



MAY

St. Paul News

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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2024

The Month of May: A month of giving thanks.

By Pastor Neil Wehmas

We are entering into a month that causes one to give much thanks. You may read this and be concerned that Pastor Neil thinks we are coming up on November and the Thanksgiving holiday. However, it is indeed the month of May of which I think.

The second Sunday in May the United States makes it a point to honor our mothers. Think about our mothers. They of course carried us in their wombs for 9 months. However, beyond that, they prepare meals for us. They changed our diapers. They read stories with us, they pray with us before we go to bed. For many they are the ones that got you ready for school in the mornings, and take you to your ball games. There is so much that a mother does, and so much to give thanks.

Here in Ida Grove on the third Sunday in May is the OABCIG High School. How many people play a role in make sure that we make it to graduation? Teachers who spend tireless and often thankless hours. They prepare lessons, they teach classes to often disinterested students. They spend countless hours grading papers and tests. The administrators who work hard to keep the ship sailing correctly. The coaches who give invaluable lessons that carry beyond the field. The custodians who keep the school clean. The instructors who teach a love of music through choir and band. The cooks who keep the students fed, keeping their minds and bodies strong. And one can't forget the secretaries who meet most every student with so many different needs. (I know I'm forgetting people.) For them, we give thanks to God.

The 2nd to last Sunday in May is "Armed Forces Day", a day set aside to honor active military. The last Monday in May is Memorial Day, dedicated to those who gave their lives in defense of our nation. What a joyous freedom we have! We are able to worship our God without fear of persecution. We are able to declare the good news of Jesus without fear of arrest or execution. Our military defend these freedoms. For this we give thanks to God.

However, for all of these things to give thanks, May plays host to two greater gifts. May 9th is the Ascension of Our Lord. On this Day our Lord' Jesus Christ ascended into heaven declaring victory over sin, death, and the devil. His ascension guaranteed that we when we breath our last on this Earth will ascend unto the same heaven.

Ten days later on May 19th, we will gather to celebrate the Day of Pentecost. The day on which the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in Jerusalem. Without the Holy Spirit, there would be no faith. Without the Holy Spirit, there would be no salvation. Without the Holy Spirit, there is no hope in the face of a world where there is war. In a world where women are unable to have children, lose their children, or become estranged from their children. In a world where children can't afford an education, where educators or even religious authorities abuse their office. In this world, we need the promise of Pentecost, which points us back to the empty tomb.

Therefore, we give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who creates and sustains our faith. We give thanks for Jesus death on the cross for our sins. We give thanks for the empty tomb as Jesus physically rose from the dead. We give thanks for the promise of our own resurrection.

Indeed it doesn't have to be November to give thanks, it appears as if we have very much to give thanks this month as well. I haven't even mentioned the often nicer and warmer weather. May we all have a blessed May and summer months. May we give thanks to our God on high for every gift. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

CHURCH NEWS

RESULTS FROM THE VOTERS' MEETING, on Sunday, April 14, there was discussion and a vote in regards to the **Worship Service Survey** of changing our evening service. It was voted to move to Sunday evening at 5:00PM. Our last Saturday evening Service will be May 25 and we will start the Sunday Evening Worship at 5:00PM schedule on June 1st.

SALAD SUPPER on Wednesday, May 1 at 5:00PM in the fellowship hall. Nancy Schoen will tell us about her adventure of helping with VBS in Alaska last year. Open to the public and bring your friends!

SENIOR RECOGNITION will be Sunday, May 5 during the **Worship Service**. Everyone is invited to the reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall, at 10:15AM. The Junior Class will host and will be serving cinnamon rolls and fruit cups.



COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS for May is **paper products: toilet paper, paper towels, kleenex, garbage bags, napkins, etc.**, place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex. All items are appreciated as well, as they can always use donations. The Community Basket is open on Thursdays (except 3rd Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM. **The mobile food pantry will be on May 16 from 4:30-5:30PM, at the Odebolt Community Center, Odebolt.**

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP Coffee & Fellowship on Sunday mornings is now on summer break until September.

WEDNESDAY EARLY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets at 7:00AM Jimmy's

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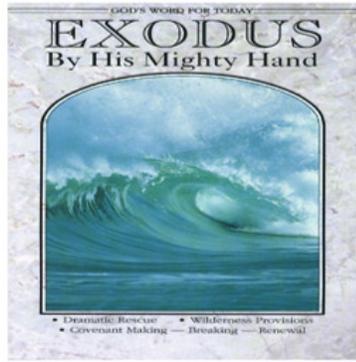
THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: MORE THAN BREAD BIBLE STUDY AT SUBWAY is on summer break until September.

