

# Flock Talk

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

May 2024



hearts + doors *wide open*



**A MESSAGE** *from the Pastor*

*An Ordinary Spiritual Experience?!*

Pentecost. Not a word you use every day, right?

**You may know the story of Pentecost—disciples experiencing the gift of God's Holy Spirit with wind, flames, and language ability—but it is probably only a weirdly quaint Bible story.**

Pentecost doesn't have much to do with our lives, our church, our day and age... or does it? Maybe, maybe not. I believe it should, and it can!

While the details of what Peter, Mary and others experienced fifty days (Greek: Pente) after Passover/Easter and ten days after Jesus' commission and ascension are rather extraordinary, what they did is something you and I can still do in ordinary ways today.

For the people of the 1st century Palestine, us talking on a cell phone, driving to a friend's house in a car, or posting on the internet would have seemed miraculous. But we can use these common means to carry out Jesus' mission here and now:

*"... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8, CEB)*

What's holding us back? Fear, like the disciples? Lack of imagination, passion, or energy? Discouragement from past experiences? None of that is a match for the Spirit. We have many tools and opportunities. And Jesus is counting on us!

- + Dear friends, what our church and its members need is an *ordinary* experience of the Pentecost Spirit for telling, showing, and inviting everyone to experience our *extraordinary* God who loves, gives new life, and saves. We can and must open our hearts and our doors wide. Like the disciples, let's start praying together for God's power to inspire, encourage, and send us, today.

Come, Holy Spirit!  
*Pastor Stefan*

# SERVING THIS MONTH

COUNTER – Ken Schaal

## ALTAR GUILD

5 – Anita Swick  
12 – Sharol Hayes  
19 – Carolyn Meier  
26 – Karen Hamilton

## COMMUNION ASSISTANT

5 – Donna Wille  
12 – Sandra Moody  
19 – John Gibb  
26 – Carolyn Meier

## LECTOR

5 – Anita Swick  
12 – Carolyn Meier  
19 – Ken Schaal  
26 – Liz Allen

## USHERS

5 – Carolyn & Earl Meier  
12 – Greg & Sharon Schoen  
19 – Charles & Sandra Moody  
26 – John Gibb and Bill Hamilton

## VIDEO & AUDIO

5 – Liz Allen  
12 – August Plunkett  
19 – Merle Imler  
26 – Liz Allen

## FLOWERS

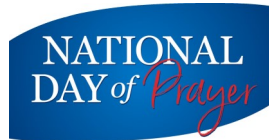
5 – Leland Storm  
12 – Pam Schaefer  
19 – *Still Available*  
26 – Danny Patton



## Highlights of WORSHIP

The season after Easter comes to a high point on the day of Jesus' ascension (always a Thursday) ten days before it culminates on the feast of *Pentecost* (May 19 this year). Equipped with the Holy Spirit, the church witnesses to the good news that Christ died and rose to give loving forgiveness and hope of eternal life to all people.

- + *Mother's Day*, May 12: We will thank God for our mothers and pray for their calling, example, and labor of love.
- + *Pentecost*, May 19: Let's gather like the disciples of Jesus and expect the gift of God's Spirit to renew, encourage, and support St. Paul's to be active in our mission: "... to be a nurturing Christian community, worshiping and following God by actively helping others here and beyond our walls."
- + *Trinity Sunday*, May 26: Can you do God's math: 1+1+1=1? We'll celebrate all that God has done and continues to do as Creator, Savior, and Helper.



## National DAY OF PRAYER

The Hillsboro Methodist Church (537 Rountree St.) is the host for our Greater Hillsboro Ministerial Fellowship's prayer gathering at 6:30pm on Thursday, May 2. All are invited.

- + If you are unable to attend the ecumenical event, you can still join by praying by yourself that day: Holy Trinity, one God, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. Make us, who came from many nations with many languages, a united people that delights in our many different gifts. Defend our liberties, and give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our sovereign and our Savior. Amen. (*From: Evangelical Lutheran Worship ELW*)



## Give Grant a Lift FUNDRAISER

Grant Bryant is a Hillsboro Junior High School student who was diagnosed with a rare form of Muscular Dystrophy as an infant. He has never been able to stand on his own and must use a wheelchair. Grant's mother died from leukemia when he was two years old, leaving his father Michael as his sole caregiver. As Grant gets older and continues to grow, it is becoming more difficult for Michael to lift him in and out of their small, older car. In a community-wide effort to raise money for a reliable used wheelchair-accessible van for them, there will be a drive-through lunch fundraiser on Friday, May 3 from 11am-1pm at the CNB parking lot.

