# Thírd Sunday of Easter Sunday, May 4, 2025

St. Paul's Lutheran Church 215 N. Warren St. Orwigsburg, PA 570-366-2316 www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

# **GATHERING**

**PRELUDE** 

"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"

G. F. Handel

# **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Drawn by our joy in the Risen Lord, we gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

As St. Paul writes: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

(Romans 6:3-5)

Let us confess our sins.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

Almighty God,

we cannot free ourselves from our desire to sin and we cannot keep sin out of every part of our lives.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Cleanse us from our sins. Give us new hearts and minds.

And raise us to new and abundant life. Amen.

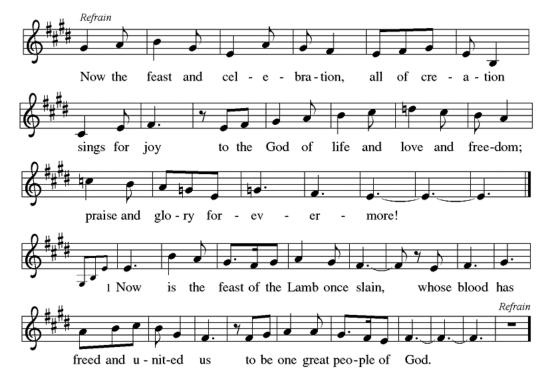
Know that your sins are forgiven and that you have the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.** 

**GATHERING HYMN** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" [See back of bulletin]

#### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** 

#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

# Word

## A READING FROM ACTS

<sup>1</sup>Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup>He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup>The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.

<sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup>The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup>I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup>So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup>and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup>and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

(Acts 9:1–20)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

# **PSALM 30 (Read Responsively)**

I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

# O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.

You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

# Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful; give thanks in holy remembrance.

God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime.

Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

# While I felt secure, I said,

# "I shall never be disturbed.

You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains." Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

# I cried to you, O LORD;

# I pleaded with my Lord, saying,

"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

# Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me;

# O LORD, be my helper."

You have turned my wailing into dancing;

you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

# Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;

O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.

#### A READING FROM REVELATION

<sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered

to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might

and honor and glory and blessing!"

<sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb

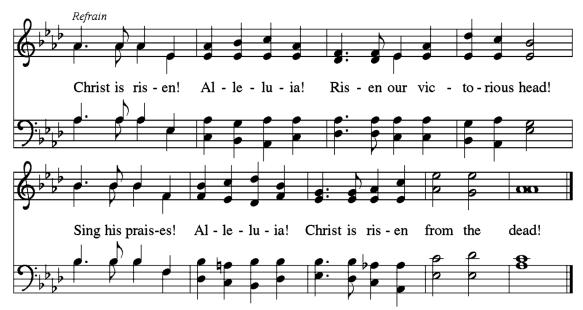
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

<sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped. (Revelation 5:11–14)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

# **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



## **GOSPEL**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup>But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup>When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup>(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "The Church of Christ, in Every Age" [See back of bulletin]

## **NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

By your love, equip and strengthen those who lead our young people in the path of faith. Nurture and embolden those who are called to teach your Word to all who hunger to receive it. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Your abundance is evident throughout your creation. Preserve oceans, rivers, and all waters so life may flourish. Make us wise stewards of all that you have created for the sake of generations to come. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Your wisdom guides those who strive for justice. Protect all who risk life and limb for the sake of those who are oppressed. Help us to stand with everyone who needs our support and care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Your compassion surrounds all those who suffer. We pray for the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed, the hospitalized, and for all who grieve. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

You welcome everyone to your table. Make this congregation a place of radical hospitality, where everyone is loved and valued. Show us how to better welcome all who enter our doors. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. May their faithful words and deeds inspire and guide our journey with you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

(*The Pastor concludes*): We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.** 

#### **PEACE**

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always. And also with you.

