

Welcome in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!
Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Irvine (LCMS)

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 11, 2025 – 9:30 am

Divine Service

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Alfonso O. Espinosa, Ph.D.

Assistant Pastor: Rev. Dr. Steven P. Mueller, Ph.D.

Organist: Gerald Dahlin

Choir Director: Mark Howard

Administrative Coordinator: Jackie Johnson

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Concordia University Irvine – Spectrum Campus

16355 Laguna Canyon Rd

Irvine, CA 92618

Mission

To foster the freedom and love we share in Christ to the community by nurturing faith in Him through tangible expressions of God's grace.

Vision

To share the Truth and Love of Christ to all ages, cultures, and backgrounds.

Service Offerings

- Sunday Divine Service at 9:30 am
 - Fellowship in Café 10:30 am. Adult Bible Study 11:00 am
- Wednesday Bible Studies at 10 am and 7:15 pm in our church offices.
 - You may come in person or join us via TEAMS fully interactive.

Welcome to Saint Paul's

We praise and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ as He comes to serve and bless us through His Word and Sacraments. We follow the ancient liturgy which draws from the Word of God to order and guide our worship. Its biblical structure has been used in the Christian Church before any denominations within Christianity existed. Our worship emphasizes order, beauty, and reverence. We also celebrate the Holy Eucharist and receive the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. We are excited about what the Lord is doing at Saint Paul's, and it is our great joy to serve you!

This is the Saving Gospel/The Good News:

God sent His Son Jesus Christ to take your sin upon Himself and Jesus gave to you His perfect righteousness and holiness. In Christ, it is a fact, and it is reality that your sins are forgiven, covered by His blood. And because Christ defeated death, you too – as you trust in Him alone – have eternal life. This is the Good News. It is so powerful because the Holy Spirit works through it to create and sustain faith in our hearts to hold to our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel costs Jesus everything but costs us nothing. It is yours. It is God's GIFT to you. Hold to it and know that you ARE (present tense) saved from sin, death, and the power of the devil; that you are saved TO (present tense) the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation! That's the Christian, a forgiven sinner who lives for God and loves their neighbor. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

The Lord's Supper

The Holy Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, **any who are not yet instructed**, are in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, **are asked first to speak to one of the pastors.**

Prayer Before Divine Service

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

+ In the Name of Jesus +

Prelude

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb -- Donald Rotermond

Greeting

- P** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
C and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

- Psalm 23:6

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn

477 Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

(all stanzas)

Kyrie

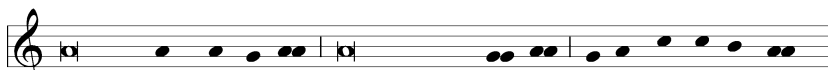
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



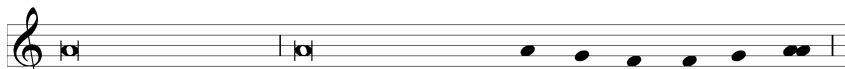
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



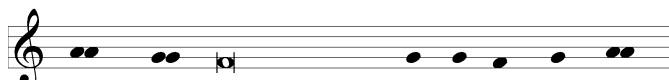
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

LSB 171



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



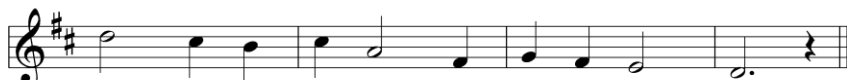
C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Sit

¹⁷Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:

"You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 23; antiphon: v. 4



☐ The LORD is my | shepherd;*

I | shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green | pastures.*

He leads me beside still | waters.

He re- | stores my soul.*

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his | name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are | with me;*

your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my | enemies;*

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup | overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days | of my life,*

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for- | ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning;

is now, and will be forever. | Amen

Epistle

Revelation 7:9–17

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

¹⁵"Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 10:22–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter,
²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the
Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in
suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered them, "I told
you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear
witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my
flock. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give
them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of
my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no
one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(all stanzas)

Sermon

"Sheep Listen"

(John 10:22-30)

