



St. Paul News

April 2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church -
Missouri Synod*

1050 10th Avenue
Granite Falls, MN 56241

Rev. Jonathan Varns
Pastor

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Chairman
Larry Cuklanz
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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of
St. Paul Lutheran Church
is to promote the
worship of the Triune God
as revealed in Holy Scriptures,
by teaching the Gospel of
Jesus Christ and administering
the Sacraments, in order to
equip people for Christian
life and service

Pastor's Message

Romans 4:25: "Christ died for our sin and rose for our justification."

Martin Luther: "That is to say, in His suffering, Christ makes our sin known and thus destroys it, but through His resurrection He justifies us and delivers us from all sin, if we believe this."

Easter is the linchpin of the New Testament. Christmas without Easter would just be another sentimental story. Good Friday without Easter would be nothing more than a tragic miscarriage of justice. Pentecost without Easter would be just a bizarre event starting off another dubious religion.

But Easter gives Christmas, Good Friday, and Pentecost a whole new meaning. It was no ordinary baby born to Mary, but rather God in human flesh came to rescue us from the curse of sin by taking it on Himself. It was no mere political activist whose blood was shed on the cross, but rather the holy and righteous Son of God who shed His innocent blood in the place of our guilty blood. His rising from the dead means that no power in heaven or on earth can successfully oppose Him. His Church will flourish, is flourishing, in the power of the Spirit, and the gates of hell cannot withstand it. It will endure forever.

Easter is likewise the linchpin of the story of your life. The God who died for you did not stay dead. He rose from the dead in glory, and no power can successfully oppose Him. When the called and ordained servant of Christ says your sins are forgiven, they really are, because Christ has risen from the dead. When you pray for the Spirit's help in temptation, you receive it, because Christ is risen from the dead. And when your last hour comes and death has done its worst, you will nevertheless live forever because Christ has risen from the dead.

He is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns



Items of Interest

Confirmation Sunday

This service is the recognition that this Confirmand has been instructed in the essentials of the Christian faith and life, and it also marks the start of a lifetime of further growth in her God-given faith. The Confirmation Service will be held on Sunday, April 28th at 9:30 am. Our Confirmand is Carley Re-depenning.

LWML News

Thanks to all who contribute to our monthly "Noisy offerings." For March it was \$38.76. This money will go toward LWML mission projects.

Monday, April 15 at 6:30 pm is our next quarterly meeting. One item of business is that we need to start planning the Ice Cream Social that's held in the summer. Also, some ways in which we can help out with the 125th Anniversary.

Sunday, April 28, is the Spring Rally at Redeemer in Willmar. Registration begins at 1:30 and the Rally at 2:00. Reverend Tim Renstrom will lead one of the devotions. There will also be a speaker from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Check out the bulletin board for the flyer with all the information included. We will be carpooling from our church parking lot at 12:30.

The MN North District Convention will be held at Cragun's Resort June 3-5. If you have any old convention bags, you are encouraged to donate them for use at that convention. Keynote Speaker is Katie Schuermann. She's from Champaign, Illinois. Her topic is "Light in the Lord." Along with more speakers, there will be a Bible Study, Mites in Action speakers, a Mite Walk, singing, entertainment, food and fellowship. If you would like to attend, please contact Judy Rode or Mary Hammer.

Meeting Notes

At the Quarterly Voter's Meeting held March 17th, after the service, election for the council members was held. Congratulations to DuWayne Galow as Chairman and Jim Rigge as Vice Chair. Elders are Mike Brown and Larry Cuklanz and Trustees are Chris Berends and Kris Cobb. Thanks to Dave Guertin, Jason Hoff, Travis Luepke, and Anne Brown for their past service.



