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St. Paul Lutheran – May Newsletter
Volume 78, No.5



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SANFORD, MI 48657

2045 Lynn Road
Sanford, Michigan 48657

www.stpaulsanford.org

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaullutheransanford>

Church Office: 989.687.2824

Church Office: stpaul Lutheran@tds.net

Office Hours: Tue, Wed, & Thur (4:30pm-6:30pm)

May 2nd Elder's Meeting 6pm
May 12th Voter's Meeting @11am
Youth Movie Night 5/11 6pm
Trustee Meeting 5/16 6pm
Youth Board Meeting 5/23 6pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church (LCMS)
Sanford, Michigan



St. Paul provides a spiritual home where we can grow in our faith, live in God's love and reach out to others with the good news of Christ.

ST PAUL LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER



May 2024

www.stpaulsanford.org

Volume 78 No.5

God's Great Blessings

Pastor Christopher P. Vossler

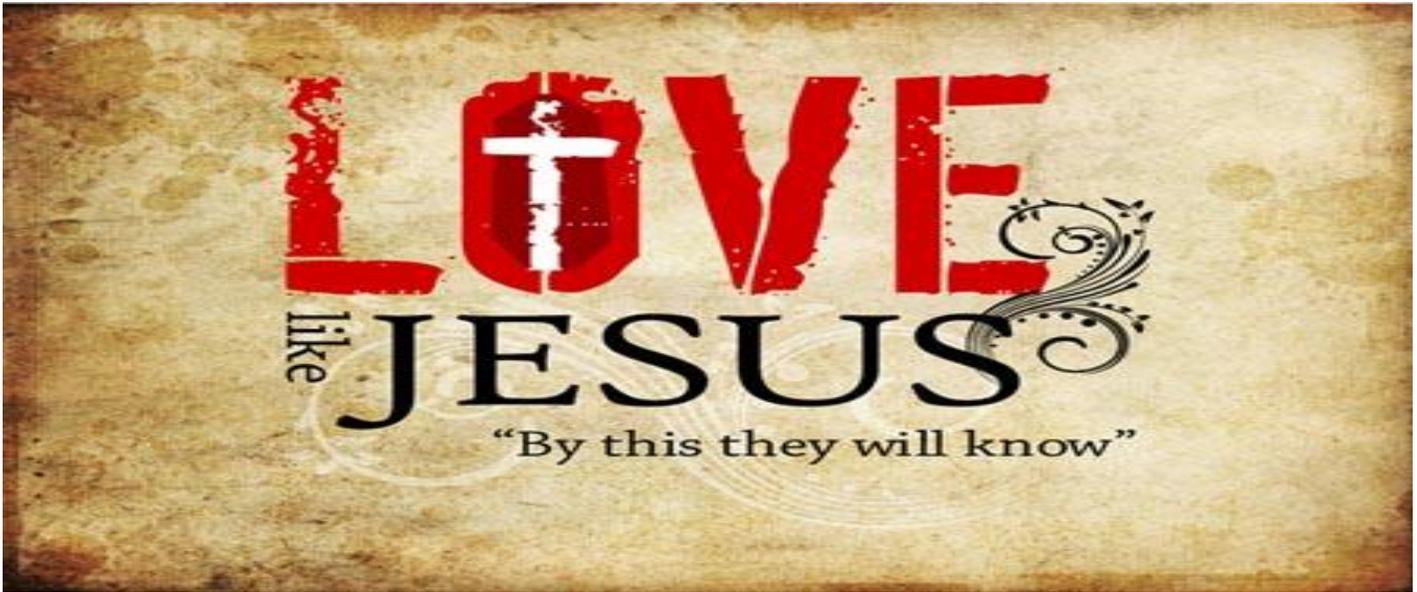
“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace; whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 4:10-11)

All through the month of May, we will be learning about, studying, and rejoicing in the many blessings that God has given us. In Luther’s Explanation to the Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer, he gives a comprehensive list of what these blessings of God are – a list that can be condensed down to a single word: “Everything.” Everything is a gift of God! Everything that we need for this life comes from God. Everything that we have is from God. God is the One who created us and gave us the skills and talents that we possess. He created not just *us*, but the world around us which provides everything that we need. God places people around us to help and support us, whom we in turn can help and provide for in their needs. And He Himself has placed His imprint on us, claiming

us as His own, whose lives are dedicated to Him and to His service. Everything we are and have comes to us purely by God's gift. We do nothing to earn it or deserve it.

