



St. Paul's United Methodist Church of Odessa  
*Reaching Up Reaching In Reaching Out*  
Pastor Linda Ray, 406 Main Street, Odessa, DE 302-378-2420  
[www.stpaulsodessa.org](http://www.stpaulsodessa.org), CCLI 11305346 and Streaming Lic. 21184487

**Christ the King Sunday**  
**United Methodist Student Sunday**

November 26, 2023, 8:30 AM Service, ASL & Livestreaming  
WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

**WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES**

**GATHERING MUSIC AND PHOTOS:**

Duane Dillard, Music Ministry, Mark Holden, Photographer & Curator

**\*GATHERING WORDS:**

Liturgist – Adrienne Dillard

One: Make a joyful noise, a noise of service and love.

Many: **Praise God with lives of compassion.**

One: Sing with acts of kindness.

Many: **Glorify God with acts of mercy.**

One: Praise God with works of justice.

Many: **Praise God with overflowing love.**

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP:**

*Thank You, Lord*

Red Hymnal 84

**\*OPENING PRAYER:** (all praying): **God of grace and God of glory, reveal yourself through our lives and through our love. Shine your wisdom and truth into our hearts this day. On this United Methodist Student Day, we ask for a special blessing on the students of this congregation. Encourage them and bless them in their studies. Help us know the hope to which we are called, that we may be the servants you craft us to be. We are secure in Christ, whose reign is just, whose power is endless, whose reign is just, and whose love is beyond our understanding. God of Eternity, we join the chorus of saints who continue to declare that Christ is our King. In your glory and grace, we pray. Amen**

**CHILDREN'S TIME:**

*Peace for the Children*

Green Hymnal 3125

Adrienne Dillard shares a blessing with our children!

**PASS THE PEACE:**

*There's a Spirit of Love in This Place*

Green Hymnal 3148

**FIRST LESSON:** *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (CEB)*

The Lord God proclaims: I myself will search for my flock and seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out the flock when some in the flock have been scattered, so will I seek out my flock. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered during the time of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will gather and lead them out from the countries and peoples, and I will bring them to their own fertile land. I will feed them on Israel's highlands, along the riverbeds, and in all the inhabited places. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them in good pasture, and their sheepfold will be there, on Israel's lofty highlands. On Israel's highlands, they will lie down in a secure fold and feed on green pastures. <sup>15</sup>I myself will feed my flock and make them lie down. This is what the Lord God says. <sup>16</sup>I will seek out the lost, bring back the strays, bind up the wounded, and strengthen the weak. But the fat and the strong I will destroy, because I will tend my sheep with justice.

So the Lord God proclaims to them: I will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>You shove with shoulder and flank, and with your horns you ram all the weak sheep until you've scattered them outside. <sup>22</sup>But I will rescue my flock so that they will never again be prey. I will even judge between the sheep! <sup>23</sup>I will appoint for them a

single shepherd, and he will feed them. My servant David will feed them. He will be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David will be their prince. I, the Lord, have spoken.

\*GOSPEL LESSON: *Matthew 25:31-46 (CEB)*

<sup>31</sup>“Now when the Human One<sup>[a]</sup> comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left. <sup>34</sup>“Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. <sup>35</sup>I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.’

<sup>37</sup>“Then those who are righteous will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? <sup>39</sup>When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

<sup>40</sup>“Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’

<sup>41</sup>“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>I was hungry and you didn’t give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn’t give me anything to drink. <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you didn’t welcome me. I was naked and you didn’t give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’

<sup>44</sup>“Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn’t do anything to help you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer, ‘I assure you that when you haven’t done it for one of the least of these, you haven’t done it for me.’ <sup>46</sup>And they will go away into eternal punishment. But the righteous ones will go into eternal life.”

One: May this story inspire us all. **ALL: To walk in the way that leads to life.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *Give Thanks* Black Hymnal 2036

THE MESSAGE: “Born To Be King” Pastor Linda Ray

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*You may speak aloud your joys and concerns.*)

#### WE GIVE THANKS

#### OFFERTORY REMINDERS

Today’s **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **11/26/23 United Methodist Student Day.**

Offertory: *Joy and Delight* Handbell Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all praying): **Compassionate God, help us show grace and mercy to everyone we meet. Help us see your face in every hungry child, in every tired woman, in every disappointed man. Help us hear your cry in every person who mourns, every person who is lonely, every person who groans in pain. We long to set aside our fear and love courageously. Bathe us in your presence and grant us the courage and the confidence to act with compassion and love. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: Pastor Linda Ray  
Officiant Server – Adrienne Dillard

**Reader 2 (singing)** :The Lord be with you.

*Communion Setting 2257-a*

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Reader 2:** Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Reader 2:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Reader 1:** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we

turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Communion Setting 2257-b*