April Birthdays

| | | |
|----------|--|--|
| April 6 | Christopher Streich | |
| April 7 | Barb Sietsma | |
| April 10 | RaeAnn Hegna | |
| April 11 | Curt Markgraf, Daniel Rude | |
| April 13 | Bryan Anderson, Kristin Canatsey | |
| April 14 | Sarah Van Sickle, Jordan Zens | |
| April 15 | Carrie Cunningham | |
| April 16 | Colston Enninga, Riley Hoff, Emily Johnson, Charlie Putnam | |
| April 18 | Kris Cobb | |
| April 20 | Austin Canatsey, Barb Kling, Carol Podratz | |
| April 22 | Tracy Oevermann, | |
| April 23 | Garrett Cobb, Madelynn Staab | |
| April 24 | Kandi Black | |
| April 25 | Mercedes Enter, Michele Hoyer | |
| April 26 | Dane Hildahl, Larry Meyer | |
| April 28 | LuAnn Olson | |
| April 29 | Kresley Enninga, Jeff Hoyer, Lanny Hoyer | |
| April 30 | Phyllis Schultz | |

Birthday Blessings to you all.

Please contact the church office if we missed yours.



Portals of Prayer for April - June
and available in the narthex.

SAC Groups will be our greeters and ushers. If this is your month to serve, please prayerfully consider where you are able to and willing to help.

Daily Bible Readings For April

Group 4

Serving for April

Banken, Jim and Janine
Baumann, Jayne
Bruss, Margie
Canatsey, Kristin
Donner, Jenelle
Donner, Jessica
Ebel, Colton and Emily
Edman, Tom and Tammy
Gabbert, Don and Jeanne
Hildahl, Dan and Valerie
Holtan, Marie
Hoyer, Lanny
Jeseritz, Tanya
Johnson, Mark
Keller, Katie
Kling, Verlyn and Barb
Kvam, Carrie
Kvam, Gordon
Kvam, LeRoy and Debra
Luepke, Mike and Pam
Meyer, Greg and Jackie
Meyer, Larry and Karla
Petersen, Loren and Marci
Reese, Tom
Schultz, Dennis and Phyllis
Skjefte, Dave and Val
Smith, Dennis and Lu-Ann
Steffen, Kerry and Julie
Timm, Craig and Susan
Timm, Daphne
Timm, Lee
Twedt, Charles and Kari
Wilking, Larry
Yeager, Dave and Darlene

Group 1

Serving for May

Anderson, Rachel
Berends, Anthony
Berends, Chris
Buchholz, Merlin and Sylvia
Christensen, Brad and Maria
Christensen, Rachel
Doose, Chad
Doose, Greg and Susan
Doose, Mike and Kristi
Erickson, Wes and Sue
Gabbert, Dennis
Gatchell, Dorian and Melanie
Guertin, Dave and Nancy
Hammer, Nancy
Hammer, Tracy
Hempel, Tim and Jody
Hildahl, Eric and Teresa
Johnson, Matthew
Luepke, Travis and Jenn
Markgraf, Kevin
Phinney, Katie
Putnam, Charlie
Rode, Judy
Ryer, Lisa
Ryer, Shannon
Schulte, Richard and Kelly
Saab, Tyler and Tara
Steffen, Don
Stengel, Gene and Pam
Stengel, Rob
Syring, Melodee