Pastor Mueller

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
 glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Holy Spirit in rich measure, that hearing and following Christ, our Shepherd, we would pass through every tribulation to our eternal heavenly home, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For faithful men to pastor the Church of God, that in the face of fierce opposition and twisted speech, they would not shrink from proclaiming the kingdom of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the gift of mothers who raise their children in all things good, a mirror of God's love, that they may be strengthened in their calling and sustained through weary and difficult times, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all peoples, nations and tribes, that under God's rule, they may faithfully promote good and punish evil, and that God would reform them when necessary, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the sick, the suffering and the dying, [*especially* _____], that the Lord would deliver and comfort them, guard them against despair, and grant them patience in the days of our trouble as we await His perfect healing, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who grieve [*for* _____], that they would be strengthened in faith to see those they mourn in the light of the resurrection of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who come to the Lord's Supper this day, that our Good Shepherd would calm all fears in this valley of the shadow of death

through the holy table here prepared in the presence of our enemies; that He would give us repentance and an increase of faith; and that in every tribulation or besetting sin, He would lead us to find comfort and strength in the overflowing mercy given to us in this Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For faith to endure the tribulations of this life and pass through death to join the saints in the ceaseless praises of heaven, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P O Lord, You promised to raise up a shepherd to deliver Your sheep from all their enemies. We give You thanks for giving us Your own Son to be our Good Shepherd. Grant us to hear His voice, know Him by faith and follow where He leads, that He may deliver us into Your arms forever; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering:

Adagio from Sonata 1 -- Felix Mendelssohn

Stand

Offertory

LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



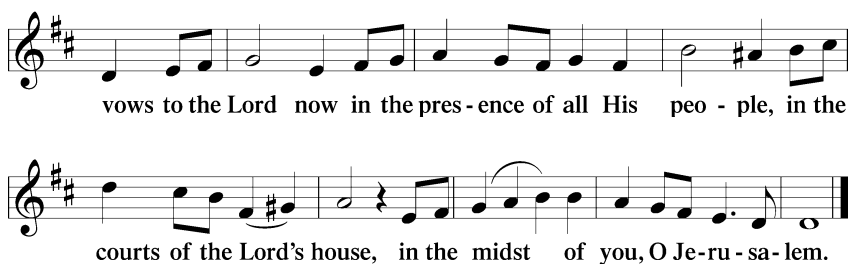
me? I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



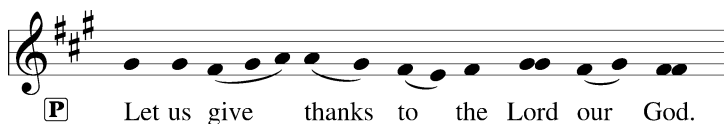
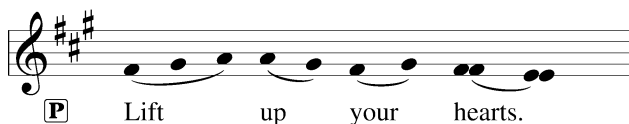
+Dismissal of Online Participants and Blessing+

1 Corinthians 11:23-29 instructs pastors since they are stewards of the mysteries (1st Corinthians 4:1) to serve only those who share in a common confession. If you are still learning about our confession and not yet confirmed, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest. Pastor would love to meet with you to prepare you to receive the Holy Sacrament.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177





C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 178



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

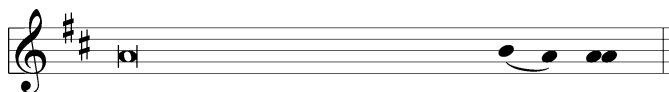
Lord's Prayer

**C 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.

Pax Domini

LSB 180



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



G Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

(all stanzas)

740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

(all stanzas)

684 Come unto Me, Ye Weary

(all stanzas)

475 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

(all stanzas)

Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 181

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

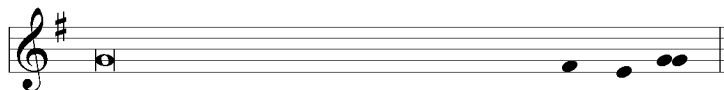
A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction

LSB 183



- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



Postlude

Recessional -- Frank Asper

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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Today:

“Journey Through the Parables” Will Meet Today

Our *Journey Through the Parables* study group will meet today to study Parable #20, *The Impudent Friend* or “*The Friends at Midnight*” or “*The Three Friends*”. Please join us after the service and a brief fellowship (around 11 a.m.) for Bible study and an opportunity to deepen your knowledge of the Scriptures.

This week:

Wednesday Bible Studies are Back!!

