

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Newsletter

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## Pastor's Message

Beloved,

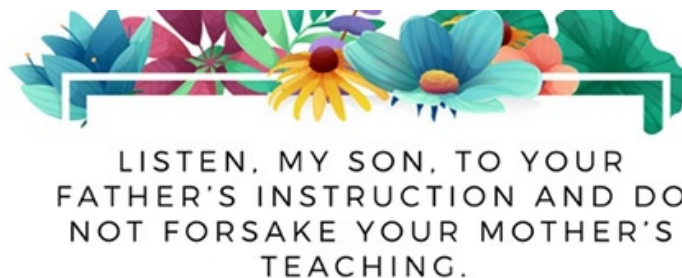
Spring is in Full Effect! I know those of you who are dealing with the heightened (me included) pollen levels are quite aware that spring is here and the world around us is blooming. As I sat and reflected on last month ... more specifically Holy Week ... I must admit that I was moved this past Holy Week more than I ever have before. The Holy Spirit was present in this place. Amen?

Spring is always a season of growth and regeneration. In that vein, I was thinking of a passage from the lesser-known book of Titus. We just walked with Christ during His Passion, and it reminded me of this passage ...

Titus 3:4-7 (ESV) 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

In reading this, I am reminded that every aspect of our salvation as described in verses 4–7 depends on God’s action; none of it depends on what we do. Even though Paul repeatedly urges Christians to prepare for and perform good works, these are the harvest of God’s grace in saving us from our sins and are not prepayments or repayments for His salvation. God’s love and the grace He extends to us are in keeping with His merciful nature. The washing, regeneration and renewal given us in Baptism brings new life and spiritual cleansing. God provides this Baptism as a means for us to receive His grace.

So, as the temperatures are warming, I pray that our hearts follow suit. Use this warmer weather to regenerate our bodies and our minds. We must never lose sight that He is there, He is comforting us, and He is leading us ... I pray we are open to where He wants us to Go. Amen?



*Proverbs 1:8-9*



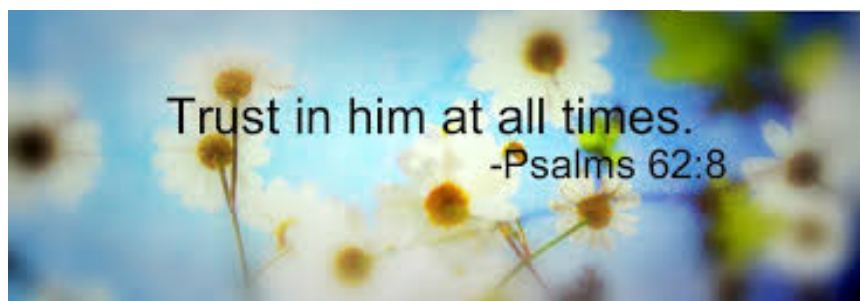
## **From the President**

Just wanted to say thank you to everyone who came out for our Work Day in April! We had a great turn out and took care of a lot of needed clean up jobs around the church. The best part of our work days to me is the chance we are given while working together to get to know each other better and become closer as God's family here at St. Paul's. All the great food Pastor and Tracie brought in for all of us through another wonderful Thrivent Action Team grant was also greatly appreciated! Another Thrivent Action Team Grant was approved for our Sunday School closing picnic at the end of May. The support of St. Paul's Thrivent members working to support our Children's Ministry through Thrivent Financials Outreach programs has been a big blessing to our church.

Our bi-annual Voter's meeting will be held on May 15th following the 10:30 AM worship service. A light lunch of pick up foods, drinks and desserts will be held in the kitchen before the meeting. We will be discussing what to do with the organ in the church as well as other church matters. Please bring your ideas for future activities, fundraisers to raise money to repair our parking lot, concerns, etc. We need and want to hear from all of our church members.

Please be sure you fill in and return your Time and Talent Sheets. Completed forms can be placed in the offering plate on Sundays, given to one of the ushers or taken to the church office.

In His Service,  
John H. Bowling



Hi St. Paul's!

It's time to sign up for Vacation Bible School! This year's VBS will be Monumental as we go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead. VBS participants can be anyone entering preschool (age 3 and must be potty trained) to 5th grade. Please visit:

<https://vbspro.events/p/events/stpaulslutheranvbs>  
to register your child today!

We're also looking for volunteers! Anyone going into 6th grade and older can be a volunteer. This is a great opportunity for kids to give back to their community. Please visit:

<https://vbspro.events/p/events/stpaulslutheranvbs>  
and click on volunteer registration.

If you have any questions, please contact VBS Director, Meredith Johnson by phone 301-653-0792 or email [meredith.s.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.s.johnson@gmail.com)





## Workday at the Church Saturday April 9, 2022

I would like to thank everyone who helped make the workday a huge success. A special thanks to Wayne Latimer and family for replacing all the fluorescent lights in the sanctuary with LED lights. This enhances the lighting quality and is a cost saving on our energy bills.

