

ST. PAUL  
LUTHERAN

SPRING GROVE, PA

**April 21, 2024**

**9:00 a.m.**

Worship Service

## **St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

201 S. Main Street, Spring Grove, PA 17362  
717-225-3466

**Pastor: Rev. Alison Bowlan-Kurland**

pastor@stpaulchurchsg.com

Website: [www.stpaulchurchsg.com](http://www.stpaulchurchsg.com)

***Our Mission:  
To Know Jesus and to Make Him Known***

***Welcome to St. Paul Church!*** We pray the Lord will bless you through our worship this morning. If you are a visitor, please introduce yourself to Pastor Alison after the service.

***Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion:*** We welcome all believers to the Lord's Table who believe the risen Lord Jesus is truly present in the sacrament for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. Children may commune at any time at the discretion of their parent/guardian.

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"Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring," from *With One Voice*, #759.

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# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

9:00 a.m.

\* Stand (as able)

LBW *Lutheran Book of Worship* (green book)

WOV *With One Voice Songbook* (blue book)

NRSV *New Revised Standard Version Bible*

P: Pastor

C: Congregation

**Prelude:** *Musical Selections by Ian Hoke*

## Welcome and Announcements

- o *Baptism of Hudson Gray Leese*
- o *New Members Received*

## \*Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn:** *He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!* (LBW #501)

### Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

**\*Hymn of Praise:** *This is the Feast of Victory for our God*

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of eight staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [I] Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [II] Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [I] Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and". The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. There are also some small square symbols (like [I] and [II]) that likely indicate different parts or verses of the hymn.

join in the hymn of all crea - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and  
 might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
 ☩ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☪ For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 ☩ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*The Prayer of the Day**

P: O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **First Reading: Acts 4:5-12**

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### **Psalm: Psalm 23**

L: The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

**C: The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

L: You restore my soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**C: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

## Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God!**

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a common time signature (C) and contains the lyrics: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia." The music consists of a simple melody of eighth and quarter notes.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 10th Chapter



**Gospel: John10:11-18**

[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because the hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

P: The Gospel of the Lord!





**Anthem:** *I Just Wanna be a Sheep* .....Children's Choir

**Children's Message**

**Sermon**

**\*Sermon Hymn:** *The Lord's My Shepherd*(LBW #451)



*Baptism of Hudson Gray Leese*



*Reception of New Members Robie, Kristin, Harper, Wyatt Leese*

**Prayers of the Church**

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

P: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## Offering

**Offertory:** Selections by Ian Hoke

**\*Offering Hymn:** Let the Vineyards be Fruitful

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

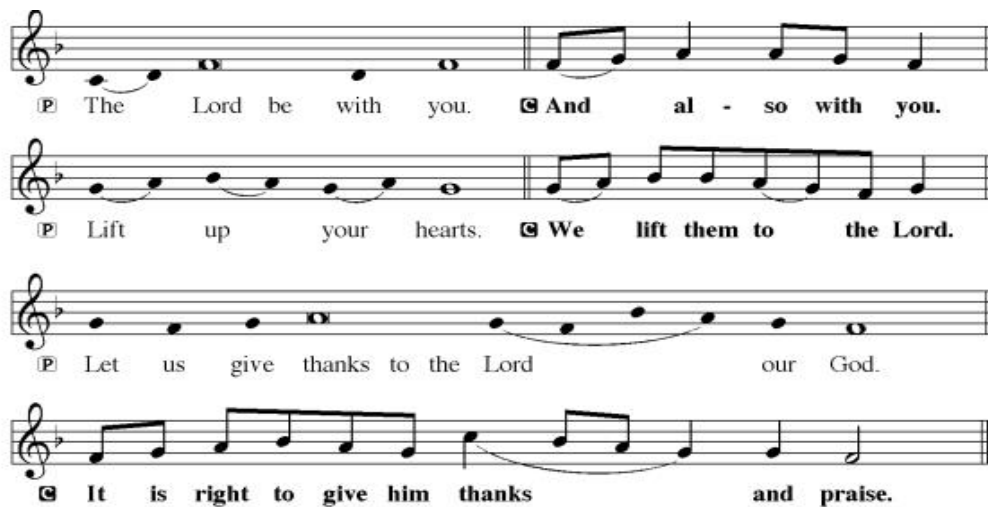


Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

P: Let us pray.