- + St. Paul's has been asked to help provide homemade cookies for this fundraiser. Please see more details and sign up on the bulletin board if you can contribute homemade cookies toward this effort. Thank you!




## Library Storytime

with Our Very Own Star Wars Pastor

The Hillsboro Public Library (420 S. Main St.) will host a special storytime with Pastor Stefan in costume as *The Mandalorian* "Din Djarin" and with Groggu (Baby Yoda) at 10:30am on Saturday, May the Fourth. Stories from the Star Wars canon will retell adventures of famous heroes, and teach children real life values like bravery, honor, and friendship. There will also be fun and creative activities to enjoy or take home. Please call to register: 217-532-3055.



Women of St. Paul's are invited to join for a meal at Josephine's Tea Room in Godfrey on Monday, May 6. The group will be meeting at the church at 9am, with a plan to leave around 10am. All are invited! Please either sign up on the bulletin board or contact Carol Booher by Tuesday, April 30 so a reservation can be made ahead of time with the number of women attending. Thank you.

 The ImpactLife community Blood Drive will be at Hillsboro Methodist Church on Tuesday, May 14 from 1pm-6pm. Members from St. Paul's will be needed to donate cookies or volunteer that day. Please sign up if you can help. Thank you!



*Bingo* **OUTREACH**

St. Paul's members are reaching out to residents in local care facilities through games like bingo and other activities. The next outreach will be at Tremont Ridge on Wednesday, May 15 at 2pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board or contact Mary Martin if you are able to help out. Thank you!



Each month, St. Paul's supports a different local, national, or global organization as part of our mission to share faith, hope and especially love in financial and practical ways.

Our "Beyond Our Walls" donations for May will be used to support *Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center*. LOMC is a retreat and camping center in Oregon, IL which offers year-round programming for all ages. The purpose of LOMC is to be the church in outdoor settings, nurturing Christian faith and providing experiences connecting the word of God with the world of God. It is a ministry of the Illinois congregations of the ELCA.

LOMC is doing God's work in powerful ways that affect God's church and our ministry together. Please help us as we collect to support their ministry this month by giving either in the big jug or with a "noisy offering" during worship. Thank you for extending the reach of St. Paul's mission!



The last day of classes for both Sunday School and Confirmation will be Sunday, May 19. Both classes will take a break for summer and meet again in the fall.



Because Mothers' Day is on the second Sunday in May, and because so many of our members have special lunch plans that day, we will be following our usual practice of moving Coffee and Conversation to the following week for this month.

- + All are welcome to join us for Coffee and Conversation in the downstairs fellowship hall following our worship service on Sunday, May 19.



*Revival* **EVENT**

at *St. James Baptist Church*

We have been cordially invited to a special event with music and food by our sisters and brothers in Christ at St. James Baptist Church (1101 E. Seward St.), beginning at 2:00pm on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

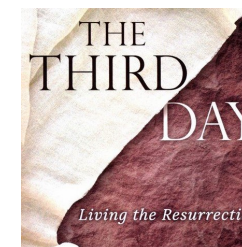


*Prayer Requests*  
**IN WORSHIP**

*Remember This:*

Pastor Stefan invites and welcomes your special and personal requests for our prayers of intercession during Sunday services.

- + You can share needs or concerns any time by calling, texting, or emailing Pastor Stefan.
- + Or you can use a form available on the Memorial Book "prayer desk" in the back of the church sanctuary near the tower door (you can also find copies of the monthly prayer prompts there to take) and give to the pastor or an usher (separately from your offering please!).
- + Or slip Pastor Stefan a piece of paper (preferred) or talk to him before worship starts.



*The Third Day* **EASTER VIDEO STUDY**

Learn about living the resurrection at 7pm on Monday evenings. Pastor Stefan is using the "Third Day" video series by Tom Berlin to help us connect to the experience of several individuals around Jesus.