# **OFFERING**

OFFERTORY (8:00 AM)

"Trumpet Tune"

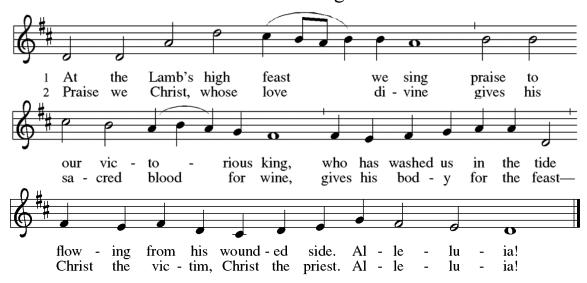
R. Lau

**ANTHEM (10:30 AM)** 

"We Have Seen the Risen Lord"

S. Pethel

# **OFFERTORY HYMN** "At the Lamb's High Feast"



#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Merciful God, our gifts seem so small for such a great celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our little lives. Feed us again at this table that we might go forth to serve in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. **Amen.** 

# MEAL

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

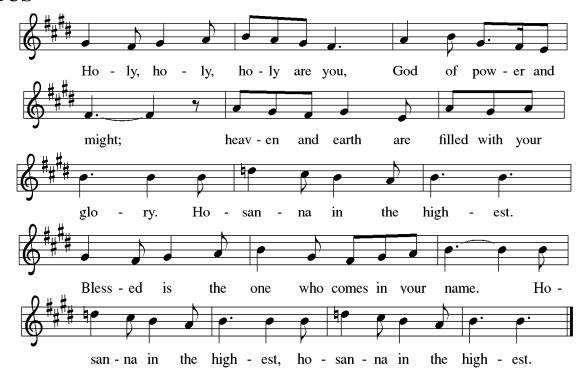
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should in all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But, chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **SANCTUS**



# THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world, you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

# Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

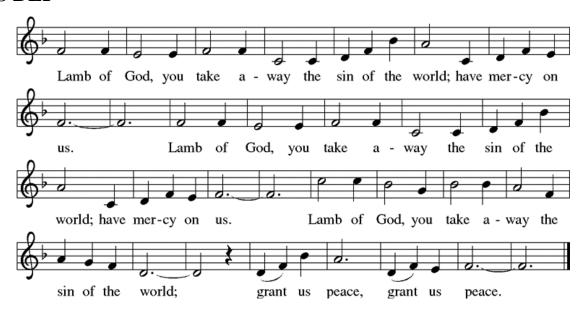
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

## **AGNUS DEI**



#### INSTRUCTIONS

All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by <u>intinction</u>. You may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it.

If you (or your child) would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest.

If you are unable to come forward to receive the Sacrament, please raise your hand.

We will share the Sacrament with those on the pulpit side of the nave followed by those on the lectern side.

# **COMMUNION HYMN** "Bread of Life from Heaven" [See back of bulletin]

#### TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.** 

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, you have fed us at your table and opened us to your presence. Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

# **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

May God the Father who raised Christ from the dead, open to you the gate of everlasting life. May God the Son who burst forth from the grave, give you joy as you celebrate his resurrection. May God the Holy Spirit who brought to you new life in baptism, build up your faith and grant you peace. And may our Triune God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.** 

**SENDING HYMN** "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" vs. 1, 2, 7, 8 [See back of bulletin]

#### THE DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go now in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.** 

POSTLUDE "Lord of Life" D. Paxton
Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

**Altar flowers** are presented in memory of my parents, Guy and Frances Lengel, by James W. Lengel.

**Chancel flowers** are presented in loving memory of Edgar and Edith Kriner by their family.

**Bulletins** are presented in honor of Nathaniel Dixon's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday by his grandparents, Stu and Danielle Richards.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S				
Sunday, May 4	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Adult Forum Worship with Holy Communion		
Monday, May 5	7:00 PM	Worship and Music		
Tuesday, May 6	6:00 PM 6:30 PM	Service Ministry Evangelism		
Wednesday, May 7	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Bell Choir Chancel Choir		
Saturday, May 10	5:30 PM	Worship		
Sunday, May 11	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 9 to 10:15 AM 10:30 AM	MOTHER'S DAY & Second Sunday Worship with Holy Communion Adult Forum and Youth Sunday School Second Sunday Snacks and Fellowship Worship with Holy Communion Children's Sunday School		

\*

**Introduction to the day:** Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating Holy Communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

\*

## "SECOND SUNDAY" SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our next Second Sunday School class will be Sunday, May 11. Children ages 1 through 6 are invited to join us for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Young people aged 7 through 12 are invited to a youth group with Bible study and activities from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Sunday School will take a break for the summer and resume in September.

