

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

Pentecost Sunday Celebration of Graduates Sunday

June 8, 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 Stemmle/Ushers, Gail Garner/ASL Interpreter

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES: Elise Harmer, Addison Manlove, Brooke Powers, Blake Powers, Ryan Vitsorek, Brett Vitsorek, Reiley Harmon, Henry Spencer, Ashlyn Campbell, Amber Campbell, Kristina Sommer and Abbey Kegley, Jackson Wills, Lauren Seo

GATHERING WORDS: Liturgist – Henry Spencer

One: Beloved, pay attention! The Holy Spirit sweeps among us, binding us together as family in Christ.

Many: We are children of God, heirs of grace.

One: Beloved, have you noticed? The Holy Spirit moves among us, creating and renewing the whole of creation, inspiring us to co-create with God and one another.

Many: We are children of God, co-creators in grace.

One: Beloved, be encouraged. The Holy Spirit lives among us, surrounding us with mercy and grace, witnessing to us about God's steadfast love for God's people.

Many: We are children of God, witnesses to grace.

One: Beloved, pay attention! Whether in a rushing wind or a gentle breath, the Holy Spirit welcomes you here, for we are all children of God, brought together by grace.

Many: We are children of God, knit together by the Spirit. Thanks be to God! Amen.

OPENING HYMN:

Bless His Holy Name

Black Hymnal 2015

*OPENING PRAYER: (all praying): God of wind and flame, pour out your Holy Spirit on a world in need of Pentecost fire. Fill your people with courage and power, and set our hearts ablaze, that our young may have visions, and our elders may dream dreams. Ignite a passion within us to spread the good news of your glorious salvation. Draw us into communion with you and with one another. Help us courageously keep your commandments, and boldly proclaim your mighty works, through the power of your Holy Spirit. 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!

Courtney Mortin shores a blossing with our shildren

Courtney Martin shares a blessing with our children!

LIFE SHARING (follow directions offered by the pastor)

FIRST LESSON: Acts 2:1-21 CEB

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

⁵ There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. ⁷ They were surprised and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? ⁸ How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!" ¹² They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, "What does this mean?" ¹³ Others jeered at them, saying, "They're full of new wine!"

¹⁴ Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! ¹⁵ These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! ¹⁶ Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young will see visions.

Your elders will dream dreams.

Even upon my servants, men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above and signs on the earth below.

blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be changed into darkness,

and the moon will be changed into blood,

before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.

²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

HYMN OF PREPARATION:

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Red Hymnal 384

*GOSPEL LESSON: John 14:8-17 CEB

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father; that will be enough for us."

⁹ Jesus replied, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been with you all this time? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I have spoken to you I don't speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Trust me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or at least believe on account of the works themselves. ¹² I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works than these because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father can be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ When you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and he will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. ¹⁷ This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can't receive because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be with you.

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

THE MESSAGE: "Spirit of Adoption"

Pastor Linda Ray

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY PRAYER: God of wind and flame, your Pentecost fire continues to touch us and bless our world today. May our offering bring the warmth of your love, and the glory of your holy flame, to those who are shaken by the buffeting winds all around us. Amen

OFFERTORY: Today's Yellow Hat mission offering supports 6/08/25 Peace with Justice Sunday – Scholarships/Teaching Skills

MUSICAL REFLECTION: Holy Spirit Solo by Henry Spencer

By Songwriters Katie & Brian Torwalt

*THE DOXOLOGY: Red Hymnal 95

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS:

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION (all praying): O God, You who are always doing a new thing, We confess that we sometimes close windows against the fresh air of new ideas, against the noise of other people's worries, against the winds of change. God of every place and time, we confess that we often draw the curtains against people who are different, against world news or community concerns Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes, our shuttered churches, the security systems on our hearts. Open up our lives and let your Spirit blow through. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Pastor Linda Ray

Officiant Server – Henry Spencer

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: Sweet, Sweet Spirit Red Hymnal, 334

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Henry Spencer Audio/Video: Charlii Miller, John Littell, John Cate, Carlotta Cline, Garrett Ray Communion Officiant/Server: Henry Spencer Ushers: John & Patti Harmer, June Stemmle, 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 Flowers today donated by June Stemmle in honor of all the graduates and all those who supported their efforts.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor PastorLinda@stpaulsodessa.org (540) 207-1787 Bonnie Valeski, Admin. Asst. bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org (302) 378-2420 stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org Alice Mullins, Financial/Treasurer (302) 293-9956 Duane Dillard, Minister of Music duanedillard@gmail.com (443) 593-2470 jinksblue@gmail.com Jin Kyung Seo, Organist/Accompanist

Dr. Katheen Shannon, Director of Music kathleenmshannon@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS - THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S:

Sunday 06/08 Graduate Sunday - Worship Service 9AM ASL & Livestreaming

Monday 06/09 Adult Bible Study 9AM, Finance Mtg 6:30PM

Tuesday 06/10 ODB

Wednesday 06/11 TOPS meeting 5:45PM

Thursday 06/12 10AM Prayer and Praise Group

Friday 06/13

Saturday 06/14 AA Mtg 7PM

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE: The regular Summer Services' reduced schedule will return on June 1 with just the 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 JULY19th: 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 dlmueller90@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:

April MTD: Income \$ 21,177 Expenses \$ 25,086 Expenses \$ 97,815 2025 YTD: Income \$ 127,433

BIRTHDAYS: June 8 – Ty Gil; June 11 – John Brooks, Sam Guise, Carolyn Stanley; June 12 – Delaney Chas, Kallie Chas; June 13 – Joan Louis

ANNIVERSARIES: June 11 - Rick & Tracy Pulling; June 14 – Randy & Vicki Spence, Dicky & Marcia Wheeler

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, Sue Austin, 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 Stemmle, 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; the passing of Karen Kolf – sister to Alice Mullins, 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...

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 <u>bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org</u> 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.

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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 dlmueller90@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 <u>www.stpaulsodessa.org</u> 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.