



# ST. PAUL VISITOR MAY 2023

*The mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is to CELEBRATE and PROCLAIM to all the saving grace of JESUS CHRIST in word and deed.*



We pray for...

LaDonna, Al, Helen, Ernie, Myles, John, Jackie, Charles, Stephen, Steve, Dale, Sophie, Kay, and Barbara.

Shepherding God, you are the source of life and health. Surround those who struggle with illness or other difficulties of life and bring them to wholeness and healing. Amen.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list or have a "prayer email" sent out please call Kathy at 304-525-9630.



## WALKING TACO BAR CAMP FUNDRAISER

Sunday, May 7

11:15am

Fellowship Hall

Join us for lunch with all the taco fixings, plus drinks and desserts. This is a fundraiser to help send our youth to Camp Luther. The youth will be planning the event and serving.



## GRADUATION RECOGNITION

SUNDAY, May 30 at 10:00am

We will be recognizing and celebrating with our graduates Will Lindberg and Abby Bell.



Sunday, May 30 at 10:00am

Please join us as Katie Dowis and Alex Mackey are confirmed in the faith.

A reception will follow.

## Pastor's Reflections

Today (April 25) as I came into the office here at church, I was startled by a white-tailed deer who must have been next to the rock garden we have on the parking lot side of the church. I must have startled it because with its white tail up it bound onto 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. I said a little prayer for the creature as it headed towards the traffic of 8<sup>th</sup> Street. I was distracted because what I noticed when I came up to the glass doors to come into the building were broken acorn shells on one of the cement benches. Squirrels are in abundance here and I thought that was probably what the shells were from. A squirrel sitting on the cement bench having a snack before moving on.

Two expressions of creatureliness so close to the building where we worship and seek to do the work God has given us in this community. I pondered what it all meant. Was God showing me something I needed to see or was this a chance encounter? I did not think much more of it until I sat down and started my morning prayer and devotional time.

Part of my devotional time is what like to call "Gratitude Time." I will try to write down three things in my journal that I am grateful for as I begin my day. Today I gave thanks to the creatures around us. As strange as it may sound, I also gave thanks for the frost. I try to write down three things every day. Some days I do not get to it, and I can tell a difference in my demeanor.

I wonder if those first disciples thought about things they were grateful for once Jesus and his physical presence was gone. They had indeed seen him in what theologians call "post resurrection narratives." Now it was time for them to move forward in faith. They were not doing this alone. Jesus had given them the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that would encourage and empower them to move forward to share the Good News.

We too are given the Holy Spirit. During the season of Easter one of the four lessons for our worship comes from the book of Acts. The Spirit is what helps us to move forward into the world. I often think that we do not talk about the Holy Spirit enough as Christians who practice in the Lutheran way. What can we do to more fully embrace the Spirit here at St Paul? What does it look like to be Spirit led here in this place and time.

Good questions. I pray you continue to seek the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit as you go into the world.

Finally, this Pentecost two of our young adults will affirm their faith (confirmation). Alexandria Mackey and Katie Dowis will be confirmed on May 28. I am proud of both for the resilience they have shown. They have been through COVID lockdowns/ virtual lessons/ not virtual lessons and the scatteredness of life these past couple of years. I know both want to continue to serve God through the church here at St Paul. Their Faith Statements are in this month's newsletter. Both of these young ladies will be prayed over and given the strength of the Holy Spirit. I see wonderful and exciting, challenging Holy Spirit "stuff" in store for Katie and Alex and for all here at St Paul.

Peace,  
Pastor Mackey <><

Dear St. Paul Congregation,

In academia, the summer is about to begin: Marshall will celebrate this semester's Commencement on Saturday, April 29. Time for the "last push", and time to start approaching things that did not receive priority status before. One of them will be assembling the new dolly for our choir room digital piano...

Another new gadget: You may have noticed that I am now mostly using the iPad for preludes, postludes, and sometimes choral anthems. Many musicians have started doing this. It takes some practice getting used to it, but it is exceedingly practical for church musicians, since it helps with reducing the enormous amount of Xerox copies for the weekly changing music that is not in the hymnal or our liturgy, and it just makes things much cleaner. I now have an extra foot pedal to go with it that allows my left foot to turn pages via Bluetooth. I am still getting comfortable with the hand-foot coordination, but it's getting better! (The trick is to activate the page turning pedal with a short, rhythmic tap and then leave it, as opposed to using the damper pedal on the piano, where the foot rests on it. If you do that with the very sensitive page turning pedal, there is a good chance you will turn more pages than intended...)

