

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

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WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 186 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

Our Communion is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors.

Today the Rite of Confirmation is celebrated for Emma Castro, Tanner Culp, Riley Jones, Allen Reep and D.J. Zart. The altar flowers are presented in their honor.



Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

Our masking protocol follows local community infection rates. Signs are posted at all entrances indicating: Optional, Recommended, or Required.

Offerings:

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

Communion Procedure:

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 8 adults per side).
- 2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).
- 3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.
- 4. Take your place along the chancel step. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.
- 5. Extend your hands to receive the communion host.
- 6. Consume the communion host before you leave the chancel edge.
- 7. Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.
- 8. Consume the wine.
- 9. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.
- 10.Return to your pew using the side aisle.

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, Norma Shue, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

Third Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 1, 2022 Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30AM Rite of Confirmation 10:30 AM

PRELUDE

Easter Triumph

Stanley Vann

Stand

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

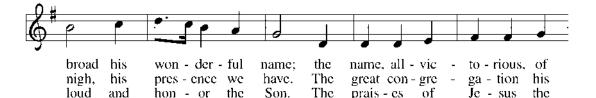
He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN You Servants of God (ELW 825)

wis - dom and



- 1 You ser-vants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a
- 2 As cend ed on high, al might y to save, yet still he is
- 3 Sal va tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a
- 4 Then let us a dore and give him his right, all glo ry and





might.

all

hon - or

and

bless-ing, with

Je - sus ex - tol; his king-dom is glo-rious and rules o - ver all! tri-umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king! an - gels pro - claim. fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb. an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas-ing, and in - fin - ite love!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

pow'r and

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, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world, rescuing us from the hopelessness of death. Grant your faithful people a share in the joys that are eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

FIRST READING Acts 9:1-20

¹Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

PSALMODY Psalm 30 spoken responsively by half-verse

1 I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lift- | ed me up*
and have not let my enemies triumph | over me.

2 O Lord my God, I cried | out to you,*
and you restored | me to health.

3 You brought me up, O Lord, | from the dead;*
you restored my life as I was going down | to the grave.

4 Sing to the Lord, you ser- | vants of his;*
give thanks for the remembrance | of his holiness.

⁵ For his wrath endures but the twinkling | of an eye,*
his favor | for a lifetime.

⁶ Weeping may | spend the night,*

but joy comes | in the morning.

⁷ While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never | be disturbed.*

You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong | as the mountains."

⁸ Then you | hid your face,*

and I was | filled with fear.

⁹ I cried to | you, O LORD;*

I pleaded with | the Lord, saying,

10 "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down | to the pit?*

Will the dust praise you or de- | clare your faithfulness?

11 Hear, O LORD, and have mer- | cy upon me;*

O LORD, | be my helper."

12 You have turned my wailing | into dancing;*

you have put off my sackcloth and clothed | me with joy.

¹³ Therefore my heart sings to you | without ceasing;*

- lu - ia,

O LORD my God, I will give you | thanks forever.

SECOND READING

al

Revelation 5:11-14 (back cover)

Stand

VERSE

Sung by all





al

1e

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 21:1-19

(back cover)

lu.

ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John *At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit SERMON

Pastor Reep

Blessing and Honor (ELW 854)



8:00 AM continues with the Prayers of the Church (next page)

10:30 AM RITE OF CONFIRMATION

PRESENTATION

These persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism.

Emma Castro, Tanner Culp, Riley Jones, Allen Reep and D.J. Zart.

Dear friends, we rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

RENUNCIATION OF EVIL

Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises? *The Confirmands respond in turn "I do."*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Sit

COMMITMENT

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear his Word and share in his supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each Confirmand answers in turn.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept so that prayer may be made for the confirmands.

Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these men and this woman your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen

Each Confirmand in turn kneels at the altar.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in [name] the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her/his faith, guide her/his life, empower her/him in her/his serving, give her/him patience in suffering, and bring her/him to everlasting life.