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

**Reader 2:** Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and Spirit. At his ascension you exalted him to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

(Lifting and breaking the bread) On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave God thanks, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

**Reader 1:** (Lifting the cup) When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to his disciples, and said "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

*Communion Setting 2257-c*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

*Communion Setting 2257-d*

**Reader 2:** Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

**Reader 2:** Let us join our hearts and voices in the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory Forever. AMEN.**

COMMUNION SONG:

*Here Is Bread, Here Is Wine*

Black Hymnal 2266

*(The congregation will come forward to partake of the bread and cup.)*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SERVICE

CLOSING MUSIC:

*God Is Good, All the Time*

Green Hymnal 3026

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Adrienne Dillard

Audio/Video: Charlii Miller & John Littell & John Cate & Carlotta Cline

Communion Officiant/Server: Adrienne Dillard

Duane Dillard, Minister of Music, ASL Interpreter: Gail Garner

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor	<a href="mailto:lindaray@vaumc.org">lindaray@vaumc.org</a>	(540) 207-1787
Bonnie Valeski, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org">bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org</a>	(302) 378-2420
Alice Mullins, Financial/Treasurer	<a href="mailto:stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org">stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org</a>	(302) 293-9956
Duane Dillard, Minister of Music	<a href="mailto:duanedillard@gmail.com">duanedillard@gmail.com</a>	(443) 593-2470
Thomas Maloney, Director of Music	<a href="mailto:thomaseamaloney@gmail.com">thomaseamaloney@gmail.com</a>	
Jin Kyung Seo, Organist/Accompanist	<a href="mailto:jinksblue@gmail.com">jinksblue@gmail.com</a>	

### ANNOUNCEMENTS - THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S:

<b>Sunday 11/26</b>	<b>Worship Services 8:30AM ASL &amp; Livestreaming and 11AM, Adult &amp; Children's Bible Study/School 9:45AM.</b>
<b>Monday 11/27</b>	<b>BSA Mtg 7PM</b>
<b>Tuesday 11/28</b>	<b>ODB, Cub Scouts 6PM</b>
<b>Wednesday 11/29</b>	<b>TOPS Mtg 6PM, Bell 6PM &amp; Choir 7PM Rehearsals</b>
<b>Thursday 11/30</b>	<b>10AM Prayer and Praise Group</b>
<b>Friday 12/01</b>	<b>JOY Group ELF at the Everett at 7:30PM</b>
<b>Saturday 12/02</b>	<b>AA Mtg 7PM</b>

**JOY EVENT FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>!!!!** Please join us for a fun evening at the Everett Theater! We will be seeing the GP&L play, "Elf." The show begins at 7:30, but if there is enough interest, we will do dinner at Pat's Restaurant beforehand. Tickets will be available Sunday the 26th, so please contact Karen Ellis or Nadine Johnson to sign up and purchase them.

**ELF** presented by God's Power & Light at the Everett Theatre Dec. 1,2,3.

**ADOPT-A-FAMILY:** St. Paul's is, once again, participating in the Adopt-a-Family program in partnership with Neighborhood House. We will be helping 10 families, adults and children, have a merrier Christmas this year! The sign-up table is in the narthex with the "wish list" of each family. Once you have signed up for a gift(s), we will give you a paper with step-by-step instructions as well as a list of the item(s) you volunteered to purchase. After you have purchased the items, please wrap them and place a sticker on the package with the Family # and the Member # indicated. All gifts are due back to St. Paul's no later than Sunday December 10. If you have any questions, please reach out to Brenda Shaffer either by e-mail ([brendashaffer@verizon.net](mailto:brendashaffer@verizon.net)) or cell phone (302-561-5087). Thank you for your giving hearts!

**BIRTHDAYS:** November 26 - Diane Shoun; November 29 - Heidi Allen; November 30 - Sibyl Pompeo; December 01 - Konark Christiam, Ryan Scott.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** November 28 - David & Rev. Cynthia Koski

**PRAYER REQUEST BOX** is available in the Narthex along with the prayer request cards. Just complete the form, fold, and drop in the box on the corner shelf located at the second set of doors into Fellowship Hall.

**PRAYERS FOR:** Noel Lukens, Sue Holden's sister, Betsey Snipes, David Dudgeon, Dorothy Dudgeon, Carolyn Akin, Jonathan Brooks, Ginny Lewis, Mary Ingram's friend Maureen, John Guy, Maria Gregors, Rick Wooters, Levi Schrum and family, Matthew Smith, Marilyn Hendershot, Allison, Dennis Downes, Angela Christian's mother - Mala, Ryan, Ty Somersshield - cousin to Don Mueller, Jeffrey & Cheryl Martin, Nancy-

sister of Alice Rizzo, Nancy Judd, Doris Uhde, Liz Ravilious – Carl Ravilious’ step-mother, Ethan Porter, Janet Miller, Ann Newswanger.

