



115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001
(440) 988-4157 www.stpaulamherst.com

Graceful Living

Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church and Preschool
May 2026



**Sunday Morning
Worship
Service
9:30 AM**

**Holy Communion
1st, 3rd, & 5th
Sundays of Month**

**Kids' Church in
Worship Services
Sept-May**

**Worship
Livestream:
YouTube channel
"St Paul Amherst
Ohio"**

**Food Offering for
Second Harvest
1st Sunday of
every month**

**Church Office
Mon – Thurs
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
(440) 988-4157**

**Preschool
Mon. - Fri.
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Preschool Phone
(440) 988-5427**

**NATIONAL
DAY of PRAYER**

Thursday, May 7th ~ 7:00 PM

Service of Prayer for our Nation

@ St. Paul

Refreshments & Fellowship Following

Mothers' Day

Sunday, May 10th

**Join Us @ St. Paul
to honor all women.**

**Gifts for ladies.
Photo-Op for taking
family photos.**

**INVITE YOUR
WHOLE FAMILY!**



Safety Instruction by Amherst Police Bicycle Squad Agility Course
 Decorate Your Bike **BIKE PARADE** Gifts & Prizes
Invite Everyone!

This event is a lot of fun for kids and families, and brings our Amherst community together! Pastor Paul will bless all bicycles, motorcycles, scooters, and wheeled things, praying for safety over those who ride in the summer months. There will be bike safety instruction for all, by the Amherst Police Bicycle Squad. Gifts for riders from local businesses. Be creative as you decorate your ride for summer (décor items provided). A Bike Parade through nearby streets, led by Amherst Police Bicycle Officers. And build-your-own ice cream sundae to top off the night. **Free. All invited.** Rain date: **Wednesday, June 3.**



“Good relationships keep us healthier and happier. Period”

Dear Friends of St. Paul,

“If you had to make one life choice, right now, to set yourself on the path to future health and happiness, what would it be?” This is the opening question in a recent book called *The Good Life* by Robert Waldinger, MD and Marc Schulz, PhD. This book is based on the lengthiest study done on happiness and well-being. For 84 years, Harvard researchers followed 724 participants and their families. Harvard graduates made up 268 of the participants, and the rest came from the inner-city of Boston. They tracked these men and their families, hoping to find the key to positive well-being and lasting contentment.

So what was their conclusion?

“Good relationships keep us healthier and happier. Period” (page 10).

Over and over again, the data showed that friendship was the number-one key to a person’s happiness. As Christians, this shouldn’t really surprise us. On page 2 of the Bible, our Creator said, **“It is not good for the man to be alone”** Genesis 2:18. We were made in the image and likeness of our triune God, who has enjoyed an eternal friendship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We reflect our God when we foster those deep, loving connections with others.

In addition, the Bible’s gives us several reasons why friendship is essential:

- **“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”** Prov. 17:17

- **“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17**
- **“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:12**

Unfortunately, recent studies show that friendship is at an all-time low. We could blame several environmental and cultural factors that continue to nudge us into isolation. But we all possess a selfish nature that makes it much more difficult to bond with another human being. Friendship is hard. It takes time, energy, and sacrifice. Eventually all companionship will experience misunderstandings, hurtful words, unkept promises, and self-centered decisions.

We need more than data to make the necessary sacrifices to foster friendship. We need a true friend to bust us out of our cycle of seclusion. You have that friend in Jesus, who said:

“Greater love has no one than this: *to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.* You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, *I have called you friends,* for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.” John 15:13-16

Jesus made friendship’s greatest sacrifice; He laid down his life for you. He feeds that friendship by disclosing His plans and desires through His Word. When His complete devotion to you grips your heart, you will have the power to be committed sacrificially to the companions whom God has given you. You will have the resources to forgive your friends when they let you down. And you will have the wisdom to stick with your friends when times get tough.

Harvard’s study validates what the Scriptures have always said: we need each other. In fact, we were designed to love and be loved by our friends. And when we live according to those blueprints, we will experience a piece of paradise that awaits us. So with God’s help, foster deep friendships.

