

Saturday & Sunday, May 20 & 21, 2023  
The Ascension of Our Lord

*Taken  
up into  
heaven  
and in  
power  
intercedes  
for  
us*



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1100 Georgia Ave.,  
Norfolk, Nebraska

Office & Website:

(402)371-1233

[www.stpls.com](http://www.stpls.com)



*We welcome you all to our worship service! We are gathered for the purpose of **worshipping our God** who showed His love for all people by sending His Son to die for our sins on the cross of Calvary. We're also gathered to **strengthen our faith** through using His means of Grace, the Gospel in Word and Sacrament!*

*There are **LARGE PRINT** copies of this bulletin on the counter in the narthex, please feel free to take one. Bathroom facilities are available both upstairs (across from the west car-port entrance) and in the basement.*

*If you have any questions about the school or the teachings of St. Paul's, which is part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, please don't be afraid to contact Principal Aaron Markgraf about the school, or Pastor Paul Hirsch, whose numbers are listed on the back cover of this folder.*

*We invite our guests to come again and worship with us again. You are always welcome here in God's house!*

## **Our Holy Communion Practice**

Dear visitors and guests: You may be relieved to know that we do not want to impose our practice of Holy Communion on you. In fact, God's Word teaches that Communion is intended only for those who have been taught the Biblical truths and meaning of the Sacrament, and for those who have previously expressed their doctrinal unity (communion...common-union) with the congregation. This is what is meant by the scriptural practice of "close communion."

It wasn't too long ago that most Lutheran church bodies held to this practice, but now many have now abandoned it in the age of political correctness. We still appreciate it and retain it, and extend fellowship at the Lord's Table to the communicant members of our Wisconsin Synod and also those of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), with whom we are presently in doctrinal fellowship. If, as our guest today, you have not had the opportunity to explore or express your fellowship with us, please observe our Communion service today, and speak with our pastor later if you have questions. We'd be happy to spend time over an open Bible and explain why we do what we do as we try to faithfully follow Scripture.

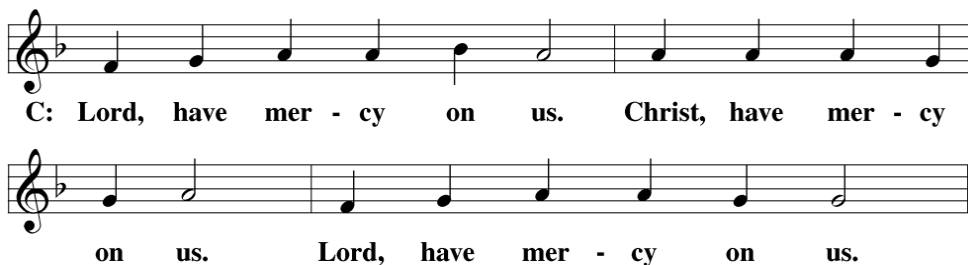
**The Opening Hymn** #558 "Christ High-Ascended"

*P: We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*



*P: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.*

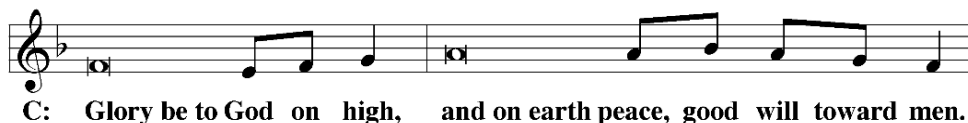
**ALL: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed You in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve Your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**



*P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.*



*P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!*





We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,  
 we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,  
 God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;  
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the  
 sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the  
 sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of  
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;  
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,  
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

### The Prayer of the Day

*P: The Lord be with you.*



**C: And al - so with you.**

*P: Let us pray.*

*O forgiving God, You lifted up this fallen world from the despair of eternal death by the humiliation and suffering of Your Son. Give us happy hearts from this news, as well as the certain hope of our eternal joys; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



### **The First Lesson** Acts 1:1-11

*Luke, the writer of Acts, begins by reminding his reader, Theophilus, of the ascension of Jesus. Angels reminded them and believers of all time that the Lord will return visibly at the end of time.*

<sup>1</sup> In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

## The Verse of the Day

*P: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia. (Matthew 28:20b)*



## The Second Lesson Luke 24:44-53

*Closely connected with the first lesson, our Gospel recounts how, after His resurrection, the Lord commissioned His Apostles and was taken up into heaven before them.*

