



# St. Paul's Epistles

St. Paul's Celebrates, Declares, and Demonstrates the Love of God in Jesus Christ to Sarver and Beyond.



*Encountering the Living One* by Pastor Shawn

This Easter, we read from Luke's account of Jesus' resurrection. A historian at heart, he offers us a barebones account of what happened that morning.

There we join the women who came to finish the burial process they had started before the Sabbath. Waking up at the crack of dawn, with burial spices in hand, they arrive at the tomb, but, Luke writes, "they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus." Because of this, Luke describes the women as perplexed, confused, in doubt, and uncertain. I mean, you can't blame them. They came expecting to encounter the dead body of their friend to anoint it and give it a proper farewell and because dead bodies tend to stay in the same place, they assumed it would be there in the morning, but it was gone. The women did not find what they were looking for and this fact left them at a loss.

This said, what they did find that morning, changed everything. Amid their sorrow and confusion, most likely believing that the body had been stolen, Luke writes that two men suddenly stood near them in clothes that gleamed like lightning. Naturally, the women were terrified at what they had found and bowed their faces to the ground. I mean, could you imagine what you'd be feeling in that moment. Everything is still mostly dark, you're in the tomb of your dead friend who has gone missing, and then boom! Like lightning two beings stand in your presence.

Continuing, amid their trepidation, the angels give the women a word that changes everything: "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, he is risen." The "Living One!" I love that title for Jesus. The angels could have said, "Why are you looking for Jesus here? Tombs are for dead people, Jesus is the Living One whom death can't hold! He is risen!"

At this point, the women were probably having some trouble grasping what the angels were saying. After all, they had just witnessed death seemingly destroying Jesus on the cross, how could he be the Living One? So, to jog their memory, the angels declare, "**Luke 24:6-7** Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." Here the angels are pointing their hearts back to Jesus' own Words. Four times in the gospel of Luke, Jesus told his followers of his death and resurrection. Without exception though, those around him did not understand his words. But now the recollection of Jesus' words combined with the realities of his suffering, crucifixion, death, and empty tomb, and not to mention angelic beings speaking to them, lead the women begin to understand and believe the good news that Jesus had proclaimed throughout his life. The good news that Jesus came to seek and save the lost, that he gave his life as ransom for many, that he gives his body for us for the forgiveness of sins, and that his blood is poured

out to establish a new relationship with humanity no longer seemed too good to be true. Amid the empty tomb, “it would have clicked for the women that Jesus was victorious in all he accomplished and therefore sin, death, and the devil no longer had the last word.” It is truly the case that the women did not find what they were looking for that first Easter morning, but what they found changed everything. They found the Living One!

Truth be told, we’re just like the women in Luke’s account of the resurrection. As they arrived at the tomb with burial spices, expecting to find a dead body, so we come to Sunday Worship with our own prospects and hopes. Perhaps it’s the chance to catch up with old friends. Maybe it’s searching for some peace to get through another week. Well, whatever it is you expect to find, Luke’s gospel declares the mindboggling good news that, like the women at the tomb, we encounter so much more! Every Sunday, we’re given the opportunity to encounter the Living One: our Lord Jesus who died for our sins and was raised on the third day. The Living One who, to quote Martin Luther’s Small Catechism:

Has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, [*with his*] precious blood and... innocent suffering and death... He is risen from the dead and lives and rules in eternity.

Moreover, this Living One encounters you whether you’re looking for him or not. In his word, he is planting seeds in your heart, pruning dead branches, and nourishing new growth. At his table he is feeding you with his body and blood that delivers forgiveness of sin and life everlasting.

So, no matter what’s going in your life the next time you come to church, come with high expectations. The Living One who gives forgiveness of sin, new life, salvation, eternal hope, and who is still at work in all our lives is right there ready to encounter you. May the Holy Spirit birth faith in all our hearts to receive such incredible news. Amen.



Please join us for a celebration of life  
in loving memory of

*Debra Ann Venturini*

Memorial Service to be held on  
Friday, May 6 at 11:00am

Luncheon to Follow in Heide Hall



Congratulations to the following  
confirmands as they reaffirmed their  
baptism on Sunday, April 24, 2022

*Maverick McCorkle*

*Colton Mellish*

*Lydia Young*

### Photographs Needed!

Meridith McGinnis is looking for photos from church functions from the past 5 years. If you have any that you are able to share please send them to her at [mcginnis@zbzoom.net](mailto:mcginnis@zbzoom.net)