See you on Sunday,
Pastor Paul





Sundays 9:30 AM
Holy Communion
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Kids' Church @ 9:30 AM

Worship Livestream:
YouTube channel
"St Paul Amherst Ohio"

WORSHIP THEMES THIS MONTH

CHRISTIAN FAMILY (MOTHERS' DAY) - SUNDAY MAY 10TH @ 9:30 AM

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD - SUNDAY MAY 17TH @ 9:30 AM

PENTECOST SUNDAY - SUNDAY MAY 24TH @ 9:30 AM

TRINITY SUNDAY - SUNDAY MAY 31ST @ 9:30 AM



WORSHIP WITH US @ ST. PAUL'S ON-LINE -- St. Paul's 9:30 AM worship services are live-streamed on Sunday mornings. Go to the church website (www.stpaulamherst.com) and click on the Live-Stream banner on the home page. Recordings of the worship services remain on-line after the livestream for viewing anytime.

OTHER WORSHIP OPTIONS AT HOME



This weekly broadcast over regular TV is from our own denomination, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. You'll find it now on YouTube, so you can watch and worship anytime. Just search YouTube for "Worship Anew."



TIME OF GRACE
IT ALL STARTS NOW

Time of Grace now on TBN Inspire!
Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. ET and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. ET. You can also find the program at timeofgrace.org, on demand on the Time of Grace TV program playlist on YouTube, or on the TBN+ app.

NON-ALCOHOLIC COMMUNION WINE AVAILABLE – Those who come forward to receive Holy Communion will find lighter colored non-alcoholic wine in the center of each individual cup tray. Traditional Communion wine is darker red in color, in the majority of cups in the tray. Please chose the option that best fits your needs.



Women’s Bible Study Group - Tuesday Nights @ 7 PM

Women are always invited to the women’s group that meets in the church parsonage every Tuesday night. You’ll make wonderful friends, grow in faith, and engage in caring lively discussion about living everyday as a Christian and woman.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study @ 10 AM

You’ll meet some friends, find encouragement, enjoy home-baked cookies, and grow in faith. We’re following the story of the people of Israel after leaving slavery in Egypt on their way to the Promised Land. We wonder whether they will keep God central in their lives as they go through the wilderness. That’s the same thing we all wonder about our lives today. We meet in the upper level. You don’t have to be a Bible scholar. Everyone is welcome!

Brotherhood, Bibles, & Brew Hey guys, the next BBB meeting will be on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 6:30 PM at Ghost Tree Micro-brewery, 300 Church Street, Amherst. All men interested in a lively Christian conversation is welcome. Bring a friend.

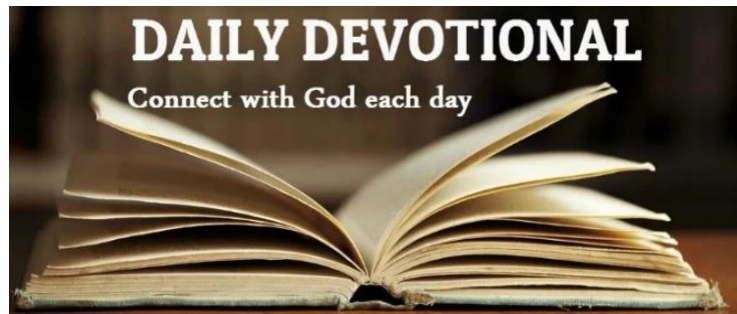


St. Paul’s Prayer Group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM. All who are interested in praying are welcome to join us. The next prayer session will be on May 14th at 1:00 PM. We will meet in the conference room on the 2nd floor. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Warnock at 216-233-7572, or at warnock5353@gmail.com or in person. Please come and join us.

“[The first Christians] devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, ... and the prayers.”



Acts 2:42



Connect with God Everyday!

DAILY DEVOTION GUIDES

Hope-Full Living

Each daily devotion offers a fresh perspective from a senior Lutheran.

April - June issues are **free** and available today on the Information Counter in Narthex.



In addition to the “Hope-Full Living” free daily devotion booklets that we St. Paul offers you, there are several more options that may meet your needs better. Check these out.