In return, however, God does command us to use these blessings in a way that is pleasing to Him. The talents and skills that He gives us are for our benefit, yes. But they can also be used to build up His Church, to serve His people, to care for and support those whom He has created. The world in which He has set us is so much more than simply a collection of resources; it is a gift which God has called us to tend and work on His behalf. The people whom He has placed around us are His gift to serve and work together with for the building up of His church. All that we have, we are called to manage and steward as His servants. And yet, when we recognize that it comes from Him and is not really ours, it is not a burden to manage His creation on His behalf. He has given us everything we need – and so much more than we could possibly need! And in exchange, He asks us to join in His work, to manage and give freely to help those whom He loves who are in need.

Stewarding the great blessings of God does not need to feel like a frightening prospect, or like being forced to give something up. Instead, it places everything in its proper place. God as the giver. We as the recipient. All that we are and have as the gift that comes from our loving Heavenly Father, who wants to give us so much more than we could possibly need or ask.



St. Paul Stephen Ministry Corner

By: Marilyn Bowen

*“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ”
(Galatians 6:2, NRSV)*

“Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man shall give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” *2 Corinthians 9: 6,7*

Stewardship is not all about money. Everyone has gifts, we all are born with something special that makes us unique. Some have music, in their voices or their hands. Some have art, in their talent or their knowledge. Some are healers, teachers, sportsmen, hunters, creators, any number of things. We are all blessed with some talent that is a gift from God. We are to use these gifts wisely to enhance our lives and our world around us.

As Stephen Ministers, we are called to share our compassion and empathy for troubled people, and strive to help bring them peace. We are fortunate to have an organization behind us to teach us how to help fellow Christians deal with trials of life. “Now it is required that those who have

been given a trust must prove faithful.” *1 Corinthians 4:2*. We can help others in their need to cope with life challenges. We all have talents and skills, use them wisely and compassionately. “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” *2 Corinthians 9:8*

If you are in need of help? Or would like to join the Stephen Ministry, please contact Michelle De Coe, Marilyn Bowen, or Pastor Vossler.

“The disciples and the first century Christians may have felt like they were on the losing side. They had their doubts and fears. Maybe you do, too. They may have lost some earthly things. You may, too. But Jesus takes away the fear and the doubt. You have hope in His resurrection. You have hope even through the trials of life. You have a living hope in your living Lord.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. Word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679*

A BeauTEAful Attitude

Attitude is everything! Raeann Kusch, author of “The Personal Touch – Encouraging Others through Hospitality” will share uplifting stories to encourage us each to have BeauTEAful attitudes.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15: 5-6 NIV

Please join us for fellowship at our BeauTEAful Attitude Tea.

All Ladies are welcome

RSVP by **May 3, 2024** to Christy Martin ckm57@me.com

817-757-9577

There is a Sign up sheet on the fellowship board also

Ladies Aid Bake Sale for Sanford Rising

Ladies Aid has been asked to sponsor a bake sale for Sanford Rising on [May 18, 2024](#). This will be a great outreach for St Paul.

Proceeds from the sale of goods will be donated to Sanford Rising Festival.

We are asking for volunteers to donate baked goods. We need a dozens of items. All baked goods need to be packaged and dropped off at Church [May 17, 2024](#) by noon. They will be picked up on the 17th by Sanford Rising admin JoEllen Billingsley and she will man the bake sale on the 18th.

