ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN

We confess that Jesus, the God Man came to suffer, die and rise again to save us. He then, 40 days after the Resurrection “Ascends into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father.” The observance of Ascension Day was noticed in the Christian Church around the 4th century. Before that it was joined in with the Feast of Pentecost, as Jesus promised to go back to heaven and then send His Holy Spirit. But what does it mean to have our Savior being in heaven. Here are some Truths to ponder:

When the Lord returns to heaven, He goes back with His Body! Remember He has always been True God and has forever existed, but His Body was prepared for Him and given in the womb of the Virgin Mary. He did not outgrow or outlive His Body. In His glorious Resurrection He was bodily raised and glorified. Now when He returns to His Father, He takes with Him His Body. He has been seated at the right hand of the Father. As our High Priest He has accomplished the Sacrifice for all sins, and His Blood continues to work for our salvation, such as in Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Yet the work is complete (“It is finished!”) and the High Priest no longer needs to stand and work, His work is done and He can sit down.

His return to heaven now ushers in a new era for the Church. Being established and enforged at Pentecost, the ascension reminds us “He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead.” As Christ returns to His rightful Throne and Glory, He is there to “prepare a place for you.” When the time is ready, according to the Father’s schedule, the Messiah will come for His Bride, the Church and call for the wedding festival to begin. The glorious scene on the Last Day will find the Powerful and Glorious Savior returning to earth. No, He will not come to establish an earthly kingdom, rule for a thousand years, give a second chance or fight a war. When He comes, That’s all folks! He desires and longs to bring us into the Father’s House, to celebrate the marriage feast, the walk in the New Paradise and worship in the glorious “holy of holies.” This is our hope as He has gone into heaven, from where He will come to bring us to Himself.

Christ’s Ascension ushers in the era of the Church, the symbolical “thousand years,” that have Christ by His Word, Spirit and Sacraments offering His grace, love, forgiveness, mercy, hope, peace and joy. We celebrate the Ascension as we celebrate the Church and the King and Lord who rules and reigns. We are blessed with the faith to hold these to be certain, true and real as we wait for His Return.

A Blessed and Joyous life of faith in the King of kings.

(+ Colossians 2:2 +)
**Monthly Mission Offering**

This month we are privileged to support and encourage another Lutheran ministry that we previously had not supported! This month we will offer our special gifts and prayers to “Laborers For Christ.”

This group has been serving our congregations and ministries since 1980, with service, witness and labor done in the love of Christ. In conjunction with our “Lutheran Church Extension Fund” many improvements and new structures have been provided.

We will have baskets available for your special gift of support on the weekend of **May 18 and 19** at worship. Please consider your gift and give thanks to the Lord and His people for their desire to serve and share in these special needs.

Again, bring your gifts of love and support on **May 18 & 19** when you come for worship.

Our Offering for next month will be our local ministry of “The Kitchen Table.”

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**Laborers For Christ**

LCEF’s “Laborers For Christ” program provides the hands and hearts you need to accomplish God’s plan for your ministry. Members of “Laborers For Christ” assist with ministry projects—remodeling existing facilities, building new ones or updating older structures for optimal efficiency.

Since 1980, “Laborers For Christ” has helped complete more than 860 of these projects. Members are dedicated Christians who enjoy witnessing their faith, serving others, traveling and meeting new people.

“Laborers For Christ” members bring experience and expert knowledge in construction, typically cutting building costs by 10% to 30%. “Laborers For Christ” can also update existing facilities, helping you acquire tax credits, money savings and energy efficiency.

The financial benefits, though, are secondary to the uplifting presence “Laborers For Christ” brings to your ministry. Members become part of your ministry, attending worship services and Bible studies. They will help you multiply your volunteer base—not only for the construction project but for your overall ministry.

You can join “Laborers For Christ” to start helping LCEF with construction projects at LCMS ministries. When you become an Active Laborer, you’ll be able to empower ministry by working to help congregations, schools and organizations carry out their mission of sharing the Gospel.

For more information about “Laborers For Christ,” please call LCEF’s Information Representatives at 800-843-5233 or email ministry.support@lcef.org.

