

7th Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2026
9 AM



In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4686 E. Walnut Street
Westerville, OH 43081
614-882-7601
www.splcwesterville.org

WELCOME



GATHERING



Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

WELCOME SONG

PRESENCE (MY HEART'S DESIRE)

LEADER

I lift up my voice to the King, the King of Glory.

I hold out my hands to the One who is worthy.

I long for Your presence. I long, Lord, I need your touch.

CHORUS

Come on, Lord, and fill up my life with the light of Your presence.

This is my heart's desire.

O Father, come and let Your Spirit abide.

I long for Your presence. This is my heart's desire.

ALL

I long to be washed in the well of Your mercy.

I long to be warmed by the fire of Your glory.

I long for Your presence. I long for Your healing touch.

Come on, Lord, and fill up my life with the light of Your presence.

This is my heart's desire.

O Father, come and let Your Spirit abide. I long for Your presence.

This is my heart's desire, it's my desire. Lord, it's my desire.

I want to feel your presence,

I want to feel your presence,

I want to feel your presence,

I want to feel your presence, Jesus.

Come on, Lord, and fill up my life with the light of Your presence.

This is my heart's desire.

Come and let Your Spirit abide. I long for Your presence.

This is my heart's desire. *(repeat)*

It's my desire. Lord, You're my desire. Lord, You're my desire.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand.
Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be
drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠ WORD ✠ ✠ ✠

Please be seated.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:6-14

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CELTIC ALLELUIA

REFRAIN

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise Team to sing verse, then Refrain All.

You are the Christ everlasting.

Born to us all of a virgin

You have conquered death,

Opened heaven to all believers! (*refrain*)

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Jonathan Bull

Please stand as you are able.

SERMON SONG

SEEK YE FIRST

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.

Allelu, Alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.

Allelu, Alleluia.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.

Allelu, Alleluia.

NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith using the words of 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 truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick especially those we name silently or spoken. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment, and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

WINGS OF A DOVE

CHORUS

On the wings of a snow white dove, He sends His pure sweet love,
A sign from above on the wings of a dove.

When troubles surround us, when evils come
The body grows weak, the spirit grows numb
When these things beset us, He doesn't forget us
He sends down his love, on the wings of a dove. *(chorus)*

When Jesus went down, to the waters that day
He was baptized, in the usual way
When it was done, God blessed His Son
He sent Him His love, on the wings of a dove. *(chorus)*

On the wings of a snow white dove, He sends His pure sweet love,
A sign from above on the wings of a dove.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,

that goodness and mercy may follow us

and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠ MEAL ✠ ✠ ✠

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This is the table, not of the church, but of the Lord
It is made ready for those who love God
and for those who want to love God more.

So come, you who have much faith
and you who have little;

You who have been here often
and you who have not been here long;

You who have tried to follow
and you who have failed.

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG

O COME TO THE ALTAR

Are you hurting and broken within,
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?
Jesus is calling.

Have you come to the end of yourself?
Do you thirst for a drink from the well?
Jesus is calling.

CHORUS

O come to the altar,
The Father's arms are open wide.
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes.
Come today; there's no reason to wait.
Jesus is calling.
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy.
From the ashes a new life is born.
Jesus is calling. (*chorus 2x*)

Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful?
Your God is calling! Calling to you now.
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Your God is calling! Calling to you now. (*chorus*)

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown.
Tell the world of the treasure you've found.

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy One,

through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,

to love our enemies,

and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

YOU ARE GOD ALONE

You are not a god created by human hands.
You are not a god dependent on any mortal man.
You are not a god in need of anything we can give.
By Your plan, that's just the way it is. *(repeat)*

CHORUS

You are God alone from before time began,
You were on Your throne. You are God alone.
And right now, in the good times and bad,
You are on Your throne, and You are God alone.

You're the only God whose power none can contend.
You're the only God whose name and praise will never end.
You're the only God who's worthy of ev'rything we can give
You are God, that's just the way it is. *(chorus)*

Unchangeable, unshakable, unstoppable, that's what You are. *(repeat) (chorus)*

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!

Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!

Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Go, Experience God's Love:
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

AWESOME GOD

St. Paul Praise Team

by Rich Mullins

Altar Flowers are given by Becky Rollo.