We are setting the prices and our Public Relations Committee will provide stickers with St Paul service and VBS information to be included with each purchase.

Following is a list of donation suggestions:

Requesting 5-6 sets of 4 dozen large (4-5") cookies, enclosed in individual zipper or slide baggies

Requesting 5-6 sets of 4 dozen small (2-3") cookies, packaged 2 to a bag

Requesting 6-8 dozen brownies (cut into 4" squares) in individual zipper or slide baggies

Requesting 10 dozen cupcakes, any flavor, enclosed in individual cupcake boxes found at Michaels or Amazon

Requesting 10 dozen muffins, any flavor, enclosed in individual zipper or slide baggies

Requesting 20 loaves of homemade bread, using frozen dough is acceptable, individually bagged

Requesting 10 dozen large cinnamon rolls, in 9x13 foil pans to be sold individually or in small, covered foil pans including 4 rolls in each pan.

These are just suggestions. Quantities are random and not set in stone. We will happily work with what we receive. We would like RSVP's by [May 13th](#) so we have an idea of what and how much to expect.

We and Sanford Rising Thank you for your generosity

RSVP to Christy Martin ckm57@me.com 817-757-9577 or Sign up sheet on board

SOCIAL MEDIA

We are on the web: www.stpaulsanford.org

Social Media and Website-In a continuing effort to keep our church website current and interesting, we are going to begin posting pictures of our members engaged in the various activities held at the Church and elsewhere on google and Facebook. Children will require special permission. If you would prefer not to have any pictures of you posted, please let Linda Mitchell know.

MIDLAND COUNTY NEWSLETTER ONLINE – Subscribe here (very informative):

<https://www.co.midland.mi.us> and search Midland County Newsletter.

MICHIGAN MINUTE: Weekly E-news & Events of the Michigan District, LCMS

<http://www.michigandistrict.org/connect/publications/michiganminute>

SMART PHONE USERS: There are two free apps available for your devices that pertain to your Lutheran Beliefs? LCMS app is free and provides great information including a Daily Devotion. The other is Luther's Small Catechism app which is also free. If you have questions or would like to check it out and need assistance please contact the church office.

The Lutheran Witness is now a free digital app. Once subscribers download the free *Lutheran Witness* magazine app, each new issue automatically will be sent to their newsstands for convenient viewing. Note: While the app itself is free, you will need a paid subscription to the magazine in order to receive it via the app. If you have any questions or would like to see whether the magazine is available for your device, visit www.cph.org/witness to learn more or to download the app. You may also call Concordia Publishing House at 800-325-3040.

Lutheran Service Book - EBook Edition at enews@cph.org **OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA:**

www.facebook.com/thelcms

www.twitter.com/thelcms

www.youtube.com/thelcms

www.lcms.org/socialmedia

KITCHEN GARBAGE Bags: ALL garbage bags removed from the Kitchen **MUST** be placed in dumpster and **NOT** left outside the back kitchen door. **RECYCLING:** A large bin for recycling only has been placed outside the back kitchen door ... **THIS IS FOR RECYCLING ONLY!** We also have smaller recycling receptacles around the church which are marked with a recycling symbol.



LADIES AID

The third Wednesday of every month is set aside for our monthly meetings at 10:00am beginning in February.

New Year sewing will begin February 14th and be every Wednesday at 9am at the Sunday School.

Ladies Aid Board

Christy Martin-President / Carolyn Sutton-Vice President / Pam Kastl-Secretary / Vicki Barnard-Treasurer

Questions may be directed to: Christy Martin 817.757.9577 email CKM57@me.com or Carolyn Sutton 989.631-3953.

BULLETIN / NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

If you have information you would like placed into any upcoming bulletins or newsletters, please submit to the church office via email at stpaul Lutheran@tds.net, calling 687-2824 or by placing it in the church office mailbox located between the restrooms downstairs. Don't forget to state the date(s) you'd like your information to run.

