

SAINT PAUL'S UMC



MAY
2026

Welcome. Share. Serve.

Jerusalem was destroyed in 587 BC. The Hebrew people were deported to Babylonian captivity. To survive, they took their musical instruments. There is no record that they took spears, swords or slingshots. They did bring harps. (Psalm 137).

They knew singing their songs was essential for survival. They wept and raged in their grief and despair, but they also sang new songs glorifying God. Psalm 98 is one of these songs:

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre... With trumpets and the sound of the horn..." (98:1-5)

The Babylonian captives were moved to this raucous rejoicing by the Psalm's grand conclusion: God will *"judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity."* (98:9)

In fact, music is counter-cultural praise for God's justice throughout the Bible:

- Miriam sang of the victory of slaves over their Egyptian enslavers. (Exodus 15:20-21)
- Mary's Magnificat praised God for the humble act of giving birth to the One who "... has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly." (Luke 1:52)
- Hannah's prayer expressed thanksgiving for God's sovereignty, holiness, and power to reverse misfortune. (1 Samuel 2:1-10)
- Paul and Silas sang while in Roman jail cells.

Where would movements for justice in our time be without music?

- Woody Guthrie famously wrote *"This machine kills fascists"* on his guitar.
- At her concerts, Loretta Lynn sang hits that challenged all who would belittle her upbringing and her feminism: *"I'm Proud to Be a Coal Miner's Daughter"* (1970) and *"Don't Come Home a Drinkin' (With Lovin' on Your Mind)"* (1967).
- *"We Shall Overcome"* has been a labor and civil rights anthem for over a century.

We United Methodists have our defiant counter-cultural songs, too. We call them hymns. At their best, they proclaim that victory belongs not to ignorance, fear, division, plutocrats or prejudice, but to God's *"pure, unbounded love."* (Charles Wesley)

We have much to sing about in the merry month of May 2026. Clark is being confirmed. Graduates are celebrating big accomplishments and next steps. Those in the military who died are remembered for their sacrifice. Mother's Day should be every day. May Day is an international celebration of spring and worker's rights.

Peace,
Pastor Josh

With trumpets
and the sound
of the horn
make a
joyful noise
before
the King,
the LORD.



Psalm 98:6, NRSV

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
Website: www.stpaulsmn.org

Join us for worship
on Sundays! 10:00 am



HE IS RISEN!

Easter



Andrea Larson, soloist



Don Irwin, guest pianist

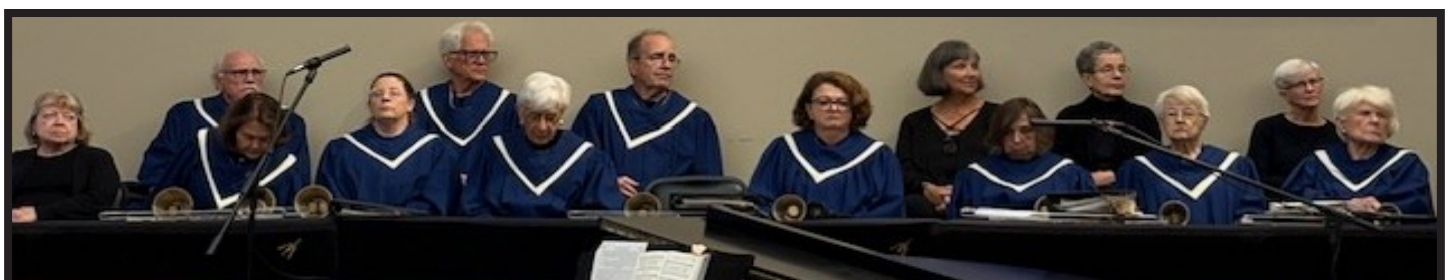
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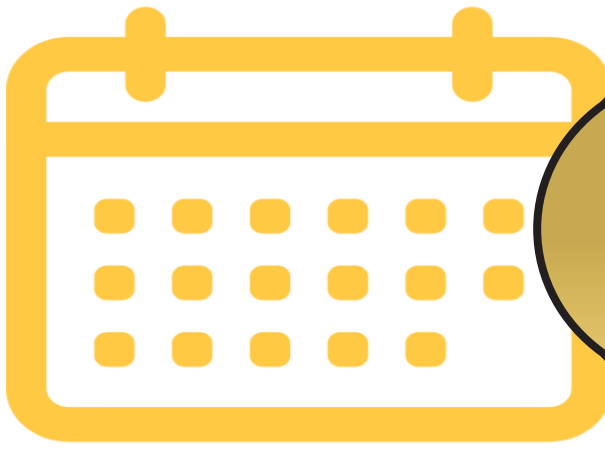
Worship Leaders: Randy Garcia, Clark Jedlicka, Grant Jedlicka

