



The Blessings of Mother's Day

Julie Ward Howe, who wrote "The Battle hymn of the Republic," first suggested Mother's Day as a day of peace following the Civil War. Our modern-day celebration of Mother's Day dates to Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia. In 1907 she asked her church to hold a special Mother's Day service on the second anniversary of her mother's death. Seven years later, on May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed that the second Sunday in May to be observed as Mother's Day. Anna Jarvis was never married, and she never was herself a mother. Yet she devoted her life's work to the development of this day. Why? Largely out of the respect and appreciation she had for her own mother.

Isaiah 49:10 says "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget you, I will not forget you". It is a tragedy when certain individuals grow up in families where the mother or father do not or cannot show compassion, even in some cases abandoning their children. Yet as the above verse says, even if your mother forgets you (shutter the thought), **I will not forget you**. Psalm 27:10 puts it this way "Though my Father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me". While a mother's love is great, God's love is even greater. Romans 5:12 states "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us". Just as a mother doesn't wait until her child can walk or talk to give it love, God did not wait for humanity to "get its act together" to display his love, love that is shown in the death and resurrection of Jesus. A blessed Mother's Day to all.

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Pastor Stephen Krenz 618-363-0121 Andrew Borseth, Seminarian	

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Krenz**



May Sermon Themes

May 5th and 6th: Abide in My Love John 15:9-17 (Confirmation Day)

May 12th and 13th: In the World, for the World, But Not of the World" (Mother's Day) John 17:15-16

May 19th and 20th Pastor Sievers (Pentecost)

May 26th and 27th: "The Importance, Blessing and Understanding of Being Born Again" John 3:1-17 (Trinity Sunday)



FOOD pantry

Current Pantry Needs:

Ravioli, Brownie Mix, Cereals, Toothpaste, Peanut Butter

May Dates: 5/1 5/8 5/15
1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 1:30-3pm
2nd Wednesday - 4-6 pm

Call 281-4600 for assistance on all other days.



Official Acts of the Church

Funeral
Julie Arbeiter,
April 22nd, 2024



Summer Sermon Series:

For seven weeks, starting June 2nd Pastor Krenz will be leading a summer sermon series titled **"Equipped, The Armor of God for everyday struggles"** based on **Ephesians 6:10-20**. To help prepare for this series, members and friends of St. Paul's will have the opportunity to weekly read a devotional with the same title. These devotionals will be made available in the church entryway toward the end of May.

- June 2nd**- The Belt of Truth Ephesians 6:14a & John 8:32
- June 9th**- The Breastplate of Righteousness Ephesians 6:14b & Isaiah 61:110
- June 16th**- The Shoes of Peace Ephesians 6:15 & John 14:27
- June 23rd**- The Shield of Faith Ephesians 6:16 & Hebrews 11:1
- June 30th**- The Helmet of Salvation Ephesians 6:17a & Isaiah 12:2
- July 7th**- The Sword of the Spirit Ephesians 6:17b & Hebrews 4:12
- July 14th**- The Gift of Prayer Ephesians 6:18 & Colossians 4:2



Summer Worship Schedule:
Our Summer **9am Worship Schedule** runs from **June 2nd to September 1st**.

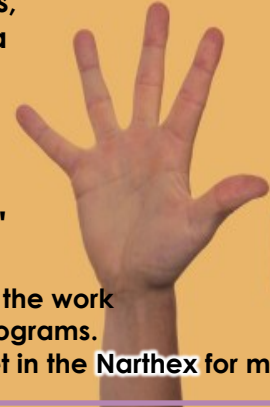
Summer Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class Schedule:
10:15am-11am.
Every Sunday except July 14th and August 11th.
(Topics TBD)

Summer Children's/High School Sunday School Schedule:
10:15am-11am.
June 16th, 23rd, & 30th
July 21st & 28th
August 18th & 25th

Would you like to get involved with some of the various ministries/events we have here at St. Paul's, but can only commit to a couple of hours every so often?

We are looking to form a **"Manpower Team"**

of people who would be willing to help with some of the work that goes along with our programs. Check out the sign up sheet in the Narthex for more info!



HOW CAN I HELP?



