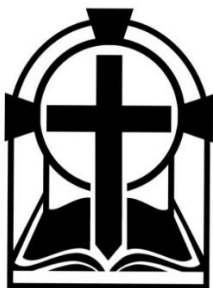


As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
1 Peter 2:4-5

Living Stones

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod
Columbus, Indiana

Welcome to St. Paul!

We are glad that you have come to God's house to be fed and strengthened by His holy Word. The order of service for today is printed on the **insert** in this bulletin. Guests, we extend a special welcome to you this morning. We are privileged to have you as our guest today and encourage you to worship with us again soon.

The Family Quiet Room and Restroom are located outside the doors of the sanctuary and to the left. In the Family Quiet Room, you can hear and see the service. **Assisted hearing devices** are available for the service. Please contact an usher.

Do you need prayer support? Please call Bonnie England at **812-447-7895** to activate our **Prayer Chain**. Your fellow church members will pray for you.

Our Communion Practice: We invite and encourage those who have been instructed, confirmed, and confess the faith of this congregation and other congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to receive the Sacrament. Communicants at this altar acknowledge their sins, believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, and desire the Spirit's help to turn from their sins.

Those who are not communing are invited to come forward and receive a blessing by placing their arms across their chest.

If you have questions regarding our Communion teaching and practice, please speak to a pastor.

Communion Preparation: To prepare for the Lord's Supper, you may wish to pray the prayer on the inside cover of the hymnal or review the Christian Questions and Answers on pages 329-330.

Today's Christian Education Opportunities

First Steps of Faith (Infants and Toddlers with a parent)
Sunday School classes for ages three-sixth grade
Jr. and Sr. High Bible study led by DCE Probst in the Youth Room
Congregational Forum in the fellowship room. Please plan to attend, learn, and ask questions.

Serving Today

Organist: Kantor Dan Mau

Trumpeter: Keith Burton

Acolytes: 8 AM Service Naomi Lewis

10:45 AM Service Clark Neawedde

Church Calendar

Today	Mite Box Sunday 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Congregational Forum 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish Noon Lunch Noon-2 PM SPY and C4Life Sauce Making and Activities 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM <i>Monday-Tuesday Pastors Conference</i>
Monday	10:00 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10:00 AM Moms in the Word
Tuesday	9:00 AM-Noon Orphan Grain Train Workday
Wednesday	9:00 AM Bible Study 10:15 AM Matins Service 10:45 AM Communion Wafer Making 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Sr. Handbells 7:00 PM Sr. Choir 7:15 PM Elders Meeting
Thursday	Last Day for Lambs 8:20 AM Chapel 6:00 PM Tri-W Meeting
Friday	Last Day for Doves 8:20 AM Chapel 6:00 PM Family Game Night and Euchre Tournay
Next Sunday	Mother's Day Clarity Baby Bottle Campaign Begins 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish Noon Church Reserved 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

THE MAY NEWSLETTER.. is available on the front table in the gathering space or online at stpaulcolumbus.org.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Small Group Handbells: *Christ Has Arisen! Alleluia!*—M. Helman (Hymn 466)
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today—R. Mallory (Hymn 469)

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn

465 stanzas 1-3

Confession of Sins

page 151

Kyrie

pages 152-153

Hymn of Praise

This Is the Feast

page 155

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G *(sung)* **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G *(spoken)* **Amen.**

please be seated

First Reading

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . . You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

[Peter writes:] Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.”

So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

please stand and sing (156)

G **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

G **(sung) Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.”

Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know Me, Philip? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will He do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **(sung) Praise to You, O Christ.**

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

646

Sermon

Living Stones

1 Peter 2:2-10

Nicene Creed

please stand page 158

Prayer of the Church

Offering

912 *standing for stanza 3*

Service of the Sacrament

please stand pages 160-163

Distribution

644, 645, 584, 636

Visitors: Please read the Communion statement on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

Post-Communion Canticle

Thank the Lord

please stand page 164

Closing Liturgy

page 166

Closing Hymn

465 stanza 4

Postlude

Trumpet Tune from Concerto in D—G. Torelli

Pastor Fickenscher is leading the Divine Service at Faith Madison.

Thanks to Keith Burton for playing the trumpet.

Living Stones—1 Peter 2:2-10

You are a living stone because you belong to C_____ , the Living Stone.

You are a living stone and a g_____ stone, as you seek the pure spiritual milk of God's W_____ .

God is building us living stones up as His C_____ in this world, founded on Christ the c_____ .

We are living stones and a royal p_____ .

Living stones offer living s_____ .