C: **Merciful Father, we offer with joy and Thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## \*The Liturgy of the Holy Communion



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you....  
....we praise your name and join in their unending hymn.



☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth...  
...as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: ...Do this for remembrance of me.

P: And so we pray with confidence, as our Lord has taught us:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

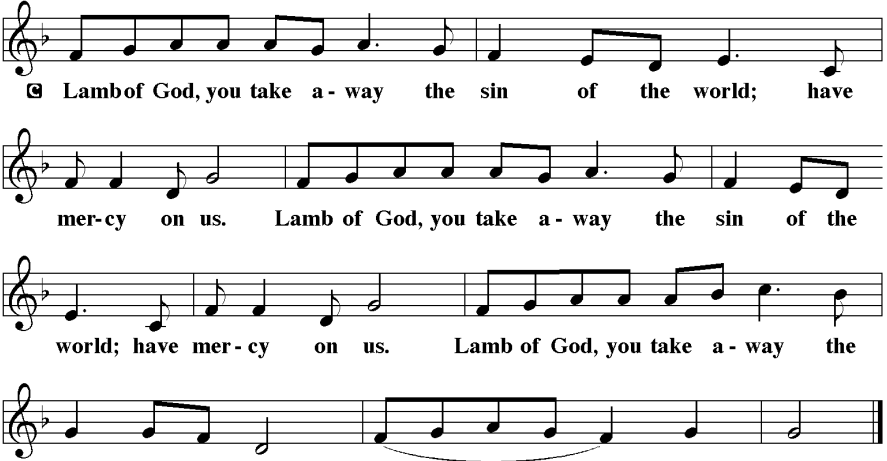
### **\*Communion Distribution**

*All are welcomed forward to receive communion. Our ushers will dismiss each row to come forward and receive communion elements from the pastor. While coming forward to receive the elements, you are invited to take a communion cup from one of our acolytes. You will then receive bread from the pastor and wine or grape juice will be poured into the cup you previously received by a communion assistant.*

*Children are invited to receive at the discernment of their families. Any who would prefer not to partake are invited to come forward and receive a blessing from the pastor. You may signal this by crossing your arms across your chest.*



## \*Communion Hymns



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a square symbol in a circle. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace." The word "grant" is underlined with a long horizontal line.

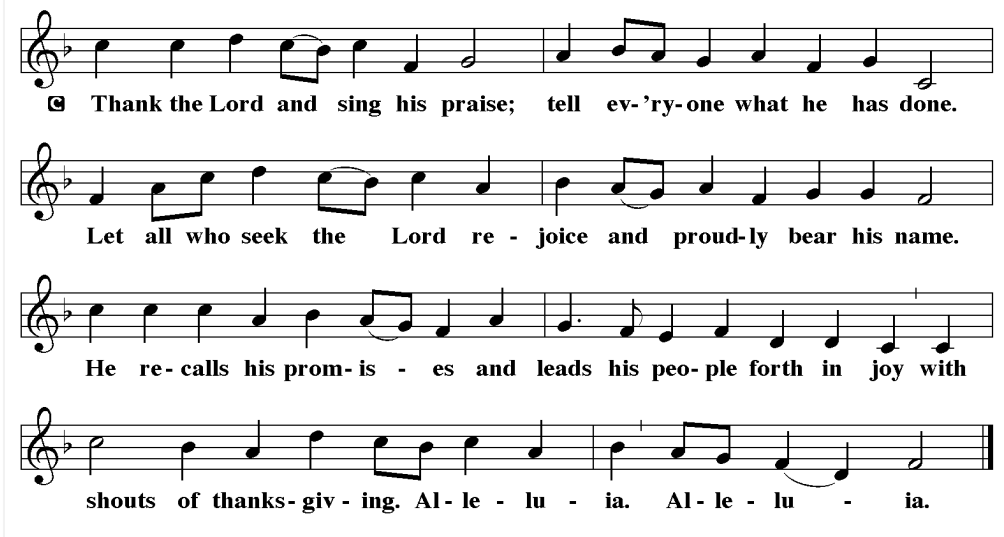
○ Hymn #711 (WOV) *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

○ Hymn #456 (LBW) *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

## \*Post-Communion Canticle



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*Post-Communion Prayer and Blessing:

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor ☩ and give you peace.