1. **Lutheran Hour Daily Devotions** are emailed to you conveniently and free. This option has a button you can click to HEAR each day’s devotion – great for those with sight problems, or for listening in the car. Sign up at www.lhm.org/dailydevotions
2. **Grace Moments** daily devotions are very good, free, and emailed to your phone, tablet, or computer. Sign up at www.timeofgrace.org/moments

Check out the New Materials on the Resource Wall in lower lobby

There are lots of new pamphlets at St. Paul about what we believe, about confusing subjects, and helpful practical Christian advice. They are free, and great for you to pass along to a friend, neighbor, family member, or co-worker who is seeking answers with a situation in their life.

St. Paul's Funeral Planning Guide helps you consider the choices and organize your wishes for your Christian funeral. It helps you select Scripture verses, hymn and song choices, and so much more. It's a great relief for grieving families to turn to the choices their loved-one made and left for them. Pick one up on the resource wall in St. Paul's lobby (narthex), or download it from St. Paul's website, under "Life Planning Events."



FOOD GATHERING – Sundays May 3rd & June 7th.

Second Harvest Food Bank helps families all over metro-Cleveland get the nutritious food they need. You can bring non-perishable groceries the 1ST Sunday of the month. Place them in the receptacle just inside the main church doors.



It is hard to believe that in less than 4 weeks another school year will be done. Our 4- & 5-year-old class will be graduating and we will take down all that made our classroom bright and fun! Time certainly does fly with you are having fun, well when you are very busy, but yes tons of fun being busy! 😊

This month we felt spring weather and were able to get outside to play a bunch. We hosted our Luau with my lady Saturday, April 25th. The preschool students each brought one female adult (mom, grandma, etc.) for breakfast and some fun and games, Hawaiian style! This day is always so special, and we all had a great time! We will have our last chapel time this week. We will close the year with an all-school picnic on Wednesday, May 20th at 11am. Our Monday-Wednesday-Friday class will graduate that same day at 6pm in the church. We are looking for anyone interested in donating baked goods for our reception after the ceremony! Please contact Tracie Heuring at 440-320-7265. Thank you!

Looking to the year ahead, we are filling up in each class. MWF has 20 and T/TH has 13 with several inquiries and some tours scheduled for this month! We are excited to welcome our students in the fall!

Thank you all for your support of our preschool! We truly appreciate it!

Welcome your new neighbor to the neighborhood. Let St. Paul help you out! You can win a beautiful Spring-themed gift basket that says “welcome to the neighborhood” and deliver it personally to your new neighbor. All you have to do to give a basket to your new neighbor is fill out the form by the gift basket in the narthex and stuff it in the box. In May the gift basket will be given to a family from the community who attends St. Paul’s Blessing of the Bikes on June 2nd. The June basket will be given to someone from the community at the Amherst Walking on Wednesday, June 10th.



What Is a Living Christian Faith?

Being a Christian shows in your Commitments and Action. These are the “fruits” or results in the life of a person who fully follows Jesus Christ. It takes discipline, prayer, and love for Christ to constantly through life keep growing in these habits.

In response to God’s grace to me in Jesus Christ, I commit to on-going growth in all the disciplines of the Christian faith, which include:

- ◆ **Witness** to Christ in all I say and do,
- ◆ **Worship** Christ with my life daily and with my fellow Christians weekly,
- ◆ **Connect** with others in my congregation as well as in a small group,
- ◆ **Pray** regularly for others, especially the lost, as well as for myself,
- ◆ **Study** the Bible on my own as well as with my fellow Christians,
- ◆ **Serve** God and others inside as well as outside the church, and
- ◆ **Give** a percentage of my financial resources to extend the cause of Christ, making a tenth (tithe) as my minimum goal.

St. Paul Fellowship Team Invites You to Join Them



October 20 -22, 2026

The life-size replica of Noah’s Arc is an *amazing experience!* Come along with St. Paul members, and invite your friends for this 3-day excursion. The trip includes top-quality motorcoach transportation (video and restroom equipped), 2 night’s lodging in a Cincinnati area hotel, all meals, and tickets to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum,

and a Riverboat cruise. Cost is \$660 per person. Watch for information coming soon on how you can reserve your spot for this group travel event.

