

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1417 11th Street, P.O. Box 126
Wichita Falls, TX 76307

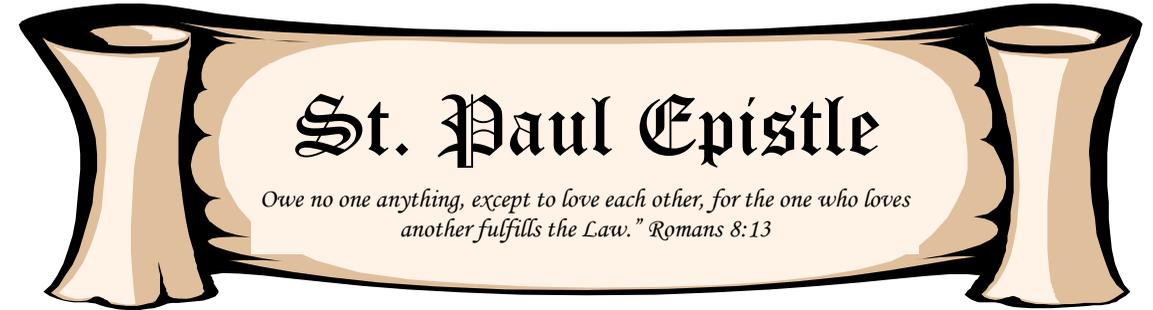


Our Weekly Divine Service Schedule

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class
10:15 a.m. Divine Service
(Holy Communion offered every Sunday at St. Paul)

Divine Service



St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Volume 3

May 2021

Issue 5

A glance inside this issue:

Page Description

- 1-2 Pastor Cody's Meditation
- 3 Fun & Games, Concordia Sunday
- 4 Rathgeber House, Thank you
- 5 Adult Education
- 6-7 Graduation Reception, Guest Speaker, Prayers
- 8 LWML/Tabitha Joy
- 9 National Mite Update, LWML National Convention, LWML Devotion
- 10 Days to Celebrate
- 11 May Workers, Thank you
- 12 Memorials, Trivia answers, Trash pick-up
- 13 Thank you, Faith Mission
- 14 Planning Updates
- 15 New Members, Mites
- 16 Stewardship Minute
- 17 Bible Trivia
- 18 Graduating?, VBS
- 19 Facebook, Dates to remember, St. Paul "live stream"
- 20 Divine Service Schedule

Pastor's Meditation

*Where is the Holy Spirit?
or
The Holy Spirit is Heard, not Felt*

In light of Pentecost rapidly approaching and our emphasis in the church on the Holy Spirit of God, and a serious lack of attention being given to the Holy Spirit—the Third Person of the God-head, I thought I would dedicate this article to Him.

I heard of persons who have visited Missouri Synod Lutheran church services a few times and left thinking to themselves, "I just didn't feel the Holy Spirit there." I wasn't charged up or emotionally moved by the preaching or the music. Sure, the Gospel was preached; I heard about Jesus and the forgiveness of sins, but I was used to the praise service of the non-Denominational church and the emotional appeals made by Baptists. These Lutherans seemed...well, dry, and I was sure that the Holy Spirit wasn't there, or at least, if He was, He was being stifled by the liturgy and the formal worship. Well, friends in Christ, those visitors were wrong!

They misunderstood the work of the Spirit. How does a person know where the Holy Spirit is? You see these people were using their emotions, their feelings, as the indicator of God the Holy Spirit's presence. Goose bumps down their spine or a pit in their stomach, these were the ways to determine the whereabouts of the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit is not felt, **He is heard**. The Holy Spirit does not come to tickle us, He comes to talk to us.

(Continued on page 2)

Pastor's Meditation Cont.,

Our Lord Jesus says of the Spirit:

When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak... [St John 16:13]

And so, the Spirit comes to us, teaching, speaking, preaching. The Holy Spirit is invisible, but He is not silent, He speaks through the Word of God, the Scriptures, convicting us of sin and comforting us with the Gospel of Jesus crucified.

The Holy Spirit is always connected and bound to the Word of God, and St Paul says: **Take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.** [Ephesians 6:17]

So how do you know where the Holy Spirit is? How do you find Him? We listen. Listen for the Word of God, listen for the Holy Scriptures, listen for the comforting Gospel message that Jesus has died for you, forgiven you, opened heaven for you. Listen for the preaching of Law and Gospel, and there you will find the Holy Spirit bound to the very Word of God.