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**YOUTH CONFIRMATION**

On **Sunday, May 12th** during worship we will conduct the “Rite of Confirmation” as 4 young people are publicly proclaiming their baptismal faith and the grace into which they have grown.

We are thankful for the blessings of the Holy Spirit as these young people have been instructed in the Christian faith and are desiring and willing to share in greater responsibility for their life of faith and discipleship. The will also be sharing their “Faith Statements” during worship services in May. These statements are a two page expression of their confirmation verse and the importance of this Word of God in their lives.

We rejoice and continue to pray for our new confirmands:

- Addison Friestad
- Dylan Gonnerman
- Elijah Metzger
- Jared Warner

May the Lord bless them and their families as they continue in faithful and fruitful living as members of the Body of Christ and this family of faith.
**Pastor at Conference**

On May 21 & 22 Pastor will be attending the “General NID Pastor’s Conference” at Concordia, Chicago (River Forest).

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**Congregation Update**

- At the congregation meeting last Sunday, the motion to approve updating the sanctuary lighting at the bid of $59,000 was declined. Several members have volunteered to work with the Church Council in looking at other alternatives. A fundraising committee will need to be set up to secure funds before moving forward.
- Jeff Truckenbrod has been appointed as Vice-President of St Paul till the election in February 2020. Thank you Jeff!
- St Paul is securing bids to update to the Fire Alarm System for the complex. This is a Life Safety requirement of Church Mutual, our insurance company.

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**Handicap Parking**

We have had requests for additional handicap parking. Signs have been ordered and will be installed the length of the East side (church side) of the drive.

**We REQUEST YOU DO NOT PARK IN THIS AREA unless you have a Handicap Placard or Handicap License plate.**

This will go into effect upon installation of the signs. It would be nice to save the other side of the driveway for those in need of temporary close parking. If you are able, please park in the rear parking lot. Thanks for your consideration.

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**Property Help Needed**

- Help is need to clean up the outside property. This help will be needed for the spring and throughout the summer. Even an hour or two at a time would be helpful.
- The basement fellowship hall will be painted after the end of the school year along with some other areas. If you are able to help with these projects, please contact Bob at 815-562-6309.

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**Food Pantry**

Our turn to help with the food pantry is May 21 & 24. Please share non-perishable food items the weekend of the 18-19th. Workers are also welcome. Call Gail at 562-4681.

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**THANKYOU**

- We would like to send our thanks to everyone for the prayers, visits, cards, food, and love at the death of Dave. The lawnmower tribute at the funeral will forever be cherished. And a special thank you to Pastor Hoffman for being with us on this journey. Joyce, Neil, Paul, and Kelly Soost.
- Thank you to my church family for keeping me in their thoughts and prayer during my recent health problems. Thanks also for all the cards, phone calls, flowers and gifts. It meant so much to me.
- God Bless you all. Carol Friestad
- Thank you for all the lovely cards prayers and sentiments as I celebrated my 80th birthday.
- Glennie Eyster
- We appreciate you ongoing financial support and spreading the word that we are in need of volunteers as well. God Bless and consideration in your annual giving budget.
  - Shirley Reif, Treasurer Rochelle Rescue Mission
Dear St. Paul Family and Friends,

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13 ESV

This month I would like to share some “healthy advice” regarding caregiving. Please re-read the Bible verse above. There is not a period after “I can do all things”. The him is a reference to Christ.

Caregivers often chose to put their lives on hold as they care for another person—often a family member. They think they must do it all, but this attitude means they neglect their own physical, emotional, mental, social, and spiritual needs. They rarely leave home for any reason—except to doctor’s appointments for the care recipient.

Giving care for every part of the life of another can be lonely, overwhelming, and lead to thoughts of hopelessness. The constant requirements of this care may lead to burnout of the caregiver. The caregiver may withdraw from others, be irritable, have changes in appetite, experience insomnia, or be exhausted. After the family member has passed, the caregiver may be found to have health problems due to former personal neglect.

Aspects of burnout may also include:
- Role confusion—confusing their role in the family (spouse, son, daughter) to that of constant provider.
- Unrealistic expectations—including the expectation that the care-receiver will be grateful for their care.
- Lack of control—very few caregivers have planned to be a caregiver.
- Unreasonable demands—many caregivers will take non the full load of care, believing they are the only one who can provide the care.

