

St Paul's Ripples

May 2026

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus!

It was Friday March 13, 2020 – the day my council decided to close for Covid, in conjunction with the school districts' two-week shutdown. People were frightened and overwhelmed. I wanted to minister to my community and keep them connected, so I encouraged everyone to join in a livestream from the church bell tower every day at 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM. The first Friday evening, March 13th, I set my tripod up and put my camera on live stream as I called my community to prayer. We prayed via livestream through the first two weeks, the second two weeks, and then third two weeks on into the closing until end of the school year. At that point, I asked the upper elementary and middle school youth to help out by ringing the bell. I would start the live stream at the sound of the bell, still twice a day, every day, except Sunday. Sunday morning we worshipped online and livestreamed prayer in the evening.



I did this for 2 years, even after we started worshipping outdoors, even after we were able to worship appropriately social distanced inside the church. Twice a day, every day, I would livestream a devotion and prayer, regardless of where I was. I streamed from a hospital chapel, various outdoor places, from my car. I streamed from Chapel in the Hills, from conferences and continuing education events. I even streamed while I was on vacation. This schedule was unsustainable and my congregation understood the need to cut back. After year two, I dropped morning prayer and continued the evening one Sunday through Thursday. Year three, I switched to noon prayer, Monday through Thursday and I took breaks when I was out of town.

It's been six years, one month and fifteen days since I first set up my phone to live stream and rang the bell, calling my community to prayer. It's been a blessing, this sharing my daily devotion with you all. Still, six years is a long time, and I feel the need for break - a Sabbath if you will. Not a break from prayer, (I'll still be praying and doing my own devotions), but from the obligation of sharing my devotion time and the demands of schedule. My soul needs to spend time in private prayer on a less structured schedule.

Starting May 14th, through the end of August, Midday Prayer is going on break. We all need Sabbath time, from even things that are good, are spiritual, and are normally life giving. When the good, the spiritual and the life-giving start to feel more like a chore, it's time to step back and make room for the Holy Spirit to bring rest and restoration.

I will be praying that the Holy Spirit also brings you moments of rest and restoration this summer.

Peace,
Mother Ramona

April's Skipping Stones

Like skipping stones in God's hands, may we create ripples in our lives and the lives of those in our community!

Congratulations 2026 SDSU Graduates! Rebecca Michna graduates with a double BS in Math and Data Science. She is moving to Omaha to work for National Indemnity Company. John Lane graduates with a BS in Chemistry and a minor in Math. He is heading to naval officer candidate school in Thode Island. It has been a joy sharing the college years with these amazing young people. May God bless you both in the next stage of your life journey!

EYC Happenings: Our final EYC of the 2025-26 school year meets May 6 for graduation send off and end of year party.

Vestry: The next vestry meeting is May 31st after the coffee fellowship.

Summer Learning Opportunities:

For Adults:

Were you confirmed? Do you need a refresher? Or do you just like to talk Episcopalian and play "Stump the Lutheran Rector?" There are 2 options for you:

Pub Theology becomes Pub Catechism! May 13, June 24 (4th Wednesday!), and July 15 at 7 pm at the Bank Saloon, on the corner of 4th and Main.

Coffee, Tea, and Theology: Meets at the church May 13, June 24, and July 15 at 3pm

Both groups will use the book *Episcopal Questions, Episcopal Answers* by C. K. Robertson, and Ian Markham. Please read Sections One, Episcopal Beliefs and Section Two, Ethics and come with your questions

For Youth (dates TBA):

Faith, Life and Other Questions: What do Episcopalians believe and how does that affect my life? Come with your questions - tough, simple, thought-provoking, or silly and we'll find the answers together. This class is for all youth, those preparing for confirmation, and anyone who wants to have some fun learning more about their faith.

Acolyte A to Z: Acolyte experts Jennifer Lacher-Starace and Stephanie Lacher are eager to impart their wisdom to a new generation of acolytes. We'll cover everything from ablution to wafer (there isn't actually a liturgical term starting with z).

Mother Ramona's May Schedule: Mother Ramona will be on vacation from May 14th to May 21st. She is also required to attend SD Synod Assembly, May 29-30.

Weekly events

Monday: Mother Ramona's office hours, 11am-1pm in the SDSU Student Union, May 10.th Office hours as SDSU will resume in September

Tuesday:

Mother Ramona's office hours

1st & 2nd Tuesday – 3-6pm at Kool Beans

4th Tuesday – 1-4pm at Cottonwood on Main

3rd Tuesday – 1-4pm at Chocolatte

5th Tuesday – 11-2 at Mission Coffeehouse

Wine and Word 7pm at Mosaic, Sunday text Bible study, May 5th and 12th only. Wine and Word will resume in the fall.

Wednesday:

Midweek worship at 1:30pm

May 6th at St Paul's

May 20th Edgewood Care Facility

May 13th at Cottonwood on Main

May 27th – on break until fall

Coffee, Tea, and Theology – May 13th 3pm at St Paul's

Pub Confirmation – May 13th 7:00pm at the Bank

Sunday Coffee and refreshments in Thorburn Hall 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sunday.

Pancake Breakfast 1st Sunday and Potluck 3rd Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

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St Paul's Episcopal Church

Rooted in love. Open to all.