<sup>44</sup> He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

## The Nicene Creed

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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

**Hymn** #174 “See, the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph”

**The Sermon Meditation** Revelation 19:11-16

### THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE

<sup>11</sup> I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. <sup>13</sup> He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. <sup>14</sup> The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup> Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

### **The Thank-Offering**

***Once again the offering plates will be passed in the pews.***

*Scanning this QR code works too for a digital offering.*

*Thanks for your generous gifts! God blesses a cheerful giver!*

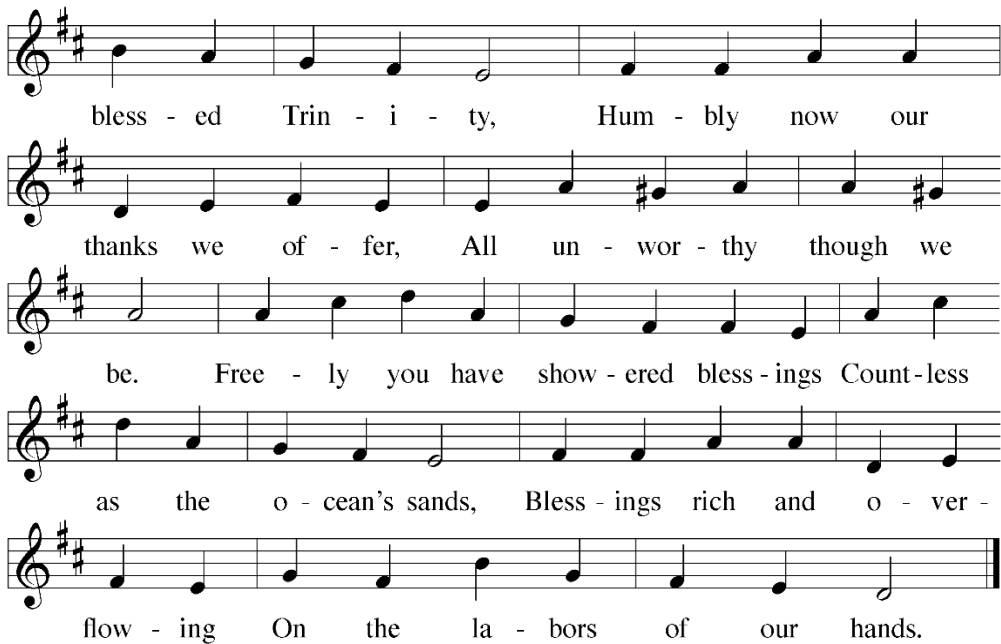
***Malachi 3:10*** *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.*



**Offering Hymn** #623 “God the Father, Son, and Spirit”

Musical notation for the offering hymn. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of a series of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Below the notes, the lyrics are: "I God the Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Ev - er -".

I God the Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Ev - er -



bless - ed Trin - i - ty, Hum - bly now our  
 thanks we of - fer, All un - wor - thy though we  
 be. Free - ly you have show - ered bless - ings Count - less  
 as the o - cean's sands, Bless - ings rich and o - ver -  
 flow - ing On the la - bors of our hands.

### **Prayer & Lord's Prayer**

*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.*

### **The Sacrament**

*P: The Lord be with you.*



C: And al - so with you.

*P: Lift up your hearts.*



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.



*P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*





C: It is good and right so to do.

*P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. We praise You especially for the glorious resurrection of Your son, the true Passover Lamb, who by His sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by His resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise Your holy name and join their glorious song.*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



### Jesus' Words Instituting His Holy Supper

*P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed...*

*The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C: A - men.

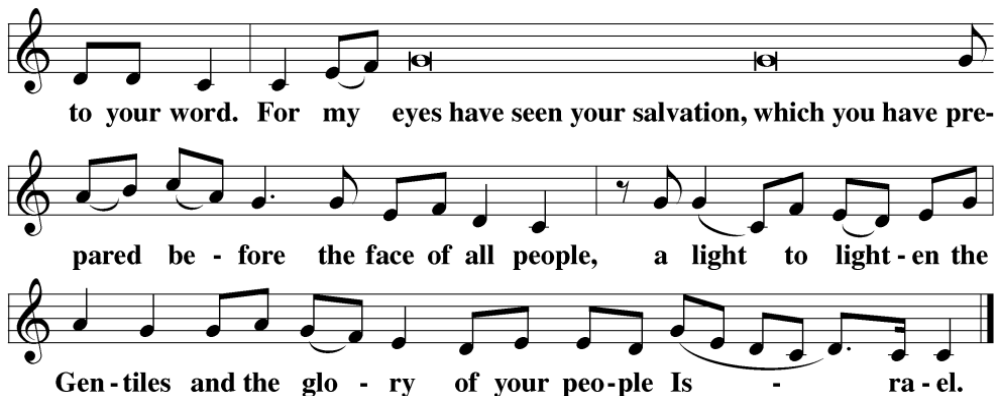
C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

