

# STPAULNOW

May 2024

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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StPauliNow.org



from Pr. Steve

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I recently visited a man I baptized not long ago. I was there because he has some serious health concerns and I wanted to offer whatever encouragement I could. I had had a really long day—not a bad day, but long—and I was exhausted. It took about all the energy I could find within me to get out of the car and make it to his door. I went in and we started talking about his health issues. I was just getting ready to open my Bible and read a passage I thought might help him, then pray for him, when he interrupted me to tell me about something that was giving him a sense of joy and peace in the midst of the changes happening at this point in his life.

He mentioned a sermon I preached recently, on the Holy Spirit being given to us as a Helper. He said he had been thinking about that every day and what a comfort it was to have the Holy Spirit right there walking with him. "Right beside me," he said, as he moved his hand back and forth as though drawing a line parallel to himself. "Right there. That's really something!" There was a fresh excitement in his voice I didn't expect to hear. I nearly fell off my chair.

I was there to give encouragement, but the encouragement came in the other direction, from him to me. This man heard the Word of God, believed it, and was experiencing what Jesus promised. It's just about the best gifts a pastor can receive. My prayer for this man and his wife was not only asking for something from God, but thanking God for the truth and power of his Word, brought home by what Jesus calls 'the Spirit of truth'. I left his house with a spring in my step.

As we enter the season of Pentecost, we will be learning more about the Helper Jesus promised. It's a promise he keeps every day of our lives.

## Roof replacement underway

The re-roofing project at the church will begin any day now. If you come to the church while work is underway, please use caution and stay well back from the construction perimeter.

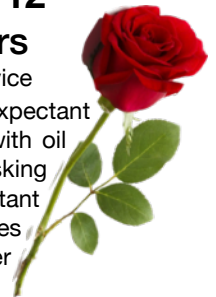
Worship Services streamed live (Sundays, 10:00 AM); videos are posted at [stpaulnow.org](http://stpaulnow.org) and on Facebook, usually by mid afternoon on Sundays.

## Mother's Day, May 12

### Blessing of Mothers

at our 10:00 AM Worship Service

We will invite women who are mothers or expectant mothers to come to the altar for anointing with oil (symbolizing the Holy Spirit) and a prayer asking for God's strong grace as you fill this important role in your family. The invitation includes women who are adoptive mothers, foster mothers, or stepmothers.



## Sunday, May 19 Day of Pentecost



On the fiftieth day after Easter, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send the Holy Spirit upon his followers. This empowerment was to establish his Church on earth, and through it to continue his ministry of forgiveness of sins, teaching, and healing. Come celebrate the day with us. If you can, wear red.

## May Birthdays

- |   |                |    |                    |    |                 |
|---|----------------|----|--------------------|----|-----------------|
| 3 | Nate Leland    | 13 | Kim Fergus         | 26 | Melissa Kidwell |
|   | Nancy Hale     |    | Eleanor Roberts    |    | Avrian Babb     |
| 4 | Tony Baer      | 14 | Isabel Smith       | 27 | Emilee McCabe   |
| 6 | Esther Yake    | 19 | Kyle Landon        | 28 | Abby Watson     |
| 7 | Jay Haycock    | 20 | Aislinn McLaughlin | 29 | Elias Bulkowski |
|   | Cyle Gilkerson |    | Kelly Ebert        | 30 | Tito Cruz       |
| 9 | Sue Mermann    | 23 | Bailey Stakey      |    | Bob Kidman      |
|   | Melissa Radel  | 25 | Gerrie McDonald    |    |                 |

Please let us know if we miss anyone.