### Future projects:

- Both doors to the pastor's office need work. The inside door, frame and trim needs to be replaced. The outside door and adjacent wall need to be rebuilt in order to make it weather tight and secure. New Doors are on order will be delivered around July 15, 2022.
- We need to address repairs to our parking lot. Both entrances need to be repaved and several areas are breaking up. We also need to seal coat some areas and stripe the parking spaces. This has a price tag of about \$25,000 to \$30,000 which we may have to address in phases. If we don't address these areas soon, the water will get to the underside of the pavement causing potholes. This will increase the cost of repairs. This item will be discussed at the upcoming Voters Meeting on May 15, 2022.
- The Elders have requested that the Sacristy Room be renovated to meet the current needs of this space. This will be considered once the door project is complete and we have direction on the parking lot repairs.

In God's Service,  
Brad Clements



## **LWML News!!**

We have been getting together more and I could not be more excited. I know that spring is in the air and we can get outdoors more often. I am really looking forward to all that we are doing.

I am hoping that as we are approaching the weekend that our ladies will be joining Pastor and I at Grace Lutheran in LaPlata Sat. April 30th from 9 to noon for some networking with other churches and learning what others are doing to take care of God's people. The mission field is everywhere and we need to share God's love with everyone. Goodness knows between the pandemic, the war, and the escape from Afghanistan that a lot of people are hurting right now. If you will be joining us feel free to bring along any unwanted medical equipment and picture dictionaries with you.

We will be having a coffee hour between the services on Mother's Day to honor the ladies in our church. We hope you will join us for refreshments and conversation. Proverbs 31:31: "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

## **Family Ministry News!**

We have had a couple of movie nights now and next month we will be trying an ice cream social/game night. Let's get together on June 18th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. I will set out a sign up sheet to provide toppings for our Sundaes! May is just too full and hopefully there will be wonderful weather so we can enjoy this beautiful time of year that God has blessed us with.

Be looking for sign ups coming out soon for a new adventure. Starting in July we are going to have a rocket club for those who would like to participate. It will be after church on Sundays and there will be a fee of \$30 per rocket. This will cover the cost of the rocket and also a light lunch. Children who are in elementary school with need to have a chaperone with them but the middle and high schoolers do not. This is not limited to the youth...anyone who is young at heart and would like to join certainly may.



Looking ahead we are planning to get together and go to the "Faith and Family" Night at the Blue Crabs. I will be checking to see what kind of deal we can get. The event is scheduled for Aug. 19th at 6:35. On a side note it is also Military Appreciation that night. More bang for the buck!! As I receive more information I will make sure to get it out to you.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon!  
Tracie Pomrenke

I would like to remind everyone to complete our new Time & Talent Survey that has been in the bulletin the last couple of weeks. If you haven't already, please turn this in to the Church Office at your earliest convenience. If you don't have a survey, you can find extra copies at church.

This survey will help us to update your contact information. More importantly though, it will help us to find the right people for the right ministry in the Church. It enables you to serve the Church and the Lord by helping in an area of ministry that needs your help and talent.

Thank you in advance for completing this!

Felicia Bowling, Stewardship

Happy Mother's Day!





### **The Little Children and Jesus – Matthew 19:13-15**

The little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

### **Greetings from the Sunday School**

He has Risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia! And Alleluia for another beautiful Easter celebration with the Sunday school. The children arrived and recounted the Easter miracle, they decorated the cross with flowers, tried get our birdy to heaven with the parachute and realized only belief in Jesus can get anyone there! And of course the kids all enjoyed their Easter Egg Hunt. What a glorious morning. Thank you all for bringing your children and sharing together in the morning's events.

Now we really only have a short time left of the 2021-2022 Sunday school year. Our closing program will be on Sunday, May 29th at the 10:30 worship service. The students have been learning that "God has a song to share with the world, but too few singers." They will be sharing God's message of love and peace with some special songs, and we hope that you all can join in our celebration of another wonderful year. We will also have a fellowship picnic after the service as well. All families are asked to join us and bring a dish or dessert to share. Sunday school will provide the main dish.

We will also celebrate this year's confirmands with a Confirmation celebration on Sunday, June 5th. Again, more details will be coming.

Lastly, make sure to keep the week of June 27th – July 1st open so you can be a part of another fantastic year of Vacation Bible School. This year's theme highlighting the American southwest is titled Monumental, Celebrating God's Greatness! Please be on the lookout for more information and contact VBS Director Meredith Johnson (meredith.s.johnson@gmail.com) if you want to help out or participate. It will undoubtedly be another amazing week.

Thank you again to everyone for the continued support.

In His Service,  
Melissa Chew