Chancel and Handbell Choirs—Good Friday and Easter

Front row (L to R): Jan Marshall, Nancy Grinager, Melissa Dewey, Linda Leicht, Deb Curran,
Shirley Holmay, Janet Schrankler, Rhea Nyquist

Back row (L to R): Bob Brocklehurst, John Grinager, Rich Brooks, Andrea Larson, Nancy Pierson,
Barb Jorgenson Not pictured: Lane Skoglund-Anderson, music director





CHRISTIANS GATHERING TOGETHER

Upcoming Events

PENTECOST

SUNDAY, MAY 24th

Pentecost is a Christian holiday which takes place on the 50th 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!



LOVE OFFERING

SUNDAY, MAY 17th

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The 2026 Annual Conference will take place June 16-18, 2026 at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, with a theme of “*Created to Serve Joyfully.*”

Our Love Offering is not simply charity, but a shared ministry, a way of joining God’s work in the world. Bishop Lanette Plambeck shares, “*This offering is more than a tradition. It is a tangible expression of our connectional life and our shared commitment to Christ’s mission. When we give, we participate in ministry that reaches far beyond what any one congregation could do alone.*” This year’s Love Offering will go to: Midwest Mission (30%); Love Boldly Mental Health Ministries Grant for Minnesota Conference Churches (20%); Endowment for Ministerial Education (20%); Minnesota Conference's Emergency Response Fund (20%); Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Scholarships (10%).

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

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MAY 31st

Peace with Justice Sunday is a time for us to renew our commitment to transforming the world through justice and reconciliation. Through your contributions, we support efforts to reduce violence, advocate for human rights, and create sustainable solutions for peace. Join us on May 31st in making a difference through prayer and giving.

You will find special giving envelopes in the pew holder or write “Peace with Justice Sunday” in the memo section of your check.



Upcoming Events Continued

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

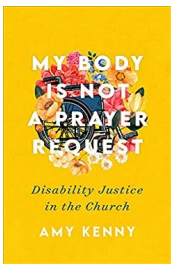
*Our small groups are a place of connection,
growth, and support*



2nd and 4th
Wednesdays of
the month
9:30 am—noon

•**The Men's Group:** Stay tuned for upcoming dates: Contact John Grinager.

The Stitching Collective: Spend some creative time with other makers. Quilt, knit, embroider, whatever your craft interest—all are welcome to bring your own project. The last meeting will be May 13th before we take a break for summer. Contact Kathy Brooks.



VIRTUAL BOOK STUDY

Tuesdays

Pastor Josh will be co-leading a conference-wide virtual study of the book *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request* by Amy Kenny. The study is sponsored by the Minnesota Conference's Disabilities Ministries Committee, in partnership with the Office of Racial Equity and Justice. A General Commission on Religion and Race study guide will be used. The study is free, but you will need to buy your own book. Together, participants will reflect on how we speak about disability in the church, what God teaches about bodies and belonging, and how we can build communities where every body is valued. The study runs six weeks on Tuesdays from April 14th to May 19th, 6:30-8:00 pm on Zoom. The registration link is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84451234567>

CONFIRMATION & POTLUCK



Sunday
May 3
10:00 am

Our second-year confirmation student, Clark Jedlicka, will publicly profess his faith and be confirmed as a member of the church during worship on May 3rd. Celebrate with us as Clark takes the next step in his faith journey.

Not only will we celebrate Clark Jedlicka's confirmation during the church service, we will have a cake in his honor, which will serve as a tasty sweet after our Spring Potluck. So when planning what you want to bring, think salads or main dishes.

GRADUATION



Sunday
May 17th
10:00 am

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, with their name, school graduating from, and any degree information or future plans you would like to share by **Sunday, May 10st**. We will recognize, honor, and pray for these students on Sunday, May 17th.



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

Pathfinders

PATHFINDERS

May 21

1:00 pm

Our Pathfinders group will take a summer break and not meet in June through August. On Thursday, May 21st, we will meet at 1:00 pm as usual with a planned potluck in the Fellowship Hall. Please call Rhea Nyquist at 651-457-5623 and let her know if you plan on coming and what you want to bring. If you have never attended Pathfinders before, you are still welcome. It would be a great time to get to know what we are about. The more the merrier.

In May Hold Kabaka in Prayer

The Pathfinders chose to pray in May for the missionary Kabaka Ndala Alphonsine of the United Republic of Tanzania. Kabaka was raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She is married to Rev. Mutwale Ntambo Wa Mushidi, also a missionary, and the two have served in Tanzania since 1992.