C: Amen.

\*Closing Hymn: *Have No Fear, Little Flock* (LBW #476)

## \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** in loving memory of Grandma Ada Luckenbaugh,  
by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** in loving memory of my dear friend, "Daney" Eckert,  
by Nancy.

**BULLETINS** in honor of our St. Paul Church family,  
by Carol and Don Slonaker.

**COMMUNION ELEMENTS** in loving memory of April Michelle Smith,  
by her loving family.

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### **WORSHIP AIDES**

**Acolytes:** Liza Kurland, Colt Leppo

**Audio/Visual Team:** Michael Kurland

**Communion Assistants:** Jess Plummer, Hannah Kessler

**Lector:** Hannah Kessler

**Music:** Ian Hoke

**Ushers - Captain:** Alan King

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### **CARING CORNER**

Each week the Visitation Committee will share a name, number & address for you to reach out and send a card to and let someone know that you are praying for them:

**Diane Lepson, 183 South Alpine Drive, York, PA 17408**

## **PRAYER LIST**

Harper Leese  
Diane Lepson  
Carol Sollenberger  
Barb Orndorff  
Bill Thoman  
Elliott Leonard  
Victoria Martin  
Kathy Godrey  
Jesse Betlyon  
Pat Berkheimer (cancer)  
Barb Gault  
Sheila Geuin  
Lou Long  
Steve Tiehel  
Sara Smith  
Larry Hamby  
Brian Miller (surgery)  
Robyn Jirsa  
Christine Smith  
Doug Ewing  
Sandy Mummert  
Jan Hersh (heart problems)  
Mary Kessler  
Tom Uffelman  
Scott Wisner (brain cancer)  
Sue Smith  
Sally Hoover (illness)

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## **LECTIONARY/LESSONS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 28 , 2024**

Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8



## FINANCE NEWS

This financial information shows the total receipts and expenses for the general fund for the current calendar year, as well as the current deficit or surplus.

<b>General Fund Summary</b>	
<b>March 2024</b>	
Total Revenues	*124,363.04
Total Expenditures	132,661.68
Net	-8,298.64
*This amount includes \$15,000 transferred from the Reserve Fund to ensure the church had cash available to pay for the second and third floor fire alarm project, which totaled \$28,500. This project was paid for in March of 2024.	

Please forward any questions to Amy at [Amy.Thompson@stpaulmlutheranchurchsg.com](mailto:Amy.Thompson@stpaulmlutheranchurchsg.com)

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## QUARTERLY DONATION STATEMENTS - PLEASE READ

The Finance Committee has decided to eliminate quarterly donation statements. Annual statements will be mailed in January. If you would like to continue to receive quarterly donation statements, please call or email Amy Thompson at 484-336-4077 or [Amy.Thompson@stpaulmlutheranchurchsg.com](mailto:Amy.Thompson@stpaulmlutheranchurchsg.com). As a reminder, you may request a donation statement at any time during the year by contacting Amy.

## **GIVE ELECTRONICALLY TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF ST. PAUL**

Did you want to contribute during the offering today, but you have no cash or check? Scan the QR Code below to go straight to the St. Paul Electronic Giving Page. Thank you so much for contributing to the ministry happening at St. Paul Lutheran!

If you would like help setting up recurring giving, please contact Amy Thompson at [Amy.Thompson@stpaullutheranchurchsg.com](mailto:Amy.Thompson@stpaullutheranchurchsg.com) or by phone at 484-336-4077.



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## **RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE ALUMINUM TAB COLLECTION**

We are collecting aluminum tabs from cans and will donate them to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA. The funds generated from recycling these tabs help support the Ronald McDonald House programs and services. The mission of Ronald McDonald House is to keep families together, inspire strength, and give comfort and support to families whose children are receiving essential medical care. Donation containers will be in the Fellowship Hall. When everyone “pulls” together, you can make a difference!