Offer your b_____ as a living sacrifice, offering all that we are to God and in service to others.

Hebrews 13:15-16 is an excellent summary of the spiritual sacrifices we offer:

"Through [Jesus] then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of p_____ to God, that is, the fruit of lips

that acknowledge His name. Do not neglect to do g_____ and to s_____ what you have,

for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Priests sacrifice and priests p_____ for the needs of others.

Next Sunday's Readings—Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 17:16–31; 1 Peter 3:13–22; John 14:15–21

LIVING THE SERMON... You are a living stone of the Living Stone. You are a priest of the Great High Priest. You are a *royal* priest because you are a son or daughter of the King. All of this is yours because of God's mercy. Consider how you can live out your calling as a living stone and a royal priest. How can you offer your body as a living sacrifice? Who needs your prayers? In what ways can you more frequently crave the pure spiritual milk of God's Word so that you continue to grow in the faith?

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH... Rejoice in Jesus, your cornerstone, and that by God's mercy you are a living stone and a royal priest. Seek the Spirit's help to live out your Christian calling to live sacrificially and to intercede for others as a royal priest. Seek forgiveness when you fallen short and rejoice in the pure spiritual milk of God's Word to forgive, renew, and strengthen you for this holy calling.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... *[Jesus said] I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.* John 14:18

Extending Christ's Love

We are living stones that Jesus, the Living Stone, is building up as His Church in this world. This building up and growing occurs as we are fed with the pure spiritual milk of God's Word. Our Christian Education Center gives us the space and place for God's Word to be proclaimed in Latino outreach, early childhood ministry, Christian Education, and youth ministry so that young and old are fed with God's Word and built up as living stones of the living Christ.



Congregational Forum: Please plan to attend the Congregation Forum **this morning** during the Sunday School hour to receive updates from our Building and Finance Committees and to ask any questions you may have.

Rummage Sales: We will host two Rummage Sales this summer in the chapel. The first will be **Friday-Saturday, June 12-13**. For this sale, we are seeking donations for furniture, household items, and adult clothes. The second is **Friday-Saturday, July 17-18** and will focus on children's clothes, toys, and furniture. In addition, you are encouraged to host a Rummage Sale at your house with proceeds benefiting Extending Christ's Love. For more information, please contact Phil Burbrink at 812-344-9946 or Rachel Fohne at 812-343-3786.

Thanks for your generous support of Extending Christ's Love. Please continue to pray for this endeavor and for those who will be blessed through the ministry that will occur in the Christian Education Center.

Youth Events

KfC (Kids for Christ—fifth graders and younger)

Sunday, May 17th Noon-1:15 PM We will celebrate the end of the school year with a hotdog lunch, devotions, and summer activities.

Vacation Bible School is Monday-Friday, July 13th-17th from 9-11:30 AM. Register for VBS by using the QR code or through the church website. KfC youth are encouraged to attend Sunday School on **Sunday, July 12th** so that they can participate in the VBS skits during VBS week.



SPY (high schoolers) and C4Life (sixth-eighth grade)

Today, Sauce Making Day

Join us for a pizza lunch and making our famous sauce for the taco barn at the county fair. After making the sauce, we'll enjoy games and activities together. Pick-up time is 2 PM.

Sunday, May 17th Progressive Lunch

SPY and C4Life will participate in a Progressive Lunch following second service to celebrate the end of the school year. We will meet at noon and head out to visit three restaurants for appetizers, main course, and desserts. Drivers are needed for this event. Youth and drivers can sign up on the clipboard in the youth hallway or by contacting DCE Probst.

Friday, June 19th-Saturday, June 27th Taco Barn at the Bartholomew County Fair

Our largest youth fundraiser for the year is quickly approaching. The sign-up sheet is posted in the gathering space.

Monday-Friday, July 13th-17th Serve at Vacation Bible School

Many youth are needed to make our VBS a success as we share the Gospel with children in our community. Sign-up to serve online at stpaulcolumbus.org/vbs2026 or in the gathering space.

Friends are always welcome! For more information, contact DCE Jen Probst or a youth counselor.

Stewarding HIS Gifts

There are multiple ways to give to St. Paul. You can always donate online through the website or use the QR code on the back page of this bulletin. **You can make a one-time donation or schedule weekly or monthly donations that you can adjust or cancel at any time.** If you have a question about donating to St. Paul or any information below, please reach out to Rachel Fohne at 812-343-3786 or rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org.