The Holy Spirit is also connected to the Sacraments of the Church. St. Peter says in Acts 2:38-39, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." The Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther also says in the explanation of the Third Article of the Creed, "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel and enlightened me with His gifts (Sacraments) and keeps me in the true faith." Where you see the Sacraments, there also you will see the Holy Spirit of God working forgiveness, life, and salvation in the lives of God's people.

And the next time someone tells you, "I just didn't feel the Holy Spirit in church." Respond, "You might not have felt Him, but *did you hear Him?*" "You might not have felt Him, but *did you receive Him?*" Was the Bible read? Was the Gospel preached? Were your sins proclaimed forgiven by the pastor? Were the Sacraments given out according to Christ's command? Then take comfort. You can be absolutely sure that the Holy Spirit was there, with Jesus and the Father, giving out all the gifts of heaven, to you. To Him be the glory forever! Amen!

In Christ's Love, +

Pastor Cody
Psalm 84:10

Dates to Remember

May 2- Concordia University Sunday—
Guest Speaker Rev. J Brown

May 3- Elder's meeting at 4 PM

May 8- Trash Pick-up— Meet at Family
Center 9 AM

May 9— Mother's Day

May 13— Ladies Bible Study 9:30 AM

May 18— Tabitha Joy/LWML 1 PM

May 23- Guest Speaker Dr. Fung Lo.
Graduation Reception and Voter's Meeting

May 24- Newsletter and Calendar deadline



For staying up-to-date on all church activities, tune into our St. Paul Facebook page. Plus, while your there, you get to look at all the cool pictures of our church activities!

St. Paul Lutheran continues to "live-stream" our worship service and Monday night Bible Study on Facebook. If you are unable to attend and would like to watch the service via Facebook, you can watch it on Pastor Cody's Facebook page – Rick Cody at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100008279618948>

Are you Graduating?

If you are graduating from high school, college, university or trade school, please let us know! The Board of Ed will be honoring graduates on May 23 with a reception at the lunch before voters meeting. Please submit to the church office your name, graduation date, degree, and future plans, so we can do a write-up in the bulletin.



VBS- needs you!

If you are a parent we need your input! If you are interested in being a volunteer we need your input. Please watch your emails and messenger for communication and then please respond! Or contact Darla Inglish. We may be hosting a planning meeting soon after gathering input.



Our next fun and games date will be **Sunday, May 2 at 4:00 PM.** Come out and join us for dominoes and cards. Bring your favorite snack to share and bring a friend along with you!

See y'all there!

Concordia University-Austin

We will have a guest speaker on May 2. Rev. J Brown from Concordia University of Texas will be conducting our service that day.



Rathgeber Hospitality House

The Home with a Heart

Donations for Rathgeber House are taken on the 2nd Sunday of each month. However, you can donate to this great resource in our community any time. For every \$50 donated to Rathgeber House from our church, our church is recognized on a display in their lobby. If we donate \$250, we have our name displayed for seven days! What a way to show our love for our community!

Dear St. Paul Family,

Please utilize these offerings to make any needed repairs to our gifted piano, given in loving memory of Norma Flick (to include tuning and key repairs). Mother loved music and her church. What a wonderful tribute you have allowed us to provide.

Love in Christ,
Tim & Emilie Sherrod

Bible Trivia...How Good Are You?

1. Because Cain murdered Abel, the Lord curses him to a life as a:

- A. Beggar
- B. Vagabond
- C. Leper
- D. Hermit

2. What was Cain's biggest worry concerning the Lord's curse on him?

- A. Everyone would avoid him
- B. Everyone would laugh at him
- C. Everyone would despise him
- D. Everyone would want to kill him

3. The Lord declared that if Cain were to be killed:

- A. Cain's murderer would be sentenced to the same punishment
- B. Cain would be avenged seven times over
- C. Cain's murderer would be hunted as Cain was hunted
- D. The entire family of Cain's murderer would be killed

4. Why did the Lord set a mark on Cain?

- A. So that he would be humiliated
- B. So that people would know to persecute him
- C. So that people would recognize him and kill him
- D. So that people would recognize him and not kill him

5. How was Cain's punishment similar to the punishment of his parents, Adam

and Eve?

