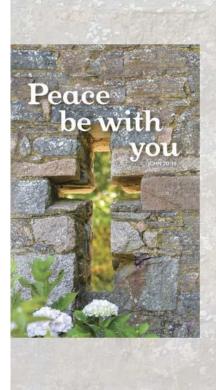
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 127 YORK STREET HANOVER, PA



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 7, 2024

Rev. Katrina Holland, Intentional Interim Pastor Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus Steven Ruppright, Director of Music Ministries Lori Rebling, Director of Hand Bells Gretchen Walter, Director of Children's Music Ministers: The Members of St. Paul's Missionaries: Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson and family Church Office: 717-637-5941 Email: <u>stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net</u> Website: <u>www.stpaulsyorkst.org</u> Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/stpaulsyorkst</u>

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

If you are seeking a faith community, exploring faith, desire to be a part of our ministries, or have questions; please feel free to speak with the pastor.

Our Purpose:

We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously.

Guiding Principles:

As instruments of God's love, when you see us at our best you will see us:

- -Generously stewarding God's gifts of resources, time, and talents
- -Serving as God's hands & feet in ministries & missions of outreach to all
- -*Providing* for the care of God's people, both physically and spiritually
- -Growing in Faith through worship, study, and discernment
- -Praising God through music, word, and service
- -Welcoming all people into fellowship with God

Important Worship Notes

All liturgies are printed within this bulletin.

P: Pastor

C: Congregation

L: Lay Reader

A: Assisting Minister

If you are communing, please be sure to fill out a communion record card, for our church records, and place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

+ 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER + April 7, 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

THE GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- P Christ is risen!
- C He is risen indeed!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.
- C Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

***OPENING HYMN**

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

Hymn 363



wel-comes in un-wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion! your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

*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**



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

- L The First Reading according to Acts 4:32-35 ³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 133

read responsively

1 John 1:1--2:2

- A ¹How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!
- ²It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.
 ³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

SECOND READING

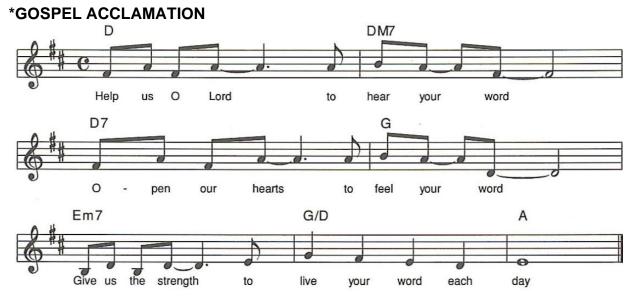
The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

L The Second Reading according to 1 John 1:1--2:2 ¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



*GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

P The Holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31

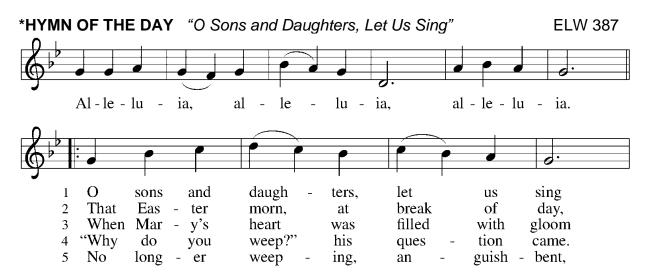
C Glory to you, O Lord.

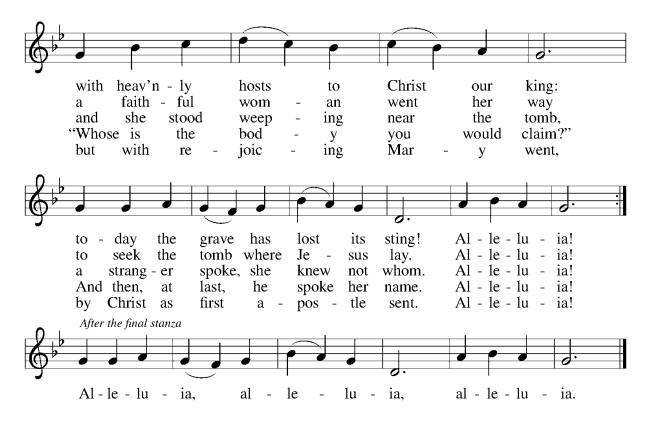
P ¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on

them and said to them. "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any. they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came, ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord," But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON





*NICENE CREED

- A Let us affirm our faith through the words of the Nicene Creed.
- C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

- He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
- We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A 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.