DEADLINES

Newsletters	20 th (monthly)
Bulletins	Wednesday's
by Noon	

Men's Breakfast: 2nd Saturday of the month

Ladies' Bible Study: 4th Saturday of the Month

Game Night: 3rd Saturday of Month 7pm

LifeLight Bible Study: Tuesdays @ 7pm and Wednesday @ 1pm



Camp Ark Encounters - Vacation Bible School; June 17th through June 21st. Use

this QR code to go to online registration or paper copies are available on the bulletin board 😊



Held every 3 years since 1980, **the LCMS Youth Gathering** provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

The Gathering is more than the five days of the event. The Gathering provides young people a vision for the vastness of Christ's Church and equips them for

vocational service as they continue their walk with Jesus.

We encourage our Youth to share in the once in this lifetime opportunity to learn more about God's love attending "Endure" 2025. To be held July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans

Youth Movie
Night- Saturday,
May 11th at 6pm 
featuring "Spider-
Man" Pizza/Popcorn/Smores for
movie discussion. Bring a
friend 😊 "

Youth Picnic/Float Decoration Party-
Sunday, May 26th following
church. We will
decorate the float for
the Memorial Hole
Corn Tournament with prizes, hot dogs,
hamburgers picnic luncheon.



Interested in joining the **Youth**
Ministry Board and
focusing on the
planning of
education/activities
designed for our



congregation's youth. Please let Gerianne or Pastor know if you can help.

For more information about youth group, Sunday School, youth bible study and events, please use the QR code to get to the form.

Confirmation Sunday-May 5th
Confirmation Questioning-
Saturday May 4th @ 7pm and Pot
luck 6pm

Mission of the Month: *May,*
we are receiving offerings for
LCMS Ministry to Armed Forces which
supports almost 200
chaplains. These "pastors in
uniform" represent the church and
provide Word and Sacrament
ministry to military personnel and
their families



Spring Clean up
work bee-May 18th
9am-2pm. Lunch provided!
Please sign up on the bulletin
board if you plan to help and
to have lunch 😊



Online giving is now available! Follow this QR code to our giving page or click on the donate button on our

website.

“BECAUSE WE CARE”

Prayer Request: If you or someone you know are in need of prayers please call Edna Rottiers at 989-687-9687. **Those** with additional prayer request please complete a prayer slip and give to one of our Elders before the service or to one of the Ushers during the offering. Your prayers are important and our Lord does promise to answer.

Pastoral Care: Please contact the Pastor @ cell 973-303-8252, office 989-687-2209, or email stpaulrev@tds.net. The Church Office (989-687-2824) / cell (989 859-9300) email stpauullutheran@tds.net, or Deacon Don Barnard (989-751-7726) email: esocidnator01@gmail.com. Or stpauldeacon@tds.net if you or anyone you know are in need of a visit from the Pastor or Deacon whether it's an illness, hospitalization, nursing home or shut-in. It is important to us that we receive these communications to plan a call or visitation. May God's blessings be upon you today and every day!

Our florist is, ***HANNAH'S FLOWERS***, in Midland. She will be making us a \$25 arrangement. Please continue to return the vases back to the church to help keep the price lower. All other florist prices were higher. You will continue to make your flower payment to the church. Any questions, please talk with Carolyn. Thank you,

Carolyn 631-3953

Altar Guild representatives for May are Kathy Engblade (631-6447) and Sandy Hoogerhyde and Jeffrey

Finney (213-282-0847).



To our families with small children: Relax!

You and your children are welcome to our worship service! Being in worship with you to observe and participate in the service will help them to learn how to behave in church – and they will learn that best by watching you worship on a regular basis! Sit anywhere in the sanctuary that you wish. The last two rows of pews are set aside for families with small children, but you don't *have* to sit there. In fact, sitting close to the front so your children can see what's happening may help them to feel more involved in the service. If they need something to keep their hands occupied, please ask one of the ushers for a copy of the children's bulletins for them to color. If for any reason you need to take your children out of the sanctuary so they can calm down, feel free to bring them into the bathroom at the back of the church. In addition, at the bottom of the stairs we have a cry room to the right, as well as the fellowship hall to the left. With the speakers in the basement, you will be able to hear the service while your child calms down. If your children don't want to sit still or be quiet through the whole service, there is absolutely nothing wrong with them: they are young and learning. The sound of children in worship is the sound of the Church's future.