Each person answers: Amen

Stand

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, *Emma, Tanner, Riley, Allen, D.J.* and for all the baptized everywhere:

That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

That you hear all who cry to you for help (especially Katie Guyer, Eddie Turner, Gloria Kendrick, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, Orven Cook, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, James Young, Peggy Novotny, Deirdre McManama, Drew Herdson, Porter Stacey, and Courtney Snell). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

That all who are persecuted for following you will be sustained by the strength in the name of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

That our voices will be joined with angels, creatures, and all the saints in praising you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Sit

10:30 AM HANDBELL CHOIR

With all My Heart

Kathleen Wissinger

Stand

OFFERTORY "Old Hundreth"

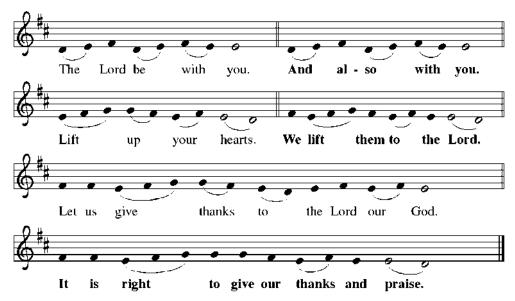
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,

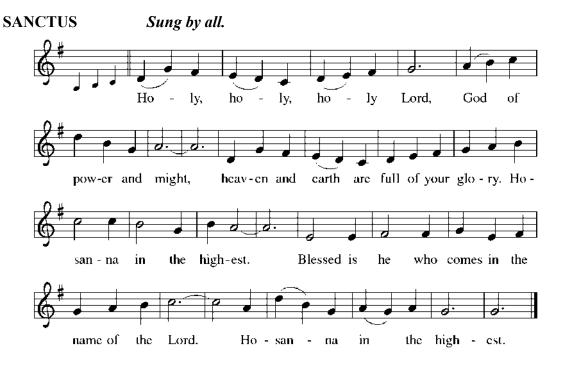
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DIALOGUE Sung by Pastor and congregation



PREFACE The preface appropriate to the day is sung.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;

you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.

We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,

the people of your promise:

the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,

the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile,

and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,

who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:

his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power,

and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we and all who share in this bread and cup
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

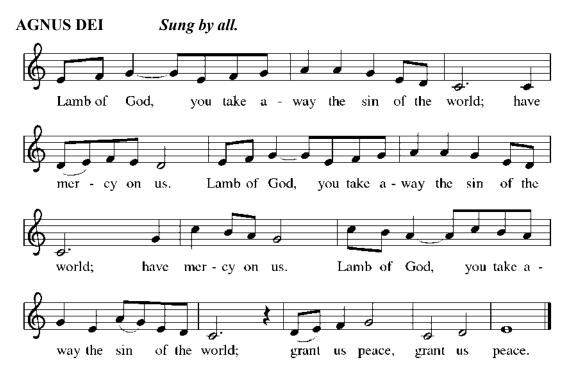
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

FRACTION RITE

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.



Sit The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

COMMUNION CANTICLE

Sung by all.



COMMUNION HYMN Earth, Earth, Awake (ACS 937)



Stand

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. All powerful and ever-living God, in the Eucharist we celebrate the Mystery of Faith. By this Easter Sacrament, renew in us the gift of faith in the New Life it promises. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. **Amen**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. Amen

HYMN Let us Talents and Tongues Employ (ELW 674)



- 1 Let us tal-ents and tongues em-ploy, reaching out with a shout of joy:
- 2 Christ is a ble to make us one, at the ta ble he sets the tone,
- 3 Je sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro-ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo-ken and seen and heard. teach-ing peo-ple to live to bless, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man-u-el) ev-'ry-where!



Je - sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a - bound!

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

The worshipers remain standing until the ministers have exited the chancel.

POSTLUDE Alleluia-Toccata Andrew Fletcher

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Altar Flowers once again grace our worship space. Please check out the Springettsbury Hallway bulletin board for the sign-up sheet and available dates for the year. Many Sundays are still available! Cost is \$30 per vase.

Join us next Sunday May 8th, Mother's Day, when the York College Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Grace Muzzo, will sing during the 10:30 AM service.

Activities & Book Drive—Let's keep the momentum going! We're off to a great start for our summer support of Jackson Elementary. Please continue to bring in books appropriate for grades Pre-K through 8th grades and items for outdoor and educational activities like: bubbles, dry erase storybooks or boards, coloring books, colored pencils & crayons, flashcards, etc. All items can be placed in the donations boxes in the Good Shepherd Room.