SUNDAY MORNING HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH in the youth room from 10:15-11:15AM

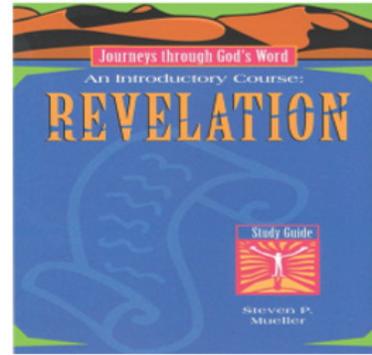
SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS join us in the Fellowship Hall 10:30-11:15AM



Bible Studies w/Pastor Neil



Wednesday's @9:30am



Sunday's @10:30am

LWML LADIES BIBLE STUDY FOR MAY

RUTH (2) will meet on May 2 at Zimmy's at noon and meet at the church for Bible Study at 1:00PM.. Susan will be BSL. We had 12 present for our April meeting. We thank all those who adopted Lilies and shared with the Congregation.

LOIS (3) will meet on May 2 in the Conference Room at 1:30PM. Janice will be BSL and Mary will be hostess.

EUNICE (10) will meet on May 9 at the Bread Box, Battle Creek at 2:30PM. Corliss will be hostess and Karen will be BSL. We had 5 members present for our April meeting

JOHANNA(12) will meet on May 9 at 7:00PM, in the fellowship hall. Karen L. will be hostess.

LWML MITEBOX CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2024

At the November 2023 meeting of the LWML Executive Board a decision was made about how the LWML Mite box contributions for 2024 would be distributed.

The Executive Board decided to designate the funds from each quarter would go to the National LWML Mission projects and local mission projects in our community. The distribution of each quarter's funds will be one-fourth to the National LWML Missions and three-fourths of each quarter's contributions would go to local missions.

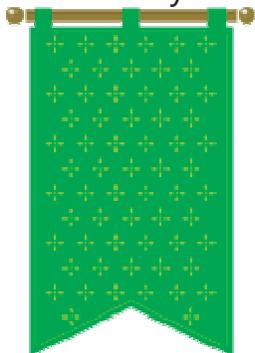
For 2024 the local mission distribution will be as follows:

- 1st Quarter will be supporting the Ida Grove Ambulance
- 2nd Quarter will be supporting the Community Basket
- 3rd Quarter will be supporting the Ida Grove Fire Department
- 4th Quarter will be supporting the Ida Grove Orphan Grain Train

Your coins will make a difference on the national level as well as in Ida Grove in 2024! Please drop your coins in the large Mite Box located in the Narthex whenever you visit our church!



Christian symbol



GREEN — Green is the traditional liturgical color for the weeks after Pentecost (as well as the season of Epiphany). The Pentecost season largely overlaps with spring and summer, which is fitting because green symbolizes growth: growth of plant life and crops, and growth of the church in discipleship and faith.



A House United

When President Lincoln declared in 1858, “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” he was echoing Jesus. Scribes thought Jesus was casting out demons by Satan’s power, so Jesus responded, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ... If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:23-25, NIV). There are countless modern examples: Civil wars. Families torn apart. Business partners going separate ways. Even churches splitting.

Jesus used the “house divided” image to point out the nonsense of the scribes’ words. It takes someone *other than* the “strong man” (v. 27), or demon, occupying a space to cast that demon out. Evil can’t drive out evil. Sin isn’t stronger than sin. Hate doesn’t solve hate. Violence doesn’t end violence. Two wrongs don’t make a right.

Jesus came to “bind” evil with goodness, conquer hate with love and teach us the same. Throughout the gospels, Jesus treats *all* people with love — even those who oppose him — so that, in the end, we all will be a house *united* by God’s goodness.



Christ & Cinema Schedule 2024

Wednesday, May 1st @6:30pm

“Wonder Woman” (2017)—The Problem with Man’s World

Wednesday, May 8th @6:30pm

“Guardians of the Galaxy: Volume 2”—The World and Everything in It

Wednesday, May 15th @6:30pm

“The Way, Way Back”—The Difference on man can make.

Wednesday, May 22nd @6:30pm

“Greyhound”—Thank you my Heavenly Father.

Wednesday, May 29th @6:30pm

“Bruce Almighty”—Do you think you can do better than God?