A brief silence.

Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you (especially Dietrich Bonhoeffer and all whose lives have been given in faithfulness to the gospel). Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace, hear our prayer.

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. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. The assembly is seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"He Lives" Adult and Youth Choir Ackley

(Use this time to reflect on your financial and spiritual offerings to God.)

There are a number of ways of making your offerings to God during this time. One is to place your offering in our offering plates in front of the pews or to give online at <u>https://stpaulsyorkst.org/give</u>. If you prefer not to give online, you may of course mail a check to St. Paul's. If you are not able to give monetarily during this time, know that your prayers and praise are a pleasing offering to God. If you are able to give a little more during this time, please consider doing so as a way of supporting your fellow disciples who are not able to.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

- A Let us pray, Risen One,
- C you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

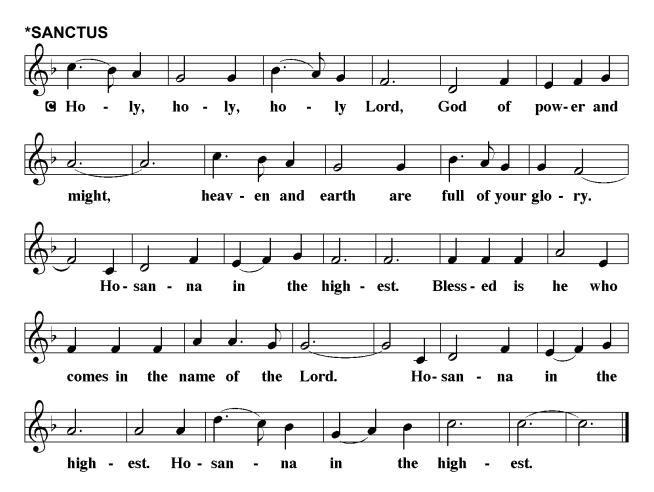
*DIALOGUE

ELW 144

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also 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 our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...
- 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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

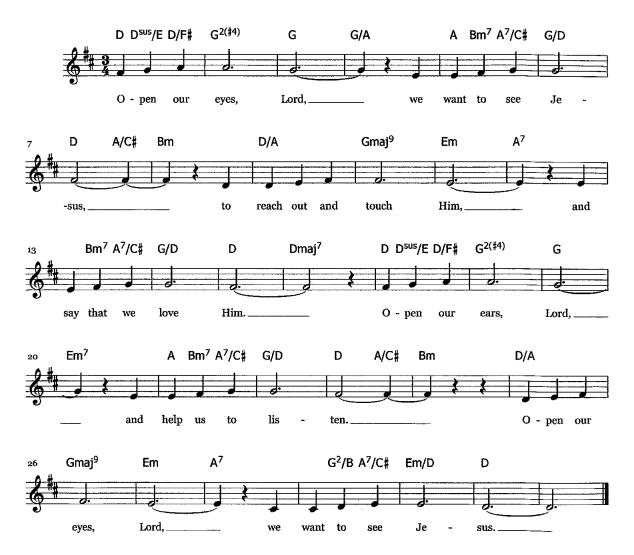
P The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

All are welcome to commune. If you wish to receive communion from your seat, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.





