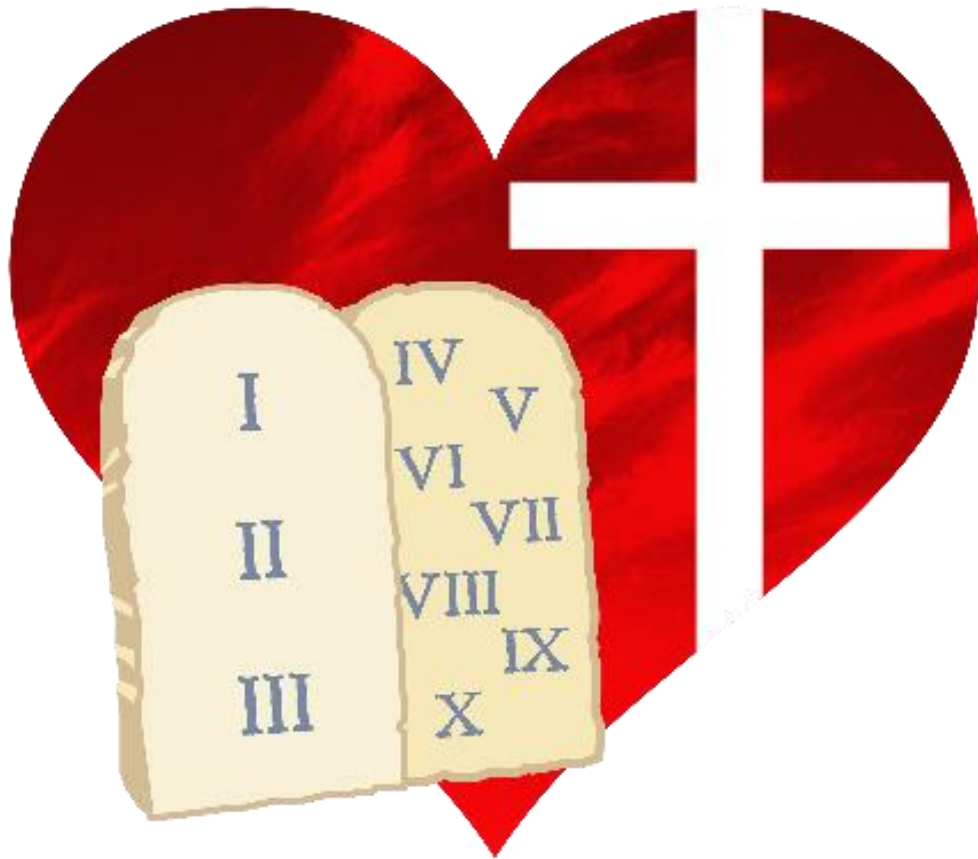


6th Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024



St. Paul Lutheran Church

95 W. State St, Coldwater, MI 49036

www.stpaulcoldwater.com | 517-278-8061

Facebook: @StPaulColdwater

As We Gather

The original Greek language in which John wrote his Gospel uses the word “love” either as a noun or a verb some nine times in the section of Jesus’ words heard in the Gospel for today. Jesus wants His disciples and us to know the abiding power of His love. It is that love that compels us to love one another—and the “others” beyond our circles of family, friends, and other close relationships. We are blessed in hearing the story of Jesus and His love anew today. May we be blessed in telling it out in love as well!

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

All in attendance in the sanctuary are asked to complete the Connect Card located in the pew rack and they will be collected along with Prayer Cards, during the Sermon Hymn.

Announcements

Call to Worship

♪ Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings LSB 782

1 Gracious God, You send great blessings

New each morning all our days.

For Your mercies never ending,

For Your love we offer praise.

Refrain Lord, we pray that we, Your people
Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of Your blessings
May bring glory to Your name.

2 By Your Word You formed creation
Filled with creatures large and small;
As we tend that endless treasure
May our care encircle all. *Refrain*

3 In His earthly life, our Savior
Knew the care of faithful friends;
May our deeds of dedication
Offer love that never ends. *Refrain*

△ 4 Heav'nly Father, may our caring
Bear the imprint of Your grace;
With the Son and Holy Spirit,
Praise be Yours in ev'ry place! *Refrain*

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946. Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002464

Invocation

✠: *The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins

in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

♪ Gloria In Excelsis

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

C Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and

Father:

**We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise
You for Your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord
God, Lamb of God:**

**You take away the sin of the world; have mercy
on us.**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.**

**For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the
Lord,**

**You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with
the Holy Spirit,**

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the

Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen. (*please be seated*)

Acts 10:34–48

A The First Reading is from Acts, chapter 10.

Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge

of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

1 John 5:1–8

A The Epistle is from First John, chapter 5.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of

God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.** *(please stand)*

♪ **Common Alleluia and Verse**

C **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

John 15:9–17

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I

loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,

**maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down
from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church,**

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Children's Message *(please be seated)*

*Those present may fill out a Prayer card. Our volunteers
will gather them during the following hymn, to be offered
up during the Prayer of the Church.*

♪ **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling** *LSB 700 v. 1-4*

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,

Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit

Into ev'ry troubled breast;

Let us all in Thee inherit;

Let us find Thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning;

Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith, as its beginning,

Set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;

Let us all Thy life receive;

Suddenly return, and never,

Nevermore Thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,

Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,

Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,

Glory in Thy perfect love.

4 Finish then Thy new creation,

Pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see Thy great salvation

Perfectly restored in Thee,

Changed from glory into glory,

Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88. Text: Public domain

Sermon

9:00AM – Offering *Please bring forward your offerings, tithes, and mites.*

♪ **Offertory** *(please stand)*

C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who come and hear God's Word, that they

would rightly fear God and learn what He has done for their souls, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the work of our missionaries, that in every nation there would be people who fear God, do what is right and, believing in Jesus, receive forgiveness of sins through His name, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the people of God, that like our Lord Jesus who loved the world and laid down His life for all, they also may lay down their lives for others in love, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our nation's leaders, that God would cause them to serve wisely for our good in accord with His revealed order; and though we do not always know what the Master is doing by the authorities He gives, that we would make ample use of the freedom Jesus has given in His name to ask the Father for everything as friends and fellow sons, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [especially _____], that they would receive from God all His good gifts of healing for the body, grace to bear the cross, and finally a blessed end and the gift of eternal life in His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who come to the Holy Supper, that having received the testimony of God in the water of Baptism, they may also receive it in the body and blood of Jesus and so overcome the world by faith in Him, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

The prayers conclude:

P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the

faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

We welcome to the table of the Lord all those who believe and confess alongside this family the teachings of the Lutheran Church. For more on this, refer to the Worship Card, located in each pew rack.

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ,

the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

♪ Sanctus

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

P The table is prepared. Welcome to the Lord's table.

♪ Agnus Dei

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

Distribution *(please be seated)*

9:00AM - Songs During Distribution

♪ My Song Is Love Unknown *LSB 430 v. 1-7*

- 1 My song is love unknown,
 My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown
 That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I
 That for my sake
 My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

- 2 He came from His blest throne
 Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
 The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend,
 My friend indeed,
 Who at my need
His life did spend!

- 3 Sometimes they strew His way
 And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
 Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"

Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.

4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.

Sweet injuries!

Yet they at these
Themselves displease
And 'gainst Him rise.

5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.

Yet cheerful He

To suff'ring goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb

But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683. Text: Public domain

♪ Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice *LSB 556*

1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How His right arm the vict'ry won.
What price our ransom cost Him!

2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;

Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day;
In sin my mother bore me.
But daily deeper still I fell;
My life became a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.

3 My own good works all came to naught,
No grace or merit gaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought,
Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair
Left only death to be my share;
The pangs of hell I suffered.

4 But God had seen my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great,
He planned for my salvation.
He turned to me a father's heart;
He did not choose the easy part
But gave His dearest treasure.

5 God said to His beloved Son:
"It's time to have compassion.

Then go, bright jewel of My crown,
And bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free;
Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with You forever.”

6 The Son obeyed His Father’s will,
Was born of virgin mother;
And God’s good pleasure to fulfill,
He came to be my brother.
His royal pow’r disguised He bore;
A servant’s form, like mine, He wore
To lead the devil captive.

7 To me He said: “Stay close to Me,
I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I Myself will be;
For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, and you are Mine,
And where I am you may remain;
The foe shall not divide us.

8 “Though he will shed My precious blood,
Me of My life bereaving,
All this I suffer for your good;

Be steadfast and believing.
Life will from death the vict'ry win;
My innocence shall bear your sin,
And you are blest forever.

9 “Now to My Father I depart,
From earth to heav'n ascending,
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart,
The Holy Spirit sending;
In trouble He will comfort you
And teach you always to be true
And into truth shall guide you.

10 “What I on earth have done and taught
Guide all your life and teaching;
So shall the kingdom's work be wrought
And honored in your preaching.
But watch lest foes with base alloy
The heav'nly treasure should destroy;
This final word I leave you.”

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt. Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You
have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we

implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

♪ Now Thank We All Our God *LSB 895 v. 1-3*

1 Now thank we all our God
 With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
 In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
 Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love
 And still is ours today.

2 Oh, may this bounteous God

Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessèd peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next!

△ 3 All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinckart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Dismissal

P Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!