- A. He was separated from God
- B. He gained more knowledge
- C. God hated him from then on
- D. God would send Cain to hell

6. Where did Cain dwell after being cast out by the Lord for murder?

- A. Eden
- B. Nod
- C. Sodom
- D. Gomorrah

7. Cain built a city and named it after his son. What was the name of this city?

- A. Irad
- B. Mehujeal
- C. Lamech
- D. Enoch

8. How did God say He knew what Cain had done?

- A. Able's blood cried to the Lord from the ground
- B. Adam told Him
- C. Lucifer told the Lord what Cain had done
- D. He was watching Cain from behind a bush

(Answers on page 12)

Stewardship Minute

St. Paul teaches us: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:13–14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always” (Deut. 14:22–23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?” If it does, ask yourself: Is the church’s job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites’ job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

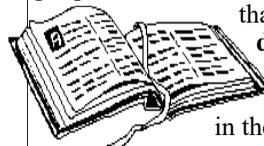
Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).

(taken from lcms.org)

Adult Education

The Adult Bible Class meets every Sunday morning before Divine Service. Our goal is to have 40 people in Adult Bible Study. We want to come together and study God’s Word, and reap the benefits that God promises to those who remain in His Word (John 8:31-32). **We are now doing a Multi-Generational Bible Study for all ages called “Bible 101– Getting Back to Basics”.** I think that you will find this class interesting and thought-provoking. Please plan on joining us each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Because of the continued interest in the **Adult Catechism Classes**, Pastor Cody is teaching **Continuous Adult Catechism Instruction** to study together what it is that Lutherans believe, teach, and confess. This class meets weekly on Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. Those wanting to become members of St. Paul can join the class at any time, and once through the series of lessons, they can be confirmed into communicant membership of the church. If you are interested in taking this class, please come out and join us! We continue our study of the Book of Genesis! We will start at the very beginning as it is a very good place to start! Come join us..... You’ll love it!



Sunday school for all ages starts at 9:00AM each Sunday morning. The Scriptures are clear, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and **when he is old, he will not depart from it.**” (Prov. 22:6). Come out and bring the kids to “Bible 101– Getting back to Basics”. Help demonstrating to them, good Bible Study habits as the spiritual leaders of your homes! See y’all there!



Graduation Reception

We will have a graduation reception in the Fellowship hall following worship service on May 23 to honor our graduates, Brett Farson and Clara Buckmaster.

Brett is graduating Vernon College with a Nursing degree.
Clara is graduating High School.

Come and help us celebrate their accomplishments!



Mark & Jennifer Olsen
1525 Carol Lane
Wichita Falls, TX 76302
(940) 232-3758

Birthday: Mark 10/4/1958
Jennifer 8/28/1948
Anniversary: 4/26/1980

Please continue to fill your Mite Boxes!

The LWML needs your continued love and support to meet our Mission Goals.



Guest Speaker

On Sunday, May 23, we will have guest speaker Dr. Fung Lo who will be sharing with us everything that is going on in the Mission field in SE Asia. Pastor Cody met Dr. Lo when he did a missionary trip to Cambodia and China in 2013. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this pastor and his

The *St. Paul Epistle* is published monthly by:
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The Rev. Rick Cody.....Pastor
Cell Phone: 832-745-3314 †
Email: revcody11@gmail.com

Kathy Schkade
Darla English.....Organist

Lisa Schur Parish Office Worker

January 16, 2021 All Board and Committee Planning Meeting Takeaways & Goals

Increase Bible Study and Worship Attendance

- A. Multi-generational Study...Bible Knowledge 101– **Began February 28, 2021**
- B. Weekly Divine Services with the Lord's Supper– **Ongoing**
- C. Advent & Lent noon & 7pm services– **Completed**
- D. Possible Seder Supper—**Did not schedule**
- E. Continued 7pm & 11pm Christmas Eve Candlemas services

Continue/Increase our Social Ministry Outreach/Presence in and to the community

- A. Faith Mission– **Ongoing—We are tentatively scheduled to serve a meal on Aug. 14**
- B. Rathgeber House– **Ongoing**
- C. Interfaith Ministries– **Ongoing**
- D. Give it Away– **Funds started**
- E. Courtyard Gardens–**Ongoing-delivered 48 Easter Goodie Bags & 40 t-shirts**
- F. First Responders– **Possibly in Oct/Nov**
- G. City Lights Parade

Resume Fellowship Opportunities

- A. Valentine Gala– **Cancelled due to weather, held Italia Birsto Gala 3/6/2021**
- B. Church Camp Out
- C. Confirmation Questioning invitation for entire congregation & reception/dinner-**3/26/2021**
- D. Vacation Bible School
- E. North Campus worship/sing along
- F. Church meals and special occasion meals
- G. Card showers for all occasions and special birthdays and anniversaries (Virginia Hendricks is celebrating 90 this year, Hank Hancock is turning 80, Brett Farson graduating from Nursing school, Clara Buckmaster graduating from High School)
- H. Easter Egg Hunt– **3/27/2021**