Please be on the lookout for “phishing” emails and Texts that look like they were sent from Pastor. If you get an email or text asking for something from Pastor, read the from line at the top to see that it was sent from “stpaulrev”, or the Pastor’s phone #, or ask Pastor. The bad guys are searching trying to scam people.

If you are interested in private Communion ...for whatever the reason. Pastor Vossler and Deacon Barnard are willing to share the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior in a private setting. Please contact at their listing for Pastoral care.

THRIVENT

Thrivent Action Team Dollars: St. Paul Members who belong to Thrivent Financial have a unique opportunity to provide financial help for a project here at St. Paul. Each Thrivent member is eligible to receive \$250 twice per year from Thrivent to contribute to a St. Paul project. Examples of projects include: parades, Wild Game Dinner, Easter Breakfast, Harvest Dinner and many others. If you are a Thrivent Member that would like to help us with Thrivent Action Team Dollars on future projects please contact the church office to be placed on a list. Your help is greatly appreciated!

CHOICE DOLLARS

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TIME AND MADE A PHONE CALL TO THRIVENT FOR THE CHOICE DOLLARS. I’M ASKING EVERYONE WHO HAS A THRIVENT POLICY TO CALL, EVEN IF IN DOUBT REGARDING YOUR POLICY ELIGIBILITY. CALL 1-800-847-4836 THEN PUSH 1. THIS IS A PHONE CALL, NOT A COMPUTER GENERATED VOICE. THEY EVEN SPEAK ENGLISH AS THEY ARE BASED IN APPLETON, WISC. CALL IN JANUARY 24, APRIL 2024, JULY, OCTOBER, AND THEN AGAIN IN JANUARY 2025. THESE FUNDS ARE DIRECT DEPOSITED INTO THE CHURCH’S BANK ACCOUNT, SO YOU DON’T HAVE TO HANDLE THEM. THESE ARE 2023 EARNED DOLLARS BEING GIVEN IN 2024. NEXT YEAR MAY BE MORE OR LESS DEPENDING ON THE ECONOMY.

-WILLIAM P. MITCHELL



St. Paul Coffee Mugs are available for \$5.00. If interested, please see Linda Mitchell or Margie Dittmer

Sanford Food Pantry – Please continue your support of this very worthwhile local ministry. . There are refillable canvas bags from the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry available on the food pantry table in the fellowship hall. The bags have a suggested list of items and instructions. You may take these bags home and place the purchased items in the bag and return it to the church. The bags will be delivered to the Sanford Food Pantry the last week of the month. The empty bags will be returned to the church to be used again. Thank you for all of the items and monetary donations. *Your donations are appreciated, but please note that the Food Pantry does not accept: 1)*

weight-loss products; nor 2) food items with an expired date. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please put in the Public Relations Mailbox. Thank you for your consideration in helping those less fortunate. Please make the check payable to Sanford Food Pantry

Current needs are: Boxed Cake mixes and canned frosting

Has your contact info changed? If so, please contact the church office (687-2824) or stpaul Lutheran@tds.net and provide us with the changed information (address, phone, email or any other information).

BlackTop Project-We are accepting donations for the parking lot work needing to be done. Please make your donation out to the church and note that the amount should be directed to parking lot.

Social Media and Website-In a continuing effort to keep our church website current and interesting, we are going to begin posting pictures of our members engaged in the various activities held at the Church and elsewhere on google and Facebook. Children will require special permission. If you would prefer not to have any pictures of you posted, please let Linda Mitchell know.