Wednesday, June 5th @6:30pm

“Planes, Trains, and Automobiles”—Entertaining strangers.

Wednesday, June 12th @6:30pm

“God’s Not Dead”—Nietzsche versus PureFlix Studios

Wednesday, June 19th @6:30pm

“Toy Story”—I have called you by name.

Wednesday, June 26th @6:30pm

“Godzilla: Minus One”—Live!

**SPECIAL ASCENSION SERVICE
AT MISSION CENTRAL ON MAY 9TH, 2024
WITH A MEAL AT 5:00PM – WORSHIP AT 6:30PM**

**A GREAT NUMBER OF “NOT NORMAL” PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE
FOR A SPECIAL EVENT AT MISSION CENTRAL!**

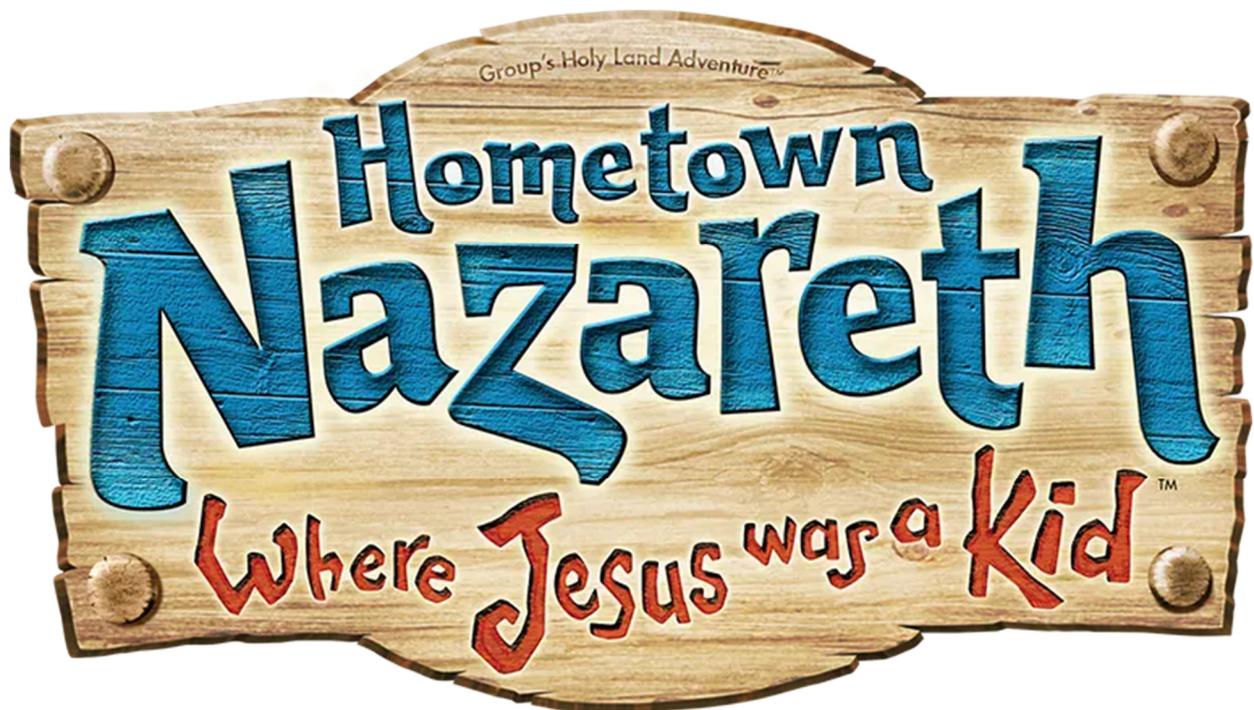


Rev, Chris and Lula Tiews

What a JOY and blessing to have the privilege of having Chris Tiews, missionary in Germany, as our guest speaker for the Ascension Worship Service at Mission Central on May 9th, 2024!

A wonderful meal will be provided at 5pm, and then Rev. Tiews will have a very, very special message for everyone, sharing the exciting work that our Lord Jesus is doing in the mission fields of Germany. Please mark your calendar for this special event at the world famous Mission Central just 2 miles east of Mapleton, Iowa. It will change your life and it's a once in a lifetime opportunity to hear these amazing stories from the Lord's mission field.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



June 17th - 20th, 2024

10:00AM - 12:00PM

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Ida Grove

Register Online—Soon

Completed

4 yr old Preschool – 5th grades