More Ways to Give

Did you know? You can donate appreciated securities directly to St. Paul to fulfill your General Fund or Extending Christ's Love pledges. Donating appreciated securities such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds may offer a tax advantage to the donor. Generally, the tax-deductible value of a gift of securities is the current market value as of the date of the gift. Appreciation (capital gains) of this donated security is generally not taxable to the donor. As always, please consult with your tax advisor about your specific situation.

Financial Updates-New!

Beginning in the 2026 tax year, the government reinstated a universal charitable deduction, allowing non-itemizers to deduct cash donations to qualifying charities like St. Paul. Taxpayers can deduct up to \$1,000 for single filers or \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly, offering a tax benefit to the ~90% of households taking the standard deduction. Please consider taking advantage of this deduction by donating to St. Paul! As always please consult your tax advisor about your specific situation.

Extending Christ's Love Pledges

Do you need a reminder about what you pledged for Extending Christ's Love, or do you need an update on how much you have already donated? Fulfilling your Extending Christ's Love pledge is an essential part of our overall financial plan for the project. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

St. Paul Lutheran SGO Donations Exceed \$100,000, but we aren't done yet!

Thanks to your generosity, more than \$100,000 has been contributed to our St. Paul Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization. We have a goal to reach \$135,000 by June 30th! These gifts fund our mission and ministry as well as provide scholarships for families with financial need. SGO donors receive a 50% state income tax **CREDIT!** You can donate stocks, bonds, and mutual funds to the SGO and receive a 50% tax credit! Please consult your tax advisor for specific tax advice. You can visit www.lutheransgo.org for more information!

2025-2026 St. Paul SGO Fundraising Goal: \$135,000 Amount Raised as of March 31, 2026: \$100,953

FREE FOR CHILDREN 3-12 YEARS OLD

REGISTER HERE

BUILT ON THE ROCK

JULY 13-17 9-11:30AM

In a world of sinking sand, Christ is our solid Rock! Join us for a week of learning and growing as we are built up and firmly founded on the strong and powerful Word of God.

IN OUR PRAYERS... Congregations with Pastoral Vacancies including Faith Madison and Trinity Dillsboro in our Aurora Circuit; **Call Extended:** Rev. Chad Eckles (theology teacher) to Trinity Lutheran High School; **Sick and Recovering:** Renee Strietelmeier, Dee Schurman, Jeff Schroer, Tim Scheidt, Sharon Cline, Bonnie Darlage, Marie Tellman, Phyllis Fox, Julia Bense, Doug Essex, Doug Brown, Riley Walton, Gloria Schultz, Joan Wilcox, Gerald Helt, Jill Scheidt, Bob and Marilyn Runge, Debbie Mills (Marybeth Glick's cousin), Willard Abel (Barbara Hughes' brother-in-law), Amber Owens (ECM grandmother), Gloria Olness and Evelyn Sapper (Nora Cleary's sisters), Katy Garza (Clearys' niece), Denise Covert (Melissa Pevlor's friend), Dakota Faith (Jayne Dornquast's relative), Dawn Seifer (Ethan's mother), Lisa McGaha (Don and Debbie Schroer's friend), Al and Pat Abrams (Pam Roth's brother and sister-in-law), Evan Dunn (Oliver's friend), Michelle Matthews (Ray and Pat Hall's niece), Steve Kennedy (Ray and Pat Hall's friend), Amy Coombs (Darlene Bower's friend), Sam Straub (Kathy Adams' nephew), Lynn Ramberg, Ty Ramberg, Deb Larsen, and Ozzy Hentges (Kallis' friends), Connie Ball, Lisa Williams (Ann Linke's niece/Jordan Patterson's aunt), Pastor Craig Wulf and Jesse Lopez (John and Gail Jones' friends), Mary Putz (Anne Wiltsey's mother), Curt Carothers, Linda Hall (Gayla Alesandro's friend), Jami Maher (Joanne Kirby's niece), Bob McDonald (Wendy Wiederhoeft's father), Ed Vogel (Eddie Vogel's father), William Leitshuh (Clearys' friend), Marilyn Gifford (Hinds' friend); **Grieving:** Family of Martin Norden (Jan Hackman's brother); **Active Military:** Garrett McGaha, Bryce Cleary (Judy Sullivan's friend), Shane McGowen (Sally Haak's nephew), Peyton Mullins (Sperrys' friend), Ty Chamberlain (Taffy Schroer's relative), Devin Klein (Adam and Kristy Hall's nephew)

TODAY'S RADIO MINISTRY... is sponsored by Marvin and Joyce Boggs in thanksgiving to God for Marvin's birthday and their many blessings.

TODAY IS MITE BOX SUNDAY... Please place your "mites" in the LWML box in the gathering space to support missions in Indiana and internationally.

