



Greetings from the Pastor

Hello,
I will be spending time in spiritual renewal and with family in the Philippines until May 20th. I look forward to returning and being with you again soon.

Pastor Emelyn Castillo-Colorado

- ⇒ Rev. Moody Colorado (319-961-2606)
- ⇒ Rev. Darian Adkins (712-260-6000)



Would you be interested in helping with church landscaping cleanup on May 7 at 10:00 a.m.?

We'd love to have your help.

Please bring any gardening tools you think might be useful.

We look forward to seeing you at the church!



Prayer Leader Notes

By Cindy Morse



Greetings to my St. Paul Church Family---

As I am sitting down to write this article, outside the sun is shining and a light breeze is blowing, maybe Spring is on its way !!!

I want to share from a book entitled "Loving Yourself for God's Sake", written by Aldolfo Quezada. One of the first articles is entitled Love and Be Loved by God. The author writes--- Nothing is more important in life than loving God and letting God love you. We should have no other priority: not success, not prestige, not money or possessions, not power, not reputation --- nothing.

To love God, you enter into union with God, experience God in your heart and dare to stay in God's holy presence.

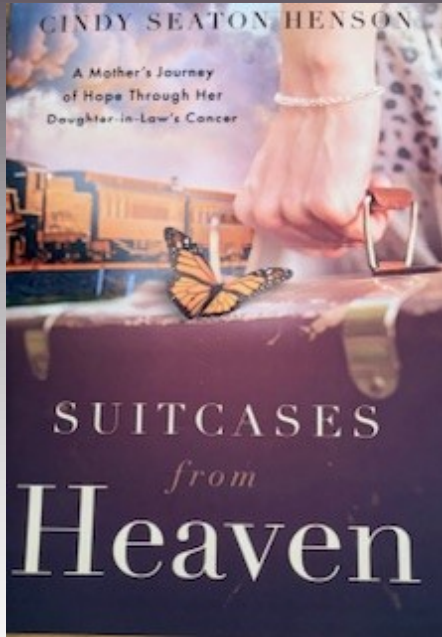
Reveal your soul to God. God understands. You can turn to God in openness and honesty, disclosing all your secrets and all your lies. Turn the power of prayer onto yourself. Take time to pray for yourself. Let the focus of your prayer be you from time to time. Pray for guidance, pray for strength and courage, pray above all, for love. Look for God within yourself. God lives and loves in your soul. When you love God, you love yourself, when you love yourself, you love God.

To receive God's love is the first thing you must do. To do this, free your mind, open your heart, and empty your hands. Dare to stay before God as you live your daily moments. Let God affect your every thought, your every emotion, and your every action. Stay with God when it is difficult and dry. Stay when nothing happens--- but stay and wait.

Child of God, you yearn for the security of God's arms, you long for God's peace, and you wait for God's everlasting love. It is already with your heart. Take it and live. You receive from God not only God's love for you, but also your ability to return that love. From God's love comes acceptance, forgiveness, and the promise of eternal union. You learn that courage does not always mean attack in the face of fear but sometimes in the spirit of love. Feel energy of love rising from within. Let it overtake you; surrender to its powerful gentleness. It will carry you to the heights of heaven where you are one with all there is.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay in love with God.

Library News



Cindy Henson had jumped on a miracle train twenty-five years earlier, believing God was a going to heal her young son of severe autism, and quickly jumped off with a suitcase full of bitterness. God had healed the bitterness, but she still didn't believe in miracles.

From day one, soon-to-be daughter-in-law, Jazmin, who had been diagnosed with terminal adrenal cancer, declares she is holding out on a miracle from God.

Outreach Opportunity

A speaker from the Gideons will be here on May 3. They distribute Bibles worldwide. We will be having a special offering for their work.

We are making plans for Summer Food for Kids. This food distribution will begin the first week in June. If you would like to contribute to this, we need single serve mac and cheese, single serve fruits, protein bars, and fruit snacks.

Summer events, mark your calendar, more information will be in the June newsletter.

- * July 11 Potluck at Danny and Deenie Higgins
- * July 24 Amusement Park Day for our church family
- * August 9 Ice cream social at the church

Thank you for your continued support for Noisy Sunday and the Birthday Box.
May God bless you
As you bless others.

Finance Update

April 5	\$3826
April 12	\$3414
April 19	\$1437
April 26	\$2742



We are in need of over \$15,000 each month to meet our budget needs.

Thank you for all your ways of giving.