## **PLANT SALE**

Calling all gardeners! Mission, Service, and Outreach will be having a **plant sale on Sunday, May 5**, at church in the Fellowship Hall and we need your help. **We are asking for donations of plants. As you prep your gardens for spring and summer, we would love to have plants you would like to share.** Houseplants and succulents would be good also. We will provide some colorful annuals.

You can **drop off your plant donations at church on Saturday, May 4, from 10:00 to 2:00.** Please mark your donations with the plant's name. There will be a display in the Fellowship Hall with sticks to be used for labeling. If you are unable to drop off your donation on May 4, you may put them on the side porch by the side yard May 1-3.

The Plant Sale will be a good opportunity to purchase a variety of inexpensive plants just in time for spring planting. Proceeds from the plant sale will help fund Mission, Service, and Outreach projects. If you have questions, contact Brenda Bowersox.

## PENTECOST FLOWERS

**Pentecost Sunday is May 19** and again this year we are offering red geranium flower dedications. If you wish to remember loved ones or honor someone special in your life, St. Paul is taking orders for RED geraniums in 4 ½ inch foiled pots (**each \$5.50**) which will be placed in the church for worship service on Pentecost Sunday. *Order forms are available in the Fellowship Hall and the church office.*

A complete list of the dedications will be included in the worship bulletins on Pentecost Sunday.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR ORDER FORM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE, **NO LATER THAN MONDAY, MAY 6**, make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church and specify "Pentecost flowers" in the memo line.

**If you purchased Pentecost geraniums, you may take them home after worship on Pentecost Sunday or leave them to be planted on the church lawn.**

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## ROOTS FOR BOOTS

Would you like to help a local veteran? Throughout April we will be collecting ground coffee and teabags for Roots for Boots, a local organization which provides services to veterans and their families in York and Adams counties. They attempt to simplify the process of locating services and funds available to local servicemen and women.

One of the services is the monthly Military Share distribution held the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Fresh and nonperishable foods along with personal hygiene products and cleaning supplies are provided. There are 250 veterans registered for this program. The program receives donations from the York County Food Bank and community organizations and businesses. Coffee is an item not donated, but requested by the veterans.

Roots for Boots also helps veterans with rent, utilities, car and household repairs, and trackchairs for disabled veterans.

**A box will be on the stage in the Fellowship Hall beginning April 1 for donations of ground coffee (bags and canisters) and teabags.**

## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

### EVENTS:

- **All Church Sunday School Year End Celebration – Sunday, May 19, 11:30 a.m.**  
– **Church Side Yard** - Dress comfortably to church, bring side dish or dessert, blankets or chairs (Rain backup – Bible Trivia in Fellowship Hall)
  - **Last day of Sunday School** – May 19
  - **Vacation Bible School** – Monday, June 10, thru Friday, June 14, from 9:00-11:30 a.m.
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## GRADUATING SENIORS

This year, St. Paul will recognize five graduating seniors on two different Sundays in May:

- **Ava Plummer, Cameron Smith, and Austin Ural will be recognized Sunday, May 5**
- **Michael Hershey and Zach Smith will be recognized Sunday, May 12**

We would love to shower these seniors with gift cards to celebrate their success. We will be collecting gift cards in any amount to be divided up among our seniors. Gift cards can be for gas, bookstores, supercenters, coffee shops, restaurants, etc. **Please return gift cards to Amy Thompson or put them in the box outside the church office, no later than Sunday, May 5.**

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## ENCOURAGE COLLEGE STUDENTS

It is almost exam time for our St. Paul college students! Be sure to stop by the table in Fellowship Hall during Fellowship hour on **Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** to write them an encouraging message and sign to show your support leading up to exams.

## SPONSORS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

VBS will be held from June 10th to the 14th and we are so excited to welcome our kids and kids from our local community into the church for a week of fun, learning, and friendship. We are hoping to find fifty \$25 sponsors to help offset the cost of the VBS this year. Envelopes are hanging along the bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to sponsor a kid (or kids) for VBS, please take an envelope and return it with \$25 to the offering plate any Sunday morning in April, May, or June. Thank you so much for your support of our kids here at St. Paul!

