



Pastor Linda Ray, 406 Main Street, Odessa, DE 302-378-2420
www.stpaulsodessa.org, CCLI 11305346 and Streaming Lic. 2118448

Holy Trinity Sunday
Peace With Justice Sunday
Father's Day

June 15, 2025, 9:00AM Service, ASL and Livestreaming
WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

Duane Dillard/Music, Mark Holden/Photographer/Curator, June Stemmler/Ushers, Gail Garner/ASL Interpreter
PRESENTATION ON RED BIRD MISSION: Dudley Serravalle

GATHERING WORDS: Liturgist – Carole Harmon

One: God, how majestic is your name! You create, and through creation, we encounter your wisdom and power.

Many: How majestic is the name of God, our Creator!

One: You redeem, and through Jesus Christ, we encounter your saving love and grace.

Many: How majestic is the name of God, our Redeemer!

One: You sustain us, and through your Spirit, we encounter your renewing presence.

Many: How majestic is the name of God, our Sustainer!

One: Come, let us worship the Triune God!

Many: We gather to worship God, Three-in-One and One-in-Three!

OPENING HYMN: *Victory In Jesus* Red Hymnal 370

***OPENING PRAYER:** (all praying): **Great God of all creation, who are we that you are mindful of us? You who set the stars in motion, who launched waves crashing against the shore, who knows the heights and depths of the world; Why do you bother with us? You count the hairs on our heads and call us each by name. You give us your wisdom, and you uphold us by your Spirit. You tend to us and care for us, and we do not understand why. We cannot grasp your love for us, O God, for it is unlike us to be that loving and forgiving. Remind us once again of the sacredness of our ordinary, day-to-day lives. By your Spirit, teach us to live truly as beings little lower than the angels. Amen.**

WORDS FOR YOUNG BELIEVERS: *How Great Is Our God* Chorus 2x Green Hymnal 3003

How great is our God! Sing with me 'How Great Is Our God!'

And all will see how great, how great, is our God!

Brian McNelis shares a blessing with our children!

LIFE SHARING: (follow directions offered by the pastor)

FIRST LESSON: *Proverbs 8:22-31* (CEB)

²² The LORD created me at the beginning of his way,
before his deeds long in the past.

²³ I was formed in ancient times,
at the beginning, before the earth was.

²⁴ When there were no watery depths, I was brought forth,
when there were no springs flowing with water.

²⁵ Before the mountains were settled,

before the hills, I was brought forth;
²⁶ before God made the earth and the fields
or the first of the dry land.
²⁷ I was there when he established the heavens,
when he marked out the horizon on the deep sea,
²⁸ when he thickened the clouds above,
when he secured the fountains of the deep,
²⁹ when he set a limit for the sea,
so the water couldn't go beyond his command,
when he marked out the earth's foundations.
³⁰ I was beside him as a master of crafts.
I was having fun,
smiling before him all the time,
³¹ frolicking with his inhabited earth
and delighting in the human race.

HYMN OF PREPARATION:

My Hope Is Built

Red Hymnal 368

*GOSPEL LESSON: *John 16:12-15* (CEB)

¹² "I have much more to say to you, but you can't handle it now. ¹³ However, when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you in all truth. He won't speak on his own but will say whatever he hears and will proclaim to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and proclaim it to you. ¹⁵ Everything that the Father has is mine. That's why I said that the Spirit takes what is mine and will proclaim it to you.

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

THE MESSAGE:

"A Good Mystery"

Pastor Linda Ray

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Lord of all creation, we celebrate the beauty of your blessings each day. With gratitude, we offer you these humble gifts. Pour your spirit upon our tokens and magnify them for your purposes, that the world may come to know the triune God. Amen

OFFERTORY: Today's **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **6/15/25 Youth Mission Trip.**

MUSICAL REFLECTION:

Standing On the Promises

Nolan Schrum & Frank Whittington

*THE DOXOLOGY:

Red Hymnal 95

PASTORAL PRAYER

A PRAYER FOR FATHERS

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Pastor Linda Ray

Officiant Server – Mary & Jordan Ingram

Reader 2: Lift up your hearts and give thanks to God.

Reader 1: Blessed are you, O God, who with your Word and Holy Spirit created all things and called them good. In Jesus Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Through Jesus' suffering and death you took upon yourself our sin and death and destroyed their power for ever. You raised from the dead this same Jesus, who now reigns with you in glory, and poured upon us your Holy Spirit, making us the people of your new covenant.

Reader 2: (Lifting the bread) On the night before meeting with death, Jesus sat with his friends at the table, sharing a meal. Jesus took the bread, lifted it to you, and blessed it. Jesus broke the bread and gave it to his friends, saying: "This bread is my life, a gift for you and for many. Eat this bread and remember me."

