

M A Y 2 0 2 3

# NOTATIONS

COMING TOGETHER TO LEARN, LIVE, AND SHARE THE TRUTH OF CHRIST



## S U M M E R S C H E D U L E

May 21 will mark our last Family Bible Hour for this school year, and we will take a break for the summer months. Service time at Grace will move up to 9:30 a.m. We pray you all have a Christ-filled summer! If you are traveling, ask Pastor for the churches in the area you will be, and take advantage of the blessing of worshipping with our brothers and sisters in new locales!



Confirmation will take place on Sunday, May 21. We have two young men being confirmed in the Christian faith this year:

Breck Blaubach, Grace  
William Hahn, St. Paul's

We pray the Holy Spirit will work mightily in these young men, that they may ever remain deeply rooted in God's Word and firm in their faith. Congratulations, William and Breck!



**May**  
St. Paul's Greeters - Grace Ushers

	<b>May 7</b>	
Mark & Joline Bartelt		J Sturm, B Blaubach
	<b>May 14</b>	
Dan & Rita Pittsley		M Fasse, K Zellner
	<b>May 21</b>	
Gene & Sharon Bartelt		K Christian, M Blaubach
	<b>May 28</b>	
Joy Taylor		J Levich, M Levich

## Home to Heaven




Our heavenly Father has taken home the soul of Enid Schuster. Enid left this vale of tears on April 16; the funeral service was held at St. Paul's on April 22. While we sorrow with all who loved Enid, we rejoice that she now lives forever with our Savior in heaven.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:



Grace will celebrate her 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year! Could you help on a planning committee? Please speak to one of our church council members.

## Welcome, Little Lamb!



On May 7, Colton Joel Beilke will be baptized and made a child of God at St. Paul's. Colton, born April 19, is the son of Shane & Colleen Beilke. We pray that the Lord Jesus will ever guard and keep this little one all his days.



Thank you to our Sunday School teachers who have served so faithfully all year! Angie Hahn and Alyse Neumann diligently share God's Word with Jesus' lambs every Sunday. Thank you also to Michaela Levich for her help with music, and to Katie Sturm for assistance each week. You are all a blessing to us!

## Save the Date!



Vacation Bible School will be held July 24-28, 9:00-11:30 am at the Berlin Center. Watch for registration forms—they will be available soon!



## Grace Financial Update

March Income:	\$ 9,579.94
March Disbursements:	\$ 7,577.53
2023 Mission Goal:	\$ 5,500.00
YTD Mission Offering:	\$ 1,721.00
Percentage of Goal:	31.29%
Parsonage Garage:	\$ 4,320.00
Garage Goal:	\$ 20,000.00
Christian Ed Fund:	\$ 5,430.32
NLHS:	\$ 145.00

## St. Paul's Financial Update

March Income:	\$ 8,933.97
March Disbursements:	\$ 7,576.77
Christian Ed Fund:	\$ 1,813.00
(2023-2024, begun 7/1/22)	
YTD NLHS Offerings:	\$ 1,320.00
2023 NLHS Commitment:	\$ 4,750.00
NLHS Debt Reduction:	\$ 4,099.70
YTD Mission Offerings:	\$ 1,211.00
2023 Mission Goal:	\$ 4,000.00
Good Samaritan Fund:	\$ 1,340.00

## SEE, THE CONQUEROR MOUNTS IN TRIUMPH

Dear members and friends of St. Paul's and Grace,

Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus, the conqueror over our sin, death and hell, ascended into heaven. This year the Christian Church observes this glorious event on May 18.

See, the conqu'ror mounts in triumph; see the King in royal state,  
Riding on the clouds, his chariot, to his heav'nly palace gate.  
Hark! The choirs of angel voices joyful alleluias sing,  
And the portals high are lifted to receive their heav'nly King. [CW174:1]

After appearing to his disciples and further instructing them for forty days following his resurrection, Jesus "lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven." [Luke 24:50,51]

Why did Jesus leave his disciples here on this earth with all of its problems and troubles? Why didn't he take them with him to heaven right then and there? He left them here for one reason: that they might proclaim his gospel of salvation to others, so that they, like Enoch of the Old Testament [Genesis 5:21-24] might walk with God and that God might finally take them away to heaven at last.

While he lifts his hands in blessing, he is parted from his friends;  
While their eager eyes behold him, he upon the clouds ascends.  
He who walked with God and pleased him, preaching truth and doom to come,  
He, our Enoch, is translated to his everlasting home. [v.3]

Why has Jesus left us here on this earth to contend with our present difficulties? Why has he left his Church, and in particular our dear Grace and St. Paul's congregations, here to struggle against adversity? He has left us here for one reason—to **proclaim Christ's victory to all**, that they, too, might be saved.

How eternally important it is that we encourage one another in our congregation, proclaiming Christ's victory to them. How eternally important that we reach out beyond our congregation, and proclaim Christ's victory to others. How eternally important are our prayers and generous mission offerings, so that our missionaries far away might proclaim Christ's victory to dying sinners for whom Christ ascended into heaven that he might bring them there.

With human body and blood, sacrificed for the sins of all, Christ entered heaven with payment completed. Heaven is ours! For those to whom we proclaim Christ's victory—heaven is theirs!

He has raised our human nature on the clouds to God's right hand;  
There we sit in heav'nly places, there with him in glory stand.  
Jesus reigns, adored by angels; man with God is on the throne  
By our mighty Lord's ascension we by faith behold our own. [v.4]

God bless you as you exist and live to proclaim Christ's victory to all. God bless Grace and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches as we exist and live to proclaim Christ's victory to all.

Your friend in Christ,

Pastor Willitz

Draw us to thee, for then shall we walk in thy steps forever  
And hasten on where thou art gone to be with thee, dear Savior.

Draw us to thee, Lord, lovingly; let us depart with gladness  
That we may be forever free from sorrow, grief, and sadness.

Draw us to thee; oh, grant that we may walk the road to heaven!  
Direct our way lest we should stray and from thy paths be driven.

Draw us to thee that also we thy heav'nly bliss inherit  
And ever dwell where sin and hell no more can vex our spirit.

Draw us to thee unceasingly; into thy kingdom take us.  
Let us fore'er thy glory share; thy saints and joint heirs make us.

CW170