## RECYCLE YOUR EASTER FLOWERPOT COVERS!

The Worship and Music Committee would like anyone who still has their Easter flowerpot covers to kindly return them to the church. A collection box has been placed in the narthex where they can be dropped off. All returned covers will be stored and reused, helping our church save money and protect the environment. Thank you for your support!

## SERVING TODAY (5/4/25)

#### 8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul

#### 10:30 AM

GREETER: Bill Smoot; USHER: David Kriner

LECTOR: Deb O'Connor; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Becky Smoot

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Lafko and Amy Dewald

COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr and Glenda Bright

# **SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (5/11/25)**

## 8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

#### 10:30 AM

GREETER: Jerry Goessel; USHER: Sue Reier; LECTOR: Tina Butler

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Deb O'Connor

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Lafko and Amy Dewald COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle and Diane Brobst

\*

# A CALL TO MORE FAITHFUL GIVING

Our church needs your support. Every donation helps us gather new members, spread Christ's teachings, and serve our neighbors. Your generosity keeps our church running and helps those in need. Please consider increasing your giving to our ministry and look into giving through Secure Plus.



# LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Please worship with us again. Take a copy of our newsletter. Check out our webpage. Visit us on Facebook. Watch our weekly video on YouTube and get to know us better! We have a rich Lutheran tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. Everyone is invited to worship with us and work together to the glory of God.

## PLEASE FILL OUT A COMMUNION CARD

All members should confirm that they have received the Sacrament at least once during each calendar year. If you have not done so this year, please do so today.

# **GATHERING HYMN** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"



# **CRAFTERS' GUILD NEWS**

Our Spring creations are on display in the basement and available for purchase. The items will remain available through Mother's Day, next Sunday. Stop by to see our "creativity in bloom."

#### **FOOD PANTRY NEWS**

The Orwigsburg Food Pantry is grateful for the generous support of local churches. For the June food distribution, the following items are requested: jelly, peanut butter, mixed vegetables, red beets, corn, yams, carrots, pears, tuna fish, and mac & cheese. Your donations make a difference. Thank you for your contributions!

# **HYMN OF THE DAY** "The Church of Christ, in Every Age"



## A MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT!

Our Evangelism Committee loves sending cards to those who can't join us for worship. We regularly need updated information for military members and college students who are away from home. If you have new information or address changes, please contact any Evangelism Committee member or call the church office at 570-366-2316. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

## **COMMUNION HYMN** "Bread of Life from Heaven"



# **SENDING HYMN** "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" vs. 1, 2, 7, 8



7 He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death; he lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there. 8 He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same; what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

\*

#### **OUR PASTOR AND STAFF**

Reverend Michael T. Petresky 570-3	666-2316 - Ext 11	pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Directo	or 570-573-4076	justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Amy Dewald, Office Support Staff	570-366-2316	office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	No Email
Karen Travor, Treasurer	610-507-2797	karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-617-9617	cwlutsey@gmail.com
	02/ /40 /000	::

Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager 936-648-6809 jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 9:00 A.M. to 12 NOON

# **GERANIUM ORDER SHEET**

We plan to decorate the church with red geraniums on the Pentecost Sunday, June 8. The deadline to place an order is **Sunday**, **May 18** and the cost of each geranium pot is \$4.00. Checks may be made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Please place your order and payment in the basket on the table under the bulletin board in the Gathering Room. Envelopes are available for your use.

# PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION.

Name:	Contact Number
If you wish to dedicate your flower	rs, please fill out the information below:
In honor of:	
In memory of:	
in memory or.	
DON'T FORGET TO SA	AVE YOUR FLOWERPOT COVERS!
DOI( I TOROLI TO SI	TVE TOOMTEOWER OF COVERS.
Please check this box if you wish to do	onate the flowers to the church and not take them home
Total # of Geraniums:	Total amount enclosed: \$