

# SAINT PAUL'S UMC

WELCOME. SHARE. SERVE.



MAY  
2025



Thank you to Deb Curran and Nancy Shaw Grinager for providing the spring flowers that grace our front and side entryways!

Greetings all you good people of Saint Paul's UMC in Mendota Heights! Grace and Peace and all good things to you! Even though our winter really wasn't too bad in comparison to some we've had, spring is still a welcome time of year. The mourning doves are cooing. The bluffs along the river are taking on a subtle shade of green; the lawns, too. Down where I live in Hastings, I can smell the dirt as the farmers are starting to get into the fields and ready them for planting. The days are getting longer and I find myself wanting to go to Dairy Queen every night!

I read this quote at our staff meeting a few days ago: *"I shall open my eyes and ears. Once every day I shall simply stare at a tree, a flower, a cloud, or a person. I shall not then be concerned at all to ask what they are, but simply be glad that they are. I shall joyfully allow them the mystery of what CS Lewis calls their 'divine, magical, terrifying and ecstatic' existence."*

I don't do this everyday. But I do it sometimes and it is always such a calming experience to just enter into a sense of wonder about the world, about life.

Psalm 19:1-4: *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."*

Maybe the reason I experience such a sense of calm when I really listen and look with wonder in my heart is because I'm encountering God. If what God made is declaring God's glory, it is communicating to us beyond words. When we listen and look we really hear and see and feel God's presence. I think I'm going to try and do that more even when I'm having a pecan cluster blizzard from Dairy Queen!

*Pastor Bill*

A welcoming community  
sharing Christ's love in  
service through relationships.

700 Wesley Lane/Mendota Heights MN/55118  
Phone: 651-452-5683 Email: [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org)  
Website: [www.stpaulsmn.org](http://www.stpaulsmn.org)

Join us for worship  
on Sundays! 10:00 am



WHAT'S HAPPENING

# Confirmation Sunday

## CONFIRMATION

Sunday

May 18; 10:00 am

Our second-year confirmation students,  
Signe Carter and Sophia Medjanyk,  
will publicly profess their faith and be confirmed as  
members of the church during worship on May 18<sup>th</sup>.  
Celebrate with us as these two young people take the next steps in  
their faith journeys.

Sophia Medjanyk

Signe Carter



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

# Future Worship Events

## LOVE OFFERING SUNDAY, MAY 18<sup>th</sup>

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The theme of the 2025 Annual Conference—which will take place June 11-13, 2025 at the St. Cloud Convention Center—is “Created for Love.”

Our Love Offering theme this year is “Love in Action.” Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as we put love into action. Donations to the 2024 Love Offering totaled **\$142,963.40**, a 78 percent increase from the 2023 total! How much will we raise this year?

- This year’s Love Offering will go to:
- Africa University for student scholarships (30%)
- Immigration Law and Justice Network (30%)
- OC Ministries (20%)
- Midwest Mission (20%)

Mark “Love Offering” in the memo section of your check.

## NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY SUNDAY, MAY 4<sup>th</sup>

This day is a special Sunday within the United Methodist Church to recognize the gifts and contributions of Native Americans and to support ministries working with Native American communities. Funds collected are used to support various initiatives, including scholarships for Native American seminarians and programs that work with Native American communities.

If you would like to contribute to this special offering, use the designated envelopes in your pew and mark “Native American Sunday” in the memo section of your check. A pew card with a QR code is also available for those who prefer online giving.

## PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 8<sup>th</sup>

Pentecost is a Christian holiday which takes place on the 50<sup>th</sup> day (the seventh Sunday) after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem.



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentecost>

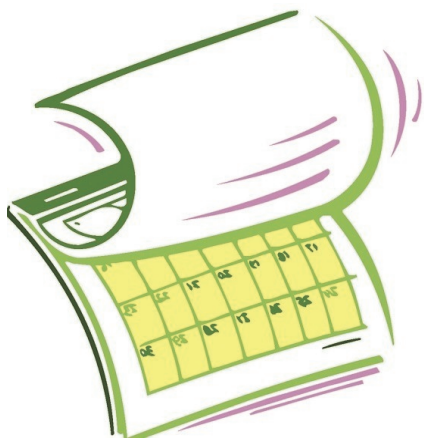
Pentecost marks the beginning of the Christian church and is often referred to as the birthday of the church.

