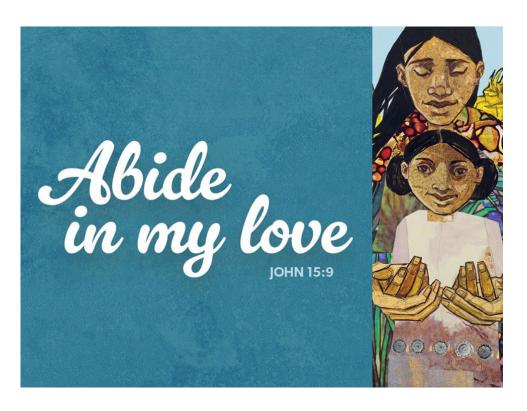
St. Paul Lutheran Church

An ELCA & Reconciling in Christ Congregation Sixth Sunday of Easter, 5 May 2024 Companion Synod & Graduate Blessing Sunday



This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

Liturgical Worship
Order of Service using
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 4

GATHERING

Prelude

Great Is the Lord/Morning Has Broken, arr. Marilynn Ham

Welcome & Announcements

*Gathering Hymn, I Come with Joy, ELW Hymn 482 (page 14 of this bulletin)

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

*Stand as you are able.

*Greeting

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**.



*Canticle





This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



*Prayer of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love your joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Anthem

Standing On The Promises, Words & Music R. Kelso Carter/Arr. Mark Hayes

WORD

Acts 10:44-48 (Pew Bible page 1003)

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The believers from among the Jewish people who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So Peter ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98 (read or sung responsively)

Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done I marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have I won the victory.

²O LORD, you have made | known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the 1 house of Israel:

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory I of our God.

⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands; lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.

⁵Sing to the LORD | with the harp, with the harp and the | voice of song.

⁶With trumpets and the sound | of the horn shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.

7Let the sea roar, and I all that fills it, the world and those who I dwell therein.

Elet the rivers | clap their hands, let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness and the peo- | ples with equity.

1 John 5:1-6 (Pew Bible page 1112)

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey God's commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey the commandments, which are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

*Gospel Acclamation





You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel Reading, John 15:9-17 (Pew Bible page 983)

The holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter. Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁹"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in my Father's love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 17I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

*Hymn of the Day, Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love, ELW Hymn #708 (page 15 of this bulletin)

*Intercessory Prayers

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

Prayer requests from this week: Rotsy, Nicky, Lisa, Tom & Joanne, Gerda's Family & Friends, Pearl, Mary, Greg, Cheryl, Mike, Terry, Debbie, Sandi, Erin, Lori, those in poverty and war torn countries, those affected by severe weather, those grieving, students & teachers, our division driving our actions against each other, Jeremy, Wendy, Dustin & Samantha, Joh, Nathan, Chloe & Linda, Margo & Cindy, Millie & Terry, Carol Ann, Virginia & Family, Sharon, Patrick, Jamie, Gerry, John & Family, Celia & Michael, April, Kathi, Linda & Betty, Roger, Matt, Ivan, Pedro, those who feed the hungry, comfort others and find housing and services for those in need, Linda, Gary, Denise, Noel, those suffering from mental illness and giving up on life, first responders always going toward the need, Hudson & Family, Bonnie, Fred, Kris & Family, Becky, Betty Ann, Eileen, Kay, Karen, Mary, all graduates, our leaders, our volunteers, show us how to carry friendship in our hearts, teach us to reach beyond ourselves and to learn from each other, help us to hear your word and to follow your commandments, help us to love one another as you have loved us.