Burnout may be obscured by the need to be the caregiver. Caregivers often deny that they are not able to handle this level of care. Depression and loss of their own health may be the outcome.

To prevent burnout
- Talk to a trusted friend about your frustrations, feelings, and fears
- Learn more about the disease process
- Allow yourself to participate in an activity you enjoy
- Remember to nourish your spirit through prayer, worship, and private devotions
- Eat well and get enough sleep.

Caregivers are often alone in a “sea of people”. The parish nurse ministry is pleased to care for the caregiver as well as the care receiver. The parish nurse office has several useful resources for the caregiver and will help locate resources for the care receiver.

In the healing Christ, Marcia Schnorr, EdD, RN-BC

Parish Nurse Office hours remain 8:00-11:30 Mondays through Friday unless otherwise noted. There will not be parish nurse office hours on Friday, May 17th or May 20-24 due to the bi-annual visit of Raida Mansour and various parish nurse meetings and the annual Concordia Conference. (Marcy will be available by phone or text on the 17th and 24th. A member of the parish nurse team will be available May 20-23. If you have a need, Julie will contact the person “on call”.

Cards and Coffee will meet Friday, May 3 at 10am in the parish nurse office. If you can assist with the senior Christmas card outreach in any way, please join in the fellowship. You do not have to be especially talented—there are many simple tasks that anyone could do.

Single Sunday will meet Sunday, May 5th at noon at the Sunrise. This group is for widows, divorced, never married, or just “single on Sunday”. If interested in more information contact the parish nurse office.

Board for Health and Human Care meets Wednesday, May 8th at 5:30pm in the parish nurse office.

Community Outreach for Senior Living Sites continues with the monthly Bible study and group discussions at Lincoln Manor (Thursday, May 9th at 4pm) and Hawthorne Inn (Tuesday, May 14 at 2pm). Anyone is welcome to join in the fellowship outreach.

OK Club will meet Friday, May 10th at noon at the Huddle in Ashton. (carpool from church at 11:30). We will continue our short Bible study, One God/many gods. In observation of Mother’s Day, everyone will be asked to share a memory of their mother and/or grandmothers. If you can attend, please contact Evelyn Hintzsche at 815-562-4668.

Blood Pressures will be checked on Sunday, May 12th (8:30-8:45) in the parish nurse office.

Senior Supper Club will meet Friday, May 17th at 5:30pm at Alfano’s. We will continue the short study from days with Martin Luther. If you can attend, please call Elda Mae Jordal at 815-562-4755.
Raida Mansour will be with us for her biannual visit on Sunday, May 19th. Raida is the parish nurse at Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and the Dyar Consortium in Bethlehem. Many will remember Raida when she was with us for a one-month internship in 2006, one of the biannual trips back to St. Paul, or on a mission and ministry trip to Bethlehem. If you have not yet met her, this will be a good opportunity for you. The parish nurse team will host the coffee hour. Instead of the usual Bible class time, we will have a time for informal questions and answers. Bring your questions about her ministry, life in Bethlehem, and anything else you would like to know. Raida will do her best to answer your questions and provide an update on her service.

Following the Q/A time, a shared blessing lunch will be hosted (about noon) by the Board for Health and Human Care and the Seniors of St. Paul. If you plan to attend, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Chicken, beverages, and table service will be provided.

Raida will also be the guest of honor at a “meet ‘n greet” at the NID Office on Friday, May 24th (9:30-11:00 am). If you missed the opportunities at St. Paul, you are also welcome at the at the district office.

Parish Nurse Meeting: There will not be a regular Parish Nurse Team Meeting in May. A brief “meeting by memo” will be immediately after the coffee hour.

OK Club will meet May 24 at noon at Abraham’s. Please contact Evelyn Hintzsche at 815-562-4668 if you can attend.

Thursday Worship Service will be Thursday, May 30 at 2pm [NOTE DATE] This service is especially for those whose health concerns make attending the regular week-end service difficult. Pastor Hoffmann will lead a brief worship service with communion. Marcy will check blood pressures of anyone who desires the service. A time for fellowship will follow. If you need a ride, please contact Marcy or the church office.