Join Peter, Mary Magdalene, the apostle Paul, and others to learn how despair is turned into joy through the resurrection which can also transform your life. We will not meet on Memorial Day (May 27), and will finish the final session on June 3. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend any week.



The next newsletter will cover the month of June and the first half of July. All articles will be due to the office by Monday, May 20. Please be sure to submit any information that should be included in the next newsletter to the office in time. Thank you!



MEALS ON WHEELS

A big thank you to everyone who helps to deliver Meals on Wheels each month. Our next scheduled week is May 28-31. (There will be no meal delivery on Monday, May 27 due to the Memorial Day holiday.) Please contact Carolyn Meier for more details or to volunteer.



A Prayer for **MEMORIAL DAY**

On Memorial Day, we remember, honor, and give thanks for those in the armed forces who have given their lives for the sake of peace, justice, and freedom.

Almighty God, you are our strength and our shield. We give you thanks for the members of our armed forces past and present, and especially for those who have died while serving. May their sacrifices serve the cause of peace, and may our nation be ever grateful for their service. With your wisdom and strength guide our military's leaders and give to all people a desire for justice and peace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (*From: Sundays and Seasons*)



**MEN'S**  
Coffee

**MEN'S** Coffee & Faith

Guys are invited to meet for coffee, conversation, and devotions most 1st and 3rd Mondays at 9am. Check with Charles Moody for updates on schedule and location.



**DATES FOR** Altar Flowers

The following dates are still open on the 2024 flower calendar at St. Paul's.

<b>May 19</b>	<b>Jun 9</b>	<b>Jul 21, 28</b>
<b>Aug 11</b>	<b>Sep 8</b>	<b>Oct 20</b>
<b>Dec 29</b>		

To reserve one of these dates, please fill out a form from the west entryway counter and put it in the offering plate during worship or turn in to the church office. The cost is \$22.50. Thank you.



**PARISH NURSE** Ministry

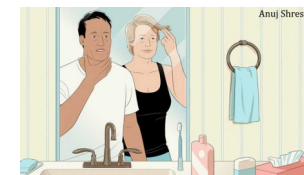
*Blood Pressure Checks and Wellness Information*

Lew McDonald takes blood pressures and provides information at church before and after worship, usually on the first Sunday of each month. Be sure to check in with Lew on May 5, and thank him for his ministry.

This month, Lew shares with us about doing a "Bathroom Mirror Self-Exam" to be aware of potential health concerns. There are eight total areas to focus on, which have been split up into parts over multiple issues of our newsletter.

**Bathroom Mirror Self-Exam (part 3 of 4)**

*From the curve of your back to the spots on your skin, you can learn a lot about your health from a close inspection in the mirror.*



**Hair**

*What to look for:* Unexplained thinning or patchy hair loss. Run a hand through your hair and look to see if strands come out. If they do, use a magnifying glass to examine the ends of the strands. If they are frayed, that probably indicates damage from overuse of a hair dryer or dyeing. If the ends are tapered, it means otherwise healthy new hair is coming out, a phenomenon that can occur several weeks to months after an intense period of stress or illness. Talk to your family physician, internist, or dermatologist, who may recommend topical or oral hair regrowth medications.

**Breasts**

*What to look for:* Changes in size, shape, or skin texture—possible warning signs of breast cancer or a fibroadenoma (noncancerous breast lump). Standing topless, place your hands on your hips, gently pressing them in to flex your chest muscles. (Men: you need to do this, too.) Look for any changes, including: lumps, dimpling or puckering, new asymmetry between the breasts, a newly inverted nipple, redness or rash, or leaking fluid. Next, repeat the sequence with your hands raised above your head. This helps you see the side of the breast and armpit better. If anything is amiss, your ob-gyn, family physician, or internist can perform a breast exam and order any necessary tests.



*Seeking:* **FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

Brenda Gibb has announced that she intends to retire from this position. She is willing to train a successor.

Please inquire about specifics and share your interest in applying for this paid staff position with either Brenda herself, council President Mike Plunkett, or Pastor Stefan.



Remember Our **SPECIAL CARE MEMBERS**

Members who aren't able to join us at church for worship or have special circumstances always appreciate it when we remember them in our prayers or show other signs of care like a visit, call, or card.