Introducing the St Paul Lutheran Church App

A New Way to Connect and Grow in Faith

These days, it seems like technology is woven into every part of our lives. From checking the weather on our phones to staying in touch with friends and family, the world is more connected than ever before. But what exactly is an “APP,” and how can it help us in our journey of faith? This month, we’re excited to not only explain what an app is, but also announce the launch of the St Paul Lutheran Church App, designed specifically to keep our community connected, informed, and inspired.

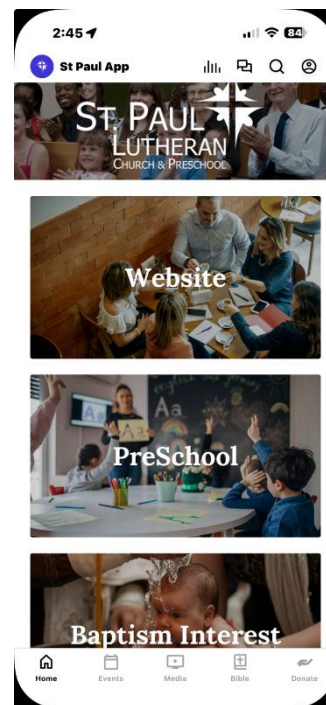
An “APP” is short for “application,” which is a small software program you can download onto your smartphone or tablet. Think of it as a tool that helps you accomplish specific tasks, from watching videos to reading books, or even learning new recipes. Apps have become a convenient way to make everyday tasks easier, and they often bring together a variety of features in one place. For example, an app for your bank lets you check your balance, deposit checks, and pay bills all from your phone.

So, why is the concept of an app important to our church? The truth is, as our congregation grows and our lives become busier, it’s easy to miss an event or forget about a special service. At the same time, we’re called to spread the Word and reach out to our wider community, ensuring everyone has access to spiritual resources and opportunities for fellowship. We wanted to create a way to keep everyone informed and connected—whether you’re at home, at work, or traveling—while also empowering our members to share the message of God’s love with others. That’s where the St Paul Lutheran Church App comes in. With the new app, our church family can stay up-to-date with everything happening at St Paul, all with just a tap on your phone, balancing both connection within our congregation and outreach beyond our walls.

The St Paul Lutheran Church App is designed with you in mind. Whether you’re a tech-savvy teenager or a grandparent who’s just learning to use a smartphone, the app is simple and user-friendly. Once downloaded, you’ll find a menu that guides you to the most important features: upcoming events, sermon short recordings, prayer requests, and much more. Need to check the time of an upcoming event or a Bible study? The information will be right there at your fingertips.

One of the most exciting features of the app is the ability to listen to short snippets of past sermons. If you missed a service or simply want to revisit a powerful message, you can easily find and play the snippets of the sermons from our archive. This feature can be especially helpful for those who are homebound or traveling, as it keeps them spiritually nourished no matter where they are.

The app also makes it easier for us to support one another in prayer. You can submit prayer requests directly through the app, and the church will ensure that your needs are included in our prayer list. It’s just one more way we can care for each other as a family of faith, even when we can’t be together in person. In addition, the app includes a calendar of events, so you’ll never miss important dates. Signing up for upcoming events is just as simple—just a few taps and you’re registered, making it easy to get involved and stay connected with church activities no matter how busy your schedule may be. Also included in the app is a digital Bible, so you can have scripture at your fingertips at all times,



St. Paul APP – continued on next page.

making it easier to read, study, and reflect wherever you are.

Giving to the church has also become more convenient through the app. If you're unable to attend service in person, you can easily make contributions right from your phone. This feature makes it simple to support our ministries and outreach programs, ensuring that our church continues to thrive and serve the community.