Prayer requests may be sent to prayer@splcwesterville.org

This Week's Activities at St. Paul

Sunday, 5/17

- 9 AM: **Contemporary Worship**
(Sanctuary)
- 9 AM: **Journeying with Jesus & Adult Forum** (Lower Level)
- 10:30 AM: **Worship** (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 AM: **Discussions in Today's World**
(Library)
- 4 PM: **Private Event** (Shelter House)
- 6 PM: **Dinner's Out** (Longhorn)

Monday, 5/18

- 3 PM: **Private Music Lessons** (Nursery)
- 5:30 PM: **Yoga** (Fellowship Hall)
- 6 PM: **Personnel** (Library)
- 6:30 PM: **Drum Circle** (Fellowship Hall)
- 7 PM: **Town Hall on Constitution**
(Sanctuary)

Tuesday, 5/19

- 12 PM: **Lunch Bunch** (Fellowship Hall))
- 6 PM: **Ladies Night Out** (Texas Roadhouse)
- 7 PM: **Book Club** (Library)

Wednesday, 5/20

- 9:30 AM: **Piece & Sew** (Lower Level)
- 7:30 PM: **Praise Team Rehearsal** (Sanctuary)

Thursday, 5/21

- 10 AM: **PBS** (Library)
- 12 PM: **St. Paul Seniors** (Giammarcos)
- 7 PM: **PBS** (Library)

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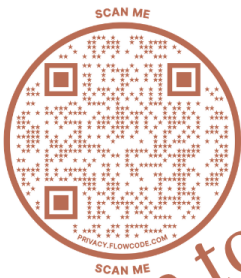
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SPLC DAY CAMP

“Handle with Care!”

JULY 13-17

Kindergarten - 5th grade



Scan to
Register



HopeWood
Outdoors

As we cultivate welcoming communities of faith with our neighbors and world, we strive for a world where everyone "Experiences God's Love".

HOLY COMMUNION

We celebrate Holy Communion at every service. We welcome you to join us at the table of the Lord. Our Communion Bread is gluten, peanut, tree nut, soy, and dairy-free. **White grape juice is always available in the center of the tray.** All are welcome.

NURSERY

The nursery is located at the top of the ramp of the main entrance to the church. Currently, the nursery is not staffed, however, it is available for you to use with your child. Also, for our young worshippers, please find **Worship Wonder Bags** on the small coat rack in the rear of the sanctuary, untie, and enjoy. After worship, please put the **UNTIED bag back** on the rack to be replenished and cleaned.

Online giving to St. Paul is available: Using your mobile device, scan below or Text **SPLCGIVE** to **73256**.

CONTACTS

Pastor Jonathan Bull, 614-508-0335,
jon.bull@splcwesterville.org

Pastor Gary Grieger, 989-350-8411,
gary.grieger@splcwesterville.org

Karla Kruse, 614-882-7601,
karla.kruse@splcwesterville.org

Zach Ruppel, 614-882-7601,
zach.ruppel@splcwesterville.org

Amy Drake, 614-882-7601,
amy.drake@splcwesterville.org

Prayer requests may be sent to
prayer@splcwesterville.org

MUSIC STAFF

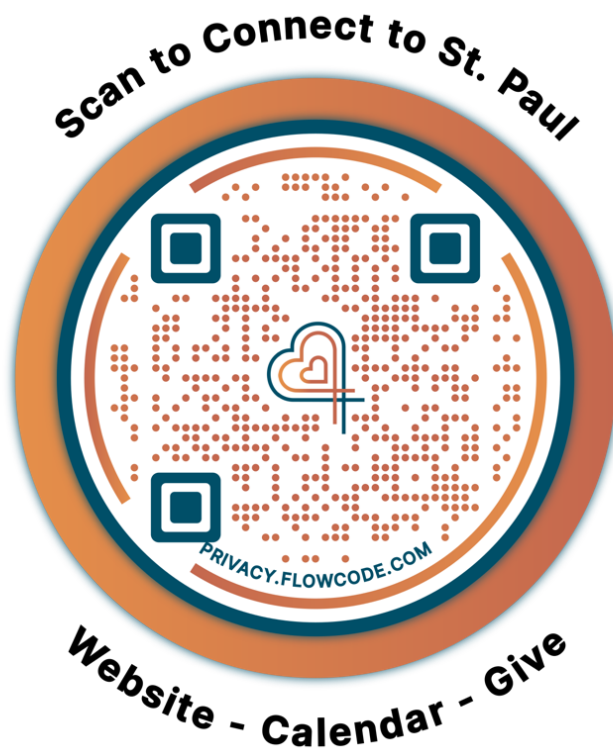
Karla Kruse, Director of Music Ministries

Judy McLeod, Handbell Director

Zach Ruppel, Director of Contemporary Music

Philip Cordell, Organist

Susan Treer, Contemporary Keyboardist



Church Office: M-F 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Closed for lunch: 12 PM- 1 PM

Please contact us if you have any questions. Check out the web site for more information. St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.