Education

Sunday School...our last days for this school year:
May 3 and May 10

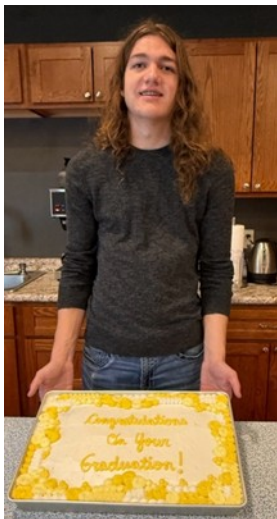


Rainforest Falls Exploring the Nature of God Vacation Bible School is coming soon!

Our VBS crew would like your help in collecting items to use for our decorations. You can drop them off in the church library.

- ◆ Amazon packing paper (makes great rainforest vines!)
- ◆ cardboard tubes...any size from paper towel and longer
- ◆ “Rainforest” stuffed animals (snakes, monkeys, frogs, colorful birds, etc.)

◆
Watch for VBS Registration information to get signed up!
June 22-25th; 9-11:30 a.m.



Congratulations to Union Graduate!!

Stratton Wood

Stratton is the son of Terra and Beau Wood.





Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is working on creating an updated Church Directory. It has been ten years since our last directory was updated with current photos, and we're excited to refresh it!

We would love to include recent pictures of you and your loved ones. Two local volunteers have generously offered to take photos at no cost. If you prefer, you may also submit your own photo instead of having one taken.

The only cost to you will be if you choose to purchase a copy of the directory.

Photo sessions will be held on:

- **Wednesday, May 13**
- **Thursday, May 14**
- **Time: 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

A sign-up sheet is located at the back of the sanctuary. Please select a time that works best for you and fill in your name. Be sure to indicate:

- If you will be submitting your own photo
- If you would like to receive a Church Directory

Example:

Picture Time	Family	Family Members	Providing Photo	Directory
4:30 p.m.	Smith	John, Mary, Ann		x

Please help spread the word!

Membership Committee

Smile!



United Women in Faith

Congratulations to Stratton Wood on receiving our United Women in Faith Scholarship this year. It was presented on April 12 during church service as we celebrated Senior Sunday. Our prayers go with Stratton as he closes his High School Career and opens a new door to his future.

Attention all High School Seniors and their family and friends! Baccalaureate Services will be held on May 13, 2026, at 7 PM at the Heartland Community Church. This is a Community Faith Event and involves all churches.

A huge thank you to all the ladies who either made delicious cakes or helped with the April Birthday Celebration at the La Porte City Nursing & Rehab Center.

Congratulations to Chris Jesse and Robert Driscoll on receiving the honor of being chosen as a Gold Star Teacher this year.

May is the month that we honor our mothers for all the love she has shown us each day. Mothers in the bible are depicted as honorable beings' worthy of the love and respect of their children and the entire community. A woman named Mary, brought our Savior Jesus Christ, into the world, and in this regard, every woman in the world is believed to be connected to her.

In honor of all mothers, I am sharing a Helen Steiner Rice poem from a book that was given to me by my friend, Barb Valenti.

"Mother Is a Word Called Love"

Mother is a word called love and all the world is mindful of the love that's given and shown to others is different from The Love of Mothers... For Mothers play the leading roles in giving birth to little souls, for though "small souls" are heaven-sent and we realize they're only lent, it takes a mother's loving hands and her gentle heart that understands to mold and shape this little life and shelter it through storm and strife... No other love than Mother love could do the things required of the one to whom God gives the keeping of His wee lambs, awake or sleeping—

So, Mothers are a "special race" God sent to earth to take His place, and Mother is a lovely name that even the Saints are proud to claim.

Happy Mother's Day to anyone who has ever been a mother to anyone!



Our scripture for the month is found in 1 Corinthians 13:13.

"So, faith, hope, love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love."

Blessings to all of you.

Pat and Charlene



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>Worship @ 10:00 a.m. No Communion</i>	4 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	5 Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m. Outreach @ 5:30 p.m.	6 No SPRC Meeting	7 Finance Mtg. 10:00 a.m.	8	9
10 <i>Worship @ 10:00 a.m. Mother's Day Last Day of Sunday School</i>	11 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	12 Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m. Trustees @ 5:30 p.m. AD Council @ 6:30 p.m.	13	14	15	16
17 <i>Worship @ 10:00 a.m.</i>	18 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	19 Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m.	20 Joy Circle @ 9:00 a.m.	21	22	23
24 <i>Worship @ 10:00 a.m. Communion</i>	25 Bible Study @ 1:30 p.m.	26 Shawl Ministry @ 2:00 p.m. Meekness @ 7:00 p.m.	27 Prayer Service @ 6:00 p.m.	28 Care Facility Worship @ 10:00 a.m.	29	30
31 <i>Worship @ 10:00 a.m.</i>						

Office Information:

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