[&]quot;Open Our Eyes, Lord"



***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C Amen.

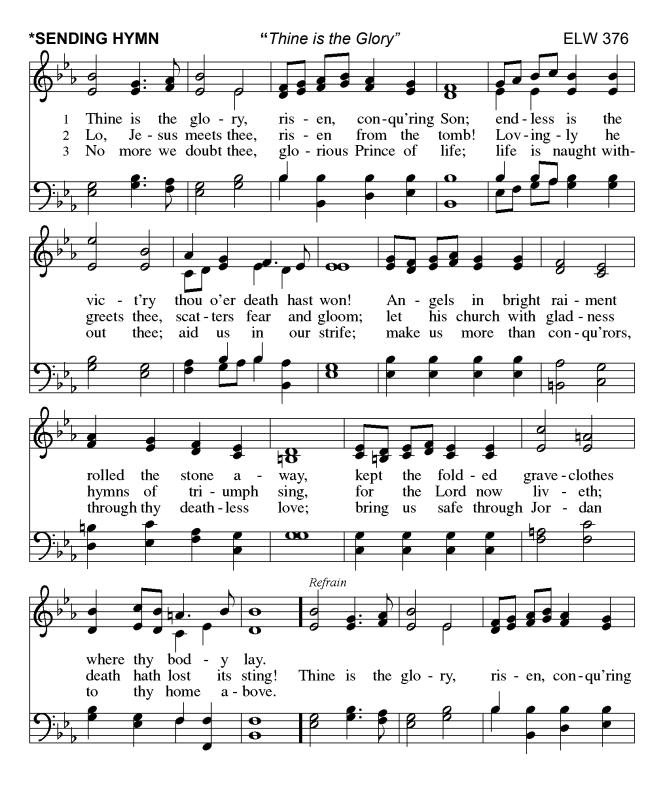
*BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always. **Amen.**







*DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*POSTLUDE

* Stand if you are able

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	April 7	April 14
Assisting Minister:	Gretchen Walter	Frank Hueske
Acolyte:	Matthew Kaltreider	Jocelyn Fissel
Lay Reader:	Dan Fuhrman	Christopher Johnson
Communion Distributors	Russ Kaltreider	Donna Lehman
	Maureen Kaltreider	Sally Lovelace
Ushers:	Russ Johnson	Russ Johnson
	Christopher Johnson	Christopher Johnson
Altar:	Ginny Murray	Ginny Murray
	Donna Lehman	Donna Lehman

APRIL DESIGNATED GIVING - WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME FOR GAZA

The United Nations World Food Programme has launched emergency operations to provide Gaza families with food assistance. More than 2 million people in Gaza urgently need food. 1 in 6 children under 2 are acutely malnourished. WFP is distributing fresh bread, canned food and ready-to-eat meals to those in shelters. \$75 can provide a family with food for an entire month; please give what you can. The WFP has received a 90% Four Star Rating from Charity Navigator. Make your check payable to St. Paul's with a footnote for WFP Gaza.

ONE VASE OF ALTAR FLOWERS is sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of Russell Johnson's 60th birthday on April 10th by his family.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE: Please contact Maureen Kaltreider in the church office or at <u>finance@stpaulsyorkst.org</u>

Radio–April 14, 21 & 28 (\$60 per date or any portion you desire per date) Altar Flowers-April 28 (2 vases at \$20 each); April 14 (1 vase at \$20 each) Communion Bread and Wine-April 14, 21 & 28 (\$12 each date) Worship Bulletins-April 14, 21 & 28 (\$20 each date) Eternal Flame-April 14, 21 & 28 (\$10 each date)

SOMETHING'S BREWING BIBLE STUDY will continue to follow Max Lucado as he delves into the Gospel of John. Join us in the Lounge, Mon. evenings at 7:00pm.

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY - The Gospel of Mark, A beginner's guide to the Good News - Instructor, Linda Zellers - TUESDAYS at 10:00 am in the Theater room on the 2nd floor. Discover the Good News in the Bible's earliest Gospel Walk through the Bible's earliest source for the life of Jesus with scholar Amy-Jill Levine as she introduces such themes as the Son of Man, discipleship, miracles, and Mark's use of the Old Testament. The Good News of the gospel message comes alive in this book as readers see Jesus as divine and human, powerful and weak, approachable yet mysterious. The book features an in-depth study of select passages and illuminates the Gospel in its historical context and as a source for the other gospels.

