



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

3rd Sunday After Pentecost

June 29, 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

GATHERING WORDS:

Liturgist – Dave Corby

One: We will call to mind the works of the Lord,

Many: and remember God's wonders of old.

One: In times of trouble, we cry out to God,

Many: longing for our souls to be comforted.

One: When our spirits are weary,

Many: we reach for God's arms.

One: Even when we don't feel courageous,

Many: we need to receive God's peace.

One: Keeping God's deeds in mind,

Many: we carry them in our hearts.

One: For God's ways are holy,

Many: and God's grace is great.

OPENING HYMN:

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

Red Hymnal 402

***OPENING PRAYER: (all praying) God of all life and love: we are your children, and you made us free to live in joyful relationship with you and one another. Your grace empowers us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Give us the courage to love ourselves as much as you love us and to love others with the same compassion. We trust that your footprints guide our way, unseen by human eyes, but always visible in our hearts. 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!

Ellie Leuliette shares a blessing with our children!

LIFE SHARING: *(follow directions offered by the pastor)*

FIRST LESSON: 2 Kings 2:1-2,6-14 (CEB)

Now the LORD was going to take Elijah up to heaven in a windstorm, and Elijah and Elisha were leaving Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, because the LORD has sent me to Bethel."

⁶ Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, because the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you live, I won't leave you." So both of them went on together. ⁷ Fifty members from the group of prophets also went along, but they stood at a distance. Both Elijah and Elisha stood beside the Jordan River. ⁸ Elijah then took his coat, rolled it up, and hit the water. Then the water was divided in two! Both of them crossed over on dry ground. ⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "What do you want me to do for you before I'm taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Let me have twice your spirit." ¹⁰ Elijah said, "You've made a

difficult request. If you can see me when I'm taken from you, then it will be yours. If you don't see me, it won't happen."

¹¹ They were walking along, talking, when suddenly a fiery chariot and fiery horses appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went to heaven in a windstorm. ¹² Elisha was watching, and he cried out, "Oh, my father, my father! Israel's chariots and its riders!" When he could no longer see him, Elisha took hold of his clothes and ripped them in two. ¹³ Then Elisha picked up the coat that had fallen from Elijah. He went back and stood beside the banks of the Jordan River. ¹⁴ He took the coat that had fallen from Elijah and hit the water. He said, "Where is the LORD, Elijah's God?" And when he hit the water, it divided in two! Then Elisha crossed over. But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you live, I won't leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

HYMN OF PREPARATION:

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Red Hymnal 57

*GOSPEL LESSON: *John 4:27-42* (CEB)

²⁷ Just then, Jesus' disciples arrived and were shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸ The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who has told me everything I've done! Could this man be the Christ?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus.

³¹ In the meantime the disciples spoke to Jesus, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

³² Jesus said to them, "I have food to eat that you don't know about."

³³ The disciples asked each other, "Has someone brought him food?"

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "I am fed by doing the will of the one who sent me and by completing his work. ³⁵ Don't you have a saying, 'Four more months and then it's time for harvest'? Look, I tell you: open your eyes and notice that the fields are already ripe for the harvest. ³⁶ Those who harvest are receiving their pay and gathering fruit for eternal life so that those who sow and those who harvest can celebrate together. ³⁷ This is a true saying, that one sows and another harvests. ³⁸ I have sent you to harvest what you didn't work hard for; others worked hard, and you will share in their hard work."

³⁹ Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's word when she testified, "He told me everything I've ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of his word, ⁴² and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world."

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

THE MESSAGE:

"Time to Harvest"

Guest Speaker Matt Caspero

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Gracious God, you have put your Spirit within us and laid your mantle upon us. These are gifts we could never earn and can never repay. Yet, we are filled with your love, joy, patience, peace, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. And so we offer them all to you, grateful to pass them on to your people and to your world. Amen

OFFERTORY: Today's **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **6/29/25 Brian Coley Resilience Center (Warriors Helping Warriors)**.

MUSICAL REFLECTION:

Let There Be Peace on Earth
by Sy Miller & Jill Jackson

Sung by Diane Shoun & Frank Whittington

*THE DOXOLOGY:

Red Hymnal 95

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Loving God, you give us freedom. In fact, in you, we live in perfect freedom. Fear tries to bind us. Idolatry comes chasing after us. Divisive arguments try to trap us in corners and keep us locked away from one another. These are not the freedoms you have in mind for your children, loving God. We confess, we have submitted to them in the past, but no more. Inspire us to live in the freedom you have given us. You set us free. Give us the courage to enjoy it. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Pastor Linda Ray
Officiant Server – Dave Corby

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 forever. 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:

Jesu, Jesu

Red Hymnal 432

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Dave Corby

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

Communion Officiant/Server: Dave Corby

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.

PastorLinda@stpaulsodessa.org
bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org

(540) 207-1787
(302) 378-2420

Alice Mullins, Financial/Treasurer
Duane Dillard, Minister of Music
Jin Kyung Seo, Organist/Accompanist
Dr. Katheen Shannon, Director of Music

stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org
duanedillard@gmail.com
jinksblue@gmail.com
kathleenmshannon@gmail.com

(302) 293-9956
(443) 593-2470

ANNOUNCEMENTS - THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S:

Sunday 06/29 Worship Service 9AM ASL & Livestreaming, Potluck Brunch/Lunch to follow in Fellowship Hall, Dingo & Dessert 3PM.
Monday 06/30
Tuesday 07/01 ODB
Wednesday 07/02 TOPS meeting 5:45PM
Thursday 07/03 10AM Prayer and Praise Group
Friday 07/04 Holiday
Saturday 07/05 AA Mtg 7PM

POTLUCK BRUNCH/LUNCH: June 29th after the 9AM service. Everyone is invited! If you plan to attend, please bring a covered dish to share. *If your dish is heated, it must be in a crock pot or your warming tray as the stove will not be in use.*

DINGO & DESSERT: Sunday, June 29th at 3PM. Join in the fun of this fast-paced game and enjoy desserts! If you plan to attend, please bring a dessert to share.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Will be held in August, on Wednesday's beginning on the 6th through the 27th, at 7PM, "Understanding the Old Testament" will be studied.

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.

EVENT CANCELED!! INVITE TO JOIN ST. PAUL'S CHOIR AND ANY WHO WOULD LIKE TO SING AT WILLEY FARMS JULY 19th.

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: July 1 – Luah Dahn, Kelly McNelis; July 5 – Mark Holden, Isabel Holland, Sue Johnson

ANNIVERSARIES: June 30 – Alan & Daphne Martin; July 2 – George & Lynda Whitehead

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, 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, 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, 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, Jeanne Buckworth, Ellie Leuliette on the passing of her husband, Dick Leuliette.

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

Sunday Adult Bible Study will resume in the Fall.

Children's Sunday School 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 dlnmueller90@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.



Hot Meal Service

Our Daily Bread serves 7 meals a week.

Lunch: Tuesday & Thursday • 12:00pm–1:00pm
(Dine-In Only)

Dinner: Monday–Friday • 5:00pm–6:00pm
(Dine-In or Take Out)

days/times for meal service remain the same each week
menus are subject to change

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.