5th Friday Event at the Gardens: “For God and Country” will be the theme for the 5th Friday event at the Gardens on May 31 at 1:30pm. The 5th Friday events are led by Marcy Schnorr with the assistance of the Board for Health and Human Care and Senior Council.

Thank You Thrivent Members!

Thank you to Thrivent members who called in or logged in and released their 2018 Choice Dollars. Just last month we received $1,615 through this program. It varies greatly each month, but thanks to everyone who takes the time to designate Choice Dollars. 1-800-847-4836

Joys of motherhood

* A hug for no reason.
* Belly laughs.
* The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you’ve been trying to teach them.
* Smiles and giggles.
* Mud pies.
* Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
* Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child’s lips.
* Quiet moments on the couch.
* Reading aloud together.
* A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
* Watching your child be kind to another.
* Recognizing a moment you’d like to freeze in time.
* A child’s look of surprise and joy.
* A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
* The words “I love you” — and a sticky kiss.

unknown

Thanks, Mom!

At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. “I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life,“ he said. “She’s a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice.”

The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. “It’s really hard to read my mom’s handwriting,” he said.
LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES
WRHL 1060 AM—7:30am Sundays

May 5  “The Good Fisherman”
May 12 “Home”
May 19 “Up Close and Personal”
May 26 “Sculptor Spirit”

Listen to St. Paul’s Sunday service, broadcast on WRHL(1060AM) at 10a.m.

May

Guadalupe Gonzales  5/2
David Hayes           5/2
Brady Shank           5/2
Kelly Usilton         5/2
Pamela Seyller       5/4
Zackary Abell        5/5
Ron Duval            5/6
Kyle Seebach         5/6
Reilly Wagner        5/8
Rosella Warner 81     5/8
1772 Ashton Rd Ashton 61006

Pat Fletcher        5/9
Matthew Svela       5/9
Barb Stewart        5/12
Jeri Wethington     5/12
Ben Eyster          5/14
Elise Maliszewski   5/14
Jeff Truckenbrod    5/14
Andrea Fletcher     5/15
Diane Kester       5/15
Brian Gonnerman    5/17
Vi Hay              5/17
Alicia O’Rorke      5/18

Dale Svela 94 PO Box73 Steward 60553
Gail Myers           5/19
Danelle Davis       5/20
Dorene Albaugh      5/20
Heather West        5/20
Robert Bowers       5/21
Mandi Cruz          5/21
Jane Reineck        5/21
Mary Bunger 80 2201 Flagg Rd #38
Jessica Elam         5/26
Alaena Doubler      5/26
Paul Lieving        5/27
Maribeth Nelson     5/27

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Normal income thru April 28, 2019 $ 141,959
Total Projected & Actual Expenses for Fiscal Mar 2019– Feb 2020 $ 864,495
Normal Income Needed to Break-even for Fiscal Year $ 722,536

March – February 2019:
Total Normal Income $ 726,435
Total Expenses $ 783,012
Cash Flow - Negative $ -56,577
Borrowed/Loaned Funds $ 60,000
Net Cash Flow $ 3,423

St. Paul has donated $558.40 from the Church offerings this calendar year to the Northern Illinois District (NID) Missions.

Worship Anew (Formerly Worship for Shut-ins) Comcast channel 138 on TLN—11:30am Sundays

May 5 “From Grief to Gladness”
May 12 “The Voice of the Shepherd”
May 19 “Hearts Will Rejoice!”
May 26 “Plain Talk”

Anniversaries
M/M Rod Bunger 34 5/4
M/M Terry Stinnett 42 5/7
M/M Byron Burdin 43 5/8
M/M David Niemi 7 5/19
M/M Glen Mehrings 28 5/25
M/M Anthony Rowley 12 5/25
M/M Archie Eyster 59 5/28
1463 Whiterock Rd

If we missed your important day or have it listed incorrectly, please call the church office (815.562.2744)

Guadalupe Gonzales
David Hayes
Brady Shank
Kelly Usilton
Pamela Seyller
Zackary Abell
Ron Duval
Kyle Seebach
Reilly Wagner
Rosella Warner 81
1772 Ashton Rd Ashton 61006