Graduation Blessing

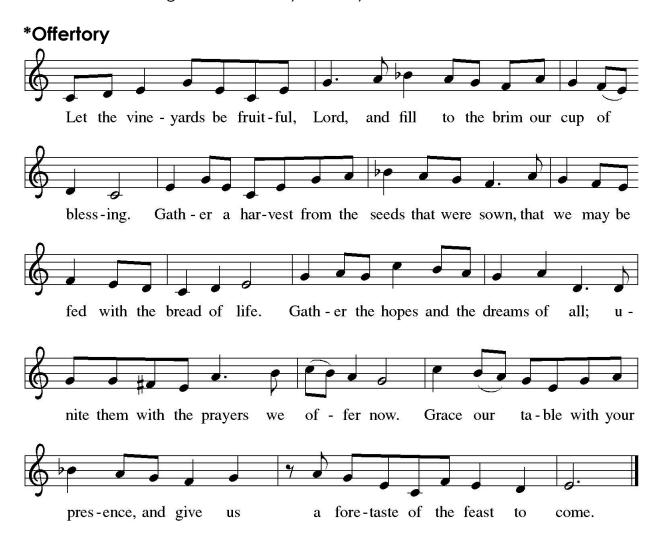
*Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

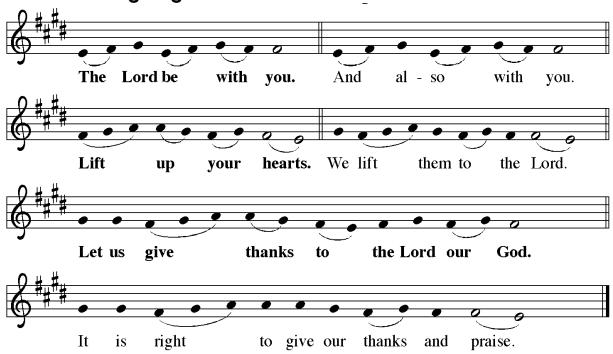
Offerings may be placed in the basket at the main entry doors, given electronically via our website, or via check mailed to the church office. Please place prayer request cards in the baskets, using first names only. Thank you.



*Offering Prayer

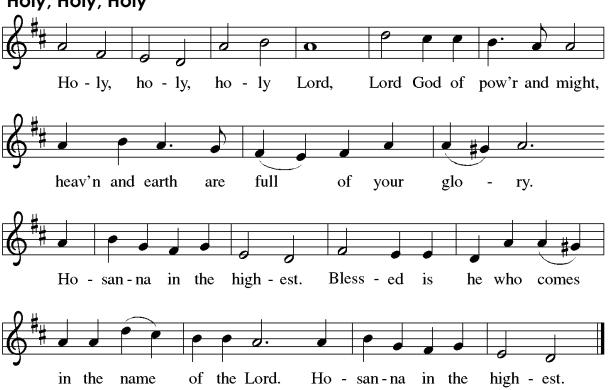
Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving



*Proper Preface





*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

*Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

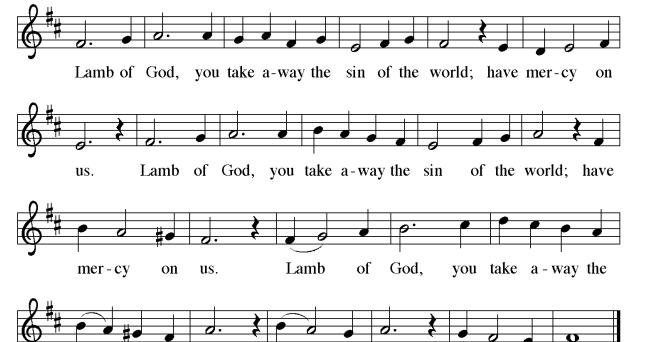
Come and eat at God's table.

Lamb of God

sin

of the world;

You may be seated to sing and prepare your communion.



grant

us peace,

grant

us

peace.

For those remaining in the pews and on-line:

All commune together as these words are shared:

The body of Christ given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ shed for you. Amen.

For those coming forward:

Please make your way to one of the stations. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available.

Time for Personal Reflection

Candle carts are present for you to lift up your prayers.

*Prayer after Communion

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

SENDING

Farewell and Godspeed

*Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always.

Amen.

*Sending Hymn, Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee, ELW Hymn #836 (page 16 of this bulletin)

*Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, arr. J. Wayne Kerr

A Thank You to Those Serving Today!