**Please wear the color red to worship**—it symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit—and you will help celebrate our church filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit!

## GRADUATION SUNDAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>

We want to celebrate with you! If you or someone in your family is graduating this year from any level of education, please let us know. Email the office, [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org), with their name, school graduating from, and any degree information or future plans you would like to share by **Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**. We will recognize, honor, and pray for these students on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.





CHRISTIANS GATHERING  
TOGETHER

# Upcoming Events

## BACH SOCIETY

**Mini Mobile Pop-Up Concert**

**Saturday**

**May 24, 2:00 pm**



Mark your calendars for what I am sure will be a treat! Over the course of an afternoon, select artists play in 4-5 different locations in a neighborhood to present 20-minute pop-up concerts. Bach Society's *cellist, Charles Asch, will be the guest artist* featured at the Mini-Mobile Pop-Up Concert at Saint Paul's in May. Help spread the word to neighbors and friends!

## NATIVE PLANT CLASS

**Tuesday**

**June 3, 6:00 pm**



Leslie Pilgrim, founder of Neighborhood Greening and editor of the publication *The Butterfly Effect*, will teach a class on conservation gardening, "*How to Create a Lively, Living Landscape.*" Leslie inspires people to "claim dirt" wherever they can--at home, place of worship, roadsides, schools, etc., and to rewild these spaces into habitat that offers wildlife--pollinators, insects, birds, and more--"things to eat and places to live." Leslie has both a certificate in ecological restoration and a Watershed Technician certification from the University of Minnesota. Plan to attend, learn more and sign up for native plant door prizes! Invite friends and neighbors.

Following the class, there will be a tour of the church grounds to see some of the native plants Saint Paul's has already planted.

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

*Our small groups are a place of connection, growth, and support*

**The Stitching Collective:** May 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30—11:30 am—the last gatherings before a summer break. Look for them to start again in the fall. Spend creative time with other crafters—bring your own project.

Contact: Kathy Brooks

**The Game Group:** May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm—the last gatherings before a summer break. Look for them to start again in the fall. Share joy and laughter—feel free to bring your favorite games. Contact: Cynthia Peterfeso



LEARNING FOR ALL AGES

# Adult Education

## THE WIRED WORD

**Sundays, 9:15 am  
Bertelsen Library**

***Biblical commentary and discussion questions related to a topic in the news***

The mission of *The Wired Word* is to supply churches with solid scriptural material to help in facilitating group discussions about important matters of faith raised by news of the week. The lessons encourage class dialogue on how to apply God's word to everyday life and engage class members with thought-provoking, stimulating discussions on messages contained in the Bible.

Adult education meets on Sundays at 9:15 am in the Bertelsen Library. Walter Judd leads *The Wired Word* discussions.

If you would like an email sent to you on Thursday with that upcoming Sunday's topic, please contact the church at [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org) with your name and email address.

**Last gathering before our summer break will be Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.**



IN APPRECIATION

# Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers and cards I received after John's passing. It truly meant the world to me.

*Claire Zobel*

Thank you! St. Paul's donated product (e.g. toilet paper, soap, baby wipes and food, too) AND we sent a check to Neighbors Inc for \$1,395 which is matched during March FoodShare. Due to *Neighbors Inc.* partnerships, your donation goes 3X as far! Well done, team!

*Pierson*

*Nancy*

Believe the Power of Prayer

Six years ago was the start of a series of eight surgeries. It has been frustrating and challenging. The support of each and everyone of you has been why I did well. With all your well wishes, cards you sent, phone calls, hugs and prayers have been part of my healing. To each and every one of you—thank you so much. Thank God, our Father,



OPERATIONS TEAM AND FRIENDS  
HAVE BEEN BUSY

# Outdoors

**GATHER.  
SERVE.**

## Shed Installation

Mike Curran, John Grinager,  
Dave Morgan and  
Rich Brooks (not pictured)  
installed a new shed to house  
various outdoor tools and  
a lawnmower.