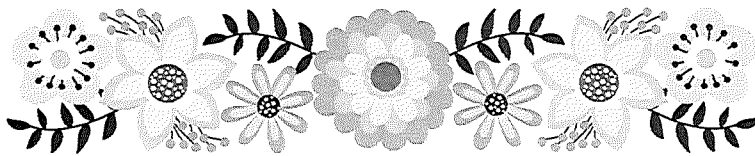
| | | | |
|--------|-----------------|--------|------------------|
| Apr 1 | Numbers 30-31 | Job 1 | Matthew 25:1-30 |
| Apr 2 | Numbers 32-34 | Job 2 | Matthew 25:31-46 |
| Apr 3 | Numbers 35-36 | Job 3 | Matthew 26:1-25 |
| Apr 4 | Deut 1-2 | Job 4 | Matthew 26:26-46 |
| Apr 5 | Deut 3-4 | Job 5 | Matthew 26:47-75 |
| Apr 6 | Deut 5-6 | Job 6 | Matthew 27:1-31 |
| Apr 7 | Deut 7-8 | Job 7 | Matthew 27:32-66 |
| Apr 8 | Deut 9-10 | Job 8 | Matthew 28 |
| Apr 9 | Deut 11-12 | Job 9 | Acts 1 |
| Apr 10 | Deut 13-14 | Job 10 | Acts 2:1-13 |
| Apr 11 | Deut 15-16 | Job 11 | Acts 2:14-47 |
| Apr 12 | Deut 17-18 | Job 12 | Acts 3 |
| Apr 13 | Deut 19-20 | Job 13 | Acts 4:1-22 |
| Apr 14 | Deut 21-22 | Job 14 | Acts 4:23-37 |
| Apr 15 | Deut 23-24 | Job 15 | Acts 5:1-16 |
| Apr 16 | Deut 25-27 | Job 16 | Acts 5:17-42 |
| Apr 17 | Deut 28 | Job 17 | Acts 6 |
| Apr 18 | Deut 29-30 | Job 18 | Acts 7:1-22 |
| Apr 19 | Deut 31-32 | Job 19 | Acts 7:23-8:1 |
| Apr 20 | Deut 33-34 | Job 20 | Acts 8:2-25 |
| Apr 21 | Joshua 1-2 | Job 21 | Acts 8:26-40 |
| Apr 22 | Joshua 3:1-5:1 | Job 22 | Acts 9:1-25 |
| Apr 23 | Joshua 5:2-6:27 | Job 23 | Acts 9:26-43 |
| Apr 24 | Joshua 7-8 | Job 24 | Acts 10:1-33 |
| Apr 25 | Joshua 9-10 | Job 25 | Acts 10:34-48 |
| Apr 26 | Joshua 11-12 | Job 26 | Acts 11:1-18 |
| Apr 27 | Joshua 13-14 | Job 27 | Acts 11:19-30 |
| Apr 29 | Joshua 18-19 | Job 29 | Acts 13:1-25 |
| Apr 30 | Joshua 20-21 | Job 30 | Acts 13:26-5 |

Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report for March

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Offering</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Sun, Mar 3 | 54 | \$5,974.00 |
| Wed, Mar 6 | 22 | \$215.00 |
| Sun, Mar 10 | 50 | \$3,809.00 |
| Wed, Mar 13 | 20 | \$175.00 |
| Sun, Mar 17 | 61 | \$1,700.00 |
| Wed, Mar 20 | 16 | \$85.00 |
| Sun, Mar 24 | 39 | \$1,700.00 |
| Thu, Mar 28 | 55 | \$415.00 |
| Fri, Mar 29 | 43 | \$181.00 |
| Sun, Mar 31 | 115 | \$7,700.00 |

(2024 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,485.00)



Financials as of 3-31-2024

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Year to Date Actual Contributions | \$46,322.33 |
| Year to Date Contributions Needed | <u>\$45,301.23</u> |
| Difference | \$1,021.10 |
| Year to Date Actual Expenses | \$46,475.96 |
| Year to Date Budgeted Expenses | <u>\$45,301.23</u> |
| Difference | (\$1,174.73) |

Reflections over the years.....

Our longest living baptized member of St. Paul's is Merlin Buchholz that was born on May 13. What a privilege to interview him and write his story. If you have any stories you would like to share, please let me know. Sue Erickson

Some memories include Pastor O. C. Wolff, who was pastor here from 1903-1939. He drove a buggy here from Sparta congregation and served the 2 churches for 36 years. In 1916 he was given a Model T by the congregations, which helped speed up the commute.

Merlin remembers the custom when women with small children sat on the right side facing the altar. Merlin still remembers sitting with his mother on the right side! Men always sat on the left side. Merlin also remembers services being held in German and English. However, he doesn't remember ever attending a German worship service.

Merlin would ride his bicycle into town on Saturday mornings to attend Confirmation classes with Pastor Orville Markgraf. Pastor Markgraf decided to be a chaplain in World War 11, so Merlin was confirmed by Pastor Bouman from Posen who was the vacancy pastor. Merlin remembers pushing his bike up the hill from Granite Falls to get back home again! During Merlin's high school days, he remembers getting off every Wednesday afternoon for religious instruction.

An interesting fact Merlin recalls was in the old church and when they decided to replace the old windows. It was decided to have purple stained-glass windows. Everyone was surprised to see that those purple windows made everyone look purple too! It took a while for those windows to fade, and everyone looked normal again. This was probably in the late 1940's. There was no basement in the old church either. Just a small furnace and coal room. In the mid 1940's a new basement was dug. The building was raised, and a new basement was installed with plumbing. The basement also provided a place to hold Sunday School as well.