Pat Fletcher
Matthew Svela
Barb Stewart
Jeri Wethington
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Alaena Doubler      5/26
Paul Lieving        5/27
Maribeth Nelson     5/27

Brian Koonce       5/28
Lee Prunty         5/28
Josh Johnson       5/29
Jason Svela        5/31

Brian Koonce
Lee Prunty
Josh Johnson
Jason Svela

May 4 Liturgical  **Note change
May 5 Liturgical w/ Communion
May 11 Contemporary w/ Communion
May 12 Liturgical - Confirmation
May 18 Contemporary
May 19 Liturgical w/ Communion
May 25 Contemporary w/ Communion
May 26 Liturgical—Graduation
May 30 2:00 p.m. Thursday Fellowship

Brian Koonce 5/28
Lee Prunty 5/28
Josh Johnson 5/29
Jason Svela 5/31
Thoughts from the Principal…

Recently after church I was making my regular Sunday breakfast and watching the Masters Golf Tournament. Many big names were on the leaderboard, but one name was a little bigger than the others. As the day rolled on, contenders fell by the wayside, one by one, until the last one standing was of course, Tiger Woods. The same Tiger Woods who went from superstar to the brunt of jokes was back on top of the golfing world. In fact, he is probably back on top of the world in general.

Our country, and the world for that matter, has a way of giving second chances. I can think of many disgraced sports stars and celebrities who have hit rock bottom only to pick up the pieces and rise to the top again. Most people tend to forgive the mistakes and behaviors that led to their demise, and celebrate their comebacks with great enthusiasm. You only had to watch the fans at the Masters as they erupted in joy as Tiger sank the final putt, sealing the victory.

I tell you that to tell you this. We too are given a second chance. In fact, we get as many chances as we need. Every time we hit rock bottom, God is there to forgive us. I picture the saints erupting in joy as we rise again from the depths of our sin. Because of the pain and suffering of Jesus Christ and His subsequent resurrection from the grave, we are given as many chances as we need to rise to the top and claim our championship; eternal life in heaven with Him.

Steve Hall; Principal

Congratulations to Cheryl Bialas who earned the honor of valedictorian and Wade Smith who earned the honor of salutatorian for the St. Paul graduating class of 2019. Great work Cheryl and Wade!

The 5th through 8th graders of St. Paul Lutheran School went to “Feed My Starving Children” on April 8th. It is good to share God’s love with others in this special way.

St. Paul Lutheran School graduation is scheduled for Sunday, May 26th at the 9:00 am service. We thank God for blessing St. Paul Congregation with a wonderful day-school. To God be the Glory!

If you haven’t participated in the SCRIP program as of yet, please consider doing it. By using this program you can support St. Paul Lutheran School and it costs you nothing. Contact Rhonda Lodico in the school office for more information.

On behalf of the staff and students of St. Paul, I would like to thank all of the members of our congregation who helped with the auction by donating, helping with preparations, attending the event, and bidding on items. The auction is vital to the school, and once again it was a great success. Thank you all, and praise be to God!
A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.

She gets _____ while it is still ______;  

she provides _____ for her _______.

Her _____ rise ___ and ______ her blessed.

PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

WORTHY OF RESPECT

On Mother’s Day, we celebrate our moms and everything they do for us. How does God tell us to treat our moms?

Directions: Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV.

"Thou shalt honor your father and your mother, as the Lord thy God has commanded you."

Answer: up, night, food, family, children, up, call

Answer: up, night, food, family, children, up, call
The mission of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church:

Building relationships in Christ now and forever.

Worship Services: Saturday at 6:00 p.m. Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
Bible Class & Sunday School 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
Rev. Greg Hoffmann, Pastor 562-2744, after hours 562-6155
Marcia Schnorr, Parish Nurse 562-6823
Steve Hall, Principal 562-6323
Church Office 562-2744, School Office 562-6323, Fax Number 561-8074
Church Office E-Mail Address: stpaul2@rochelle.net
Website: stpaulev.org

VBS
June 3-7
9-11:30:am