Prayer Request: *If you or someone you*

know are in need of prayers please call or email Edna Rottiers at 989-687-9687 / hughrottiers@gmail.com . Those with additional prayer request please complete a prayer slip and give to one of our Elders before the service or to one of the Ushers during the offering. Your prayers are important and our Lord does promise to answer

Wanted: volunteers to help with Youth Activities



Vacation Bible School is coming up on June 17th - 21st, and we are very excited for this opportunity to bless the youth of our congregation and community! Much of the ground work has already been accomplished, but there is more to be done over the coming months. The Youth Ministry Board is looking for volunteers to help with youth activities (including joining the Youth Ministry Board). If you are willing to serve in this valuable role, please talk to Andrea McDonald or Pastor Vossler.

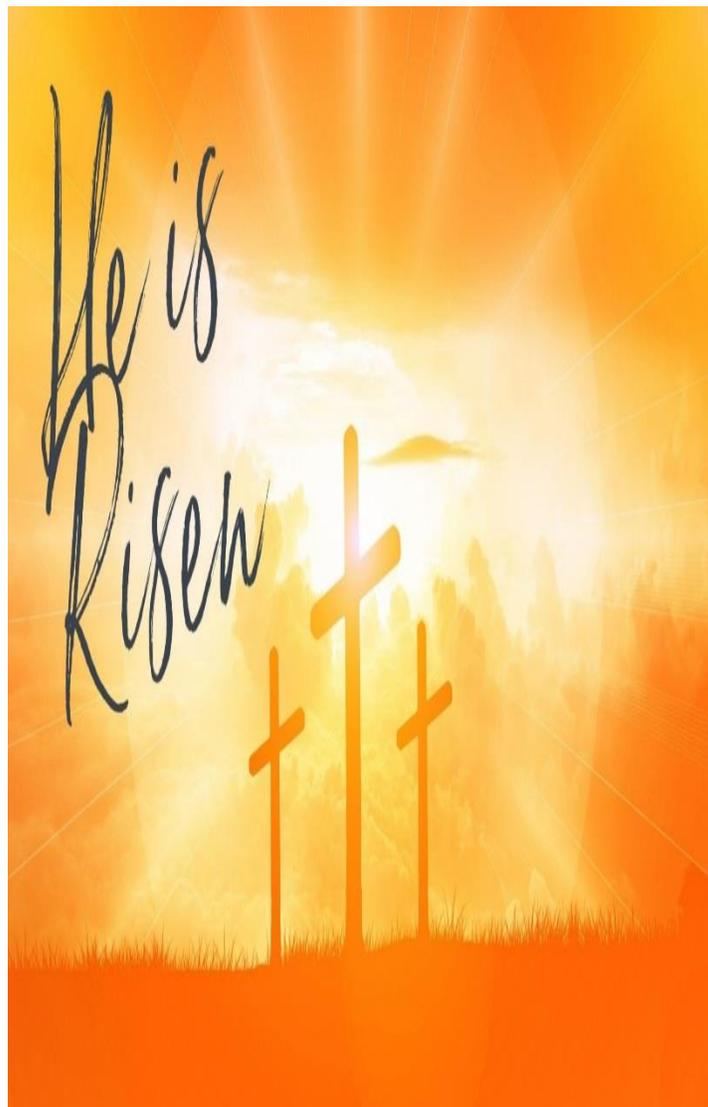
Confirmation will take place on May 5, with **Confirmation Questioning on May 4** at 7 PM. Everyone in the congregation is invited to come for the Confirmation Questioning to hear the students share what they have learned and what they believe. We will have a potluck before the Questioning, starting at 6:00.

Fellowship-Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship this morning for refreshments and conversation! Refreshments are provided each Sunday by members of the congregation. If you would like to provide snacks for fellowship, please sign up on the clipboard by the kitchen.