We’re excited to announce that our **Wednesday Bible Studies** have returned and will be continuing with **Hebrews Chapter 11**. Join us as we explore the powerful testimonies of faith that continue to inspire and encourage believers today.

Study times: 10:00 AM & 7:15 PM (In Person & on Microsoft Teams)

All are welcome! Whether you prefer to meet in person or join virtually, we’d love to have you there. For more information or to access the virtual study,

please contact **Pastor Espinosa** at
revdrespinosa@saintpaulsirvine.com

Let’s grow together in faith — we hope to see you there!

Chosen Bible Study

Group #1 will be meeting at the Kuntz family's home on **Saturday, June 28th** at 6pm. St. Paul’s now has two *The Chosen* Bible Study groups that meet once per month. If you are interested in the next meeting, please speak to Pastor.

General Announcements

Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church
Offerings Report
Month and Year-to-Date April 2025

	Actual	Budgeted	YTD	Budgeted
General Offerings	\$22,963	\$22,300	\$78,812	\$94,800
Other Offerings	\$222	\$137	\$431	\$549
Total Reg Offerings	\$23,185	\$22,437	\$79,243	\$95,349
Other <u>Offerings</u> (not budgeted)				
Building Fund	\$584		\$684	
Classical Study	\$-		\$8,650	

The Bulletin Board

Life Quote: May 11

“As Christians, we know that God’s commitment to upholding life started long ago—before photos—before the beginning of time even. From His ordered creation of the world to His ordered creation of you in your mother’s womb, God’s work has always been life-affirming. Grafted into His family through Baptism, we have become children of God and inheritors of eternal life.” *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Weekly Stewardship Message: May 11 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

John 10:27 – “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” On their own sheep are in great danger. They need a shepherd to

guide them. The sheep know the Shepherd's voice, and we delight to go where He leads. Of course, the world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh want to pull us in another direction. Namely, they want to pull us in the direction of death. But following the Shepherd means life. So, no matter how difficult the path is, let us follow the Shepherd!

Mercy Team Needs Your Help!

A Concordia/OLu family is looking to rent a home starting Aug 1 as they have been informed that their rental property is being sold from under them. They are seeking a home that would have a minimum of 3 bed/2 bath and would be willing to have tenants with dogs.

If you are aware of anyone that can assist them in looking or has a place for rent, please feel free to email Bret Taylor at bret.taylor@cu.edu or speak to Pastor Espinosa.

WE WANT YOU!

We're looking for a few good men to sing in a men's chorus.

We'd like to sing in a Sunday service this summer when the most men are available.

Every man of the congregation is invited! No choir singing experience is required. If you sing hymns in church, sing in the shower, sing along with the radio in the car, we invite you to sing with us.

Please let me know if you are interested and what your schedule is like for this summer. There will be rehearsals before we sing.

Blessings,

Mark Howard, Choir Director (markahoward@sbcglobal.net)



Quilting Team Needs Your Help!

The **Quilting Team at St. Paul's** is in need of **cardboard boxes** for storing and shipping quilts. If you have any boxes to donate, we would greatly appreciate your support!

Additionally, if you're interested in joining our **quilting team**, we would love to have you. No experience is necessary—just a heart for giving and a willingness to learn!

For donations or more information, please contact **Myra Taylor at 949-636-3431**. Thank you for supporting this meaningful ministry!

Calling All Thrivent Members!

Please consider making a difference as a Thrivent member by leading a fundraiser, education event, or service event. **If one of these events is approved by Thrivent, they will grant \$250 in seed money.** This is especially helpful for church events like VBS, quilting team, etc.

Learn more by visiting

<https://www.thrivent.com/aboutus/membership/thrivent-action-teams>

If you are a Thrivent member and would like more information or have an idea you'd like to share, please email office@saintpaulsirvine.com **Thank you!**

Circle of Friends

The most effective way for a church to grow in the Kingdom of God is to be faithful in the Word and Sacrament of Christ and to truly love people. One way to do that is to allow us to pray for those you know who need Christ and/or a church home. Please submit the names of family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and others to us through our ministry called Circle of Friends.

Thank you! Pastor Espinosa.

*For those we care about to come to saving faith and have a church home.
Have a friend who needs prayer or would like a meeting with pastor? Use this
QR code to let us know!*



Upcoming Event Dates:

• **Vacation Bible School (VBS):** July 21st –25th

VBS will be held this summer at Irvine Park. If you are interested in volunteering, please talk to Jackie or Miles Johnson. An informational meeting will be held in April to begin the planning process.