## Bag Day

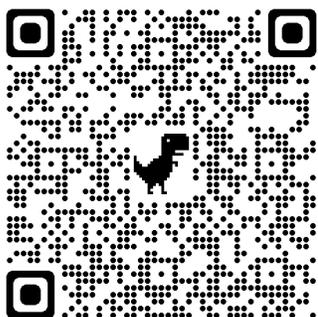
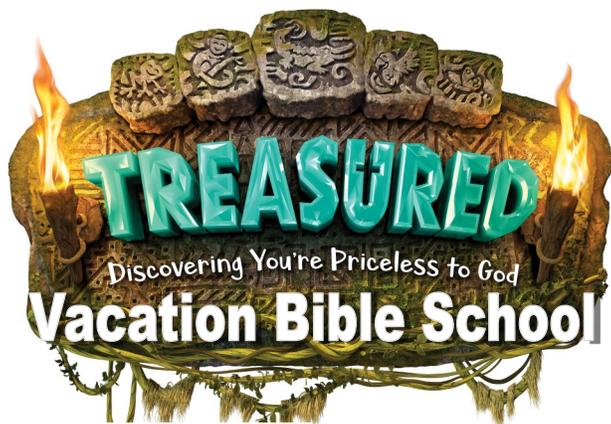
Thursday May 5 @ 9:30am

*Please note the change in time.*



If you would like to be informed via email of prayer needs throughout our congregation please contact the church office to be included on our list.

[stpaulssarver@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulssarver@gmail.com)



**June 20-24**

6:00pm-8:15pm

Children ages 3-completion of 5th grade. Scan code to register.

## Luther's Corner

“For that reason Christ became man, for that reason He died on the cross and arose on the third day, in order that, wherever our hearts, the devil, and the whole world cry about and against us because of our sins as though we were not at peace, that God did not want us, - that He might say to us: No, dear man, not thus, but peace with thee, God is not angry; on that account do not fear, for thy sins I have paid, death I have killed. In this be comforted, that I have done it; then all warfare must have an end and peace must come.” -Martin Luther



Our prayers and sympathies go to the family of Peg Harvey as they continue grieve her death. Peg was a long time member of St. Paul's and she will certainly be missed by many.

### Gift Baskets for Concordia

The following items will be collected to make gift baskets for the residents at Concordia:

Chap stick, nail files, nail polish, Dove lotion, mini tissue packs, sugar-free candy, chips/snacks, mini soda cans, pens, notebooks

We are extending the deadline for donations to Sunday, May 22.

# Happy Birthday!

- 5/1 Abbey Bekina
- 5/2 Scarlet Kaminski
- 5/3 Linda Barnett
- 5/5 Marcus Cashell
- Morgan Jenkins
- Judy Shelton
- Julie Speer
- 5/8 Clarence Negley
- Lorrie Simmons
- 5/10 Maxx Lang
- 5/11 Leigh Ciganik
- 5/13 Jessica Hudak
- 5/14 Kathy Nee
- 5/15 Carlie Doerr
- Conrad Kaminski
- 5/17 Julianne Mariotti
- 5/18 Emmy Marcinko
- Sonya Schmeider
- 5/20 Pat Braden
- Sue Marcinko
- 5/23 Mike McGinnis
- Kendra Smith
- 5/24 Hobie Kenton
- 5/26 Joyce Bastin
- 5/30 Roberta Pflugh
- 5/31 Vince Ciganik

| Offering Breakdown for Month of April |                      |                  |                   |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Category                              | April Total Received | YTD Received     | Annual Budget     |
| General                               | 9,458.80             | 41,786.68        |                   |
| Loose                                 | 1,408.00             | 3,198.85         |                   |
| Flowers                               | 22.50                | 212.50           |                   |
| Memorials                             | 50.00                | 3,835.00         |                   |
| Thrivent                              | -                    | 200.00           |                   |
| Initial                               | 3.00                 | 113.00           |                   |
| Heide Hall                            | -                    | 150.00           |                   |
| Lenten                                | 130.00               | 338.00           |                   |
| Ash Wednesday                         | -                    | 556.00           |                   |
| Christmas Eve.                        | -                    | 25.00            |                   |
| Kindermusik                           | -                    | 224.00           |                   |
| Maundy Thur.                          | 488.00               | 488.00           |                   |
| Good Friday                           | 237.00               | 237.00           |                   |
| Quilt Guild                           | -                    | 150.00           |                   |
| Other                                 | 100.00               | 1,093.81         |                   |
| <b>Total Current</b>                  | <b>11,897.30</b>     | <b>52,607.84</b> | <b>168,511.00</b> |
| <b>Benevolence</b>                    | <b>1,028.90</b>      | <b>4,158.65</b>  | <b>11,000.00</b>  |
| <b>Total Received</b>                 | <b>12,926.20</b>     | <b>56,766.49</b> | <b>179,511.00</b> |
| <b>New Building</b>                   | <b>3,335.55</b>      | <b>13,343.10</b> |                   |

## VBS Donations Needed

The following items are needed for VBS:

*Empty paper towel tubes*

*Empty bath tissue tubes*

*Empty water bottles 16.9 oz*

Please place your donations in the box marked

**VBS Donations**

In the narthex



More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.