FAITH MADISON PASTORAL VACANCY... Our three pastors along with Pastor Erkkinen are providing worship leadership and pastoral care at Faith Lutheran in Madison. Faith has moved their service time to 8:30 AM to allow our pastors to lead worship in Madison and

return to St. Paul to serve at our 10:45 AM service. Please pray for God's people at Faith during this time of transition and for our pastors as they serve.

MOMS IN THE WORD... All mothers and their children are invited to attend our final Moms in the Word gathering for the 2025-2026 school year **tomorrow, May 4th** at 10 AM in the fellowship room. Join us for a devotion and fellowship!

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN WORK DAY... St. Paul serves the OGT by sorting donated items for distribution the first Tuesday of each month. Join us **this Tuesday, May 5th** from 9 AM-noon. If you cannot attend, the need for volunteers is ongoing so volunteer anytime during their regular hours Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM-3 PM.

COMMUNION WAFER MAKING... We are blessed with faithful volunteers that make Communion wafers for our celebrations of the Lord's Supper. Our next wafer making day is **this Wednesday, May 6th** at 10:45 AM in the church kitchen. All are welcome to come and serve in this way!

CLOSING CHAPELS AND LAST DAYS OF SCHOOL... The closing chapel for Little Lambs is **this Thursday, May 7th** at 8:20 AM. The closing chapel for Little Doves is **this Friday, May 8th** at 8:20 AM.

You are also invited to attend the kindergarten closing chapel and celebration on **Tuesday, May 19th** beginning at 6:30 PM.

TRI-W MEETING... The final Tri-W meeting before summer break is **this Thursday, May 7th** at 6 PM. All women are invited to attend.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT AND EUCHRE TOURNEY... You are invited to family game night and euchre tourney **this Friday, May 8th** beginning at 6 PM. Attendees can bring a food item to share. Please plan to attend and invite others to an evening of food, fun, and fellowship.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE... is **Monday, May 11th**. This is a combined newsletter for June and July.

JOINT ASCENSION DAY SERVICE... St. Paul Jonesville, St. John White Creek, and St Peter Waymansville invite you to a joint Ascension Day Service and Supper on **Thursday, May 14th** at St. Paul Jonesville. Supper begins at 6 PM with the service at 7 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity to join in worship and fellowship with fellow Lutherans on a very special day in the church year.

LWML SERVANT EVENT... All women are invited to help create and cut the Convention Banner for the LWML District Convention in June. Sewing and cutting fabric help is requested from 9 AM to noon on **Saturday, May 16th** in the fellowship room. Please bring fabric scissors and a sharp pencil. Any help is appreciated!

ASCENSION SERVICE OF SONG... Sunday, May 17th is Ascension Sunday, and we will be celebrating our Lord's Ascension with a special Service of Song led by our Sr. Choir and Sr. Handbells. Please plan to attend and invite others as we raise our voices in worship and praise to our ascended and reigning Lord and Savior!

RECOGNITION SUNDAY... Sunday, May 17th will be a Sunday filled with recognition and rejoicing. Please plan to attend worship and Sunday School:

Recognition of Graduates: At both services, we will recognize and pray for our high school and college graduates. If you are graduating, please contact Mackenzie Wint in the church office at mackenzie.wint@stpaulcolumbus.org with the school you are graduating from and your future plans by next Sunday, May 10th so that you can be included in the bulletin that day.

Recognition of New Members: At the beginning of Sunday School, we will recognize those who have joined our congregation in the past six months. Please plan to attend and welcome our newest members!

Recognition of Sunday School Teachers: We are blessed with dedicated Sunday School teachers and staff. As we end the school year, we will recognize and thank these faithful servants at the beginning of the Sunday School hour.

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION... On **Sunday, May 17th**, during the Sunday School hour, Principal Clayton Darlage of Trinity Lutheran High School will give an update on the school and share information about the *Way. Truth. Life.* capital campaign.

FRANCIS SCHEIDT MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATION... On **Sunday, May 17th** at 12:30 PM, a brief dedication ceremony will be held in the cemetery to dedicate a memorial plaque for Francis Scheidt, missing in action from the Second World War. All are invited to attend the ceremony. In addition, there will be

a display in gathering space with pictures and information about Francis' life. For more information about Francis and the dedication ceremony, read the article in the May newsletter.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL... begins **Sunday, May 24th**. We will offer three classes—adults, children, and youth. Most Sundays, the adult class will be led by Kantor Dan Mau as he leads us into a deeper appreciation of our liturgy and hymnody.