### The Distribution

### Communion Blessing

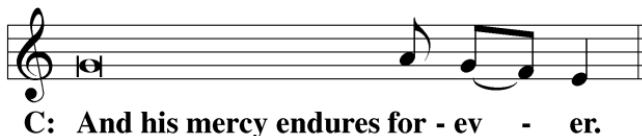
### Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis*

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

*P: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.*



**C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.**

*P: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



**C: A - men.**

## **The Blessing**

*P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.*



**C: A - men. A - men. A - men.**

**Closing Hymn** #341 vss 3 & 4 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

*Thanks Pastor Schlieve for leading  
our worship today!!*

### **Worshipping the Lord**

Last Week's Attendance: Sat. 6:30 PM – 37; Sun. 9:00 AM – 107; **Total = 144**  
 Sunday Bible Class – 25    Wednesday Bible Class – 8  
 Sisters in Faith – 9    Donnerstag -

### **Serving In the Lord's House Today**

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Richard Schlieve    **Organist:** Shannon Spreeman  
**Radio Broadcasters:** Ron Kramer/Katy Nichols    **Video Tech:** Chad Moyer  
**Elder:** Dave Nelson    **Ushers:** Curt Dinkel & Randy Anderson  
**Power Point:** Athena Bretschneider (Sat. 5/20) Micah Brown (Sun. 5/21)

### **Serving Next Week 5/27 & 5/28**

**Elder:** Gary Bretschneider    **Organist:** Karen Pufahl  
**Ushers:** Zach Kruse & Joel Wiedeman    **Video Tech:** Chad Moyer  
**Power Point:** Weinrich's (Sat. 5/27) Flor Koinzan (Sun. 5/28)  
**Radio Broadcasters:** Ron Kraemer/Katy Nichols

### **St Paul's General Fund, May 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

<b>Yearly Need</b>	<b>YTD Need</b>	<b>YTD Offerings</b>	<b>YTD Need vs Offerings</b>	<b>Last Week Received</b>	<b>Weekly Need</b>	<b>Difference</b>
\$422,052.00	\$367,699.20	\$349,729.46	-\$17,969.74	\$6,263.00	\$9,026.61	-\$2,763.61

## Some Announcements

- 1) **Sunday, May 21...tomorrow/today!!** is the date set for a **New Member Welcome**. It'll be held soon after the service in the church basement and will be a more formal setting to meet and introduce yourself to some of the new Christian brothers and sisters that have joined our church family the last few years. We haven't done one of these for a while due to COVID, so please mark it on your calendar. Everything to enjoy and eat will be provided so just bring yourselves!!
- 2) It will start raining again, and when it does we can use help cutting grass. If you're interested and able to participate on a **mowing team**, call and talk to Ron Johnson (402.649.9770). He'll get your questions answered and signed up on a team.
- 3) Trinity Lutheran Church in Hoskins is celebrating the **100th Anniversary of Trinity Lutheran School** on June 10th and 11th, 2023. On June 10th, 7-10pm there will be a Mingle night with snacks, drinks and displays at the Hoskins Community Center, 101 S Main St. in Hoskins. On June 11th, there will be a Worship Service at 10am followed by a cookout meal, games and activities, all at the church. Please RSVP by June 2, 2023 to [trinityinhoskins.com/school-anniversary](http://trinityinhoskins.com/school-anniversary).
- 4) Camp Messiah is a Christian summer camp held at Camp Calvin Crest, Fremont, NE every summer. It is sponsored and staffed by members of the WELS Lutheran churches in Northeast Nebraska. Kids have the opportunity to learn more about God's Word through devotions and Bible study, meet new friends, compete on teams, and enjoy many other recreational activities such as swimming, archery, campfires, singing, and more! Students entering grades 5-9 may register as campers, with grades 10+ helping as Jr. counselors. Registrations will be out soon. **We are always looking for help to help staff camp!** If you're interested, please contact Mr. Brown or Pastor Hirsch at [office@stpls.com](mailto:office@stpls.com). **Dates for 2023: Wednesday August 2nd-Saturday August 5th**
- 5) New **Meditations** are available at the Communication Center.
- 6) An invitation for the members of St. Paul's has been received in connection with **Pastor Randy & Carolyn Bader's 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary**. This celebration will be held Saturday, June 17, 2:00-4:00 PM at the Ulliot Building, 120 N. Commercial St., Clark, SD.
- 7) We have completed our three weeks of 'Meals on Wheels' through the Senior Citizens Center! We wish to thank all of our members who have so selflessly given their time to deliver those meals. God bless you all for your help in serving our community!