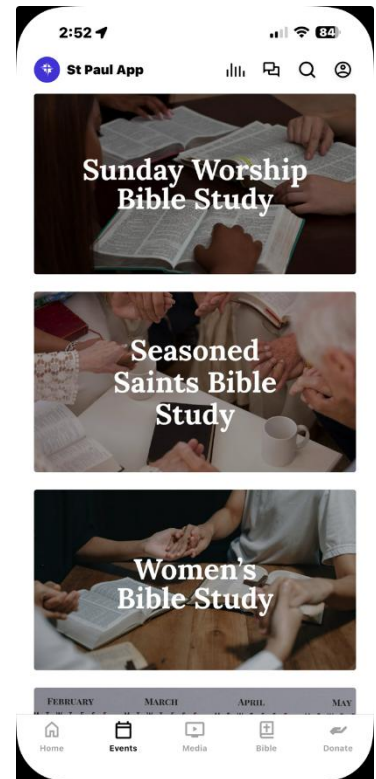
We know that change can sometimes be intimidating, especially when it comes to technology. That's why we're here to help! Our Director of Communications (Don Hammond) is offering support to anyone who needs assistance downloading or using the app. There will be time after Sunday service where he will be available to help you get started, answer questions, and walk you through the app's features. We want everyone to feel comfortable and confident using this new tool.

If you're wondering how to begin, it's simple. The St Paul Lutheran Church App is available for both Apple and Android devices. Just go to the App Store or Google Play, search for "St Paul Lutheran Church," and download the app. Once installed, open it and follow the instructions to set up your account. If you have any trouble, don't hesitate to reach out to the church office for help.

The launch of the St Paul Lutheran Church App marks an exciting moment for our community. This app isn't just technology—it helps us stay connected wherever we are. With it, you can easily keep up with church news, send prayer requests, listen to sermon clips, and support the church from your phone. We believe the app will help us grow closer as a congregation and share God's love with others.

We invite everyone to try the app and tell us which features you find useful or would like to see added. Your feedback will help us make the app better and serve our church family. By using the app, we can find new ways to connect, grow, and worship together—whether we're in person or online.

We're also happy to announce that a new website is coming soon. You'll be able to access it through the app, making it even easier to stay up-to-date. We will share more updates as we go, so please look out for more news and improvements that will help our church thrive both online and in person.



Saturday, September 26, 2026 ~ 3PM – 5:30PM

Kids, Parents, Grandparents ... Everyone's invited to St. Paul's Fall Family Fest.
Petting Zoo • Pony Rides • Hay Rides • Games • Food • **FREE!**

Noah's Ark themed
Invite your Friends!

HANDICAP RAMP ADDED TO PARSONAGE – St. Paul has been given a used aluminum ramp. It had been used by Olmstead Falls Schools for their former Administrative Office Building and is no longer needed. Thanks to St. Paul member, Tim Wulfoop, it has been donated in order to make the church house accessible to all. Bible Study, DivorceCare, and other groups and events are held in the parsonage. Thanks to several men who did the lifting and loading to bring it to the church property. We look forward to it being installed to the front entrance of the parsonage.

SERVING THE LORD IN

GERMANY

NEWS FROM ANIKA SLAYTON



April 2026



lcms.org/slayton

Satisfaction: An Easy Answer?

“Why are the things that make me feel good so wrong when they’re the only things in life that make me happy?” asked Jesse, a recovering drug addict who had never been taught the realities of sin or salvation by grace through faith in Christ.

For the past hour or so, I had been listening to Jesse (whose name has been changed to protect his privacy) share about his struggles with drug addiction and other difficulties experienced throughout his life. I have to be honest: Much of what I heard from him had me at a complete loss; his life was so different from what I had experienced as a Christian. It was heartbreaking.

This question was not the first of its kind I had heard from him at this point, yet it was the question that caused me to realize he truly had no framework to distinguishing between right and wrong. He had only ever known what the world taught him.

Before I answered him, I prayed that God would give me the wisdom to speak into his life in a way that he would understand. I wouldn't be able to dive into complex doctrinal issues or deep theological explanations. Instead,

I answered in a way I prayed would at least plant seeds to point him in the right direction: “None of the things you do will ever make you truly happy. This is true for every person because we and the world are sinful. True joy and happiness is only found when you have faith in Christ. Anything we try to do on our own to pursue happiness without Christ will ultimately only disappoint us. But faith in Christ and salvation through Him changes your entire perspective on this life.”

