

## DCE Minute – Answered Prayers.

But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. (Luke 11:12) Many of us have spent this past 1 year and 9 months bringing God prayers that we may have felt went unheard or we weren’t satisfied with His answer. But I think Zechariah and Elizabeth are a great example of what it looks like to continue praying in faith.

We know everything is in God’s timing. In Zechariah and Elizabeth’s life we know when we encounter them that they are old. So when did they start praying for a child? How many years had it been that they waited to have their prayer answered? Did they ever have moments they gave up and stopped praying because it just seemed like the answer wasn’t going to be positive?

I think those are all questions that have been struggled with in this congregation. God has promised to hear our prayers and to answer them but doesn’t promise when or how. Our prayer life is built on our faith that the Lord keeps His promises and He promises He will answer. The hard part for us is keeping the faith when His answer seems delayed or not in the pipeline.

We see that evident in this narrative of Scripture. The answer to Zechariah’s prayer came many years after Zechariah probably wanted it answered. But the answer ends up being something better than Zechariah ever probably imagined. So unbelievable that he even lost his speech for a time. Not only will he have a son but this son will have the task of preparing people for the coming Messiah.

God does not promise that all of the answers to our prayers will be so extravagantly beyond what we can imagine. But He does promise to answer, and He has provided in Jesus Christ the promise of the resurrection and the New Creation where all the longings of this present broken world will be answered and healed.

We now stand in the after seeing our prayers for a pastor and principal be answered in the same month. Hopefully these things can help serve as a reminder about God hearing and answering our prayers. Now may we continue faithfully in our prayers as these two servants and their families join our congregation.

So what does this mean for us today and every day? Continue to pray, trusting that the Lord is hearing and, in His time, and wisdom, He will answer.

*Brittany*



### Youth Ministry Schedule

Join us for youth group!

5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade- 6:00-7:30 pm

High School- 7:30-9:00 pm

#### Confirmation Sunday

May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am

#### Senior Sunday

May 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Last Youth Groups:

5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade- May 19<sup>th</sup>

High School-May 26<sup>th</sup>

#### Scuba VBS

June 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

#### Family Resource to Check Out:

*Indescribable: 100 Devotions for Kids About God and Science*

By Louie Giglio (Author), Nicola Anderson (Illustrator)

**“While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John.” John 11:11-13 (NLT)**

# MAY BIRTHDAYS



5/01: DuAnne Deremer  
5/02: Doug Barth  
Ryan Dennis Richters  
5/03: Barb Barth  
5/05: Keenan Kosek  
Jayne Griffiths  
5/06: Artha Rutledge  
5/07: Joel Fehlhafer  
Brenda Gierhan  
Monika Colburn  
Drew Rodine  
5/08: Ronald Erks  
Trevor Fehlhafer  
Layla Marie Sugden  
Billie Flick  
5/09: Annie (Fehlhafer) Kmoch  
Carl Fehlhafer  
Diane Mooney  
5/10: Broderick Borchers  
Luke Dey  
5/11: Mary Stoll  
5/13: Melissa Grantski  
Nixon Borchers  
5/15: Christopher Butzke  
Amity (Bruns) Melvin  
Wade Heine  
5/16: Richard Burhoop  
Rachel (Rathjen) Hinz  
Diane Steinhausen  
5/17: Carter Fritz  
Lonna Richters  
5/18: Nicholas Grantski  
5/19: Christal Fehlhafer

5/20: Anthony Thoman  
Paxton Fritz  
5/22: Ashley Hans  
Louis Isaiah Schmieding  
Nora Grace Schmieding  
Penny Stahr  
Amber Tonniges  
5/23: Gladys Luebbe  
Brayden Neujahr  
5/24: Jenni Conell  
Emily Luebbe  
Stacey Schlechte  
5/25: Teresa Rathjen  
Cayden Richters  
5/26: Cameron Eggeston  
5/27: Loyd Erks  
Shawn Schmieding  
Jeff Wellman  
Clinton Gruber  
5/28: Lynette Gierhan  
Karl Heine  
5/29: Otto Dean Kmoch  
Dominique (Richters) Schmieding  
5/30: Preston Stuhr

