toward all who call upon you.

- ⁶ **Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer,
and attend to the voice of my supplications.**
- ⁷ In the time of my trouble I will call upon you,
for you will answer me.
- ⁸ **Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord,
nor anything like your works.**
- ⁹ All the nations you have made will come
and worship you, O Lord,
and glorify your name.
- ¹⁰ **For you are great; you do wondrous things;
and you alone are God.**
- ¹⁶ Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant,
and save the child of your handmaid.
- ¹⁷ **Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me
may see it and be put to shame; because you, LORD,
have helped me and comforted me.**

SECOND READING

Romans 6:1b-11

Buried and raised with Christ by baptism

A reading from Romans:

^{1b} Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life

he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Increase the number of those who believe in your word
so that all people may joyfully share in your promises.

Please stand, as you are able.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

Creation Setting
Marty Haugen

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 10:24-39

The cost of discipleship

The Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴ "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Cris Frigm

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Firm A Foundation

ELW 796 (harmony)



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

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

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering, especially those on our prayer list, and those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts...(brief silence). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we give you thanks, for the faithful life and witness of Celeste and of the Emanuel Nine: Clementa, Cynthia, Daniel, DePayne, Ethel, Myra, Sharonda, Susie, and Tywanza. May their faith and witness to your forgiving love in Jesus Christ inspire all people to pursue paths of justice, courage, and self-giving love. In your great mercy, receive our prayer. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

Be seated.

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

BLESSING OF QUILTS & GATHERING OF GIFTS

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

*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 records are maintained.*

ANTHEM

"To Christ Belong, In Christ Behold"
Summer Choir

Briehl & Farlee

Please stand and sing as the gifts are presented and the table is set.

OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Creation Setting
Marty Haugen
Found on p. 12

3

C 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. Grace our ta - ble with your

pres - ence, — and give us a fore - taste

of the feast to come. —

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. 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.

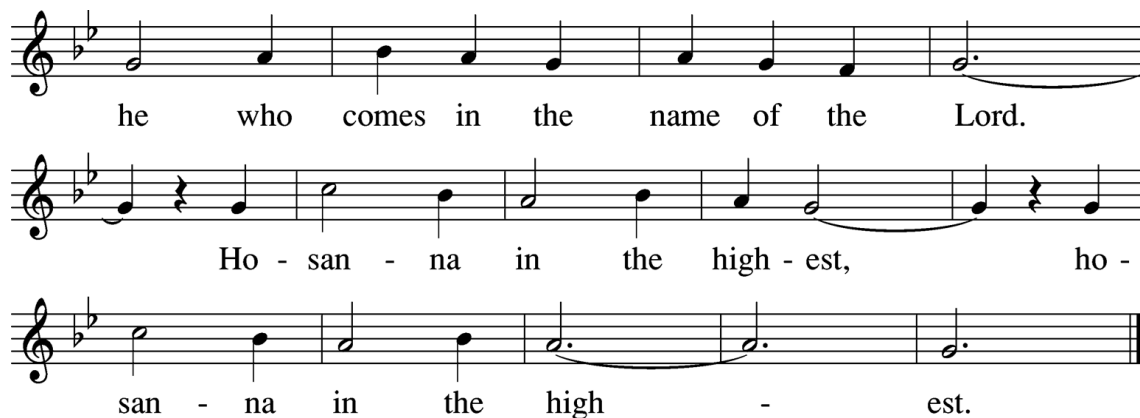
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

Creation Setting

Marty Haugen

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er, God of might, heav - en and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son, who taught us to pray:

**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

Heaven has come near.
 We come to share in the feast!

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Creation Setting

Je - sus, Lamb of God; ——— you take a - way the

sin of the world, ——— have mer - cy on — us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God; ——— you

take a - way the sin of the world:

grant us your — peace.

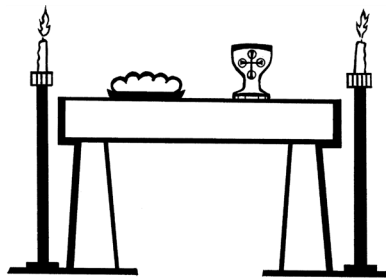
Be seated.

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. Those who choose not to commune 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.

Our communion bread is gluten-free. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available upon request.



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Before the Waters Nourished Earth

ACS 1049



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - ined³ morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

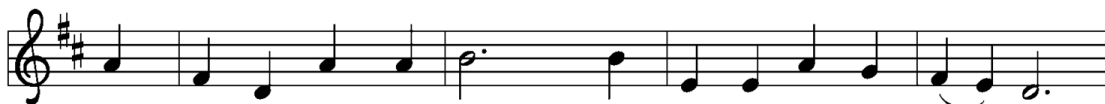
Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961

Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody

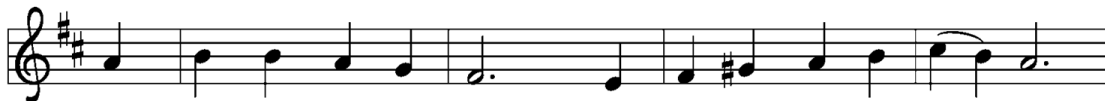
Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

O God, My Faithful God

ELW 806 (harmony)



1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 When dan-gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth-ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
what - ev - er you com-mand, my call-ing here ful - fill - ing—
guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer-less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con-science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT, Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1629–1701

*After all have communed and returned to their places, **remain seated.***

BLESSING AND PRAYER

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

Amen.