LWML/LADIES LEAGUE

Our April 4th meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall amid tables set with beautiful spring floral decorations. Nancy Radentz led us with a devotion entitled "Have No Fear Little Flock" and with the common table prayer. We enjoyed the lunches we brought as well as the desserts and drinks provided by our hostesses. Andrew Borseth, our Field Worker, shared interesting info about his family, his education, his military connection, and his desire to be an Army Chaplain.

Additional committee reports were given and LWML news was presented in our business meeting. Mary Clyde was added to our membership. Welcome, Mary! Pastor encouraged us to attend the Confirmand Questioning on May 1st at 6:30 p.m. We will meet again on May 2nd at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Krenz will present a topic for us. We will have lunches brought in by Café on the Abbey. Helen Nowak and Stefanie Newbill will be our hostesses.

LWML News

- 1) SID retreat was held at Camp Wartburg on 4/20/24. Several of our members attended.
- 2) Zone Board meeting was held on 4/25/24 at Holy Cross, Wartburg at 10:00 a.m.
- 3) SID Convention is being planned for 9/13 & 9/14/24. Our Metro South Zone and the Upper Kaskaskia Zone are the cohosts at Centralia. You are welcome to join us anytime at our meetings, events, service projects, or just to visit! For more information about Mailbox Membership or other events, contact Wanda at 618-281-4691.

LWML Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.



Comforts of Love Quilters-Tuesdays

Quilters meet Tuesdays from 9 am to 10:30 am. Please join us! We have "sew" much fun! Thank you for all your support!

Generally meets on the third Monday of each month. Please join us in May (5/20) at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Women's Ministry hosts Church Potluck Luncheons on 4th Sunday of the month. Due to the Memorial Day Holiday we will not have a potluck in May.



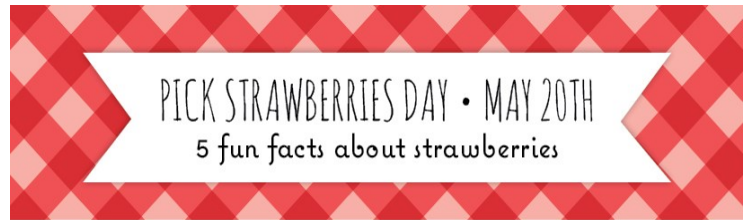
WOMEN'S MINISTRY



OOPS – Are You Practicing?

Since only Jesus is perfect, the expression **PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT** is an obvious overstatement. Yet, without practice, we would never have been able to acquire some of life's most basic skills-- like walking, talking, writing, driving, etc. So, why do so many of us Christians seldom if ever **PRACTICE SHARING OUR FAITH**? Would we be more effective and comfortable with having intentional spiritual conversations with others if we regularly practiced for them? If we verbalized it or wrote it down beforehand, would we know what to say to so-and-so if and when the right time comes? **YES! So, PRACTICE!!!**

That's this month's less-than-perfect **Outreach Opportunity Suggestion** from your **Board Of Christian Outreach**.



There are about **200 SEEDS** on each strawberry!

Strawberries are the only "fruit" with seeds on the outside. Because their seeds are not on the inside they are not technically a fruit—they are actually a member of the rose family.

Strawberries are low in calories but **HIGH IN VITAMINS.** C B6 K

3.5 LBS. PER YEAR

The average American eats almost 3.5 lbs. of the berry each year!

75% California produces 75% of the strawberries grown in the U.S. That's about 2 billion pounds!



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE
May 2024

Stewardship Update:

Here is some information that might be interesting to you concerning our congregational Budget.

How many part-time and full-time people are paid out of our budget (salaried)?

Pastor is the only full-time position. Three more are part-time: Dianne (secretary), Mike (custodian), and Dennis (bookkeeper).

What in our budget goes toward missions? What are the groups we sponsor?

We budget \$12,600 for the various missions including Life Network, Unity Lutheran School, St. Paul High School in Concordia, MO, Missionaries in Central Asia, Missionaries Dale and Suanne Kaster (Czech), and Eve's Restoration Home.

How much of our budget is sent for the Mission work of the Southern Illinois District and the LCMS?

\$27k is budgeted to Southern Illinois district, and they send a portion of this on to the LCMS.

What in our budget goes for capital improvements?