Kabala serves as coordinator of women's activities and training for the United Methodist Church in Tanzania and director of the UM preschool for orphans in Dar es Salaam. "My function," she says, "is to proclaim Christ in the world while striving for God's reign of grace, peace and justice." She

teaches women sewing, knitting, housekeeping, hygiene, and HIV/AIDS and malaria prevention and care. She leads Bible studies and works with her husband in outreach to immigrants and refugees.



LEARNING FOR ALL AGES
Adult Education

THE WIRED WORD

Sundays, 9:00 am; Bertelsen Library

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 class will be suspended during the summer months and resume in the fall. The last class will be held May 17th.



SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION

Finance

TRUE RICHES

“Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous.”

1 Timothy 6: 17-19 (MSG)

As we review our church’s financial standing, the Finance Team is reminded that biblical stewardship is about more than just balancing a budget—it is about where we place our hope. Paul’s letter to Timothy reminds us that material wealth is uncertain, but God provides everything for our enjoyment. Paul challenges us to take a "rich" approach to our faith:

- **Be rich in good works:** Investing our resources into ministries that change lives.
- **Be generous and willing to share:** Recognizing that everything we have is entrusted to us by God to further His Kingdom.

- **Lay-up treasure for the future:** By supporting SPUMC and the greater church, we are building a secure foundation and taking hold of "true life".

Thank you for your generous stewardship, which allows our church to thrive and serve our community. Let us continue to set our hope on God, the ultimate Giver, as we manage what He has entrusted to us.

Blessings,
Kae Lovaas Jewell
Finance Chair

	<u>March 2026</u>	<u>2026 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 39,338	\$ 59,172
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 19,509</u>	<u>\$ 59,363</u>
Balance	\$ 19,829	\$ (191)
Less Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$ 2,066</u>	<u>\$ 6,198</u>
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments.	\$ 17,763	\$ (6,389)



REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

Mission Accomplished

**GATHER.
SERVE.**

NATIVE PLANT CLASS 2



**Tuesday
June 2
6:30 pm**

We are excited that Leslie Pilgrim is returning to Saint Paul's UMC to present what pollinators to plant in small spaces or container gardening and identifying weeds versus native plants - Weeds 101. Leslie has been recognized by Mendota Heights in service of natural resources, including water resources. Some of the community efforts she has created, led, and volunteered for include: Neighborhood Greening dedicated to community environmental education and stewardship, Roots in the Ground initiative with a goal to plant 5,000 trees in Mendota Heights in 5 years, and serves as a member on the board of the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization. Please share this class with neighbors and friends and support us by attending on *Tuesday evening, June 2 @ 6:30 pm!*



**MUSIC
Thursday
September 10
6:30 pm**

Jennifer Grimm (vocalist) and Dan Chouinard (pianist) will be performing *Thursday evening, September 10 @ 6:30 pm*. Many may have heard the news reports about the concert she performed at White Bear Methodist Church in March. As a 'shout-out' to the demographics of our neighbors, Jennifer, supported by Dan, will be performing pop tunes from the 60's/70's/80's. Those who have heard her and Dan perform say they are marvelous! **This is a free community event so share this with friends and neighbors!**

Coffee With a Cause 2nd Quarter

When enjoying treats on a Sunday morning, consider donating a few dollars to UMCOR US Disaster and Response Recovery. UMCOR was founded in 1940 in reaction to the beginnings of WWII and the troubling human impacts that were happening.

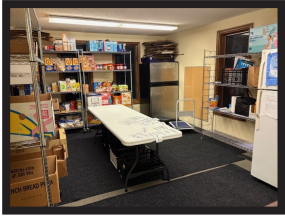
In the MN-Dakotas, recently UMCOR has helped folks recover from disasters such as the flooding in Southern Minnesota in 2024 and in 2025 and responded with a grant to Bemidji UMC when they experienced serious damage to their roof during a storm.

We are helping our neighbors!



REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

Mission Accomplished



When Operation Metro Surge started, a group of ISD197 volunteers came together to support our community. Previously, they were running the food operations out of pantries at the schools with help from the school social workers. But everyone knew the schools needed their space back and the social workers needed to refocus on learning. To enable that, this group reached out to Saint Paul's to see if we had space and be willing to share. Our congregation stepped up.



The pantry started in earnest last week. 21 families were provided with food and over 30 families have already signed up for Tuesday deliveries and pick-up. Word is spreading. Opening our church has enabled this to happen.

The group agreed to cover any increased utility costs and is grateful for use of our space.