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

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

LIFE OF THE CHURCH—ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

BENEDICTION

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW 810 (harmony)



- 1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
- 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
- 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
- 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Thomas Olson
Lector:	Eric Mease
Communion Assistant:	Janet Mease
Bread Provider:	Linda Radwick
Altar Guild:	Janet Mease
Flower Guild:	Gale Paul



The flowers in the chancel are given to
the glory and praise of God.



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COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Most high, all-powerful, good Lord,
yours are the praises, the glory, the honor, and all blessing.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no one is worthy to mention your name.
Praised be you, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces varied fruits with colorful flowers and herbs.
Praised be you, my Lord, through those who give pardon for your love
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace,
for by you, Most High, they shall be crowned.
Praised be you, my Lord, through our sister bodily Death,
from whom no one living can escape.
Blessed are those whom death will find in your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.
Praise and bless my Lord,
and give him thanks and serve him with great humility.

—Francis of Assisi, *Francis and Clare: The Complete Works*,
ed. Regis J. Armstrong OFM CAP
and Ignatius C. Brady OFM
(NY: Paulist, 1982), 38-39

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 21, 2026

PENTECOST 4 (YEAR A)

In today's gospel reading, Jesus gives a brief teaching on the nature of discipleship: do not be afraid, for I am with you; tell others what you hear me say; give your life to the good news and you will discover the riches of life. This teaching appears simple, yet it is spoken in an anxious and troubled world where it is easier to be fearful than courageous and more common to look out for oneself than to care for the neighbor in need.

WELCOME TO THE BENCH

We thank David Bowlsbey for substituting at the organ bench while Mike Bareham is on vacation in South Carolina celebrating a friend's birthday.

BOOKS & BANTER

St. Paul's avid readers meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1PM in the former Youth Room. Please join us for conversation and fellowship Wednesday, June 24, when we will discuss "West with Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge. Our July selection is "All the Colors of the Dark" by Chris Whitaker.

ST. PAUL'S GAME NIGHT

Please join us on **Wednesday, June 24**, from **6 PM to 9 PM** for a Game Night. Bring your favorite card or board game to the Fellowship Hall for some friendly competition. Bring a snack to share, if you'd like.

STUMP THE PASTOR

Casual conversation with Pastor Cris about deep theological questions. No answers are promised, but we grow in faith together when we contemplate how God is at work. Join the conversation **Thursday, June 25 at 6:30pm** in the room formerly known as the youth room (next to Fellowship Hall).

CELEBRATE PRIDE

Next **Sunday, June 28**, we celebrate diversity as God's children as a Reconciling in Christ congregation. To show your spirit for the Spirit in this place on Pride Sunday, wear the colors of the rainbow—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple—as well as pink, white, brown and black.

Following worship, there will be a special fellowship hour with the opportunity to donate to the work of Reconciling Works, the non-profit that helps congregations and other ministries work for LGBTQIA2S+ justice and inclusion.

HOLY HIKE

Our Holy Hike for this month will be next **Sunday, June 28**, where we will hike the Rittenhouse Park trail in Newark. A beautiful 4 mile wooded, mostly flat hike. We will be leaving from church after worship.

THE STORY OF CODE PURPLE MINISTRY FOR 2025-2026

On the coldest nights of the winter, five Newark area churches, including St. Paul's, take turns providing food and shelter for Newark's homeless population, from 6 PM to 6 AM. Code Purple clients are known and screened by Friendship House in Wilmington, and a representative of Friendship House, who is familiar with all of our guests, stays with us when we host. In the 2025-2026 season, St. Paul's hosted Code Purple 9 times, for 142 clients. Twenty different people came and helped out, for a total of 270 volunteer hours. Fifteen individuals, plus the Girl Scouts and Scouting America, donated food and supplies. And six people washed blankets (that would be at least 142 blankets!)

The Code Purple ministry is often "unseen" by our larger congregation as it occurs in the overnight hours, but this winter in particular, it required a monumental effort. The Church Council would like to acknowledge and thank all who contributed to this vital ministry for our community's homeless population, and especially Barb Rhodes, who provides unfailing and expert leadership for the St. Paul's team!



RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY 2026

Celebrating Diversity as God's Children



June 28, 2026

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION





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



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Church Council

Susie Olson (*President*), Anne Sullivan (*Vice President*), Phillip Gerecke (*Secretary*),
Mary Collins (*Treasurer*), Laura Blenderman, Heidi Burch, Kristine Cassar, Mark
Deschere, Ian Kenyon.

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast – articles are due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM
to office@stpaulsnewarkde.org. Late submissions will be shared the following
week.



Worship Attendance



Prayer Requests



Electronic Giving



**Worship Assistants &
Flower Dedications**