Pr. Kristi Koppel – Presiding Rijasoa Andriamanana – Preaching
Terry Cole – Assisting Minister
Janet Vrudny – Choir Director Raul Manjarrez – Organist
St. Paul Chancel Choir – Leading in Song
Lee & Peggy Burnett – Communion Assistants
Omar Durant, Bob Matthews, Clark McLean – Streaming Technicians
Sara Love & Olivia – Refreshments
St. Paul General Fund – Flowers
Buzz Lenander, Matt Pettersen, Jeff Sorensen – Greeters

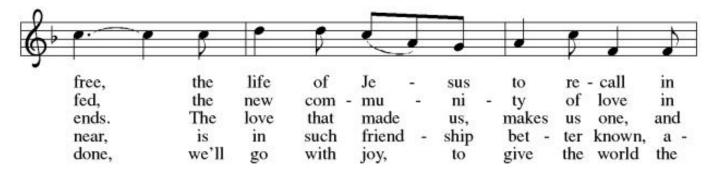
Please take an information card from the pew rack for St. Paul staff contacts.

Scan to give:

*Gathering Hymn, I Come with Joy, ELW Hymn #482



- I with child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and come joy, a 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
- Christ breaks bread, bids share, each proud di - vi and us sion
- of ris en Christ, but ev - er The Spir - it the un - seen,
- To geth er to - geth - er bound by all that God met, has

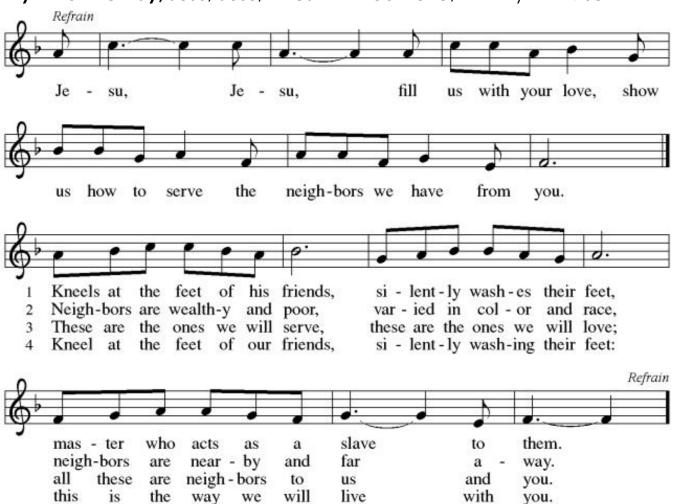




love laid down for me, Christ's com - mu - nion bread. strang - ers now are friends, live a - mong us here, love that makes us one,

love laid down for me. in Christ's com-mu - nion bread. friends. and strang - ers now are a - live a - mong here. us love the that makes us one.

*Hymn of the Day, Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love, ELW Hymn #708





Announcements

For an announcement to be included in the bulletin and/or the weekly newsletter email blast, please have it to the office (<u>info@stpaulabq.org</u>) by Wednesday at 11am each week.

<u>Today</u>: St. Paul 101 continues in Fellowship Hall at 11:15. Please pick up your snacks and join us there! ~Pr. Koppel

<u>Today</u>: Calico Preschool Announces Earth Day Family Recycling Contestplease vote! Made out of recycled or reusable items from around the home, families can be as creative as they'd like and surprise us with their projects! The projects are on display in the Welcome Center, and St. Paul members can vote for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice. ~Marisol Flores, Director

<u>Today</u>: Albuquerque Pride Parade Planning. We will be meeting after worship in the Sanctuary to discuss the many details for <u>8 June.</u> St. Paul is registered for the Pride Parade, so save the date! If you would like to participate in any way, be it marching, riding, or helping to decorate our float, please be in touch with me. ~Jan Bowers

<u>Today</u>: Last Chance to Purchase Madagascar Merch! Rijasoa has brought some wonderful items to sell in support of this year's *Girls Camp*. Get your Mother's Day gifts or do your Christmas shopping early! ~Deborah Ash