## April Council meeting

Regular meeting, April 9, 6:30 PM

Present: Marie Christiano (Chairman), Thomas Bathke (Vice Chairman), Sondra Carey (Secretary), Terry Roberts (Treasurer), Pastor Steve Dennis, Mary Kay Disterdick, Patty Kirk, Kenneth Smith

Council took the following actions:

- Approved the March reports of the Treasurer and Secretary, and received the Pastor's report for March.
- Canceled the April 20 work day at the church. It will be rescheduled as soon as possible.
- Reviewed the janitor position description in view of Jay Burn's resignation, and in anticipation of employing a candidate, Jennifer Bathke.
- Council arrived at consensus on basic guidelines for cameras used in streaming worship services: —The camera now facing the congregation will be moved to the west side of the nave, positioned to view service leaders and musicians, and occasional wide angle scans of the congregation; —There will be no closeup scans of individuals in the nave; —There will be no shots of the nave during offerings, and no face-on shots of congregants receiving communion; —Bulletin or signage will notify congregants that a service is being streamed and recorded.

## Treasurer's Report for March 2024

FUNDS	BALANCE 2/29/2024	INCOME March	EXPENSES March	BALANCE 3/31/2024
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$16,817.91</b>	<b>\$ 9,412.06</b>	<b>\$ 8,529.09</b>	<b>\$17,700.88</b>
<b>Committed Funds</b>				
Benevolence Fund	\$6,167.76	\$ 250.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,417.76
Richard Renz Fund	\$ 3,173.46	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,173.46
Funeral Fund	\$ 990.94	\$ 130.00	\$ 68.89	\$ 1,052.05
Christian Education Fund	\$ 402.46	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 402.46
Memorial Fund	\$ 7,124.31	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,124.31
Building Fund	\$53,837.52	\$ 1,590.00	\$ 0.00	\$55,427.52
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>	<b>\$71,696.45</b>	<b>\$ 1,970.00</b>	<b>\$ 68.89</b>	<b>\$73,597.56</b>
<b>Total Funds (General + Committed)</b>	<b>\$88,514.36</b>	<b>\$11,382.06</b>	<b>\$ 8,597.98</b>	<b>\$91,298.44</b>

## May Sunday Service Assignments

May communion setup: Candy Haenszel

Assisting Servers in May: Derek Goodman, Dylan Goodman, Mark Niendam

	<b>Accompanists</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Prayer Leaders</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
<b>5</b>	Judy Moore	Avery Thiel	Sondra Carey	Sondra Carey	Howard Radel and Tom Bathke
<b>12</b>	Emilee McCabe	<i>available</i>	Charlene Pace	Charlene Pace	Bob Dutt, Jr. and Jeff Radel
<b>19</b>	Emilee McCabe	<i>available</i>	Marlene Radel	Marlene Radel	Charlie Seitz and Don Keil
<b>26</b>	Emilee McCabe	<i>available</i>	Donna Bathke	Donna Bathke	Lonnie Stakey and Charlie Seitz

Coming Soon  
Community Vacation Bible School

### What a Mess, VBS

July 15 -17

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

at Legion Park, Cardington

Each evening begins with free dinner at 5:30

*Presented by Cardington area churches, including us.*

It may be a weird name, but the planners are putting a very good program together. There's even a follow-up pool party at the Cardington Public Swimming Pool on Thursday, July 18. (More about that later.)

We will be responsible for dinner on Wednesday, July 17. We also need adults to help manage activities in classes, and movement of children from one activity to the next. Speak with Judy Graham or Pr. Steve to volunteer.

**Woe to those who call  
evil good and good evil,  
who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness,  
who put bitter for sweet  
and sweet for bitter!**

—Isaiah 5:20 (ESV)

## Holocaust Remembrance Day, May 6

The memorial stone at the site of the Dachau concentration camp pleads, "Remember how we died here." Historian Michael Berenbaum, notes ("Dachau". 8 March 2024, www.britannica.com) that the camp was established in 1933, with political prisoners as its first inmates. Five years later it became the destination for tens of thousands of Jews after mobs of students, workers and others went on a frenzied rampage burning synagogues and attacking Jewish homes, and the police were ordered not to interfere.

When the extermination of Jews became national policy in 1942, thousands of Jews were dispatched from Dachau to death camps in Poland.

For over 75 years we've been asking how such virulent antisemitism could take root and erupt in an advanced civilization like twentieth century Germany. Now we're asking how it could erupt in our day in so-called elite universities and other societal institutions. In some ways the answer is complex. But in one sense, it isn't complicated at all. We stopped remembering—stopped telling the story to the next generation.