**Coming in May:
Stewardship Month :
Financial Peace University**

Have you ever asked yourself how you can become a better steward of all the resources and abilities that God has given you? If so, you're not alone. In May, we will look at all aspects of our lives as stewards of God's gifts to us. All of our Bible Studies, all of our worship services, will highlight specific areas of Stewardship and how our role as Steward (or "manager") impacts our whole Christian life. Starting with Confirmation **Sunday**, when we usher five newly-confirmed members into the next step of the Christian life.

Building off of Stewardship Month, join us this summer for **Financial Peace University**. If you've ever felt like you just can't get in control of your money, you're not alone. You'd be surprised how many people you know are struggling just like you. But it's time for your struggle to end—starting **today**. Join our FPU class starting on **Tuesday, June 4, 2024**, and learn how you can pay off debt, save more money, and build wealth. Sign up on the bulletin board downstairs!



May

Birthdays/Anniversaries



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Emily Sanderson Lifelight 1pm Choir 7pm	Susan O'Connor Elders' Meeting 6pm		Ann Reith Band rehearsal 4pm Potluck 6pm/ Confirmation questioning 7pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Confirmation Sunday 9:30am Worship w/Communion 11am Bible Study	Jason & Angela Martin-Annv	LifeLight 7pm	Lynn & Larry Terbush-Annv Chris Sanderson Lifelight 1pm Choir 7pm	Stephen Ministry Cook Out 6pm	Ladies' Aid Church Tea 6:30pm	Gordon Melchi Men's Breakfast 8am Band rehearsal 4pm Youth Movie 6pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mother's Day 9:30am Worship 11am Voter's Meeting		LifeLight 7pm Bev Bauknecht Laurie Bell Barbara Fauver	Ray Bauers Jr. Lifelight 1pm Choir 7pm	James Dittmer Trustee Meeting 6pm		Owen VanKuiken Yard Work 9am Band rehearsal 4pm Game Night 7pm Sanford Rising Bake Sale
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am Worship w/Communion 11am Bible Study	McKelle Dost Warren & Shari Draves-Annv Mary Nielsen	LifeLight 7pm Evelyn Eshleman	Warren & Charlotte Robinson-Annv Lifelight 1pm Choir 7pm	Youth Ministry Board 6pm	Amanda Heilig Troy Laplow	Women's Bible Study 9am Band rehearsal 4pm
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30am Worship 11am Bible Study Dan & Mary Schweitzer-Annv Tom & Michelle DeCoe-Annv Youth Picnic/Float Decorating 11:30am	Stephanie Smith Memorial Day Parade 10am	LifeLight 7pm	Scott Bell Lifelight 1pm Choir 7pm	Patty Billingsley Rachel DeCoe Donald De'Angelo Hazel Hurley Chris Reger		

May Volunteer Schedule

	5 May	12-May	19-May	26-May	2-Jun
ACOLYTES	Confirmation Sunday	*	*	*	*
ALTAR FLOWERS	Carolyn Sutton/Larry Terbush	Barbara Fauver	Open	Tom & Michelle DeCoe	Gary & Stacy Smith
ALTAR GUILD	Jeffrey Finney/Sandy Hoogerhyde 213.282.0847 & Kathy Engblade 989.631.6447				
GREETERS	Don & Nancy Retzloff	Diana Kausch	AJ & Cindy Brock	Bill & Ruth Draves	Open
FELLOWSHIP	Confirmation Sunday	Open	Open	Open	Andrea M./Lynn B.
ORGANIST	Christine Erkkila	Christine Erkkila	Sara Glynn-Dishaw	Sara Glynn-Dishaw	Heidi Stecker
PROCLAIMER	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler
SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard
USHERS	Betty Sczepanski & Edna Rottiers	Curt Bowland & Bill Draves	Curt Bowland & Bill Draves	Memorial Day-Elders	Stacy & Gary Smith
ELDERS	Mark Sprenger, Bob Burnison, Deacon Donald Barnard, Deno O'Connor, Bill Mitchell, Larry Terbush & Mark Burns				