First Tuesday is This Week! May 7th, 4:00 - 6:00 pm we'll meet at SW Grape & Grain, 3401 Candelaria NE. There is beer to purchase but if that is not your preference, bring your own beverage. They have chips to buy, but most folks bring a snack to share. This is just a time to visit and catch up on news. Come join us! For those who are still working at this time, we urge you to find a time and place that will work for you and your families. Church friends are often friends we keep for life, no matter where in the world we end up going. ~Nancy Matthews

May's God's Work Our Hands Project: Senior Supplies for Adopted Families. This month we are collecting the following items, which are always in high demand: adult diapers (such as Depends)-both male and female, all sizes; disposable bed pads; adult wet wipes; and no-rinse bathing wipes. We will compile the kits after worship on May 26. There is a box in the Welcome Center to collect these items, or you can make a check out to St. Paul with the note: Senior Supplies. Thank you! ~Deborah Ash & Nancy Jenkins

St. Paul's Bread For The World Sunday is May 19! This is an invitation to participate in the Offering of Letters--join with thousands of others in urging Congress to pass a family-friendly farm bill. The impact of the farm bill is significant. It not only affects the agriculture and food sectors - it can play a huge role in reducing food insecurity and hunger in the U.S. and abroad. Congress is still working to renew farm bill programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and international food aid programs. Among the measures that should be included are strengthening nutrition security in domestic and international programs, creating a more equitable SNAP program, and increasing food systems sustainability.

See the sample letter and tips below and bring your letters May 19! Thank you. ~Buzz Lenander

Quick Tips for an Effective Letter

- 1. Ask for a specific action, using your own words or this sentence:
 - I urge you to support a farm bill that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.
- 2. Give reasons for your request and make it personal.
 - Share a personal reason or story that motivated you to write.
 - Show own organization's commitment: "My church is helping by (example) but I also urge you to protect the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) from cuts."
- 3. Write your name and address at the end of your letter and on the envelope, so your members of Congress know you are one of their constituents.
- 4. For more impact, consider scheduling a meeting at your members office (or online) and personally deliver the letters with a delegation from your congregation/organization. You can contact your regional organizer for support.
- 5. Send your letters to your member's local office or DC offices, and please don't mail them to Bread for the World. If you're mailing your letter, put each letter in a separate envelope and address it. To send a personalized email, go to bread.org/farmbill.
 - Find addresses here: https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm



Offering of Letters Sample

[Date]
Rep U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515
Sen U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510
Dear Senator, / Dear Representative,
The farm bill is our nation's most important national food system legislation. It is critical to the work of ending hunger at home and abroad. Indeed, the farm bill impacts each one of us.
As Congress works to renew our food and farm programs through the farm bill, I urge you to support legislation that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.
Specifically, I ask you to:
 Protect SNAP from funding cuts and further restrictions. Increase funding for fresh produce within SNAP benefits through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP). Reduce food waste by cosponsoring the Food Date Labeling Act, H.R.3159/S.1484. Reauthorize the Food for Peace global nutrition program at no less than its current level of \$2.5 billion annually and allow additional flexibility to provide the most effective form of assistance in each local context.
[Add a sentence or two about why this is important to you. For example: As a person of faith, I am moved to help and advocate for people experiencing hunger and poverty – no matter where they live. This is why I urge you to support a farm bill that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.]
Sincerely,
[Your name] [Your address]

Attention Assisting Ministers and Communion Assistants: The current schedules for assisting ministers and communion assistants end at the end of May. Shortly (after I return from Synod Assembly), I will be making the new schedules. This schedule will cover June through November-- up to Advent. This is your chance to tell me of any dates you know you will not be able to serve. Of course, as always, if you find that a date does not work for you, please find a replacement or trade with someone. The roster of servers is always included on the schedule I send out, plus it is posted in the sacristy. Please do not call me, Deb or Kristi to find you a replacement unless it is a last minute emergency.