Parking at the old church was a challenge as there was no parking lot. Merlin even recalls a lady that wasn't "very happy" when anyone parked in front of her house.

Merlin recalls ushering with Don Hempel when they were much younger as well. Communion was distributed by only the pastor (no Elder helped at that time) and the Common Cup was only used then. The pastor wiped the cup between each communicant. Hymnals were not provided in the pews. Instead, they were passed out by a couple men before the service began. They were much small hymnals at that time too.

Merlin was on the church council when they sold the old church to the Free Lutheran's. He remembers it sold for \$6000.

When the process of building the new church began, Merlin remembers hauling many loads of fines to fill in the slew on which the church was going to be built on.

During the flood of 1969, Merlin said the pews were all removed to prevent damage to them. The pastors books from his home were all carried to the balcony to save them from any possible flood waters as well. No water reached the church property.

In 1965, Merlin went to the MN North District Convention up in Thunder Bay, Ontario. At that time it was called Port Arthur. At that time MN North had congregations in Canada. Now they have their own district.

Retarring the roof was always a challenge. Merlin said several men would be up on the roof to do the retarring. Pastor Wayne Anderson decided to come up and help. One ladder was used to get to the top of sacristy and then another ladder from there to the top of roof. Pastor Anderson froze with fright on top of roof. So Merlin had him look at him and guided him how to safely get back down the ladder again. Merlin said that that was something he didn't think Pastor Anderson would be afraid of heights, since he was also a pilot!

Mission Festivals were very common in the summer years ago. Merlin remembers having some in a park on the North end of town.

Christmas Eve services used to be always packed.....in the old church and the new church.

Merlin recalls years ago that many volunteers would take their push lawn mowers up to the cemetery about once a month and mow. At that time no one was hired to do that job.

Before the LWML was organized, the ladies belonged to "Ladies Aid". Merlin said it was called that because they were there to "aid the church.". It was very important to the church as they even helped provide for the church budget.

A tradition we no longer see but what Merlin remembers is that when someone passed away, the bell rang for how old he/she was.

Merlin and Sylvia's son, Alan, was the first person to be baptized in the new church (pictured in Oct 2023 Newsletter).

Orphan Grain Train

All congregations in the MN North District are invited to collect new socks and undies for men, women, and especially for children age 3 to 6th grade (these items are required for school) for the Orphan Grain Train. Pastor Jonathan will bring them to the ingathering at the OGT booth at the MN North District Convention on May 13 -15 at Madden's Resort, Brainerd. These items will be taken to the Texas border missions and other places where new items are allowed. A collection box is in the coatroom if you wish to donate.

Lutheran Island Camp

Check all the various camps that are available for kids of all ages and even adults. Booklets are available in the narthex and online at www.islandcamp.org/summer. Don't forget that the LWML has financial assistance available.

CALENDAR

2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| | 1 8 am Men's Bible Study | 2 | 3 5 pm K-6 Midweek Class 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm 7-8 gr Conf Class 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice | 4 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge 7 pm Bible Study | 5 | 6 |
| 7 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service | 8 8 am Men's Bible Study | 9 6 pm Board of Elders 7 pm Church Council | 10 5 pm K-6 Midweek Class 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm 7-8 gr Conf Class 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice | 11 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge 7 pm Bible Study | 12 | 13 |
| 14 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service | 15 8 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm LWML Qtly Meeting | 16 | 17 5 pm K-6 Midweek Class 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm 7-8 gr Conf Class 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice | 18 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge 7 pm Bible Study | 19 Newsletter Articles Due | 20 |
| | | St. Paul Lutheran | Church delivers "Dinner at Your Door" | | | |
| 21 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service | 22 8 am Men's Bible Study | 23 | 24 5 pm K-6 Midweek Class 6:00 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm 7-8 gr Conf Class 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice | 25 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge 7 pm Bible Study | 26 | 27 10 am-12 pm Varns Baby Shower |
| 28 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Confirmation | 29 8 am Men's Bible Study | 30 | | | | |