CONGREGATION CONVERSATIONS WITH PASTOR KATRINA - Please join us following worship on April 14 & 28 as we continue our Congregation Conversation with Pastor Katrina in the fellowship hall. Your input is extremely important during this time in our congregation's faith journey. As we look toward our next chapter of ministry, we are reflecting, sharing and exploring our identity and purpose as a congregation. Reflecting on where we have been and where God may lead us in the future will lead to the best fit in our upcoming call.

COFFEE HOUR will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, April 14 and 28 and in the church lounge on Sundays, April 21 and immediately following the 9:30 Worship Service. Join us for a time of fellowship.

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE STUDY will be held following worship today, April 7 and April 21. Grab some coffee and snacks in the lounge and join us **in the nursery, across from the lounge,** to dive a little deeper into the day's Bible readings. We should finish up by 11:30. We hope to see you there!

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE: our children have been learning about the Lord's Prayer for the month of March. We've been learning how to pray it in American Sign Language and look forward to sharing what we've learned with the congregation at an upcoming worship service!

JESUS SENT 72 disciples into the world to tell the good news. Check out our 72 ENVELOPES campaign for our youth attending the Gathering in New Orleans. Consider donating a number amount that speaks to you. See the Youth and Family bulletin board for more information!

GATHERING GROUP will meet next Sunday (April 14) following worship. Bring \$5 for lunch!

HAVE A FEW ITEMS TO SELL but not enough to buy a table for our Yard Sale? See Cindy Schmidt or call the church office to donate the item! Items should be donated by April 22.

YARD SALE PLANNED FOR APRIL 27! - Have some spring cleaning to do? Have some items you'd like to sell? Do you like to "yard sale"? Our youth are planning a Yard Sale here at St. Paul's for **April 27** to benefit the 2024 Gathering in New Orleans.

What's the scoop? Vendors will be open beginning at 8:00 am and until 1:00pm. There will be concessions (including our delicious pretzel sandwiches!) available as well. Come see what's available!

Sellers: Reserve a space (\$15) by April 13. Your reservation includes one "long" table at your spot. See Michelle Johnson or a member of the Johnson family or call the church office for more information and to register.

GET READY, GET SET, REGISTER FOR CAMP! Council has approved camperships for any St. Paul's members and any person(s) sponsored by a member for this summer at any Lutheran Camping Corporation Camp! Registration for summer camp is now open for Nawakwa, Kirkenwald, Wittel Farm and Mar-Lu-Ridge. Check out the summer schedules here: <u>https://www.lutherancamping.org/ and https://www.mar-lu-ridge.org/</u> For more information see Laura Silver our CampPerson.

SISTERS IN FAITH...mark your calendars! Our annual retreat will be at Mar-Lu-Ridge on October 11-13.

SUN., APRIL 7 Immediate	8:30 am 9:30 am ly following 10:30 am 10:30 am	Radio Broadcast - 95.3 FM & 1280 AM Worship Service – 2nd Sunday of Easter Coffee Hour in the lounge Faith Formation – 2 nd floor Daily Discipleship – nursery across from the lounge
MON., APRIL 8	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Girl Scout groups Something's Brewing Bible Study – Lounge
TUES., APRIL 9	10:00 am	The Gospel of Mark Bible Study in the Theater Room
WED., APRIL 10	7:00 pm	Council meeting
THUR., APRIL 11	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Handbell Choir rehearsal–sanctuary balcony Cub Scout Pack 102–2 nd Floor Boy Scouts Troop 102–Youth Room & gym Adult Choir rehearsal–sanctuary
FRI., APRIL 12	3:30 pm	Grocery Ministry prep
SAT., APRIL 13	9:00 am 10:00 am 5:00 pm	Grocery Ministry (Boy Scout Troop 102) Private use of Fellowship Hall Saturday Evening Service
SUN., APRIL 14 Immediate	8:30 am 9:30 am ly following 10:30 am 10:45 am	Radio Broadcast - 95.3 FM & 1280 AM Worship Service – 3rd Sunday of Easter Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall Faith Formation – 2 nd floor Conversations with Pastor Katrina – Fellowship Hall