Everyone: Have you ever considered becoming more involved with the worship service? We are always in need of more communion assistants and assisting ministers. Over the last months, we have lost people in these positions. Please consider serving in this way. Those of us who do this find it very meaningful. Personalized training available! Please see me to find out more information or sign up! ~Peace, Terry Cole, tecole51@comcast.net

Opportunities to Donate:

- Donations of nonperishable foodstuffs to the Storehouse (barrels in the Narthex). Pet food is also welcome.
- We collect aluminum so our children can spend that money on ministries that support families around the world. Place your donations in the blue bin in Friendship Corner.
- We also collect the pop-tops from all aluminum cans for Ronald McDonald House. Place your donation in the basket under the clock in the office.

Thanks! ~Nancy Matthews

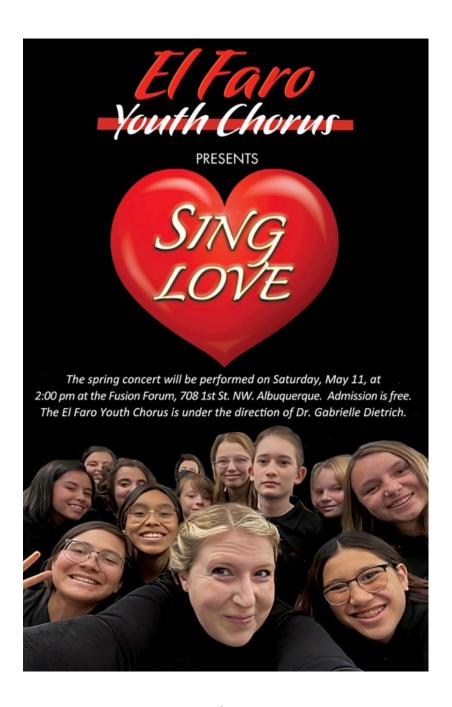
Visiting today? Please fill out a "Welcome" card in your pew so we can get to know you! ~Pr. Koppel

From Local Partner Organizations

ABQ Asylum Seekers Welcome-Heads Up!! We will be receiving a bus on May 9th. We will be receiving buses every other week. If you are interested in joining the group, there is some training involved. Please contact me at revdm1950@gmail.com. ~Rae VanDeMotter



Greetings from ABQ FaithWorks Collaborative! In March, we welcomed our new Executive Director, Hannah Albee. She looks forward to visiting all the collaborating congregations and getting to know us. You can learn more about Hannah on our website at www.abqfaithworks.org. We are looking for volunteers to be family liaisons for the newcomer program, which helps asylum seekers navigate their journey in Albuquerque. There are other volunteer opportunities as well. Please contact us at 505-457-1728 to learn more. ~Dora Gallegos



May at St. Pau	May	at	St.	Pau
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Thu 2 May		Friends Feeding Friends providing First Thursday meal for HopeWorks
Fri 3 May	7pm	Coro Lux in Concert: Carmina Burana, Sanctuary
Sat 4 May	7pm	Coro Lux in Concert: Carmina Burana, Sanctuary
Sun 5 May	10am 11:15am	Worship St. Paul 101, Fellowship Hall
Tue 7 May	4-6pm	First Tuesday, SW Grape & Grain, 3401 Candelaria NE
Wed 8 May	lpm	Ice Cream Social Hour, Dairy Queen, 4104 Louisiana Blvd NE, 87109
Sun 12 May	10am 11:15am	Worship Adult Faith Development: ABQ Open Space- Jim Sattler, Conference Room
Sun 19 May	10am 11:15am	Worship – Pentecost, Bread For The World Sunday Adult Faith Development: Synod Assembly Report, Conference Room
Tue 21 May	1-3pm	Women Rowing North Book Group, Chapel
Thu 23 May	9-11am	Women Rowing North Book Group, Chapel
Sun 26 May	10am 11:15am	Worship God's Work Our Hands Monthly Project: put together senior supplies kits for Adopted Families
Mon 27 May		Office closed for Memorial Day

Note: Saturday, June 1 @ 2pm Barbara Maxwell Memorial & Reception

For meetings and other building uses, please visit St. Paul's online calendar:

https://www.stpaulabq.org/calendar