I'd like to thank our St. Paul Choir members for being such good sports. We sang a total of four anthems during Holy Week on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (it was great to visit Christ the King again this year and share our music with their congregation), Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. On top of this, we had our regular choir rehearsal on Wednesday of Holy Week, as well. I am also grateful for the three guest musicians we had: Dylan Morgan played the flute part for our anthem on Maundy Thursday, and Renee Harley Knapp (soprano) and Devoyne Montgomery (cello) enriched our Easter Sunday Service with music for prelude, Communion, and postlude. Last, but not least, it's always fun for me to work with our youth director Jill and the kids—I thought they did a great job singing on Palm Sunday!

The St. Paul Choir will sing through the remainder of the Easter season, Pentecost, and Holy Trinity on June 4. After that we will break for summer until August, as every year. If you'd like to join or know someone who may, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Henning



Spring is fully upon us. April showers have brought May flowers. Christ is RISEN! He is RISEN indeed, Alleluia! So many things are sprouting around us. From flowers to Christian brothers and sisters to new beginnings of spirit and life together in Christ. Spring is a blessed time to celebrate all the new life around us. It is wonderful to recognize the growth and change.

I love watching St. Paul Lutheran Church grow as a family and in community.

We had a marvelous Easter celebration with breakfast, worship and resurrection Easter egg hunt. The special music and all the families praising together during worship was heartwarming and spirit filled. The joy on Easter Sunday is a joy we should hold daily as we share the good news of Jesus. We have been practicing ways to share this joy with others. We have discussed that we should always reflect our light onto others. We could be like Cleopas and be walking with Jesus and not even know it. The youth colored the sidewalks with messages to passerby of the community. Pictures of hearts, rainbows, crosses, Jesus and messages like "Jesus Loves You" were displayed on the sidewalk and steps of the church for all the world to see. The youth seemed to think they would know Jesus if he were to sit down and eat with us or if he was walking by. They said the first thing they would do if they saw it was Jesus would be to run and hug him tight! It is that simple, we must run and hug others tightly. We must be kind, love a little more, try a little harder to share Jesus and the word of God daily. Live it so the world can see!

The youth continue to meet for Sunday school & Wednesdays and CCC/ LYO group will be hosting a Walking Taco fundraiser to sponsor campers going to Camp Luther this Summer. The Walking Taco event will be Sunday, May 7, 2023 after worship. The youth will cater and serve the meal. There will be a basket provided for donations. We hope that you will come out for fun and fellowship and good food for a great cause. On May 28, we will celebrate our Confirmands: Katie Dowis and Alex Mackey. The girls will be recognized during worship and celebrated with snacks and refreshments following worship. We will also be celebrating our graduates: Will Lindberg and Abby Bell. I hope you can join us for Pentecost to pray for our youth and their new beginnings. This scripture has been on my mind lately and for good reason. I share it with you.

Colossians 2:6-7

Fullness of Life in Christ

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus, the Lord, continue to live your lives in heaven, rooted and build up in him, and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

I am blessed and thankful for all the youth and congregation at St. Paul. May we walk in HIM and share the good news always! Peace be with you.

Your Loving sister in Christ,  
Jill





# EASTER SUNDAY



# May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	1:00pm Woman's Club	9:30am Quilting  12:00-4:00pm Pastor at QRT	6:00pm CCC 7:00pm Choir			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00am Worship  11:15am Taco Lunch/Camp Fund- raiser 	7:00pm Writer's Group	9:30am Quilting	7:00pm Choir			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
MOTHER'S DAY  10:00am Worship  		9:30am Quilting	6:00pm CCC 7:00pm Choir			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00am Worship  11:15am Sunday School/ Adult Forum		9:30am Quilting	7:00pm Choir			
28	29	30	31			
PENTECOST 10:00am Worship  11:15am Confirmation/ Graduation Reception	Office Closed  	9:30am Quilting	6:00pm CCC 7:00pm Choir 12:00-4:00pm Pastor at QRT			

## NADIA BOLZ-WEBER COMING TO CHARLESTON, WV



Nadia Bolz-Weber is an author, Lutheran minister and public theologian. She served as the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Denver, Colorado, until July 8, 2018. As of this date, she is also a three-time New York Times bestselling memoirist. Bolz-Weber is known for her unusual approach to reaching others through her church. She has produced work in the church that scholar and writer Diana Butler Bass considers part of "a new Reformation"

September 8

7:00pm at West Virginia State University

Ticket sales begin on 6/1/23 on [nadiainwv.org](http://nadiainwv.org)

cost of ticket is \$10.00

This event is being sponsored by Cross of Grace Lutheran Church.

