

Church Calendar

Monday, May 6, 2024

Closed

8:00 p.m. - to 9:00 p.m. AL-Anon

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Pacific Discussions (AA)

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Remain Teachable (AA)

Thursday, May 9, 2024

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Thursday AA

Friday, May 10, 2024

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – AA Group (Farsi)

Saturday, May 11, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – El Nido Family Centers

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – *Choir Rehearsal*

Sunday, May 12, 2024

10:00 a.m. – In-Sanctuary Service & Live Streaming

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Sunday AA/NA

Church Leadership

Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank
Bishop in Residence

Rev. Melissa Roux MacKinnon
North District Superintendent

Rev. Vernon Kemp
Pastor

Jacqueline Tringov
Music Director

Evelyn Arnold
Administrative Assistant

St. Paul's - Leadership Team

Diana Bruno - Administrative Chair/ Lay leader
to Conference

Deborah Davies – Staff Parish Relations Chair

Linda Graul – Finance Chair

Donald Metzger – Team Member

Cathy Green – Team Member

Jackie Adams – Team Member

Vacant - Trustee Chair

Saint Paul's United Methodist Church

5619 Lindley Ave., Tarzana 91356

Office Phone: 818-708-7068

Church Email: st_paulschurch@icloud.com

Church Website: stpaulstarzana.org



@stpaulstarzana



@saintpaulunited



@saintpaulsunited

For online giving and support, please go to: stpaulstarzana.org/Donate

To donate via Zelle, please use our email, st_paulschurch@icloud.com.

Pastor Vernon's Email: V_kemp2000@yahoo.com

Pastor Vernon's cell phone: 323-864-5967

THIS IS THE ONE WHO CAME BY WATER
AND BLOOD, JESUS CHRIST-NOT BY
WATER ALONE, BUT BY WATER AND
BLOOD. AND IT IS THE SPIRIT WHO
TESTIFIES TO THIS, BECAUSE THE SPIRIT
IS THE TRUTH.

- 1 JOHN 5:6



May 5, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Pastor Vernon Kemp

Our Mission is to be: The Beacon of the Valley

Lighting 'The Way' of Jesus

Growing Disciples and Community in God's Love and

Sending the Hope and Joy of Jesus into the World



The Beacon of The Valley

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Color: White

May 5, 2024

10:00 a.m.

****Indicates to stand if able**

Theme Ideas

*God's love creates a generous dwelling place. John writes of Jesus' love as a reality in which we abide, even as we provide this abode for others. **This abode of love is a place of joy as well as of obedience given willingly—not out of the fear that separates servant from master, but out of the understanding that grows between us All Siblings of Christ:** Jesus and his disciples. First John describes an even closer relationship: believers are born to our parent God. The story of Cornelius's baptism adds the detail of spaciousness: the abode of love welcomes all peoples. The psalmist expands God's caring attention beyond the house of Israel to the entire globe!*

Prelude "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" Jacqueline Tringov

****Gathering Words** Pastor Vernon Kemp

****Call to Worship** Liturgist, Jonathan Ascencio

L: Easter people, Jesus chose you and calls you friend!

P: We abide in Christ because Christ abides in us.

L: Jesus made a home among us to show us how to love.

P: We abide in Love because Love abides in us.

L: Jesus invites us in and beckons us to come to the Table to know the joy that comes when we love one another the way God loves us.

P: We abide in Joy because Joy abides with us.

L: Easter people, Jesus welcomes you home!

P: We come to make our home with God and one another, bound together by Love and enlivened by Joy. Amen.

****Hymn** "O For a Thousand Tongues" UMH #57

Opening Prayer Liturgist, Jonathan Ascencio

We, who so often take the wonders of creation for granted, welcome the opportunity to make a joyful noise before you, O God. We come here this morning to worship and to praise you, glad that we live in this country filled with such diverse and beautiful examples of your creation. Yet, joyful noises are not easy for everyone to make, as we come from differing situations and lifestyles. Some are burdened down with the stresses of daily living and all that involves; some wearied from tasks of serving others; some worried over the state of the world and where that is all leading. Speak to us all, O God, in the stillness of this time and remind us of Jesus' willingness to take our burdens upon himself and to learn from him - to experience his gentleness and steadfast love for all.



