St. Paul's Epistle – June 2026

YOUNG HEROES OF THE FAITH

During the months of May and June, many young people across our country graduated (or will be graduating) from eighth grade, high school or college. It is an exciting time for them—much to be thankful for and much to look forward to yet occurring in their young lives.

Speaking of youth, we don't probably mention it enough, but teenagers did some pretty incredible things in the Bible. By way of example, **Josiah** was eight (8) years old when he became king of Judah (II Kings 22:1) and faithfully served the Lord. **Joseph** was 17 years old when his brothers sold him into slavery. Despite this misfortune, he still served the Lord gladly and at the age of 37, he was second only to Pharaoh in Egypt, saving his people and the Egyptians from starvation. **David** was no more than 17 years old when he slew the mighty Philistine giant, Goliath. **Mary** was a teenager (probably no more than 14 or 15) when she gave birth to Jesus. That was the customary age to marry 2,000 years ago. **John Mark** was believed to be a teenager when he accompanied Paul and Barnabas on one of their missionary journeys.

Incredible as these teenagers were, no less incredible are those who live in our present time. Today's youth are also called to "serve the Lord with gladness" (Ps. 100:2). Sadly, we must acknowledge the youth who have had unspeakable things done to them in foreign lands only because they confessed faith in Jesus Christ. Some Christian youth in Pakistan, Tunisia, Sudan, North Korea, Indonesia, China, Nigeria, and elsewhere, know all too well what it is to be persecuted. A teenage Pakistani girl who faced the death penalty for converting her Muslim friend said: "If you promise to carry your cross, it will be a life full of thorns, mountains and difficulties. But no matter how big the mountain, Jesus will help you overcome! As for me, I would rather be hanged then deny my faith." We certainly pray that such persecution would end. But we also pray that, as Rev. 2:10b reminds us, we would "be faithful unto death and receive the crown of life" no matter what our age or life's circumstance.

Pastor Poganski

WORSHIP NOTES

We now enter the season after Pentecost and focus on growing in the Word. The paraments are **GREEN** representing growth and life. We learn of the life of Christ in His Church, share Jesus's teachings and the Spirit's work among us. We are **ALIVE** in Christ through our Lord's Word and Sacraments.

Sunday, June 7th is the Second Sunday after Pentecost. We will hear from Matthew 9:9-13 in the Sermon titled, "Is Anyone Sick Here?"

Sunday, June 14th we continue our meditations in Matthew 9:35-10:8 hearing of "The Compassion of Jesus".

Sunday, June 21st we focus on Matthew 10:5a, 21-33 in the Sermon titled, "Have No Fear!"

Sunday, June 28th the Gospel reading from Matthew 10:34-42 provides the text for the Sermon titled, "The Honor of Our Lord's Sword".

Let us praise our God together singing:
Let me be Thine forever, My faithful God and Lord; Let me forsake Thee never Nor wander from Thy Word. Lord do not let me waver, But give me steadfastness, And for such grace forever Thy holy name I'll bless. (LSB 689- "Let Me Be Thine Forever" st.1)

All praise to Him,
Karen Broach, Worship Committee

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A THOT TO PONDER:
"In Christ, by faith in Him, our getting, saving, spending, and giving do honor our Lord. Christ Jesus sets us free from worry and greed, selfishness and the temptations to hoard, covetousness, and idolatry. Furthermore, He wants to give us peace as we deal with every financial challenge and blessing in our lives. We can count on Him to do it because we know He has already given us the most beautiful gown imaginable, the robe of righteousness He won for us on His cross." [from "Faith and Finance," Concordia Publishing House]