All monies from sales of tickets goes to Lily's Place and RCCBBR (Religious Coalition for Community Renewal).

In anticipation of Nadia Bolz Weber's visit to West Virginia Pastor Mackey will be leading a discussion of one of her books, "Accidental Saints" during Adult Forum starting August 20. If you would like to purchase a copy of the book you may order it yourself or let Kathy know and she can order it for you. The cost is \$10.00.

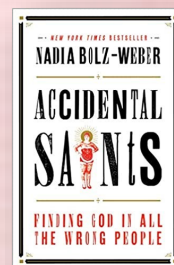
About the book:

*In **Accidental Saints**, New York Times best-selling author Nadia Bolz-Weber invites readers into a surprising encounter with what she calls "a religious but not-so-spiritual life." Tattooed, angry and profane, this former standup comic turned pastor stubbornly, sometimes hilariously, resists the God she feels called to serve. But God keeps showing up in the least likely of people—a church-loving agnostic, a drag queen, a felonious Bishop and a gun-toting member of the NRA.*

*As she lives and worships alongside these "accidental saints," Nadia is swept into first-hand encounters with grace—a gift that feels to her less like being wrapped in a warm blanket and more like being hit with a blunt instrument. But by this grace, people are transformed in ways they couldn't have been on their own.*

*In a time when many have rightly become dis-illusioned with Christianity, **Accidental Saints** demonstrates what happens when ordinary people share bread and wine, struggle with scripture together, and tell each other the truth about their real lives. This unforgettable account of their faltering steps toward wholeness will ring true for believer and skeptic alike.*

*Told in Nadia's trademark confessional style, **Accidental Saints** is the stunning next work from one of today's most important religious voices.*



## CRIDLIN FOOD PANTRY

For the Month of May we will be collecting cans of diced tomatoes for Cridlin Food and Clothing Pantry. Please place your items in the bin in the narthex.



If you are interested in packing and/or delivering backpacks to Southside Elementary, please see David Stuart, Creigh Pemberton, or Bernadette Wellman.

**YOU  
CAN  
HELP**



Do you wish you could help with the School Backpacks but can't do the shopping yourself? We have members who are willing to do the shopping, but we need funds. You can help by making a monetary donation. Please make checks out to St. Paul and write "Backpacks" on the memo line. Cash can be put in an envelope with "Backpacks" written on the outside.

### School Backpack Program

School will soon be out for the summer months, but you can still bring in donations for the backpacks. Please make sure to check "use by" dates before purchasing.

The following items are needed:

fruit cups	applesauce
Mac and Cheese	Beef-a-Roni
Beef sticks	Cereal
Pop Tarts	Fruit snacks
Drink boxes	Shelf stable milk

*All items need to be individual sizes and not contain peanuts.*

*Please leave your items in the container in the narthex or bring to the church office.*



## WORSHIP HELPERS

### May 7

Assisting Minister: David Stuart  
Reader: Linda Schneider  
Communion Deacon: Steve Golder  
Bread: Arneson  
Crucifer: Cameron May  
Acolyte: Daniel Kist  
Ushers: Darlene Kranz, Betty Church  
Flowers: Kisling

### May 14

Assisting Minister: Bernadette Wellman  
Reader: David Stuart  
Communion Deacon: Jenny Murray  
Bread:  
Crucifer: Jacob Hale  
Acolyte:  
Ushers: Darlene Kranz, Betty Church  
Flowers: Chin

### May 21

Assisting Minister: Keith Wellman  
Reader: Bernadette Wellman  
Communion Deacon: Creigh Pemberton  
Bread: Arneson  
Crucifer: Katie Dowis  
Acolyte: Daniel Kist  
Ushers: Darlene Kranz, Betty Church  
Flowers:

### May 28:

Assisting Minister: Ruthann Arneson  
Reader: Keith Wellman  
Communion Deacon: David Stuart  
Bread: Mackey  
Crucifer: Ethan Arneson  
Acolyte:  
Ushers: Darlene Kranz, Betty Church  
Flowers: St. Paul in honor of Graduates and Confirmands

### ALTAR GUILD:

Judy Wade and Jan Kirby

### SANCTUARY CANDLE:

Betty Church

### CHAPEL CANDLE:

Betty Church

## CONFIRMATION FAITH STATEMENTS

### Katie Dowis

I believe in God the Father almighty. I believe he made the world and everything in it. I believe God helps people in difficult times. He always helps people who need it. He's always there for people going through pain and tragedies. I believe even though we love God because of the things he did and still does, we should fear him. Fearing God gives you wisdom and puts fear upon you so you do not sin. Even after being confirmed I will continue to go to and help out the church. I will also continue to pray especially when people are in need of prayers. My parents, pastor, and grandparents have shaped my faith journey by teaching me what had happened in the Bible. Death of sickness may challenge my faith in the future, but I will still believe.

Deuteronomy 31:6

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

I like this Bible verse because it tells me that even if I'm scared God will always be with me.

### Alex Mackey

God loves us, simple as that. Although, sometimes we get mad at God, and feel as if he has left us. But, I believe that he loves us unconditionally. There are many people who I love that have helped shape my faith, and who have helped shape me. My Mom, Dad, who is also my Pastor, my friends, both at school and church, and the rest of my family have all helped me in my faith. There is still a number of questions that I have like: Why is the assistant minister's robe black instead of white and why does the eternal flame always stay lit? What about when they replace the candle? Wouldn't they have to blow it out? These are only some of the questions I have. After I am confirmed I will continue to attend church and Sunday School and possibly help out by ushering, singing in the choir, or serving on Altar Guild.

John 12:15

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

This is my favorite Bible verse because it reminds me how much he loves us, even though sometimes it seems like he doesn't show it.



- 1 Amy Dowis; Starla Kisling
- 2 Tom Kist
- 4 Keely Tucker
- 8 Joel Jones; Jared Tucker
- 9 Brynlee Andrus
- 10 Creigh Pemberton
- 12 Dan Beals; James Wagner
- 13 Tim Conzett
- 20 Jaylyn Garnett
- 24 Madelyn Fizer
- 25 Joseph Williams
- 26 Addison Handley
- 30 Julia Sullivan
- 31 Mary Lou Pratt



- 12 Tim and Cheryl Conzett
- 14 John and Nola Scott
- 15 Jared and Keely Tucker
- 17 Dennis and Brandy Andrus
- 22 James and Susie Wagner
- 24 Tom and Emma Kist

### Worship Attendance for April

Date	in person	Facebook(closed)	Facebook (open)
4/2	87	118	104
4/6	Maundy Thursday at Christ the King		
4/7	Good Friday 20	74	79
4/9	Sunrise 23	Not posted	Not posted
4/9	Easter 113	52	70
4/16	58	35	70
4/23	54	31	54

### BOOK CLUB

May 17 at 10:00am in the parlor

We will be discussing "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles. Please join us!



### Mother's Day

May 14

Please join us for worship on May 14 as we celebrate the women in our lives. A special gift will be given to all the women.



### Daily Devotional in your inbox

The readings listed below are sent to the congregation each day (Monday-Friday) by email. If you are not currently receiving the Daily Devotional and would like to please contact the church at [secretary@stpaulhuntington.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulhuntington.org) with your email address.

- May 1-5: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; I Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- May 8-12: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
- May 15-19: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; I Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
- May 22-26: Numbers 11:24-30; I Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39



# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

721 12th Avenue  
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304-525-9630



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Church office: 304-525-9630

Kathy Mackey, secretary  
secretary@stpaulhuntington.org

Please visit us at [www.stpaulhuntington.org](http://www.stpaulhuntington.org)

## CONNECT WITH US

Phone: 304-525-9630



[stpaulhuntington.org](http://stpaulhuntington.org)



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
St. Paul Lutheran Congregation  
Group



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Huntington, WV

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

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Secretary, Bernadette Wellman

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