Trustee/Maintenance/Building improvements

- A. Elevator improvements and repairs– **Ongoing**
- B. Windows replaced in the education wing and music room of the church– **currently at 30k**
- C. Floor at Church Camp (cracking and buckling)
Maintenance things that just come up

Improved Communication to all members

- A. Following constitution for certain meetings, i.e. council meetings, voters' meetings, etc.
- B. Spread sheets showing who has what forms of communications (Cell phone, landline, email etc noting what preferred form of communication for members)
- C. Phone calls, emails, newsletters, minor prophet
- D. Attempt, if possible, to give at least a 2 week notice on any given changes

***Red indicates the current status of listed project

Please Pray

Please continue to pray on a daily basis for:

- ✦ Pastor, Michelle Cody
- ✦ Kathy & Kenneth Schkade
- ✦ Lisa Schur, Parish Office Worker
- ✦ The leadership of our church, all boards and committee members.
- ✦ The mission of Paul Lutheran Church.
- ✦ All those sick or suffering in our church family.
- ✦ Church unity.
- ✦ Our nation and governmental leaders.

Prayers of God's People

FOR - THOSE WITH CANCER:

Jeanette Evans, Janie Khlum, Dennis Keethler, Hank Roten, Lee Shores, Kay Castleberry, Chad Brown, Staci Myles, Sally Handrick, David Marshall, Janice Hatcher, Lisa Hawes, and Tina Martinez.



PHYSICAL AND OTHER CONCERNS:

Betty Corder, Brantley French, Duncan Hibbard, Ronnie Newman, Kellen Osborne, Mark Lehman, Tyler Sherrod, Richard Schroeder, Jesse Flick, David Baker, Virginia Martinez, Janice Wiechman, Loretta Garcia, Sammy Henderson, Dean Miller, Katey Lewis, Sarah Beth Popp, Priscilla Scott, Nina Keethler, and Debra Truette.

HOMEBOUND/SHUT-IN MEMBERS: Dorothy Kutzler (Royal Estates), Virginia Hendricks (Rolling Meadows), Lois Kramer (Rolling Meadows), Annie Cooper (Presbyterian Manor), and Jesse Flick

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL: Whitney Brown (Air Force), Eli Buckmaster (Marine Corps), Brian Clayton (Army), Kate Ridinger Dozier (Navy), Zachary Wied (National Guard), Jaydon Martinez (Navy), Trent Meisel (USAF), Richard Townes (Army), and Tim Rosenthal (Air Force).

National LWML
Mite Update
2019-2021 Biennium

Mission Goal:
\$2,100,000

Praise God
from Whom all
blessings flow

\$2,204,724.55



2019-2021
LWML Mission Goal
Total Mites Received
\$2,204,724.55

And a poor widow
came and put in two
small copper coins
[mites], which make a
penny (Mark 12:42).



Lutheran Women's Missionary League 39th Biennial Convention

June 24-27, 2021 • Lexington, Kentucky

RUNNING TO LEXINGTON- Now is the time to make plans to attend the 39th Biennial LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24-27, 2021! Join your LWML sisters who are "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus," the convention theme based on Hebrews 12:1-2. Attendees will be inspired by the convention goal, "Looking to Jesus, we run the race set before us and proclaim the joy of the Lord."

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center, where the LWML Convention will be held June 24-27, 2021, can only allow a limited number of people to attend at this time. This restriction caused LWML to shut down convention registrations temporarily.

The LWML Board of Directors prayerfully anticipates that the percentage allowed will increase and suggests anyone interested in attending to go to the National website and click on the link to be added to the waitlist. When/if capacity is increased LWML will supply a link to registration and honor the early registration price for a limited time. Registrations for all delegates and special guests will be accepted. Please contact the LWML with any questions.

The **LWML Ladies Group** will meet on **Thursday, May 18 at 1:00 PM**. All ladies interested are very welcome to join them!



Our **Women's Bible Study** will meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month of April at 9:30AM. They invite all women interested to come for some thought-provoking Bible study and great fellowship!

Thank You

We wish to thank those who served last month:

Organist: Kathy Schkade, Darla English

Elders: Kenneth Schkade, William Parker

Sound man Eugene Kruger, Randal Schoppa

Altar Guild: Lisa Schur, Debra Truette (setup) Vicki Holland, Lisa Schur (take-down) (And all members!)