John Grinager



Thank you to Jude Rikala for Saint Paul's wonderful card ministry program. Jude has taken on this ministry by crafting creative and cheerful cards for those recovering from illness, surgery or for sending a heartfelt thank you or thinking of you. Many of us have received these wonderful cards! Jude has even made extras and has shared with us at Pathfinder meetings. She has a talent for creating fun and uplifting cards. What a gift. Thank you, Jude!

Nancy Pierson

Due to your generous donations including Pathfinders, Saint Paul's sent \$4,200 to Neighbors, Inc. as part of the MN March Foodshare program! Well done, team! Following is Neighbors Inc. 'thank you' to Saint Paul's...

Thank you so much for your generous support of the Minnesota March FoodShare campaign. Your donations truly make a meaningful difference in helping ensure our community members have access to nutritious food and essential resources. We are incredibly grateful for your kindness, generosity, and commitment to supporting our community. Because of you, we are able to serve more individuals and families in need.

Neighbors Inc



12 people took part in the AED/CPR Training that was held at the church on April 21st.

While anyone can use an AED without prior training because the device provides step-by-step voice prompts, official training ensures you have the confidence to act quickly during a high-stress emergency.

Thank you to those who attended!

Pictured: **Iype Kuruvilla** learning CPR.



TALK WITH GOD

Lord Hear Our Prayers

Joys:

Another successful Rummage Sale

Health Concerns:

All homebound with health problems

Additional:

We pray for true peace in the Middle East: That local populations have self-determination. Where civilians and the vulnerable are protected. We grieve the lives already lost and the many yet caught in violence. We pray for a day when war is no more, when resources for unlimited war go instead to caring for those in need.

Missionary Kabaka Ndala Alphonsine of the United Republic of Tanzania

Healing for complicated and fractured family relationships

For the lonely

For an end to violence and racism in our communities



MOWING SIGN UP

We have created a landscape that adds to the health and beauty of the neighborhood and we need weekly lawn mowing volunteers to maintain it. We have a riding lawn mower and you will be instructed how to use it.

Signup sheets are available on the narthex table. Electronic signup may also be found at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B48A5A928A1FA7-61322142-mowing>



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

About Us

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Adult Education: 9:00 am
(suspended during the summer; last class will be May 17th)

Worship: 10:00 am

Communion: 1st Sunday of the month

LIVESTREAM VIDEO

WORSHIP

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

CENTRAL LEADERSHIP

CHAIR: Deb Curran

ST. PAUL'S STAFF:

Director of Music Ministry:
Lane Skoglund-Anderson,
laneskoglund@icloud.com

Administrative Assistant:

Diane Pelinka, info@stpaulsmn.org

SAINT PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



Monday, May 25th, in recognition of Memorial Day.



Thank you, **Dave Morgan**, for fixing our oven! (Pictured with malfunctioning thermostat)



Thank you, **John Grinager and Rich Brooks**, for fertilizing the lawn and working on our landscaping!



Thank you to our Communion Stewards, **Barb Helmken, Cynthia Peterfeso, and Diane Siebert** for faithfully filling communion cups, creating fun and meaningful bread shapes, and baking homemade gluten-free bread every month. Your contributions are behind-the-scenes efforts that go unnoticed but deserve recognition!

Thanks, Thanks Coffee Servers

A warm thanks to all the nice people who have stepped up this past month to serve coffee and goodies after church. When you do it, you'll find a person gets a little thrill seeing people enjoying the treats you brought and there is still another joy in hearing the happy voices and laughter that this time together evokes. John Wesley, founder of Methodism, is on record saying that breaking bread together is a necessary part of our worship experience. So, God Bless the Marthas in our congregation who aren't afraid of the church kitchen.



May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Italicized events are conducted by outside groups renting space at the church.</i>					1	2
3 Confirmation Sunday 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 11:00 am Spring Potluck <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	4	5	6 Choir Rehearsal <i>6:30—8:00 pm Nueva Esperanza gathering</i>	7 <i>5:30—7:30 pm Recitals</i>	8	9
10 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	11 6:00 pm Finance Team Mtg	12	13 9:30 am Last Stitching Collective Group 6:00 pm Last Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Last Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16
17 Love Offering & Graduation Sunday 9:00 am Last Adult Ed before summer break 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i> <i>3:00 pm Recital</i>	18 6:00 pm 4H	19	20 <i>6:30—8:00 pm Nueva Esperanza gathering</i>	21 1:00 pm Pathfinders	22	23
24 Pentecost 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26	27	28	29	30 <i>3:00—5:00 pm Recital</i>
31 9:00 am Adult Ed 10:00 am Worship <i>12:00 pm Nueva Esperanza Worship</i>	June 1	June 2 6:30 pm Native Plant Class 2	June 3	June 4	June 5	June 6 <i>Recitals</i>

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 & POTLUCK

Sunday
May 3
10:00 am