There are two Sundays where there will be special presentations during the Sunday School hour. On **Sunday, June 14th**, Vicar Nathaniel Bauman will preach at both services and give up an update during Sunday School regarding his vicarage experience this past year and his final year at the seminary.

On **Sunday, July 5th**, Pastor Erkkinen will preach and give a presentation during Sunday School. Pastor Erkkinen served as an army chaplain for many years and also as Assistant Director of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces. His service as a chaplain included Iraq, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and also at the Pentagon following the 9/11 attack.

Please make the commitment to be in the Word this summer!

STORAGE AREA BY FELLOWSHIP ROOM... To prepare for anticipated renovation in our current Sunday School classrooms, we need to make space to store the items located in those rooms. We are asking for groups and organizations who are using the storage area by the Fellowship Room to consolidate their items. Tables will be set up in the fellowship room, following the 10:45 AM service, on **Sunday, May 31st**. Items still needing storage should be grouped in containers, labeled, and placed on these tables. Any remaining items in the closet on **Thursday, June 4th** will be donated to the ECL rummage sale. Labeled storage items will then be returned and reorganized in the storage room. If you need more information, please see Jen Probst.

SERVANTS NEEDED IN OUR ECM... We are blessed with faithful servants in our early childhood ministry. At the end of the school year, Glory Wofford and Alyssa Schultz will no longer be serving as preschool teachers. Glory and her sister Providence will be attending Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois, to begin studies for full-time church work. Miss Schultz has accepted a full-time teaching position at Faith,

Columbus. Kindergarten Teacher Assistant Caroline Wilcox is also stepping away from her service as she and husband Schuyler welcomed their first child this month.

Due to these vacancies, we are seeking a preschool teacher and kindergarten teacher assistant for the 2026-2027 school year. Interested candidates can visit stpaulcolumbus.org/careers or contact Director Jen Probst by email (director@stpaulcolumbus.org) or by phone (765-491-7818).

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE...

VBS Craft Donations and Helpers: Shoeboxes and empty toilet paper rolls are needed for VBS crafts. Donations can be placed in the box in the gathering space. If you are interested in helping with crafts, please contact Vicki Howarth, 812-343-6967 via text or call; or email at dvhowarth@comcast.net.

Small Group Bible Study Leaders: If you are interested in hosting a small group, please contact Crista Burbrink, Chad Fohne, Sarah Lewis, or Jen Probst.

Summer Sunday School: Volunteers are needed to teach during Summer Sunday School May 24th-August 2nd. Please sign up in the gathering space.

Taco Barn at the County Fair: Support our youth ministry by volunteering to work a shift at the Taco Barn at this year's county fair June 19th-27th. The sign-up sheet is posted in the gathering space.

Vacation Bible School: Adults and youth volunteers are needed for our *Built on the Rock* VBS July 13th-17th. Sign-up to serve online at stpaulcolumbus.org/vbs2026 or in the gathering space.

THANKS TO...

- + All who served at yesterday's CARnival.
- + All who prepared ground beef for today's sauce making day.
- + Today is the final Sunday that our Small Group Handbells ring for this school year. We thank them for enriching our services through song.

The Response of God's People

Sunday, April 26th

Divine Service: **417**

Communion: **313**

Sunday School: **193**

Offering

General Fund: \$28,248.97

Weekly Need: \$17,721

Extending Christ's Love: \$14,665.59 including \$526 LWML Silent Auction/Lenten Meal; \$120 in celebration of Toby Patterson's 1st Birthday

Preschool: \$15 Box Tops



St. Paul Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Ministry

6045 East State Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201

812-376-6504; www.stpaulcolumbus.org

Pastor Doug Bauman; pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-350-4115

Pastor Jeff Patterson; pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-569-2471

Pastor Daniel Fickenscher; pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org; 260-710-6750

Kantor Daniel Mau; kantor@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-927-9319

DCE Jen Probst; director@stpaulcolumbus.org; 765-491-7818

Administrative Specialist Mackenzie Wint; mackenzie.wint@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-528-1176

Finance Specialist Rachel Fohne; rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-343-3786

Latino Outreach Coordinator Renee Strietelmeier; riskplants@yahoo.com; 812-343-6466

Social Media Coordinator Andrea Cotton; socialmedia@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-344-4580

ECM Teachers: Anne Wiltsey (kindergarten); Michelle Schultz, Alyssa Schultz, Glory Wofford (preschool)

ECM Assistants: Gayla Alesandro, Sarah Lewis, Laurie Schultz, Claudia Sims, Amy Yeley

Reaching out with Christ's Love to Serve and Grow