The time I had to speak with Jesse and share the Gospel with him was limited, and so I invited Jesse to join us sometime at the Lutheran mission outreach center, Die Brücke, for the opportunity to have fellowship time with others and learn more. He said he hoped to join us at some point.

The answer I had given wasn't one that would immediately solve all of Jesse's problems, nor would it all make sense to him without diving deeper and receiving further explanation of what “salvation by grace through faith in Christ” means.

Yet, the seeds have been planted, and the Holy Spirit will do its work. Lord, have mercy. ✚

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Matthew, the Persian refugee from my February 2026 newsletter who recently heard that his immigrant application for Germany was denied.
- Jesse, that the Holy Spirit will work in his heart and lead him to faith in Christ.
- An end to the war and bloodshed in Iran.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The planting of the seeds of the Gospel in the hearts of non-believers.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for me, encourage and support me and all missionaries throughout the world.

“Our Savior’s Life in Stained Glass” – Church windows update. We are replacing the 70 year old, worn out windows in the worship sanctuary with stained glass which will picture the life of Christ. The first window is being made by the artist. Four windows have been paid for and ordered. We thank everyone who has donated to this project in memory or honor of someone they love. We are currently gathering the funds for the 5th window. You are welcome to designate memorial gifts to St. Paul “stained glass windows.”

AMAZING FACT

The “Goldilocks Zone” is a term physicists use to point out that the universe operates inside an astonishingly narrow life-permitting range. Change the balance of the constants and you lose stable stars, heavy elements, chemistry, or galaxies. In other words, alter the constants just a bit and you don't get a harsher world—you get a world not fit for life. Those who study the cosmological constant suggest it's fine-tuned to one part in 10^{120} —meaning if you nudge it even slightly, the universe doesn't get worse; it vanishes.

POTENT QUOTES

“The truth is the kindest thing we can give folks in the end.” ~ Harriet Beecher Stowe

CLOSING PRAYER

"Praise to you, saving sacrifice, offered on the wood of the cross for me and for all people. Praise to the noble and precious blood, flowing from the wounds of my crucified Lord Jesus Christ and washing away the sins of the whole world. Remember, Lord, your creature, whom you have redeemed with your blood. I repent of my sins, and I long to put right what I have done. Merciful Father, take away all my offenses and sins; purify me in body and soul, and make me worthy to taste the holy of holies. Amen.”

~ Ambrose, c.339 - 397

PARTING SHOT

Good moms let their children lick the beaters after making brownies.
Great moms turn them off first.



115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001

Sunday Worship Services: 9:30 AM

In-Person or Live Stream @ www.stpaulamherst.com

Church/Office: 440-988-4157 Fax: 440-988-5436

E-Mail: churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com Church Website: stpaulamherst.com

Rev. Paul G. Werner, Pastor - Office: (440)988-4157 Cell: (586)201-3302

Judy Bloom – Church Office Administrator

Don Hammond – Director of Communications

Tracie Heuring –Director of Preschool

Owen Reyda – Director of Music Ministries
Mike Warnock – Director of Worship Technology

MEETINGS:

- Thursday, May 7 – National Day of Prayer service 7pm
- Thurs May 7 – Fellowship Team – 1pm
- Thurs May 14 – Prayer Group – 1pm
- Thurs May 14 – 6:30pm Men’s BBB @ Ghost Tree
- Tuesday, May 19 – Board of Directors – 2:00 pm
- Tuesday May 19 @ 6:30 pm – Community Care Non-Profit
- Preschool End of Year Picnic – Wednesday, May 20 – 11am
- Preschool Graduation – Wednesday, May 20 – 6pm
- Seasoned Saints Bible Study – Tuesday, May 5 – 10am
- Seasoned Saints Bible Study – Tuesday, May 12 – 10am
- Seasoned Saints Bible Study – Tuesday, May 19– 10am
- Seasoned Saints Bible Study – Tuesday, May 26 – 10am
- Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day – Church Office Closed
- Tues May 12 – 4:00pm – Preschool Board
- Thursday, May 14th = ASCENSION DAY
- Sun May 24 – Pentecost
- Sun May 31 – Trinity Sunday