Trustees have \$34k budgeted towards maintenance on the building and grounds. Any significant repairs or renovations must be approved by the Voters.



CHILDREN'S Sunday School

- May 5 Acts 8:26-40
A Deacon Delivers - Philip & an Ethiopian
- May 12 Acts 9:1-31
An Enemy Converts-Saul
- May 19 Acts 16:16-40
A Soldier Believes - A Philippian Jailer
- May 26 Revelation 21:1-22:5
A Returning Truth - Christ Returns

Summer Children's/High School Sunday School Schedule: 10:15am-11am.

- June 16th, 23rd, & 30th
- July 21st & 28th
- August 18th & 25th

Ushers/Greeters/Screens:

If you or someone you know might be open to helping out as a Greeter/Usher and help with the screens at church please let us know. You can call the church office (618)-281-4600 or email our church secretary Dianne at secretary@stpauls-lcms.org .

Would you like a historic hymnal?

Free hymnals on the table nearest the door to the office in the Narthex. Red hymnals (copyright 1941) and blue hymnals (copyright 1982.)

May 20 =Newsletter Deadline (3rd Monday)

Usually the 3rd Monday of most months.

Send articles, photos, etc. to

secretary@stpauls-lcms.org -Thank you for your help!

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

invites ninth- 12th-grade students to attend **Vocation: High School** — a retreat that encourages high school men and women to explore many aspects of the Seminary, including worship and devotions, sessions with professors, and even some fun and recreation! **Registration** costs \$100 and closes May 24. **Register today!**



Eve's Restoration Home Update:

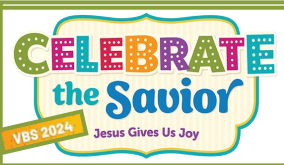
During the month of April, we had our first "official" board meeting! Our board consists of 7 compassionate individuals in the Southern Illinois and St. Louis and surrounding area. Our plan is to file for our non-profit status this summer! Please keep this forming ministry in your prayers. Feel free to pick up a prayer flier in the narthex and/or join our email list by contacting Amanda at evesrestorationhome@gmail.com. Thanks for all the support!

2024 Youth Event Calendar

- May 5th- Confirmation
- May 29th- Grizzlies Game
- May 31st- Honoring our Seniors **2024**
during church services 8 & 10:30 am
- June 10th-14th- VBS
- July - Potential event at historic sites in Perry County

Questioning/Confirmation:

This coming **Wednesday (May 1st) at 6:30pm in the Fellowship hall** our six confirmation students will be answering questions on what and why they believe core Christian teachings. These questions and answers gleaned from the six chief parts in the small catechism. Congregational members are invited to join their families in hearing them confess their faith in this public venue. The rite of confirmation will take place next Sunday (May 5th) at the 10:30am service.



2024 VBS

Celebrate the Savior!

June 10th-14th, 2024
9 am to 12 pm

at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

VBS is rapidly approaching! We are just over one month away and have various needs for our programming. Please reach out to Carleigh if you are able to help with our Games or Bible Exploration/Science Lab sites.

I am also looking for a few folks who would be willing to form a **decorating committee for the 2024 VBS**. The theme is **Celebrate the Savior!** and we would love to have St. Paul's looking like a fun and inviting party that celebrates God's love for us. **Interested? Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.**

Volunteers & Students Register online:

<https://vbsmate.com/events/StPaulsColumbia/28392>



May 2024 Preschool News



The school year may be winding down, but we are still going strong down in the preschool room. We are finishing up our Spring unit which consists of weather, birds, farm & zoo animals, & pond life. The children also planted seeds & flowers and are waiting for them to begin sprouting!

They are also enjoying their time together playing with their friends at preschool. It has been such a joy watching friendships form and grow throughout the school year.

Children are such a blessing and we are very thankful to be able to share our days with them and help them grow in God's love.

We will wrap up the school year with an alphabet party, our annual Teddy Bear Picnic, a fun campout day, and our Hawaiian Luau during our beach/ocean theme.

Our final day of preschool for this year is Thursday, May 16. We will have a fun day celebration and refreshments for our students and their families as we say goodbye for the summer!

May Jesus Lessons

- o Timothy
- o Jesus Knows My Name
- o Jesus Promises to Be with Me

♥ We want to give thanks...