SERVING in the **LORD'S HOUSE**

Pastor Rev. Aaron B. Chittick

Admin. Assist. Laura Oswood **Organist** Kay Kaepf
Treasurer Donna Hobday **Altar Guild** Barb V
Interpreter for Amy Linscott **Banners** Dusti D
the Deaf

Today – May 5

Next Sunday – May 12

Acolyte Lorelai C	Madison M
Assistant Merle Donbrock	Loren Green
Ushers Sara Mobley	Ron Patch
Larry Parks	Jimmy Powell
Reader Kelsey Sobeski	Donna Hines
Sound Jason Moore	Max G
Candles -	Aaron Garn
Counters Chris Mobley	Jacque Osborn
Steve Oswood	Liz Donbrock
Cookies Chittick	

IN OUR PRAYERS

Cancer patients: Joyce Adams; Sidney Bills; Scott
Brandenberg; Sue Davenport; Debbie; Rob Eickmann;
Debbie Gaunt; Samantha Greenburg; Bill Livingston;
Liz; Jim Mallow; Lynn McCurley; Chris Mills; Monica;
Noah; Dixie Pawloski; Patrick Reardon.

Family & Friends: Brian; Clark; Cathy Harari; David

Hobday; Debbie Jenner; Fred Jenner; Kay Kaepf; Vicki Keokuk; Patricia; Doreen Robinson; Bill Tunison; Zoe.
Shut-ins: MaryAnn Morrill; Mary Osbon; Bea Richardson; Gail Tryner.

Persecuted Christians: Kiflu Gebremeskel and Haile Nayzgi, imprisoned for their faith.

This month marks 20 years since the arrest of Kiflu and Haile. Please pray for them and their families. God tells us, through His Word, to remember the suffering of our brothers and sisters, but thankfully we are not left to do it alone. We are the sons and daughters of a Heavenly Father who entreats us to bring our troubles to Him. And when we do, He performs a miracle in our hearts and minds by enabling us to walk in faith with His peace, free from worry, doubt and fear.

Those in military service: Lance Bonkoske; Jeffrey Kaepf; Tristan Karl; Joe Meyer; Logan Ostrander; Ryan Schlueter; Heath Taner; Chelsea Terrones; Arie Vincegerra.

OFFERINGS April 28 (Includes Direct Payments):

General Fund-\$3,270; Youth-\$10; Narthex-\$1,999.21 (1,551.21 Donate Your Birthdate); Misc. Reimburs.-\$624; Total-\$5,903.21. April Mites-\$91.44.

ATTENDANCE April 28 Worship: 9am-56, 11:30am-11; Sunday School: Adults-14, Kids-2.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Please have all announcements to the office by 8:30am, Wednesdays.*

Potluck & Voters' Meeting TODAY, May 5 we will have a potluck at 12:30 and Voters' Meeting at 1:15pm. Join us as we fellowship and plan for the future of St. Paul.

Narthex Painting begins tomorrow, May 6. Please pay close attention to the details below and plan ahead:

- 3-5 days of painting
- \$200 FINE: Anyone entering the work zone at any time while the signs are posted (even when workers are not present) is subject to a \$200 fine.
- DO NOT enter through the main doors
- Office and Fellowship Hall: enter through the brown patio door during office hours
- No access to the basement, Janitor's Room, Copy Room, Sanctuary, etc.

Memorial Garden Bricks You can always find order forms on the shelf in the Copy Room. Return when completed to the church office with your \$. We're putting in an order May 9.

Service Opportunity Altar Guild is in need of help for the month of June. If you would be willing to help please contact Barb Vainner for more details.

Lost and Found Please check the basket for items. Everything will be taken out and disposed of on Memorial Day. Some items currently in the basket:

Necklaces Kids' black mitten

Toys Wrapping paper

Gray jacket (mens?) Hair bands and clips

Interpretation for the Deaf We will have interpreters May 5, 12, and 19. After that, Amy will interpret the first Sunday of every month. We'll do our best to keep you updated to any changes in the schedule.

Flower Order Pick Up Flower orders will be available for pick up after 4pm on May 20. Please get them quickly, so they stay healthy and beautiful. Thank you for supporting our Youth Group!

2024 Graduates Please contact us if you know a member of St. Paul who is graduating this year from high school, college, trade school, graduate school, etc. Let us know their name and school. Known Graduates: Brooklyn Dalchow, Nakota Dayton, Madeline Garn, and Chayse Moore.

Thank you to all who joined us at the Birthday Party for Everyone. We had a wonderful time, good food, and fun with friends. We also raised \$1,551.21 for the Narthex Project. You're awesome!

THIS WEEK at ST. PAUL COLDWATER

Sun 5/5 9:00am Worship
 10:00am Coffee Time
 10:30am Sunday School for All Ages
 11:30am Worship - Interpreted for Deaf
 12:30pm Potluck
 1:15pm Voters' Meeting
 TBD Youth Movie

Mon 5/6 7:00am Narthex Painting Begins

Wed 5/8 9:00am Staff Meeting

Thu 5/9 9:00am Beautification Team Meeting

Sat 5/11 9:00am Men's Bible Study

Sun 5/12 9:00am Worship
 10:00am Coffee Time
 10:30am Sunday School for All Ages
 11:30am Worship - Interpreted for Deaf