### **Upcoming Yellow Hat Schedule for December 2023**

12/03/23 El Ayudante Child, Yesprin  
12/10/23 Neighborhood House  
12/17/23 Love thy Neighbor Fund (Carole Harmon)  
12/24/23 St Paul’s General Fund  
12/31/23 Neighborhood House

*Please make sure ALL checks are made payable to St. Paul’s UMC, including checks for the Yellow Hat missions, writing the organization’s name on the memo line.*

*All donations are collected, recorded, entered in the system, and deposited into the Church’s operating account on a weekly basis. Also, on a weekly basis, a check is mailed to the specified yellow hat organization for the total amount collected.*

*It is very important that donations be placed in the offering plate, yellow hat or mailed to St. Paul’s UMC. You are also welcome to drop off donations in the grey box just inside the side door to the Church, making sure it is secured in an envelope with your name on the front. This is to guarantee acknowledgement of your donations when the yearly contribution statement is sent for tax purposes.*

*Thank you all for your continued support for St. Paul’s as we are growing in our faith through generosity.*

*Alice Mullins, Treasurer*



## **St. Paul’s Mission Statement**

### **Reaching Up to praise God in vibrant worship**

God calls us to live out our discipleship grounded in Christ’s awakening us to the glory and majesty of God in all creation, and we respond together by worshiping God with our gratitude and praise. Standing or lifting our hands high are both ancient postures of worship, and so our dance of discipleship involves reaching up with our hearts, souls, and bodies, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.*

*For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

*Psalms 100:4-5 (NRSV)*

### **Reaching In to deepen our spiritual walk with Christ**

Christ accepts us as we are, and then calls us to follow him and learn from him, growing in our spiritual walk-through practices the church calls spiritual disciplines: prayer, fasting, meditation, studying God’s Word, individually and with others. As we grow in the knowledge of God, we discover more about the extraordinary plans God has for our lives.

*“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”*

*John 8:31-32 (NRSV)*

### **Reaching Out with acts of love and compassion**

Here’s where it all comes together! Assured of God’s eternal love, strengthened by the grace and knowledge of Christ, we are ready for the Holy Spirit to kindle a fire in our lives, gifting us for the labor of love God has prepared for us to accomplish. Having fallen in love with God, we love and serve our neighbors.

*“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”*  
*Matthew 25:40 (NRSV)*

## **MISSIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **WEEKLY GATHERINGS – CHURCH BUILDING**

OFFICE HOURS Tuesday -Thursday, 9 AM-2 PM

- Boy Scouts –Mondays 7-8:30 PM
- Cub Scouts –Tuesdays 6-8 PM
- TOPS Meeting – Wednesdays 6 PM.
- St. Paul’s Prayer and Praise Group Ministry – Thursdays 10 AM @Carole Harmon’s Home
- St. Paul’s Handbell Rehearsal – Wednesdays 6 PM
- St. Paul’s Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays 7 PM
- AA Meeting – Saturdays 7 PM

### **MONTHLY GATHERINGS**

- Finance Meeting – 2nd Monday 6:30 PM
- Trustees Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 6:30 PM
- SPRC Meeting – 4th Thursday 6:30 PM
- Leadership Meeting – 3rd Tuesday 6:30 PM
- PFLAG Meeting – 3rd Thursday 6:30 PM
- Reconciling Ministries – TBD

**Adult Bible Study** will resume Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 9:45AM.

**Children’s Sunday School** will resume Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 9:45AM.

### **Flowers for Worship**

If you are interested in honoring a loved one with flowers at the altar on a particular Sunday, we are asking you to contact Alicia Blackwell, from Wildflowers by Alicia to place your order. Alicia can be reached at (302) 593-9884. Also, please email the church office so we make sure the information is added in the bulletin.

### **Compassionate Card Ministry**

The Compassionate Card Ministry is made up of 20 dedicated members of our congregation who create hand-made cards and encouraging messages to those in our directory, within our congregation, those on our prayer lists and others who are brought to our attention. Our purpose is to spread kindness and love to others through uplifting and personalized sentiments on hand-made cards. If you are not in our directory and would like to be added to our list, or if you know someone who would benefit from the blessing of a card, please contact Nancee Bleistine, [nbleistine@yahoo.com](mailto:nbleistine@yahoo.com) or 609-217-1924.

### **Prayer and Praise Group Ministry**

Carole Harmon hosts a prayer circle, currently Thursday mornings at 10 AM - in person. Please contact Carole if you are interested in joining the group or have a special prayer request. You can also find prayer request cards and box on the corner shelf in the Narthex.