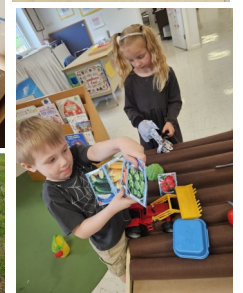
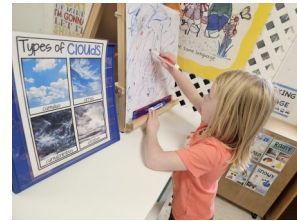
- to all of our preschool families for their commitment and support to our program,
- to St. Paul's Lutheran Church for financial and prayer support,
- Thrivent members who have donated their Choice Dollars to our preschool,
- and to Pastor Krenz for sharing God's word at Chapel each month with the children.

We are thankful & blessed for all of you!

Registration is still open for fall--We only have a few spots remaining!

If interested, call our Director, Shelly Augustin at: 618-281-4190

Have a Blessed Summer!
Shelly Augustin, Director





Pastoral Ponderings Do Lutherans believe in the rapture?

What is the rapture? It is the event described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, that all Christians, both dead and living will be caught in the air at his second coming. Some Christians believe that believers will be secretly raptured by Christ into heaven for 3 ½ years to 7 years during

what is referred to as the tribulation. In this view those who are not followers of Jesus will have a second chance to follow Christ during that time, but they will also experience tremendous persecution and suffering in the process. After the seven-year period is up the Christians in heaven will be sent down to earth to reign with Jesus for 1000 years.

Sounds cool why not believe it? First, it is a view that stretches the scriptural meaning. Secondly it implies that when things get tough here on earth the true Christians will get a seven-year vacation. It is true that Satan will have a "little season" of destruction before Christ comes again. Yet, Jesus promises to keep us safe spiritually, by the power of His Spirit, not be removing us physically from the trials. As it says in Revelation 2:10b "...Be faithful, even to the point of death and I will give you the crown of life".

What about this passage from Matthew 24:40-42?:

"Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come". On the surface this looks like a passage on the rapture. In fact, it is a passage showing the suddenness' of his return. It could happen at any time, and even during "normal" life events. The latter verses in the chapter imply a final judgment and not an event prior to Christ's return.

Further information on this topic can be found at the LCMS Frequently Asked Questions Web site.



Adult Education

Tuesday Men's Bible Study

Meet w/ us at 7:15 am in the Narthex. All men welcome. We are studying the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel readings for the following Sunday.

Wed. Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays with Nancy, On Hiatus until Fall

Fridays, once a month

It's MATTHEW'S GOSPEL in 2024 We're going to be studying the Gospel of Matthew in our second Friday of the month **Not Just for Couples Bible Study Group.** Our next class will be on **Friday, May 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.** Before class preparation is strongly encouraged. Adults of any age are welcome. Please contact Pastor Sievers (314-882-2097) or pastorsievers@yahoo.com) for more information.

Adult membership Class:

I will be starting a new adult membership class. This is a class that covers the foundations of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. If you or someone you know might be interested in this 10 week class please contact Pastor Krenz at 618-363-0121 or email/call the church office.

Adult Bible Study Sunday Mornings

All Things Thessalonian

Join us for Sunday mornings in May in the fellowship hall as we join the church in Thessaloniki as we finish our discussion on 1st Thessalonians and then proceed to 2nd Thessalonians.



Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Debra Dietz Heather Quevreaux Lori & Jason Woodcock ♥ Michele Nelson	6 Mike Louis Nicole Zavadiil Seth Schwartz	7 Mike & Gail Zavadil ♥ Paulette Kremmel Quintin Roland Richard Pulcher	1 Patsy Powell	2 Caroline Herbeck Wes Mahnken	3 Carol Essert Gene & Brenda Henckler ♥	4 Jordan Colyer Nathan & Stacey Filipiak ♥ Nicholas Bierman
12 Ryan Greer Pastor Krenz	13 Mike Louis Nicole Zavadiil Seth Schwartz	14 Dan & Judith Schwartz ♥ Kip & Heather Quevreaux ♥	8 Steve Dinkelman	9 Sarah Fulk Silas Smith	10 Joe Starek Mel Stuckmeyer Rex Hancock Tom Eytchison	11 Nicholas Bierman
19 Charles Farris Lisa Krenz Susan Champion	20 Tom McLaughlin	21 Angie Dixon Cameron Nowak Kylie Hofstetter Lennon Ottwell Tricia Dinkelman	15 Ervin Riebeling Jr Tucker Herbeck	16 Ray & Mary Clyde ♥	17 Jeremy Grueninger Robert & Melissa Roessler ♥ Todd Hale	18 Graycie Luberda Juanita Ritter Mallory Beatty
26 Melodye Stamm Owen Lammert	27 Melodye Stamm Owen Lammert	28 Chelsea Linderer Terry & Debbie Aldridge ♥	22 Charles Consolino John Grohman	23 Charles Consolino John Grohman	24 Callahan Rule	25 Jane Stumpf Marianne May
		29 Kinley Kritz Reagan Mathews Taylor Bierman	30 Collin Grandt	31 Dale & Cindy Schickedanz ♥ Don & Nancy Radentz ♥		

2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15-10:15 am -Adult Bible Class in Fellowship Hall -Youth Bible Study - Youth Rm -Sunday School -SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service - Confirmation 4 pm Brownie Scouts Mtg	6 Count (Team 2) Divine Service 6:30 pm	7 District Pastors Conference Men's Bible St. 7:15 am 9 am Quilters 5:30 pm Youth Ministry 6:30 pm B of Education	1 Food Pantry 1:30-3 pm 6:30 pm Confirmation Questioning	2 Ladies League 11:30 am 6 pm Colossians Bible Study @ Mancarella	3 Bible Study @ Bria Nursing Home 2 pm	4
5 Confirmation Day 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15-10:15 am -Adult Bible Class in Fellowship Hall -Youth Bible Study - Youth Rm -Sunday School -SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service - Confirmation 4 pm Brownie Scouts Mtg	6 Count (Team 2) Divine Service 6:30 pm	7 District Pastors Conference Men's Bible St. 7:15 am 9 am Quilters 5:30 pm Youth Ministry 6:30 pm B of Education	8 Food Pantry 4-6 pm	9 11:15 Pre-School Chapel 6 pm Colossians Bible Study @ TBD	10 6:30 pm Pastor Sievers Bible Study Mtg	11
12 Mother's Day 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15-10:15 am -Adult Bible Class in Fellowship Hall -Youth Bible Study - Youth Rm -Sunday School -SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service	13 Count (Team 3) 5:30 pm Board of Outreach Divine Service 6:30 pm	14 Men's Bible St. 7:15 am 9 am Quilters 1:30 pm Stewardship 5:30 pm Board of Communications 5:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Elders	15 7:30 am Rotary Business Food Pantry 1:30 - 3 pm	16 Last Day of Pre-School 5:30 pm Eve's Restoration Home Board Mtg	17 Worship @ Bria Nursing Home 2 pm	18 Pastor on Vacation
19 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15-10:15 am -Adult Bible Class in Fellowship Hall -Youth Bible Study - Youth Rm -Sunday School -SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service Roediger Family Fellowship Hall Newsletter Articles Due	20 Count (Team 1) Divine Service 6:30 pm Women's Ministry 6:30 pm	21 Men's Bible St. 7:15 am 9 am Quilters Pastor on Vacation	22	23 9 am Newsletter Folders	24	25
26 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15-10:15 am -Adult Bible Class in Fellowship Hall -Youth Bible Study - Youth Rm -Sunday School -SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service Youth School Senior Recognition	27 Count (Team 2) Divine Service 6:30 pm Memorial Day	28 Men's Bible St. 7:15 am 9 am Quilters	29 Grizzlies Game	30	Dates, times, & locations subject to change. Additional activities may be added at a later date. For the most up-to-date calendar listing, go to: stpauls-icms.org then click on the "calendar" tab.	



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

227 N. Goodhaven Drive
Columbia, IL 62236

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Bulk Mailing
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Columbia, Illinois
Permit No. 15

THE EPISTLE

MAY 2024

Worship with Us!!!

Sundays
@ 8 & 10:30 am
Mondays - 6:30 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
227 Goodhaven Street, Columbia, IL 62236

618.281.4600 stpauls-lcms.org
facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiaill

