

# St. Paul's Epistle

MAY 1, 2017    VOLUME 35 – NUMBER 5

## *Confirmation*



The service of Affirmation of Baptism or Confirmation will be Sunday, May 7, 2017, during morning worship.

Being confirmed are:

**Skyla Folden  
Jacob Hodges  
Kasey Kolden  
Paige Lagge  
Sarah Lagge  
Courtney Ruhland  
Samuel Scheresky  
Brooke Seidler  
Johnathan Souza  
Dawson Wimer  
Meghan Wyman  
Allyson Youngs**

We pray that God will bless these young people in their journey of faith.



We congratulate the high school seniors from our church who celebrate their graduation on May 21st. They are:

**Marc Gratton**  
**Kailee Jeffrey**  
**Kim Kolden**  
**Delaney Peterson**  
**Cole Seidler**  
**Noah Sloka**  
**Austin Wyman**  
**Cole Young**  
**Tanner Young**

We wish them God's blessing on their graduation day and we pray that God will guide them in the years to come. Graduates will be honored at church during worship and fellowship on Sunday, May 14th.

## **Rummage Sale**

Our Church Youth are having a Rummage Sale on Friday and Saturday, June 23rd & 24th.

Donations for the Rummage Sale would be appreciated. We will accept all kinds of items except TV's and computers.

Because of Sunday School, please do not bring items to the church until after May 14th. After May 14th, classrooms will be designated for different rummage sale items. Please place your things in the appropriate classroom. The room with the clothing will have boxes that are labeled with sizes. Please sort the clothing into those boxes.

Thanks for your help.

## **Circles**

Circles will meet Wednesday, May 3rd at the church at 10 am.

## **Camp of the Cross**

We are celebrating "Camp of the Cross" Sunday on Sunday, May 28th. The Camp staff will be with us for worship. They will share information about the Camp.

There will be an offering envelope in the bulletin to receive a special offering to go to the Camp. Please take this opportunity to help the Camp in its financial needs.

We are also having a Breakfast Potluck on the 28th starting at 8:30 am. The Breakfast Potluck has always been a nice way to start the morning. We will serve until 9:15. There will be an offering basket for the Camp at the potluck. Please join us.

We hope you can take part in all of the activities on "Camp of the Cross Sunday" on the 28th.

## Mother the Camp

May is "Mother the Camp" month. A table is set up in the narthex to receive donations. A list of needed items is also by the table. A wide variety of things are needed.

If you are unable to go shopping for them, a box is on the table to deposit checks and cash, allowing the camp to purchase items most needed.



### **Youth:**

#### **April:**

Four youth attended the 7-9 grade Bash at Camp of the Cross. They had a great time out at camp!

Joyful Noise practiced a few times and sang at the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday and April 30.

7&8 grade LYO served Caramel Rolls & Coffee for fellowship, Palm Sunday.

8-11 grade LYO served and hosted our Appetizer/Dessert Theatre on Palm Sunday.

11-12 graders helped set up for Easter.

9-10 grade LYO served/cleaned up Easter Breakfast.

7-8 LYO sold mosquitoes to help with the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Thanks to all the great servers for our fundraisers! Thanks to Mike Youngs for writing the play used on Palm Sunday and to the actors, Mike Youngs, Dick Hendrickson, Janis Sloka and Deb Youngs. Thanks to everyone who donated muffins & eggs, those who cooked eggs and helped clean up at our fundraisers! We appreciate all of your involvement!

May:

3 - 9th graders & Faith Friends meet at 7:30pm

14 - Rummage Sale Committee meets after worship - Label rooms & boxes

June:

Save the Date! The Blind Volley Ball Fundraiser is scheduled for June 10, 2017 at 11 am, at the GHS gym. We will make up teams with those who register and then the teams will play in a tournament. The blind part is that there will be blankets covering the net, so that the two teams can't see each other. Fun! This will be a fundraiser for us. (We are doing this instead of the Rainbow Run.) Youth and adults can sign up on Loree's office door to be put on a Volley Ball team. Cost to register is \$15 before June 7th and \$20 after June 7th. There will be Free Will Offering for spectators to come and watch, and some kind of lunch available to buy.

St Paul 7th-12th grade LYO: we will have a Bake Sale in conjunction with the Blind Volley Ball. Bring bake sale items on Saturday, June 10, by 10:30 am. Loree would appreciate it if there is a parent that would be in charge of the Bake Sale, let her know😊.

**Save the Dates!**

June 21, 7-12 LYO sets up and June 24 cleans up for our annual Rummage Sale. It's a BIG fundraiser! We need lots of help!

Summer Fellowship: 7th-12th LYO sign up for fellowship on Loree's office door or call or email the church to let us know what date you want to serve this summer.

Other:

There will be a Retirement Open House for Pastor Dick & Sue Hendrickson at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Garrison on June 11, 2017, from 2-4pm. Come and celebrate Pastor Dick's 40 years in the ministry and wish Dick and Sue a wonderful retirement.

The last Tuesday morning Bible Study on "The Best Yes" is on May 2nd. Loree will start another one this summer. Stay tuned for what it will be. We can also have an evening study if there is any interest, let Loree know.



be with you.  
As the Father has  
sent me,  
so I send you."

John 20:21, NRSV

One of our Old Testament Bible stories on a Lenten Wednesday this year was the story of Ezra and Nehemiah. In that story the people of God needed to hear God's Word.

In the Old Testament, the three kings of Israel were Saul, David and Solomon. After Solomon the country was split into two countries, Israel and Judah. Eventually, the two countries were conquered by enemies and the people of God were taken into exile.

In that day, that's how you kept your enemy from getting back into power. You completely destroyed their country and you took the people into your country where you could keep an eye on them and they couldn't get back into power. The people in the Nehemiah story were in exile in Babylon for 50 years.

It must have been a devastating time. Ripped from your home and your homeland. Put into a different culture. Having to learn a different language.



Living in a place that didn't worship your God and you had to figure out a way to do that for yourself.

In our story for Lent, the exile was over and God's people had been allowed to return home. Many people didn't go back. They didn't want to leave Babylon. It had become their home so a small group returned. Even though they were home, life was hard. They had to rebuild their homes. They had to rebuild their temple so they could worship God again. They had to rebuild Jerusalem. Most towns had a wall around it for protection. The people of God had to rebuild that wall. It was hard work.

That was Nehemiah's job. He was the governor of that region and he worked hard to rebuild Jerusalem.

When the work was done, they had a time of worship. They worshiped for six hours and they thought it was great. Ezra read God's word to the people. It was as if they'd never heard the word of God before. There were many days when they thought all had been lost and now they heard that God was their strength. God was with them. God was guiding them. God was carrying them to this new day.

Like those Israelites, we always want to remember that God touches our lives in so many ways. God showers us with some great gifts.

Sometimes though, life doesn't go the way we want. It may not be as dark as an exile but it's not what we would chose if we were in charge of life.

We must never be like God's people in exile. They thought God had abandoned them and the opposite was true. God was working hard to carry them to a new day. God was with them in their darkest hour and that was the greatest miracle of all.

God is with us in the joys of our lives and in the sorrows of our lives. That's God's greatest gift. God is with us in the beauty around us. God is with us when we need God the most.

*"Do not grieve, for the joy  
of the LORD  
is your strength."*

*Nehemiah 8:10, NIV*



*Dick Hendrickson*