• **Higher Things Conference:** July 29th –August 1st

The mission of Higher Things is to make the gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults. St. Paul's will be taking a group of young adults to the

conference at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI. For more information, please talk to Pastor Espinosa.

•**Women's Retreat:** August 9th

Saint Paul's first women's retreat will be held as a daytime event in Dana Point. The topic Pastor Espinosa will be preaching on is, "The Power of Confession" Confession of Sin, Faith, and Praise. Please talk to Pastor Espinosa or Laura Miller if you would like to attend or get more information.

•**Men's Retreat:** September 26th- 28th

Saint Paul's men's retreat will be held at the same "Campus by the Sea" on Catalina Island that it was last year. The topic Pastor Espinosa will be preaching on is, "The Power of Confession" Confession of Sin, Faith, and Praise. Please talk to Pastor Espinosa if you would like to attend or get more information.

Worship Attendance for Members & Guests

Scan the QR code or use the iPads at the Welcome Table to sign in. **Guests**, please sign the guestbook at the entrance.

Offerings: Collected during the worship service. All contributions are voluntary.



Requesting Announcements

To request an announcement for the congregation or community, submit your request via the QR code or this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/Hsgrm6zAup>. Choose where you want it published: bulletin, email, website, livestream, etc.

Daily Bible Devotionals – 2025

Join Pastor Espinosa in reading through the Holy Bible in 2025!

Follow along daily on:

- ✦ **Facebook:** @AlfonsoEspinosa
- ✦ **TikTok:** @alfonsoespinosa356
- ✦ **Instagram:** @alfonsoespinosa88

Let's rejoice as God strengthens our faith through His Word!

Want devotionals sent to your inbox? Please email office@saintpaulsirvine.com to be added to the list.

Volunteers Needed!

We are seeking volunteers for **Ushers, Altar Guild, Welcome Table, Transportation Services, and Visiting Shut-Ins**. If interested, please contact **Mark Kuntz**. We also need help with **Livestream, Family Sunday School, Quilting & Fellowship Team**. Please reach out to office@saintpaulsirvine.com if you can assist.

Words of Evangelism: Ch. 6 – Points of Encouragement

Greetings from your evangelism committee. Through our first five sections, we have discussed why we should share the Gospel and also discussed three points that you should remember while sharing the Gospel. We share the Gospel because God has asked us to and because we want to share our love for our neighbor. There are very few better services we can render to our neighbor that are better than sharing the saving Word. Despite the exhortations given us by our Pastors, Scripture, and the Holy Spirit, we can still feel discouraged and afraid to share our faith. We might feel that we are inadequate. We might think we do not know enough about the Bible or God's Word. We might think someone else should do it because they are more capable than us. Here are some points of encouragement to keep in mind that can help give you hope and comfort in undertaking the task.

First, God is with you. When Christ instituted the Great Commission, he said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age." (Mt 28:19-20) Christ himself said that he will be with us. Christ said it. You do not need to be discouraged. Christ said he will be there and unlike sinful human beings, Christ will not renege on his promises. Christ is there for you and with you.

Second, Christ told us that he will send us the Holy Spirit to put the words in our mouth. Christ said, "Do not be anxious about... what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." (Lk 12:11-12) We might not think we have the courage to say what needs to be said. But, Christ extends to us the promise that the Holy Spirit will help us.

Third, if we feel tongue-tied or discouraged, we can simply remember the three points we already mentioned before. Point A: Death and guilt are universal problems. Point B: There are only two religions in the world, Christianity and false religions of man. Point C: We know the Gospel, the very heart and kernel of our faith. We might not know everything, but we do know the basics. We should constantly return to the Gospel, the redemption we receive through Christ Jesus. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is Christ Jesus, who God put forward as a propitiation by his blood." (Rom 3:23-25) We have been saved by Christ who paid the price for our sins so that we may be reconciled to God and have eternal life.