Greeters: Hank & Judy Hancock, Keven Copeland, Ruth Rathgeber, Del Tech, Penny Becker, Leanne Roten, Michelle Cody, Delores Palmatary, and all greeters.

Ushers: Randal Schoppa, Eugene Kruger, and all who volunteer on Sundays

All Church Council members

All Board and Committee members

Treasurer: Nina Keethler

Church Sexton: Randal Schoppa

Faith Mission

We will have a worship service and meal at Faith Mission on May 11th from 6-8 PM.

The immediate needs of Faith Mission are as follows:

Paper Towels



— WICHITA FALLS —
FAITH MISSION
EVERY STORY MATTERS

In Memory
Of...



In Memory of Calvin Rathgeber to the Elevator Fund by Ruth Rathgeber

In Memory of Dr. Phil Stephenson to Rathgeber House by Ruth Rathgeber.

In Memory of Dr. Phil Stephenson to Rathgeber House by Hank & Judy Hancock.



TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1. Vagabond
2. Everyone would want to kill him
3. Cain would be avenged seven times over
4. So that people would recognize him and not kill him
5. He was separated from God
6. No
7. Enoch
8. Abel's blood cried to the Lord from the ground

Trash Pick-up

We are going to have trash pick-up along FM 1954 on May 8. We will be serving coffee and donuts at 9:00 am at the Family Center. We only have one side of FM 1954 to pick up so it shouldn't take us long!

If you or someone you know needs a ride to Divine Service or any other church activity, please call the church office at (940) 322-6112 and we will see what we can do to arrange that for you.



Always the Cross

My children, when young, were the typical squirmy kids who found it difficult to sit still in church on Sunday. As with many churches, many well-meaning matriarchs of the church offered unsolicited advice to young families.

Noticing my distressful attempt to keep three youngsters under control, I was told to try sitting up front one Sunday. That way the kids would know that everyone could see them and behave better, or so they said. My toddler son simply turned around to find an attentive audience, so he started waving and yelling “hi” to everyone. He was not disappointed when he got a giggling reaction from the congregation.

Since that was a noticeable flop, another woman suggested giving each of my children pen and paper. “Tell them to draw a picture about the pastor’s message, that way they will sit and listen attentively for something to draw on their paper.” After explaining this to them, we were set to try it (from the back of church again). As the pastor began his sermon, they promptly drew a picture of a cross on the paper and declared they were done before he spoke two whole minutes. They weren’t great artists but, even as youngsters, they knew that the pastor always talks about the cross on which Christ suffered and died for their sins and ours, too.

It is good to know I have a church home that always ties every message to the cross. My children grew up knowing about God’s love and forgiveness. We tried to follow the words of Solomon, Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6). As adults, I am glad to say all my children are church members and my grandchildren attend regularly too. Hopefully, their wiggly youngsters will also grow up boasting in the cross of Jesus Christ, as St. Paul did when he wrote, But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world (Galatians 6:14).

Prayer: Dear Lord, make the cross my constant focus. Whatever I do, and wherever I go, may I always boast in the work of Jesus who sacrificed Himself for me on the cross. In Christ’s name, Lord, hear my prayer. Amen

(lwml.org/posts/devotion/always-the-cross)

Days to Celebrate in May

Birthdays

- 1 Ester Townes
- 6 Jason Bernhardt
- 7 Brady English, Rick Cody
- 10 Natalie Esparza
- 13 Jessica Myers
- 16 Lorena Bernhardt
- 17 Brandon Russell
- 18 Millie Cadwallader
- 19 Donna Sharp

31 Eli Buckmaster, Ella Dozier



Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Pastor & Michelle Cody
- 20 Owen & Abby Wuthrich
- 27 Barry & Debra Truette



God's People at Work during May

Elders

William Parker
Kenneth Schkade
Kevin Copeland

Ushers

Randal Schoppa
Eugene Krueger

Readers

May 2— Ken Schkade
May 9— Kevin Copeland
May 16— Eugene Krueger
May 23— Kenny Theimer
May 30- Pastor

Altar Duty

Set Up: Lisa Schur, Debra Truette
Take Down: Lisa Schur, Debra Truette

Greeters

May 2 —Hank & Judy Hancock
May 9 —Kevin Copeland, Ruth Rathgeber
May 16— Del Tech, Penny Becker
May 23— Leanne Roten, Michelle Cody
May 30- Delores Palmatary, Ruth Rathgeber

We want to thank an anonymous donor of our Congregation who gave \$10,000 towards our window replacement fund in the education wing of the church. We are now around \$30,000 in that account.