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Betty Bledsaw | Ken Meade        |
| Judie Donham  | Bob Mulch, Sr.   |
| Doris Enochs  | Pat Osborn       |
| Joyce Gooding | Delores Plunkett |
| Robin Houser  | Wayne Rhoades    |
| Lyn Lingle    | Kris Whitley     |



The Community Café at St. Paul's is a place to relax and connect with free refreshments and a dose of God's love. Open (most) Thursdays, 9-11am.

- + We'd love to reach more people and be open more frequently at different times during the week! Please let Barista/Pastor Stefan know if you would be willing and available to make coffee and welcome guests.



This summer, we will return to our regular practice for the season and move our Sunday worship time to 9:30am. The revised schedule begins on June 2. We hope this will provide an opportunity for everyone to make it to worship and still have time to enjoy their summer plans.



Want to Know How Your Faith Helps You in Everyday Situations?

With Faith+Life at St. Paul's you get a weekly reflection, activity, and prayer to connect faith and your everyday life, through God's message in the Bible and examples from current trends or events. Look for guides in your email, and let us know if you don't get them.

- + Weekly guides are emailed to members (print copies are available upon request). You can share discussion with others from St. Paul's on our Facebook page. Or chat with Pastor Stefan and others during St. Paul's Community Café (most) Thursdays, 9-11am.



Free Lunches from **LADLES OF LOVE**

Each week from 11am-12noon on Wednesdays, St. Paul's serves a free meal to the community, including a main dish, a side dish, and a dessert.

Sign up in the kitchen or talk to Paula Keeper for information on volunteering or donating desserts. Thank you!



Summer

(Bible)

Study about

**NON-BIBLICAL WRITINGS**

Probably starting after the conclusion of our Easter study, we are considering the continuation of a fascinating video lecture series about early Scriptures that did not make it into our officially accepted Bibles. You can learn a lot about the Christian faith by what we do



With *Deepest Sympathy*

Our deepest prayers and sympathies are with family and friends of St. Paul's member William Harrel Clinard, who passed away on Monday, April 22.

Heartfelt condolences and prayers for family and friends of St. Paul's member Betty Darda, who passed away on Tuesday, April 23.

The Lord is mindful of our need for comfort and has promised, "I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you." (John 14:18)



**THANK YOU** for Your Gifts

WE BELIEVE!  
WE SHARE!

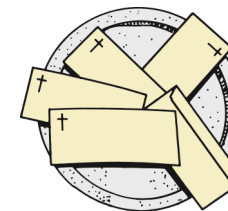
Everything we have comes from an abundant God and from generous people like you within or outside of our church at St. Paul's.

Monthly Expenses = 15,174.10  
(Budgeted Expenses ÷ 12)

March Income = 16,992.47

Quarterly Expenses = 45,522.30  
(Budgeted Expenses ÷ 4)

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Income = 44,653.26



Your offerings make St. Paul's ministries possible, and support God's mission to bless the world through local, national and global partnerships. Thank you for giving.

There are several options for how you can support St. Paul's ministries and mission partnerships:

- + **Give** an offering when attending services at church
- + **Mail** checks to P.O. Box 266 when you miss a Sunday
- + Set up automatic transfers through your **bank**
- + Give **online** using Tithe.ly on our website: [www.wideopen.church](http://www.wideopen.church)





A BIG word of gratitude to all who made our Easter Sunday celebration so festive through their gift of music, especially organist Cassie Gunn, Ken Wille on the trumpet, director Liz Allen, and both vocal and bell choirs: THANKS!



We say thanks to Mike Plunkett and the table tennis group for moving furniture and cleaning up the fellowship hall after the Spaghetti Supper.



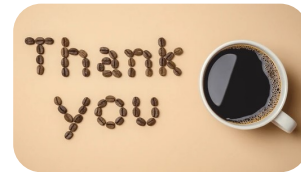
Thank you, thank you, thank you, August Plunkett, for figuring out what was causing the sound of our online videos to be distorted and fixing it! You are a tech genius and a blessing to those who watch worship online.



Many thanks to everyone who makes or brings treats for our Community Café at St. Paul's. It makes life a lot sweeter.