Fourth, God's Word stands on its own power. Paul himself felt that his words and speech were inadequate. In a letter to the Corinthians, Paul said that he "did not come proclaiming ... the testimony of God with lofty

speech or wisdom.” (1 Cor 2:1) Yet, Paul proclaimed the Word nevertheless. If God’s Word derived its power from the abilities of man’s word and speech, then Paul said that “the cross of Christ” would “be emptied of its power.” (1 Cor 1:17) Paul, therefore, decided to know nothing except “Christ crucified” among others. (1 Cor 2:2) Christians, “the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.” (Heb 4:12) We are merely the vehicle God chooses to employ to share his Word. As long as we are proclaiming his Word and not another, we are on solid ground when we engage others.

Lord God, our knowledge of your Word is not infinite and we can sometimes be intimidated to speak the Law and Gospel to others. Give us encouragement to share the basics of your Word, o Lord, to others despite our own inabilities. Help us remember that your Word stands on its own power, that you, o Lord, are with us, and that the Holy Spirit will help us. Amen.

Please Pray for our Missionaries, Council Members & Elders

Missionaries Supported by St. Paul’s

(Financial gifts given annually to the national synod)

Missionary	Location
Rev. Daniel & Kathy Conrad <i>Please send mail through the LCMS directly.</i>	Dominican Republic
Erin Mackenzie Email: erin.mackenzie@lcms.org	Latin America & Caribbean
Britt Odemba Email: britt.odemba@lcms.org	Kenya
Rev. Dr. Tom Park Email: tom.park@lcms.org	Taiwan

Missionary Friends

(Non-Financial Support)

Missionary	Role	Location
Tirzah Krey Email: tirzah.krey@lcms.org	Regional Human Care Coordinator	Latin America & Caribbean

If you are interested in mailing a letter or giving a donation directly to our missionaries, please send mail directly to the LCMS with the specific Missionaries name in the attention line:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

ATTN: *(enter missionaries name here)*

P.O. Box 66861

St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Local Evangelism Support

- **Rev. Mark Jasa** – St. Paul's supports our local evangelist.

St. Paul's Parish Council Members

Debbie Dannemeyer – President ~ **Matt Bures** – Recording Secretary ~ **Ken Mott** – Treasurer

Laura Miller – Financial Secretary ~ **Jon Rutherford** – Trustee Director ~ **Ali Frank** – Stewardship Director

Mark Kuntz – Presiding Elder ~ **Renee Mott** – Fellowship Director ~ **Bradley Hustad** – Evangelism Director

Jacob Thornblad – Education Director ~ **Miles & Jackie Johnson** – Youth Directors

St. Paul's Elders

Mark Kuntz (Presiding Elder) ~ **Bruce Dannemeyer** ~ **Bryan Kilduff** ~ **John Church** ~ **Jon Steele** ~ **Karl Blanke**

Michael Padilla ~ **Steve Fischer** ~ **Ricky Cuenca** ~ **Alex Padilla**

SERVICE TEAM SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Altar Team</u>	<u>Ushers/ Greeter</u>	<u>Elders on Duty</u>	<u>Entrance Area</u>	<u>Livestream</u>
<i>Service Team Chairs</i>	<i>Mei Kuntz</i>	<i>Mark Kuntz</i>	<i>Mark Kuntz</i>	<i>Kiu Geisler</i>	<i>Jon Steele</i>
2nd Sunday 5/11/2025	Elizabeth Brothwell, Mei Kuntz	Don and Elizabeth Brothwell	Mike Padilla, Mark Kuntz	Myra Taylor	Jim J.
3rd Sunday 5/18/2025	Ali Frank, Laura Miller	Bill Frank and Ed Miller	Bryan Kilduff	Cindy Kilduff	Jon Steele
4th Sunday 5/25/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Anne Wright	Paul and Samuel Hines	John Church, Jon Steele	Anne Wright	Jon Steele
1st Sunday 6/1/2025	Nina Mueller Myra Taylor	Barney Wright, Al Ibrahim	Alex Padilla, Bruce Dannemeyer	Kiu Geisler	Jim J.

FELLOWSHIP ROTATION

2nd Sunday 5/11/2025	Espinosa's, Ann Marie Hines
3rd Sunday 5/18/2025	Jeanette Dahlin, Mary Seltzer
4th Sunday 5/25/2025	Gary & Daisy Minter, Renee Mott
1st Sunday 6/1/2025	Liana Padilla, Nancy Howard

If you are a volunteer and believe this schedule does not accurately reflect your assigned service days or would like to update an announcement, please email Jackie at office@saintpaulsirvine.com.