## Tree and Rock Removal

Rich Brooks removed a tree from the Memorial Garden that was compromising the health of the plants and is removing the rock landscaping to make room for plants/planters.

## Thanks also to....

- Tim Larson, for fixing the flood lights that are aimed at our sign.



*Keep your heart on the right path.*

GET READY,  
GRAB YOUR MORAL COMPASS,  
ON YOUR MARK AND GO

# Pathfinders

## PATHFINDERS TO DO LUNCH AND PRAY

At a well-attended meeting in April our Pathfinders group agreed to celebrate our year of sharing, learning and prayer by having a spring luncheon together on May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you recall, a snowstorm nixed the Christmas luncheon we had planned in December. We will again meet at noon at the Mason Jar in Eagan. As you remember, this is the restaurant managed by Mike LaGuire, Jr. Call Rhea Nyquist at 651-457-

5623 if you plan to attend, or email her at rheajn34@gmail.com. Those that want to ride-share should meet at the church parking lot at 11:30. The Mason Jar is located at 1565 Cliff Road. All are welcome.

We had a delightful afternoon of sharing stories about our faith journeys and a fun question and answer period about our church led by Andrea Larson. We also agreed on our prayer concerns for the month of May. There was a general agreement that here in the USA we are living in a rather chaotic period of time and we decided that the best route for us as Christians was to pray for love to

prevail over chaos. So that will be our focus, love our neighbor, particularly those we don't agree with.

Internationally, chaos seems to be a way of life. We talked of the continuing war in Europe, the Mideast and we spoke of the terrible things being done to the people of South Sudan, the Christians in India and the people of Taiwan who fear their freedom might be taken from them. There was a general consensus that individual freedom was one of the great gifts given us by Christianity. So, we will pray for all people to be able to enjoy individual freedom across the globe.

*Rhea Nyquist*

### Weekly Discussions

Join us Tuesdays, starting May 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm for discussions entitled "*Following Jesus in Turbulent Times*".

We will have some great presenters that may prompt us to move the time. Stay tuned for those updates.

### P.I.E. Night April 8

St. Paul's volunteers Linda Leicht, Shirley Holmay, Nancy Pierson and Barb Jorgenson helped serve pizza, cherry and apple pie and supplied carrots for the meal offered to families during Parents In Education night at GEMS (Garlough Elementary Magnet School).

Garlough staff is always very appreciative of the extra hands needed to serve the meal and cleanup afterwards!

### Coffee with a Cause

For the months of April, May and June, our morning coffee dollars will go to *Neighbors Inc.*

Donations are always down over the summer months and yet, there is an increase in need with kids at home and not getting meals in school. Consider donating a few dollars when you enjoy fellowship time on Sunday mornings.

It is for a great cause!

# SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION

## Finance

### FINANCIALS

As I am writing this article, we are days away from the filing deadline for income taxes. Each year, as I complete my taxes, I tell myself I'm going to do a better job of managing my tax bill. With that in mind, I wanted to share with you a great way to support Saint Paul's UMC and effectively manage your tax bill. You can support our church and its ministries through the gift of securities.

Donating appreciated securities, including stock, bonds or mutual funds, is a wonderful way to support our church. Stock gifts can provide you with a tax benefit. At Saint Paul's UMC, we manage our investments with the Dakota and Minnesota Methodist Foundation. They can assist you and the church with stock transfers.

Proceeds from the sale of securities can be used to support our general

operating expenses (the General Fund), our Endowment Fund, or other ministries that are important to you.

Proceeds from the sale of the securities are "passed through" directly from the Foundation to us. The Foundation offers this service commission-free, so the full value of the gift goes directly to your designated ministry.

There are many advantages to this giving approach:

- Your gift supports the ministries of Saint Paul's UMC.
- Avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of appreciated stock.
- If you itemize your deductions, for tax purposes you may be able to claim a charitable deduction for the gift of appreciated securities. When making a gift of securities through The Foundation, the donor will receive a gift receipt letter for their records.
- If the stock has depreciated in value, it may be beneficial to sell the stock and then donate the cash proceeds directly to the church.