This is a time of renewal, reflection, and rejuvenation. If you are seeking prayer and would like your name to appear on the prayer list, please contact the office no later than Wednesday noon via telephone or email.

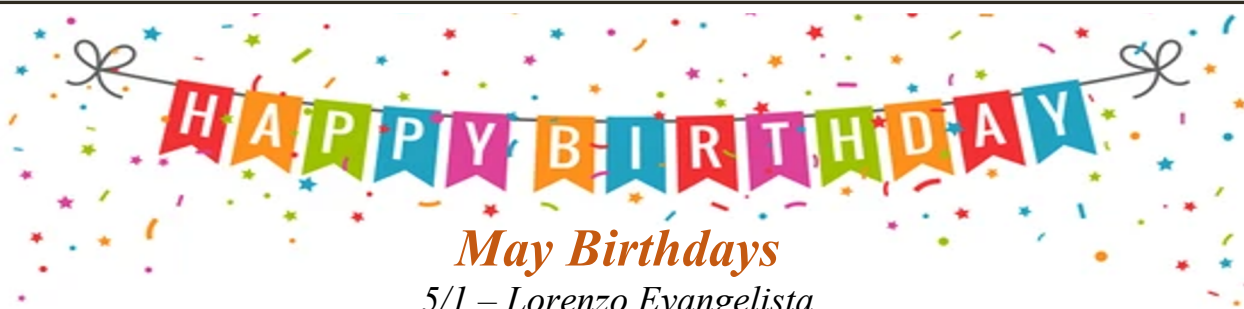
Let us keep the following in prayer and please reach out to them for care, comfort, and prayer:

Diana Bruno, Cathy Green & Family, Dean Brown, Gwinn Lavery & Family, Bonnie Jay, Marianne Crosby, Anthony Basuto, Mildred Porter & Family, Jae Sessions, David Cox & Family, Marina Bezinovir, Roberta Lanning, Megan Carson, Ellie Harrison & Family, for the loss of her mother, Donna Beers (Linda Graul's niece), Deanna Borque, Marilyn Wright, Kamonie Wright, Miracle Wright-Lindo, Henry Lindo, Rowena Anderson, Alice Crawford, Alicia Nance, Bill Lashbrook, for the loss of his life partner, Kathy Kovin-Pacino

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:16





May Birthdays

5/1 – Lorenzo Evangelista

5/1 – Pheleta Santos

5/1 – Teddi Davis

5/4 – Kemi Alli

5/7 – Betty Legette

5/8 – Pastor Vernon Kemp

5/8 – Montana Shane

5/12 – Gil Goodwin

5/15 – Yalonda Peterson

5/17 – Evelyn Whitman

5/21 – Mila Evangelista

5/22 – Sherry Brant

5/22 – Nia Stephens

5/25 – Coni Balogh

5/26 – Afsatu Metzger

5/30 – Linda Graul

If you would like to add your name to this month's

Birthdays and/or Anniversaries list, please call 818-708-7068.



Jesus also offers us his joy so that our joy might be complete. Confident in these promises, we offer this time of worship to you, O God, praying that it may reflect our praise and thanksgiving for the gifts of creation and for all that Jesus has done for us. This we pray in his name. **Amen.**

Hymn

“To God Be the Glory”

UMH #98

****Unison Prayer of Confession**

Liturgist, Jonathan Ascencio

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you; you call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, with pride, quarrelling, and divisiveness. Holy God, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as you move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

“Victory in Jesus”

UMH #370

Words of Assurance

Liturgist, Jonathan Ascencio

Long ago Jesus said to his disciples, “I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from God. You did not choose me, but I chose you!” Jesus speaks these words to us today. Jesus forgives us and chooses us to be his friends, sharing his great work of love. Hallelujah!