Reader 1: (Lifting the cup) When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and shared it with his friends, saying, “Drink from this cup. This cup represents my love, a sign of the new covenant. It brings forgiveness from sin as it quenches your thirst. Drink from this cup and remember me.”

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.

Reader 2: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon your gifts of bread and cup. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way., that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place. As we share this holy meal, we invite your life to fill us; we invite your Spirit to lead us more faithfully to be the body of Christ in the world until we feast at your table forever.

Reader 2: Let us join our hearts and voices in the prayer that God continues to teach 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.

PRAYERS AFTER RECEIVING:

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SERVICE

SENDING HYMN:

How Can We Name a Love

Red Hymnal 111

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Carole Harmon

Audio/Video: Charlii Miller, John Littell, John Cate, Carlotta Cline, Garrett Ray

Communion Officiant/Server: Mary & Jordan Ingram

Ushers: John & Patti Harmer, June Stemmler, John Harmon, Denis Shaffer, Laura Widger, Ryan & Brett Vitsorek

Greeters: Laura Widger, Brook Ellis

Minister of Music: Duane Dillard

Director of Music: Dr. Kathleen Shannon, Organist/Accompanist: Jin Kyung Seo

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor

Bonnie Valeski, Admin. Asst.

Alice Mullins, Financial/Treasurer

Duane Dillard, Minister of Music

Jin Kyung Seo, Organist/Accompanist

Dr. Kathleen Shannon, Director of Music

PastorLinda@stpaulsodessa.org

bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org

stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org

duanedillard@gmail.com

jinksblue@gmail.com

kathleenmshannon@gmail.com

(540) 207-1787

(302) 378-2420

(302) 293-9956

(443) 593-2470

ANNOUNCEMENTS - THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S:

Sunday 06/15 Worship Service 9AM ASL & Livestreaming

Monday 06/16 Youth Group -Beach Day 8AM

Tuesday 06/17 ODB, On Par With God 9AM, Leadership Mtg. 6:30PM

Wednesday 06/18 TOPS meeting 5:45PM

Thursday 06/19 10AM Prayer and Praise Group

Friday 06/20 VBS 5-8PM

Saturday 06/21 VBS 9AM-4PM, AA Mtg 7PM

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Will begin Friday June 20th from 5-8PM, then continue on Saturday, June 21 from 9AM -4PM. On Sunday June 22nd there will be a celebration of VBS at the 9AM service, this will be shortened and then continued at Tree of Life at 10AM with a cook-out to follow.

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE: The regular Summer Services' reduced schedule will return on June 1 with just one 9AM service; this will continue through August 31. Our normal two service schedule will return on September 7, the first Sunday in September.

ST. PAUL'S CHOIR AND ANY WHO WOULD LIKE TO SING!!! AT WILLEY FARMS JULY 19th: The St. Paul's UMC Choir will be singing a cantata "Land of the Free", with God's Power & Light Co. at **Willey Farms Garden Ctr., Smyrna, July 19, 2025, at 4PM.** Rehearsals will be at St. Paul's, on Wednesday's - June 18, 25 & July 2, and Mondays - July 7, 14, all at 7PM and July 19 at 4PM.

GRIEF SHARE: Will begin again at St. Paul's UMC August 10, 2025, for 13 weeks, Sundays from 3-5 PM.

STAYING ON PAR WITH GOD GOLF OUTINGS SCHEDULE: All outings are at Odessa National GC, Tee Times are at 9AM, dates are May 6 and 27, June 17 and 24, July 8 and 22, August 5 and 26, September 2 and 16 and October 7 and 21. Lunch follows at Odessa National at 11:30AM. Everyone is welcome to come out! Contact Don Mueller at dlnmueller90@gmail.com, or Steve Johnson at SJohn82602@aol.com for further information.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP: If you are interested in honoring a loved one with flowers at the altar on a particular Sunday, please use the **Flowers sign-up chart and form with instructions on the Narthex bulletin board.**

You can also still call Bonnie or email the church office at bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org so we make sure the information is added in the bulletin and reserved for you. You can have a florist create a bouquet or you can create your own , (or a plant) and then bring it to the church on Saturday or before the 8:30 am service on Sunday morning.

Our designated florist is Elana's in Middletown, 302-285-0800, please call them early in the week to set up your flower delivery for Saturday to St. Paul's. There will be NO delivery charge.

FINANCE NEWS FROM MELISSA BROOKS/CHAIR:

May Revenue:	\$ 23,009	YTD: \$ 126,706
May Expense:	\$ 23,393	YTD: \$ 121,208

BIRTHDAYS: June 15 -Samantha Gill; June 16 -Carlotta Cline, June 17-Jordan Ingram; June 18-Pam Root; June 20-Janice Thompson; June 21-Joe Mastin, Brenda Shaffer

ANNIVERSARIES: June 15 – David & Sue Johnson; June 16 – Jennifer & Jorge Rodriguez; June 18 – Lloyd & Sharyn Sheats; June 20- Alice & Harvey Smith

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. You can also email Bonnie Valeski in the Church Office with your request at bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org.