We thank Bill and Karen Hamilton for replacing the dead lilac bush on the tower corner of our church landscaping with a new one. What a nice gift for the Easter and spring season.



Thank you to Karen McCaffrey, and Jack and Lori Evans for subbing as baristas at our Community Café while I was on vacation. — *Pastor Stefan*



Thank you for cards, texts and gifts, the lovely song before worship, and the beautiful altar flowers to celebrate my birthday. :-)

— *Pastor Stefan*



Whoever is secretly replenishing our Keurig coffee and hot cocoa supply, thank you. It hasn't gone unnoticed!



# May 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 28 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship	Apr 29 9am Sewing and Fellowship 7pm Bible Study	Apr 30	1 11am-Noon Ladies of Love 5pm Vocal Choir 6pm Bell Choir	2 9-11am Community Café 6:30pm Prayer Gathering (at Methodist on Rountree St)	3 11am-1pm "Give Grant a Lift" Lunch Fundraiser (at CNB Parking Lot)	4 10:30am Star Wars Storytime (at Hillsboro Public Library)
5 9am Sunday School and Confirmation 10:15am Worship BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS	6 Meet 9am/Leave 10am Women's Outing (Josephine's, Godfrey) 9am Men's Coffee & Faith (Black Rabbit) 7pm Bible Study	7	8 11am-Noon Ladies of Love 5pm Vocal Choir 6pm Bell Choir	9 9-11am Community Café	10	11
12 9am Confirmation 10:15am Worship mother's DAY	13 9am Sewing and Fellowship 7pm Bible Study	14 1pm-6pm Blood Drive (at Methodist on Rountree St)	15 11am-Noon Ladies of Love 2pm Bingo (at Tremont Ridge) 5pm Vocal Choir 6pm Bell Choir	16 9-11am Community Café	17	18
19 9am Sunday School and Confirmation 10:15am Worship 11:15am Coffee and Conversation 2pm Revival Event (at St. James Baptist) Pentecost Sunday	20 9am Men's Coffee & Faith (Black Rabbit) 9am Sewing and Fellowship 7pm Bible Study JUNE/JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE COUNCIL REPORTS DUE	21	22 11am-Noon Ladies of Love 5pm Vocal Choir 6pm Bell Choir	23 9-11am Community Café	24	25
26 10:15am Worship TRINITY SUNDAY	27 OFFICE CLOSED Memorial DAY	28 7pm Council Meeting	29 11am-Noon Ladies of Love 5pm Vocal Choir 6pm Bell Choir	30 9-11am Community Café	31	Jun 1
MEALS ON WHEELS — MAY 28-31						

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:15-11:45am. The office is closed on Fridays.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
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 Hillsboro, Illinois 62049  
 Phone: (217) 532-2353

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
 P.O. Box 266  
 Hillsboro, IL 62049



5/2	Aaron Whitley
5/4	Morgan Jolliff
5/6	Paula Fenton, Grant Jordan
5/7	Dalton Deming, Olivia Klump
5/9	Dalton Taylor
5/10	Kellee Jo Keiser, Sarah Pollard
5/12	Gerry Rhoades
5/13	Patty Cady
5/14	Heather Plunkett, Ray Wille
5/15	Ken Schaal
5/16	Jaron Gibb, Kimberly Wallace
5/18	Bryan Keeper
5/22	Daxton Ronen
5/24	Robert Moore
5/25	Kendal Stewart
5/26	Vonna Wessell
5/27	Brenda Gibb
5/28	Erin Landers, August Plunkett
5/29	Cris Humm, Melanie Sherer
5/30	James Storm

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 YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@stpaulshillsboro](http://www.youtube.com/@stpaulshillsboro)

Pastor Stefan Munker  
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\* \* \* \* \*

Church Council:  
**President** – Mike Plunkett  
**Vice President** – Charles Moody  
**Finance** – Brenda Gibb  
**Secretary** – Ken Schaal  
**Christian Education** – Angela Kaculi  
**Church in Society** – Merle Imler  
**Evangelism** – Carolyn Meier  
**Fellowship** – *(Vacant)*  
**Property** – Greg Schoen  
**Stewardship** – Lori Evans  
**Worship & Music** – Liz Allen  
**Youth** – Sandra Moody  
**Youth Representative** – *(Vacant)*