## ***How Do I as a Christian Respond to Evolution?***

Is everything connected with the word “evolution” unchristian? Do I get scared and get all quiet when I hear that word? A new Bible Class has started and will continue next Sunday, May 28. The course combines the expertise and knowledge of some of our church body’s scholars of earthly sciences and Scripture. There’ll be a video portion included in each of the seven sessions, and a short “textbook” provided as well. We meet in the church basement after Sunday worship, starting about 10:15 AM. ***Come join for some coffee, fellowship and Bible time!***

## **Assignment of Teachers and Staff Ministers at Martin Luther College**

Last week, the synod’s Assignment Committee met at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., to assign this year’s teacher and staff ministry candidates. The Conference of Presidents makes up the Assignment Committee. The committee is advised by representatives of Martin Luther College, the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools, and the presidents of the two synodical prep schools.

This year there were 61 teacher candidates who could go anywhere. All of them were assigned. Forty candidates who were limited geographically as to where they could serve (mostly due to marriage) were assigned. Additional assignments of those limited geographically will be made in the coming weeks and months when it is determined where they will be living. Thirty-seven teacher candidates were assigned to return to their current place of service either for another year or permanently. The total number of candidates assigned was 138.

After the assignments were made, there are still 158 vacancies for teacher-trained workers. Of those, 114 had requested candidates through the assignment process.

Four staff minister candidates were available for assignment; all four were assigned.

In addition, 34 men graduated from the preseminary program, and three men graduated with seminary certification. Most, if not all, of those 37 men will enroll at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., to continue their training for the pastoral ministry.

*(If you'd like a list of the assignments, ask Pastor Hirsch)*

As you view the list, you will see many one-year assignments. Assignments are made for one year for a number of reasons, including marriage plans, candidates assigned to duties outside of their specific training, candidates assigned as tutors or dorm supervisors, service in a foreign mission field, or local circumstances in schools. Many candidates assigned for one year will have their assignment made permanent either during the coming year or at next year's assignments.

We thank God for providing these workers who will go out into God's harvest field. We pray for God's blessing on their ministry.

The Assignment Committee will meet May 23 at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to assign pastor and vicar candidates. Vicar assignments will be announced Wed., May 24; pastor assignments will be announced Thurs., May 25. The commencement events and call services will be **streamed live**.

Serving with you in Christ,  
WELS President Mark Schroeder

## Upcoming Events This Week

<b>Sunday, 5/21</b>	<u>Worship Service</u> , 9:00 AM <b><u>New Member</u></b> Welcome, 10:15 AM
<b>Wed., 5/24</b>	<u>Service Broadcast on Local Cable 12</u> , 9:00 AM <u>Bible Class</u> , 10:00 AM
<b>Thursday, 5/25</b>	<u>Donnerstag</u> , 6:30 PM
<b>Saturday, 5/27</b>	<u>Worship Service w/ HC &amp; Fellowship</u> , 6:30 PM
<b>Sunday, 5/28</b>	<u>Worship Service w/ HC</u> , 9:00 AM <u>Bible Class</u> , 10:15 AM EVOLUTION

## Church Cleaning Teams

**Week of May 21<sup>st</sup> Team #5** Gary & Sue Bretschneider, Joan Ellenberger, Rick & Diane Ellenberger, Shannon Spreeman

**Weeks of May 28<sup>th</sup> & June 4<sup>th</sup> Team #6** Kelly Meysenburg, Dan & Karen Pufahl, Barb Reeves, Carol Wachter, Veryle Winter

## St. Paul's Contact Information

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St. Paul's Website: [www.stpls.com](http://www.stpls.com)  
WELS Website: [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)