

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!



Happy Easter! We continue our 50 days of the Easter Season. Our celebration continues on Sunday with a fellowship time to **welcome members** who joined over the last couple of years: Jim and Margaret Bull, Robyn Wood, Euder Paul, Deborah Barc, Hank Roberts, Irene Felicetti, Carol Grosch, Lindy Lindemann, Michael Flanigan, and JoAnn Jordan. Please stay after worship and have a piece of cake in celebration.

Don't forget the **Variety Show potluck** and celebration on Saturday, May 21 at 6p.

The **Celebration of Life** for Frank Brodnax is 1p on Monday, May 23. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

I found this poem about Judas Iscariot and thought I would share it as some of our Lent Wednesday services talked about Judas and his betrayal. I do love the theology of the poem. I was once asked what happened on Saturday (meaning the day between Good Friday and Easter) and I think this is now my answer.

The Ballad of the Judas Tree
By Dorothea Ruth Etchells

In Hell there grew a Judas Tree
Where Judas hanged and died
Because he could not bear to see
His master crucified
Our Lord descended into Hell
And found his Judas there
Forever hanging on the tree
Grown from his own despair
So Jesus cut his Judas down
And took him in his arms
"It was for this I came," he said,
"And not to do you harm.
My Father gave me twelve good men
And all of them I kept
Though one betrayed and one denied

Some fled and others slept.
In three days' time I must return
To make the others glad
But first I had to come to Hell
And share the death you had
My tree will grow in place of yours
Its roots lie here as well
There is no final victory
Without this soul from Hell."
So when we all condemn him
As of every traitor worst
Remember that of all his men
Our Lord forgave him first.

God's peace,

5.13.22

-Pr Ashley