*\*If you don't see your name here and you have a May birthday or your date is incorrect, call the church office (534-2200) or e-mail: [church.secretary@stpaulutica.com](mailto:church.secretary@stpaulutica.com). Thanks!*



# The May Grapevine

## St. Paul Lutheran Church

Phone # (402) 534 2200

WEB Site: [www.stpaulutica.com](http://www.stpaulutica.com)



Join Our Education Hour  
10:15-11:15  
Adults Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall  
Preschool meets in the classroom across from the fellowship hall.  
K-8th Grades Meet in the School Gym



The voters meeting scheduled for May 19 has been rescheduled to June 2 at 10:30AM

The May Administrative meetings will be held May 14, 7:00 PM with the Council meeting at 7:45 PM.

Bulletin/Newsletter Announcement-----  
LLL Scholarship Grant Applications—Are you interested in full-time church work? Now is the time to apply for an LLL Scholarship Grant! Contact Virginia Von Seggern at email [virginia.vonseggern251@gmail.com](mailto:virginia.vonseggern251@gmail.com) or phone 402-655-2254. They are also available on the website of the Nebraska District LC-MS ([www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org)). Applications are due in mid-May of 2024, so apply early. We are grateful for those students interested in full-time church work. Have you had an LLL Scholarship Grant previously? You MUST RE-APPLY to extend your grant each year.



Card Social  
May 12, 2024  
7:00 PM  
Everyone is welcome to join.  
Bring a snack to share.



Ladies Aid  
Mother's Day Tea  
All ladies are invited  
May 2, 2024 1:00 PM  
Coffee, tea, cookies, and entertainment provided.



Mother's Day and Graduation Cards are available to purchase in the quilting room. Check them out!



We are taking applications for a part time teacher position (two half days per week) in grades 7-8, please talk to Mr. Brauer, a school board member, or contact the school office if you are interested.



Sign up for VBS  
SCUBA  
"Diving into Friendship with God"  
June 3rd- 7th 8:30-11:15 AM  
Register by visiting our church website or scan the QR code found on the postcard at the VBS table.

Check out our church website at [stpaulutica.com](http://stpaulutica.com). You can access our live stream, the weekly worship folder, newsletter, prayer list, send in prayer requests, 125th Celebration, Grapevine, Church calendar, Time and talent survey, and also the online giving portal.

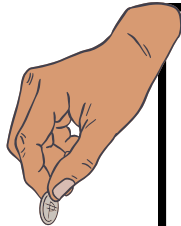
### Bible Study Opportunities

**\*\*Women's Bible Study\*\***  
All Ages Welcome  
This Bible study meets  
Thursday 9:00 AM studying:  
"Pew Sisters" "Real Women. Real Lives.  
Real Stories of God's Faithfulness."  
(Child Care Provided)  
6:00 PM Sunday


**Men's Bible Study**  
Every Friday  
6:00AM

**Monday Mornings**  
9:00 AM  
We are currently studying:  
Leaning on Jesus

**Women's Bible Study**  
Sundays 6:00 PM  
Studying: Ecclesiastes  
(During Junior High Youth Group)



Access our online giving through the QR code provided here or by going to our church website [stpaulutica.com](http://stpaulutica.com). Vanco will provide you with a user-friendly and secure way to support our Church's mission and ministries.



# SCHOOL NEWS

St Paul School Phone Number  
402 534 2121

## Offerings for May will go to Orphan Grain Train

Our Kindergarten graduation will be held on Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00 P.M. We celebrate our ten graduates: Trent Duis, Jax Eikenhorst, Ella Grace, Scarlett Gruber, Hallie Hohman, Rylee Outhet, Kenna Pankoke, Barret Schlechte, Keegan Wollenburg, and Sullivan Zarek. Everyone is invited to this graduation celebration and to the reception following the service in the gym.

The last day of school will be on Wednesday, May 15 with closing worship at 10:00 A.M. Following this service, the Board of Education, teachers, and Ann Murray will serve a barbecued hamburger and hot-dog lunch. The whole congregation and all comers are invited to the closing worship and picnic lunch, so please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Two eighth graders will graduate during worship on Sunday, May 19: Carter Fritz and Libby Johnson. We pray that the Lord will continue to guide their steps, and that the learning and experiences they obtained at St. Paul has well prepared them for high school and all future life endeavors.

The 5th and 6th grade class will be performing "Archie of the Amazon" on May 1 at 7:00 P.M., and grades 3-4 will present their spring musical "Holy Moses!" at 7:00 P.M. on May 8. Everyone is welcome to attend these performances for evenings filled with fun and fellowship.

We still have open enrollment for our 2024-2025 preschool classes. If you are interested in a Christ centered preschool, please visit with Pam Johansen or Mr. Brauer. Also, if you know of anyone interested in attending our school from Kindergarten through Eighth Grade, please have them contact Mr. Brauer.

We are still collecting supplies for the People City Mission: especially requested are peanut butter and Jelly, kids' shoes, summer flip-flops, sandals, crocs, athletic shoes, towels, and pillows. You may bring your donations to school anytime before May 7. Thank you.

## May School Calendar

- 5-1 7:00 PM 5-6 Grade Play  
Archie of the Amazon  
**\*\*Everyone is welcome for an evening of fun and fellowship\*\***
- 5-2 8:30 AM 5-6th Grade Field Trip to Hastings Museum
- 5-3 2:00 PM Kindergarten Mother's Day Tea
- 5- 5-11 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5-7 8:30 AM 5-6th Grade Service day at People City Mission
- 5-8 8:35 AM Chapel with Brittany  
Offerings go to Orphan Grain Train  
7:00 PM 3-4th Grade Musical  
Holy Moses!  
**\*\*Everyone is welcome for an evening of fun and fellowship\*\***
- 5-9 10:00 AM Preschool Family Celebration  
2:00 PM Preschool Family Celebration
- 5-10 8:30 AM 3-4th Grade Field Trip to Pioneer Village
- 5-13 Last Day of Preschool
- 5-15 Last Day of School  
10:00 AM Closing Worship  
11:15 AM School and Congregation Picnic (NO Bus Service)  
7:00 PM Kindergarten Graduation
- 5-21 9:00 AM 8th Grade Graduation  
Mr. and Mrs. Brauer Retirement Celebration after Sunday School

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our school's fund raisers this past school year: Christmas Sales, Holiday Bazaar, Fun Day, SCRIP, Our Family Bar Codes, Valentine Adventure, Thrivent's Choice Program, The People City Mission Box, and the Free Will Donation for Ice in the Lunchroom. Please continue to support these wonderful programs as we move into the 2024-2025 school year.

## May Church Events

- 5-1 3:45 PM 8th Grade Confirmation Class  
5-2 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study  
2:00 PM Ladies Aid  
5-3 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
5-5 **10:30 AM** Worship with Holy Communion

### **Confirmation Sunday**

### **NO Sunday School**

### **NO Bible Study and Fellowship Hour**

- 6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group  
6:00 PM Women's Bible Study  
7:30 PM High School Youth  
5-6 8:45 AM Orphan Gran Train  
9:00 AM Bible Study  
5-9 All Day DCE Meeting  
9:00 AM Women's Bible Study  
7:00 PM Ascension Worship Service  
5-10 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
5-12 **MOTHERS DAY**  
9:00 AM Worship  
**High School Graduate Service**  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
10:15 AM Bible Study and Fellowship Hour  
6:00 PM Junior High Youth Group  
6:00 PM Women's Bible Study  
7:00 PM Card Social  
7:30 PM High School Youth  
5-13 9:00 AM Bible Study  
5-14 7:00 PM Administrative Meetings  
7:45 PM Council Meeting  
5-15 Last Day of School  
10:00 AM Closing Chapel  
11:15 AM Picnic  
5-17 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
5-19 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion  
K-8 Sing in Worship  
**8th Grade Graduation**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Brauer's retirement**  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
10:15 AM Bible Study and Fellowship Hour  
6:00 PM 5-8th Grade Youth  
6:00 PM Women's Bible Study  
7:30 PM High School Youth  
5-20 9:00 AM Bible Study  
7:30 PM Ladies Auxiliary  
5-21 1:30 PM Nimble Thimbles  
5-22 8:45 AM Orphan Grain Train  
6:30 PM 125th Committee Meeting  
5-24 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study

## May Events continued

- 5-26 9:00 AM Worship w/ Communion  
10:15 AM Sunday School  
10:15 AM Bible Study and Fellowship  
6:00 PM NO 5-8th Grade Youth  
7:30 PM High School Youth  
5-28 8:00 PM LLL Meeting  
5-31 6:00 AM Men's Bible Study

## May Worship

### Leaders

### **May Sound Booth**

**Curt & DuAnne  
Deremer and  
Barb Erks**

### Organist:

- 5-5 Donnetta Schmieding  
5-9 Dylan Teut (Ascension)  
5-12 Pat Koch  
5-19 Dylan Teut  
5-26 Donnetta Schmieding

### LAV READERS:

- 5-5 Seth Ford  
5-12 Tim Heidorn  
5-19 Devin Slawnyk  
5-26 Jamie Kovac

### Children's Message:

- 5-5 Ann Gardels  
5-12 Rachel Saunders  
5-19 Jody Wiemer  
5-26 Brittany Fulcer
- ### Acolytes
- 5-5 Jake Hoffschneider  
5-12 Piper Baack  
5-19 Molly Bulgrin  
5-26 Tripp Hawley

## April Scripture

### Readings

May 5

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 10:34-48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-8  
John 15:9-17

May 9

The Ascension of Our Lord  
Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

May 12

Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Acts 1:12-26  
Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-15  
John 17:11b-19

May 19

The Day of Pentecost  
Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 139:1-12 (13-16)  
Acts 2:1-21  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 26

The Holy Trinity  
Isaiah. 6:1-8  
Psalm 29  
Acts 2:14a, 22-36  
John 3:1-17

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10:15am - Adult Bible study</p> <p>10:15am - Sunday School</p> <p>7:30pm - High School Youth Group</p>	<p>9am - Bible Study</p>	<p>8:45am - Orphan Grain Train</p> <p>9am - Bible Study</p>	<p>3:45pm - 8th Grade Confirmation Class</p> <p>7pm - Grade Spring Play</p>	<p>9am - Women's Bible Study</p> <p>2pm - Ladies Aid</p>	<p>6am - Men's Bible Study</p>	
<p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10:15am - Adult Bible study</p> <p>10:15am - Sunday School</p> <p>6pm - \$4 Youth group</p> <p>6pm - Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:30pm - High School Youth Group</p>	<p>9am - Bible Study</p>	<p>1:30pm - LWML</p> <p>7pm - Administrative Meetings</p> <p>7:45pm - Council Meeting</p>	<p>7pm - 3-4th Grade Spring Musical</p>	<p>9am - Preschool Family Day</p> <p>10am - Preschool Family Day</p> <p>2pm - Preschool Family Day</p> <p>7pm - Ascension Worship Service</p>	<p>6am - Men's Bible Study</p>	
<p>High School Graduation Honor Service</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10:15am - Adult Bible study</p> <p>10:15am - Sunday School</p> <p>6pm - \$4 Youth group</p> <p>6pm - Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7pm - Card Social</p> <p>7:30pm - High School Youth Group</p>	<p>9am - Bible Study</p>	<p>1:30pm - LWML</p> <p>7pm - Administrative Meetings</p> <p>7:45pm - Council Meeting</p>	<p>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</p> <p>10am - Closing Chapel Service</p> <p>11:15am - Picnic Lunch</p>	<p>9am - Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>6am - Men's Bible Study</p>	
<p>8th Grade Graduation</p> <p>Mrs. &amp; Mrs. Brauer Retirement Dinner</p> <p>9am - K-8th Grade Sing</p> <p>9am - Worship with Communion</p> <p>10:15am - Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am - Voters Meeting</p> <p>6pm - 5-8 Youth group</p> <p>6pm - Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:30pm - High School Youth Group</p>	<p>9am - Bible Study</p> <p>7:30pm - Ladies Auxiliary Meeting</p>	<p>1:30pm - Nimble Thinkers</p>	<p>8:45am - Orphan Grain Train</p> <p>6:30pm - 125th Committee Meeting</p>	<p>9am - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>6am - Men's Bible Study</p>	
<p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10:15am - Adult Bible study</p> <p>7:30pm - High School Youth Group</p>		<p>8pm - LLL Meeting</p>			<p>6am - Men's Bible Study</p>	