Please be sure to let Bonnie know you want to remove your request. Thank you

PRAYERS FOR: David & Dorothy Dudgeon, Carolyn Akin, Jonathan Brooks, John Guy, Levi Schrum and family, Nancy- sister of Alice Rizzo, Ethan Porter, George, Dylan Green, Kevin Quiveors – Al Calbazana's brother-in-law, Scott, Mindie, and Bo Pleasanton, Norman Parks, David Sheats, Amanda Branlund who is going through cancer treatment, Terry Sweeney, Michael Whitehead who is doing better but still grateful for prayers, Angela Christian's mother, Kathy Golden, Georgiana Fennemore, Faye Taylor's nephew Matthew Smith, Bob, Ken, Wells, Henry Spencer, Blain Shoun, Justin Marusa – cousin to Cindra Holland, having surgery for lung cancer in January, Skip Bason, Kenzel Messick's brother Lem – on his recovery to go well, Ellie Leuliette & Dick Leuliette, Rebecca Roberts - sister-in-law to Gail Garner going through chemotherapy and other therapies for leukemia, Joe Stemmler, Kenzel's niece – Heather Dill who is having cancer surgery, Jay & Laura Wedel and family as they battle Laura's cancer, Hap Bonham as he recovers from recent surgery, Kathleen Golden, Cindra Holland's mother, who is currently hospitalized and seriously ill. The great-grandson baby of Carole & John Harmon who needs continued prayers, for Jessica Schrum and family, as her father, John Carmichael, begins his cancer treatment journey and her mom, Sandra, his caretaker, Tom who begins his lung cancer

journey, Cathy Blanco's mother as she recovers from her recent surgery, Chris Foote, Christine Spencer and her father, Danny Skeans, Dave Koski, Deena Greenwood, Jin Kyung Seo, Leah Elliott & Phil Elliott in their health struggles, Lloyd Sheats, the passing of Eleanor Cleaver, Alice Mullins' sister Sue Austin who has been ill.

Upcoming Yellow Hat Schedule for May 2025

6/01/25 Habitat For Humanity (Dawn Buckworth)

6/08/25 Peace with Justice Sunday – Scholarships/Teaching Skills

6/15/25 Youth Mission Trip

6/22/25 Deaf Outreach, Inc. (Patti & Carl Ravilious)

6/29/25 Brian Coley Resilience Center (Warriors Helping Warriors)

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 black box on the wall 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

- Cub Scouts –Tuesdays 6-8 PM
- TOPS Meeting – Wednesdays 5:45 PM.
- St. Paul’s Prayer and Praise Group Ministry – Thursdays 10 AM @Carole Harmon’s Home
- St. Paul’s Handbell Rehearsal – Regularly Scheduled Practice will resume in the Fall.
- St. Paul’s Choir Rehearsal – Regularly Scheduled Practice will resume in the Fall.
- AA Meeting – Saturdays 7 PM

MONTHLY GATHERINGS

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

Adult Bible Study will resume in the Fall.

Children’s Sunday School will resume in the Fall.

Adult Bible Study will resume in the Fall.

Flowers for Worship

If you are interested in honoring a loved one with flowers at the altar on a particular Sunday, please use the **Flowers sign-up chart and form with instructions on the Narthex bulletin board.**

You can also still call Bonnie or email the church office at bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org so we make sure the information is added in the bulletin and reserved for you. You can have a florist create a bouquet or you can create your own , (or a plant) and then bring it to the church on Saturday or before the 8:30 am service on Sunday morning.

Our designated florist is Elana’s in Middletown, 302-285-0800, please call them early in the week to set up your flower delivery for Saturday to St. Paul’s. There will be NO delivery charge.

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 Ellie Leuliette at 484-432-4673.

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.

STAYING ON PAR WITH GOD GOLF OUTINGS SCHEDULE: All outings are at Odessa National GC, Tee Times are at 9AM, dates are May 6 and 27, June 17 and 24, July 8 and 22, August 5 and 26, September 2 and 16 and October 7 and 21. Lunch follows at Odessa National at 11:30AM. Everyone is welcome to come out! Contact Don Mueller at d Mueller90@gmail.com, or Steve Johnson at SJohn82602@aol.com for further information.

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 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 and Nadine Johnson at 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.ourdailybreadmot.com/volunteer>. Contact Sue Holden, Missions Co-Chair, at 802-324-6167, susieq2951@aol.com.



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.