### **VANCO: Manage Your Giving Online**

Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at [www.stpaulsodessa.org](http://www.stpaulsodessa.org) and click on the VANCO Online Giving button to the left of the screen.
- 3) Click on the Link to Online Giving thru VANCO button, then

4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your RECURRING CONTRIBUTIONS.

### **Love Thy Neighbor Fund**

Our "Love Thy Neighbor Fund" was created to help those in need in the MOT community. This fund may support a time in someone's life when he/she may need a little kindness and generosity to help endure and survive a challenging situation. If you can donate, please make checks payable to St. Paul's UMC and then write in the memo area it is for "Love Thy Neighbor Fund." Please note, this fund is SEPARATE from the Yellow Hat. Thank you, Love Thy Neighbor Committee

### **Deep Roots**

Nadine Johnson & Karen Ellis continue to work with the "Deep Roots" mission. This group works with families who are disconnected through homelessness and provides transitional shelter and other services to families in need. They need your help as they continue to contact members of the church to help with making meals once a month feeding approximately 50+ individuals. Here's hoping you will be able to help us with this very important and necessary mission. Thanks so much! Contact Karen Ellis at [iluvbrmuda@gmail.com](mailto:iluvbrmuda@gmail.com) and Nadine Johnson at [nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com)

### **Our Daily Bread Food Donations**

214 N Broad St, Middletown, DE 19709

Volunteers Needed – day and evening hours and different areas of need, filling bags, handing out meals, etc.

Volunteer Opportunities can be found at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COE4FAEA82CA3F5CF8-volunteer>.

Contact Sue Holden, Missions Co-Chair, at 802-324-6167, [susieq2951@aol.com](mailto:susieq2951@aol.com), with any

questions. Also, find information and volunteer sign-up forms on the website,

<https://www.ourdailybreadmot.com>. **On-line Training Coming Soon!**

ODB is most thankful to all who donate either monetarily or in kind. Your generosity helps ODB feed those in our community who are facing food insecurity. Listed below are the items needed to stuff our side bags and other items that are needed on a regular basis. Donations can be dropped off on Tuesday from 9:15 to 11:30AM

- Individual bottles of water
- Individual bags of salty snacks
- Individual packets of sweet snacks
- Individual fruit cups and/or applesauce
- Fresh fruit (apples, bananas, oranges)
- Boxes of breakfast cereal
- Boxes of mashed potatoes
- White bread
- Baked beans (large cans)
- Gallon size zip-loc bags
- Lg black garbage bags
- Cans of soup

Thank you for any and all kindness!

### **Neighborhood House**

Neighborhood House really appreciates St. Paul's ongoing support in so many ways. At this point, we are low on some items in the food pantry. These items are especially needed right now in our food pantry, though all donations are gladly accepted with the inventory being low now.

**Currently we are really low on personal hygiene products as well as some food items:**

- 1. Bottled water**
- 2. Toilet paper, Toothpaste, Soap, Shampoo & conditioner**
- 3. Peanut butter & jelly (medium size)**
- 4. Pasta sauce**

5. Tuna/Tuna Helper
6. Hamburger Helper

**These non-perishables are needed to keep our pantry stocked:**

Chef Boyardee, beef stew, Spam ,pancake mix/syrup, snacks - cookies, crackers etc.

**ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS ALWAYS A NEED FOR ADULT SIZED DISPOSABLE DIAPERS AS WELL AS FOR BABIES/CHILDREN IN SIZES 4, 5, AND 6, AND WIPES. WE HAVE NUMEROUS MOMS WITH BABIES AND TODDLERS WHO TAKE THEIR MONEY FOR FOOD AND BILLS TO BUY THEM.**

Donations can be left inside the Church. We look forward to another great year working together to feed the hungry. Thanks to all, Marilyn Hendershot, Family Services Specialist, Neighborhood House, Inc.

**PFLAG Meeting**

Meetings are held at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month, presently via Zoom. Please join us if you would like to be supported or offer support and please spread the word to all corners of our communities. We are currently working on a system which will help youth who have been rejected by their parents, find families who will help them. Please contact Mark Holden, ([Mark@maholden.com](mailto:Mark@maholden.com)) or call 802-279-8100.

**JOYS & CONCERNS:** If you know someone, you'd like to add to our prayer list, please email the church office or visit the church website ([www.stpaulsodessa.org](http://www.stpaulsodessa.org)) to complete a prayer request. **There is also a Prayer Box in the Narthex in which you can drop your completed request.** Please email the office when someone can be taken OFF the list. If you or a loved one needs a pastoral visit, please call or email the church office to schedule.