****Passing the Peace of Christ**

As forgiven children of God, let us share together the peace of Christ’s love in our lives.

Music Selection

“Take Me to the Water”

Pastoral Prayer

****Scripture Reading**

Acts 10:44-48; 1 John 5:1-6

Liturgist, Jonathan Ascencio

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Music Selection

“Spirit of the Living God”

Response to the Word

Liturgist, Jonathan Ascencio

God of Love, do not let us grow weary of living our lives according to the example of your child, Jesus. Loving one another is a great challenge and a high calling. We do not want to fail our friend and brother. Pour out upon us your Spirit who reminds us that we bear Jesus’ love and life within our very being—a powerful gift for our world. Out of this gift, may we bear the fruit of love. Amen.

Music Selection

“He Reins Forever”

Song of Preparation

“Reason Why I Sing”

Sermon

“Christ, The Friend: Friendship, Love, & Obedience”

Pastor Vernon Kemp

****Altar Call/Invitation to Discipleship**

You are welcome to light a candle and kneel at the altar for prayer.

Music Selection

“Goodness of God”

Thanksgiving & Communion

A Service of Word and Table II

Hymn #12

Pastor Kemp & Jonathan Ascencio

The Lord’s Prayer

Effie Baldoo

The Apostles Creed

Hymn #881

Kemi Alli

Invitation to the Offering

Liturgist, Jonathan Ascencio

We began our worship today with a psalm about the new songs that God inspires us to sing. In our Gospel lesson, we heard Jesus teaching his disciples a new song: a love song about Jesus’ love for his disciples and for the world. Jesus hoped we would all join in singing and living out this new song of love. Today in giving to others, let us join in this song so that the whole world may hear the beautiful and welcoming melody of God’s love.

****Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

****Offertory Prayer**

Liturgist, Jonathan Ascencio

Pour your Spirit upon these gifts, O God. Send them into the world as a sign and song of your joyous work of love. Use them to call and welcome into your house of love all who are *your* friends and *our* brothers and sisters. In acts of service, healing, and selfless generosity, may our joy be sustained, a shared and everlasting gift from the source of all joy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Liturgist, Jonathan Ascencio

Mother’s Day Brunch

Calling all mothers! Please join us on Sunday, May 12 after service for a special Mother’s Day brunch. Let's come together to honor and celebrate the incredible gift of motherhood that we've been blessed with. And to all the children, let's make this day extra special by showing our love and appreciation for our mothers.

3rd Annual Memorial Day Concert

Please join us on **Sunday, May 19, at 3:00 p.m.** for our Annual Memorial Day Concert. See the attached flyer for more information.

Professional Schools of Beauty Fashion and Arts Inc. Expo

St. Paul's members and friends are invited to sign up for a **FREE** hair, facial, and/or nails service to be held on **Friday, May 24, 2024, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** These services are being sponsored by our church member Florence Ella.

Support for Bonnie Jay

As part of our commitment to caring for one another and being our brother’s keeper, a GoFundMe page has been established to aid Bonnie Jay in her healthcare and rehabilitation journey. Instead of changing course, we encourage you to extend a helping hand and unite with us in supporting Bonnie, as we continue to practice unity in our community. Please visit the GoFundMe page below to make a donation.

Supporting Bonnie’s Journey of Care & Independence

<https://gofund.me/d66c9e0d>

May 2024 Challenge: Bring A Friend to Church

As **Disciples and Stewards**, our mission is to invite others to join us in worship. Our goal is to spread God’s message among our neighbors, loved ones, friends, and beyond.

****Benediction**

Pastor Vernon Kemp

Beloved, may God bless you with the strength to love one another as God loves each and every one of you, that you may find the complete, total, and everlasting joy that comes when we abide together with God who is Love. Amen.

****Closing Song**

“Let the Church Say Amen”

Scripture Readings

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17