Christian Education—Classes run through May 22 for children & adults.

Adult Class meets in Christ Hall with Pastor Reep.

May 1 Ten Commandments May 8 The Lord's Prayer

May 15 Social Ministry presents on opportunities to serve.

May 22 Creed

Communion Instruction will be offered to children and their families on Sunday, May 15 after the 10:30 Liturgy. Lunch will be provided. Instruction will follow. Please notify Miss Kelly, Pastor Reep or the church office if you plan to participate.





Help us with our planting project on Tuesday, May 24 at 5:00 PM. The Property Committee will be planting 2,100 Pachysandra plants between the playground fence and the sidewalk along the North side of the building. Bring garden shovels, work gloves, and kneeling cushions or knee pads. We need at least 21 people to make this go smoothly. Notify Kem Vaught, Jeff Riese, Steve Heistand, Larry Becker or Tom Ruth.

Ukraine Offering

Offerings to give aid to Ukrainian refugees, orphans, widows and humanitarian help can be given through St. Paul's website *www.stpaulsyork.org* by selecting the designated button or through our pew envelopes marking them "Ukraine".



This Week at St. Paul's May 1-8

Church office open Mon—Thurs, 7:30 AM—4:00 PM, Friday 7:30 AM—11:30 AM

Sunday, May 1

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist- Confirmation

Handbell Choir

6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Tuesday May 3

9:30 AM Pantry

7:00 PM Preschool Meeting—ZOOM

Wednesday, May 4

10:30 AM Bible Study

11:00 AM Preschool Spring Program 5:00 –6:30 PM Sub sandwich Pick-up

Sunday, May 8 Mother's Day

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist- York College

6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE		Assisting Minister	Crucifer		Commun- ion Assts.	Greeters	Ushers	Early: Altar Set-up Late: Altar Clean-up
5/1	. ,			Betsy Smith			Bob Reed, Ron Riese	Norma & Ron Riese
	Late	Janet Fitch		Dan Gar- ber		Garber		Pat Rudicille & Gerry Briggs



Food Pantry—May

Items needed: Rice (1 or 2 lb bags), dehydrated potatoes, powdered milk, tomato sauce and soup. We also need paper grocery bags with handles.

Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check

in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Children Choirs Director	Cody Messersmith	cmessersmith.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	Imccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Worship during June, July and August

Combined liturgy 9:15 AM

We begin the summer season with the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday June 5th. The liturgy will be held outside on the south lawn. Please bring a lawn chair with you. The Fellowship Committee is working in conjunction with the Worship and Arts Committee to make our celebration meaningful and memorable. With the deep appreciation expressed from participants who attended the Palm Sunday breakfast the Fellowship Committee is preparing for a breakfast opportunity prior to the service at 8:45 AM. A brass ensemble will provide music themed for the day as we gather to celebrate Holy Communion. We will hear the story of the mighty power of God as the Spirit of God rests on the early followers of Christ Jesus. Following the liturgy a time of fellowship is being planned so that we can become better acquainted with one another.

For the remainder of the summer season we will gather indoors for a combined liturgy. As worship leaders change each week it will help us learn names and strengthen relationships within our faith community. The musical settings will be primarily from the "With One Voice" supplement. Fellowship opportunities are being planned. If you would like to help by contributing baked goods or fruits or veggies simply notify the church office and we can add you to the schedule. The desire is to have fellowship opportunities following worship each Sunday throughout the summer.

Family Ministry - Picnics in the Park God's Beautiful Creation 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Join your friends from St. Paul's for an evening picnic and bible activities at one of York Counties local parks. Each family is asked to bring their own picnic dinner to enjoy as we gather. The evening will include an interactive bible story along with a family activity and craft. All pavilions are located close to the park playground so your children can enjoy time playing with their friends. Restrooms and parking are located within walking distance.

5:30 – Picnic

6:00-7:00-Bible Story, Camp Songs, Activity and Craft

May 17 th Kain Park Perch Pavilion God Creates the Sky and Light	June 21 st Rocky Ridge Park Grey Squirrel Pavilion God Creates the Land and Plants
July 19 th John Rudy Park Blue Spruce Pavilion God Creates the Animals	August 16 th Kain Park Perch Pavilion God Creates the Creatures in the Sea

Suddenly a "for sale" sign appears on the neighbor's lawn.