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

St. Paul Church is excited to announce that registration for Vacation Bible School is open! **June 10-14, 9:00-11:30 a.m. / Kindergarten thru Grade 6**

**To register, scan the QR Code:**



**ST. PAUL VBS**  
**JUNE 10-14**  
**9-11:30**

REGISTRATION IS OPEN  
FOR KIDS ENTERING  
KINDERGARTEN-6TH  
GRADE!  
SCAN THE QR CODE TO  
REGISTER

## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

**PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP:** St. Paul Playgroup is held every Wednesday from 10:00-11:30 a.m. on the third floor. To join the St. Paul Playgroup email list, scan the QR Code below:





## **IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION**

**TODAY, APRIL 21-** Baptism of Hudson Gray Leese & New Members Received

9:00 a.m. Worship (Children's Choir)

9:00 a.m. "LIVE Stream Worship Online" Worship available through YouTube Live

**Fellowship Hour** – Fellowship Hall

**10:30-10:45 a.m. Children's Choir Practice – Pre-K thru 4th Grade – 3rd Floor**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

Youth Sunday School (5<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade) – meets on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor immediately after worship until 11:00

10:30 a.m. Young Adult Forum (faith and family) – 2nd Floor Conference Room

10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School – Parlor on 1st Floor

10:30 a.m. Forum Class (current events and faith) – 1st Floor Conference Room (Lemon Lounge)

**10:45-11:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School (Age 2 w/ parents thru pre-k) - Pineapple Rm -3<sup>rd</sup>**

**10:45-11:30 a.m. Childrens' Sunday School (K-4) - Kiwi Room – 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

**12:30 p.m. SCOUTS MULCHING CHURCH GROUNDS**

### **MONDAY, APRIL 22**

8:30 a.m. Quilters

(No Scout meeting)

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 23**

10:00 a.m. Bible Study – Parlor

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24**

10:00 a.m. Playgroup

7:00 p.m. Traditional Choir Practice

**7:00 p.m. Clothing Drive meeting**

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 25**

(6:30 p.m. Scouts/Girl Scouts – 3<sup>rd</sup> floor/basement)

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 27**

1:00-4:00 p.m. Private Event – Fellowship Hall

# GOSPEL MESSAGE

April 21, 2024

## Always Room for One More

When Jesus says “I am” in the Gospel of John, he unlocks a new perspective on his love. In today’s reading, when Jesus declares, “I am the good shepherd,” we can imagine our Lord caring for us and guiding us. We picture ourselves as his sheep. It’s reassuring to hear that we aren’t alone to navigate the dangers and challenges of this world. We have a loving shepherd who is looking out for us.

Jesus loves us so much that he goes above and beyond the shepherd’s role as a caretaker. He gives up his own life so our sins can be forgiven and we can receive eternal life. That’s what being a good shepherd means—having such a close relationship with the sheep that the shepherd will stop at nothing to protect them. The shepherd will lay down his own life so his sheep can have life.

When we hear Jesus’ promise to be our good shepherd, we must not miss his commitment to gather up the sheep that aren’t yet part of his flock. They, too, will listen to Jesus’ voice. Responding to his loving call, they will become part of the one flock that follows Jesus as their good shepherd, their Savior, and their Lord. No matter how many sheep are already jostling for space, there is always room for one more. Just like there is always room at our holy communion table for one more person to eat the bread, drink the wine, and receive the gifts of God’s mercy and grace. We can always squeeze closer to the sheep around us to let one or more sheep enter Jesus’ flock, thankful that the flock is growing and that we get to listen to the loving voice of our good shepherd, together.

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**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF:**

Pastor	Rev. Alison Bowlan-Kurland	717-381-1393
Church Musician	Ian Hoke	667-207-0550
Parish Administrator	Sandra Moler	717-225-3466
Financial Administrator	Amy Thompson	484-336-4077
Director of Faith and Family Ministries	Amy Thompson	484-336-4077
Council President	Karen Myers	717-495-5117

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