This may provide the advantage of the tax benefit of a capital loss as well as the potential tax deduction for gifts of cash.

It is highly recommended that you consult an advisor or accountant to determine the tax benefits that fit within your financial situation.

If the gift of securities is of interest to you, please contact your Finance Team and we will provide you with additional information.

Blessings,  
Kae Lovaas Jewell  
Finance Chair

*This information is not intended to provide tax, legal or accounting advice. This material has been prepared for informational purposes only. You should consult your own tax, legal and accounting advisors before making any decisions regarding securities gifts.*

General Fund Gifts	\$ 61,647	\$82,761
Less General Fund Expenses	\$ 14,673	\$41,120
Balance	\$ 46,974	\$41,641
Less Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 2,146	\$ 6,438
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 44,828	\$ 35,203





TALK WITH GOD

# Lord Hear Our Prayers



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**AUGUST 14<sup>th</sup> AT 6:30 pm**

Saint Paul's UMC is hosting the  
Pan Handlers Steel Drum Band!  
Watch for more details later.



## MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

# About Us

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Adult Education: 9:15am  
Worship: 10:00 am  
Communion: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

### LIVESTREAM VIDEO

#### WORSHIP

Available on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/stpaulsmn](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmn)), YouTube (St. Paul's UMC Mendota Heights) and the church's website, [www.stpaulsmn.org](http://www.stpaulsmn.org)

### CENTRAL LEADERSHIP

**CHAIR:** Andrea Larson

### ST. PAUL'S STAFF:

#### Interim Pastor:

Rev. William Robertson  
[wsrobby1@gmail.com](mailto:wsrobby1@gmail.com)

#### Appointed Pastor (starting July 1, 2025):

Rev. Dr. Joshua Steward

#### Director of Music Ministry:

Lane Skoglund-Anderson,  
[laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com](mailto:laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com)

#### Administrative Assistant:

Diane Pelinka, [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org)

### SAINT PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

700 Wesley Lane  
Mendota Heights MN 55118  
651-452-5683



### Bettie and Debbie Robinson

170 Emerson Ave. E. #330  
(New apartment number)  
West St. Paul MN 55118

Bettie's updated phone number:  
651-313-5988



### Iype Kuruvilla

Men's Group  
Presentation on  
Southern India  
Christianity  
March 30, 2025



### Laurie McFaul and Don Irwin

Laurie, guest violinist  
April 6, 2025 and  
Easter Sunday;  
Don, guest pianist  
Easter Sunday

Dear UMC Volunteers,

Thank you for the time, energy and care you give to our Garlough PIE Nights. We appreciate your help preparing and serving food to our GEMS families. We also appreciate the food you contribute to the meals.

In gratitude, *John Anderson*



# May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Italicized events are conducted by outside groups renting space at the church.</i>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:15 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 4:00 pm Weekly Discussions  6:30 pm Outreach Mtg	<b>7</b> 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>5:30 pm Recital</i>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Mother's Day</b> 9:15 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 2:00 pm Game Day  4:00 pm Weekly Discussions	<b>14</b> 9:30 am Stitching Collective Group  6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 1:00 pm Pathfinders, Mason Jar, Eagan	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18 Confirmation &amp; Love Offering</b> 9:15 am Last Adult Ed Class until Fall 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	<b>19</b> 6:00 pm 4H	<b>20</b> 4:00 pm Weekly Discussions	<b>21</b> 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 2:00 pm Bach Society Mini Concert
<b>25</b> No Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	<b>26 Memorial Day Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b> 2:00 pm Game Day (last one before summer break)  4:00 pm Weekly Discussions	<b>28</b> 9:30 am Stitching Collective Group (last one before summer break) 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

700 Wesley Lane  
Mendota Heights MN 55118

Phone: 651-452-5683  
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*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*  
The People of the United Methodist Church®



Confirmation  
Sunday  
May 18, 2025  
10:00 am