Suddenly a deer jumps across the road in front of you.

Suddenly your anniversary date appears on the calendar and you have no idea how that happened.

Suddenly the trousers that you bought after Christmas no longer fit your growing child.

That's the way it is with life. The house that was perfect for a time is now too small the family is increasing in size - out growing it. Or the house is too big, cavernous since the children have grown and moved away. You are cruising down the highway and everything is perfectly fine until the white tailed critter devastates your vehicle. And how is it that the calendar year races faster and faster with each successive birthday anniversary? And just when you think that you got a great deal on clothing for the next season for your children to help with the budget, the kids take a growing spurt leaving you holding shirts and trousers often with the tags still intact. Those are the sudden moments when you are aware that you are not really in control.

And this isn't limited to everyday life. It happens in our lives of faith too.

It is that way in the life of Christ. Things happen suddenly. The gospel writer Luke advances the story of God's love for us in Christ with a story that is punctuated with "suddenly."

Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Suddenly a windstorm swept down the lake. The disciples in fear awaken Jesus. He rebukes the storm. And suddenly the lake is calm and so are the disciples.

Suddenly two men in dazzling cloths stood beside the women at the tomb. "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen."

Suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" asks the risen Lord.

Suddenly Saul can't see but his eyes are open.

Suddenly an agent of the Lord, Ananias, enters the house, lays hands on Saul so that he may regain his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Suddenly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, shared in a meal, and regained his strength.

And suddenly the man Saul who was all about persecuting Christian people, people of the Way, people who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, is suddenly an apostle, a witness, a follower, a believer. Suddenly he began to proclaim Jesus, his suffering, death and resurrection!

Suddenly the child you brought to the font for Baptism is confirming their faith.

On this Confirmation Sunday I am aware of how suddenly we went from: Ten Commandments, Seven petitions in the Our Father, Four Gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and Four "solas;" Christ alone, grace alone, faith alone, scripture alone, Three Persons of the Trinity and three articles in the Creed, Two sacraments; Baptism and Holy Communion, and the Office of the Keys. Add to that 2000 years of history, 500 years of Lutheran identity, and 186 years in this congregation's life, our confirmands suddenly encountered the richness of Christian faith compressed into a two year program of study.

They came to class on Sunday evening when they didn't want to come. They led worship at the conclusion of each night's time together gathered around the font giving thanks to God for the gift of baptism and for God's keeping them as the "apple of his eye." Sometimes they approached the evening with solemnity and sometimes, well, suddenly one person would begin to giggle and the entire group would be trying to hold back laughter until the silliness of joy could not be contained. But joy in the Lord is never really silly. Joy in the Lord is what angels sang about on the Bethlehem hillside, what the disciples experienced when the wind and waves ceased, when the women ran to tell the others the news from the tomb, and when Saul changed course and proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying "He is the Son of God."

That Joy has at its core the richness that Saul, who suddenly receives a name change and will be forever known as Paul, that is joy and richness that he proclaimed in missionary journey, and wrote in letters corresponding to those new to faith, people of the Way, the Christian assembly. Saul is a vessel through whom God works to suddenly change lives, strengthen communities, and announce hope when all seems lost.

Suddenly our time of instruction concluded and we find ourselves gathered together to rejoice as these men and this woman confirm their faith (Emma Mae, Tanner Anthony, Riley Steven, Allen Joseph, David Andrew). For some of us confirmation day is but a distant memory, years passing all too quickly. On this confirmation day remember; our life in Christ is not something that we can outgrow, or that wreaks havoc on us, or that doesn't fit as we grow and mature. Our life in Christ is a gift from God, who claimed us in baptism and pours forth his Spirit on us. It is the Spirit of God that surprises us when suddenly; angels sing, peace is restored, life is renewed, a meal is shared, and strength is gained. It is the Lord Jesus Christ who remains in control even when we lose sight of it. Each week as we gather for the liturgy forgiveness of sins, life and salvation is proclaimed. And suddenly we know that we are the Lord's. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20] [not printed]

Psalm 30

SECOND READING: Revelation 5:11-14

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might

and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

¹⁴And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

GOSPEL: John 21:1-19

After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there

were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." 19 (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."