



# *St. Paul News*

## *April 2026*

## **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

*The Lutheran Church -  
Missouri Synod*

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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.

### *He Is Not Here*

*"He is not here, but has risen." -- Luke 24:6*

April is the month of empty things. The snowbanks that once stood like walls begin to disappear. The trees may still look bare. Garden beds can seem lifeless and vacant. And then Easter gives us the most important empty thing of all: an empty tomb.

Early on Easter morning, the women came to the grave carrying spices—and carrying sorrow. They expected to find death where they had left it. Instead, the angel greets them with words that have echoed through the centuries: "He is not here, but has risen."

Those words speak directly to one of the deepest struggles of the human heart: we often live as though death, guilt, and sorrow still have the final word. We know what that feels like.

A regret from years ago still clings to the conscience. A grief still rests heavily on the heart. A fear about the future keeps returning. Even after the Easter lilies are gone and the hymns have faded, we can still find ourselves living as though the stone is still in place.

But the angel's words do not depend on our feelings. "He is not here." Jesus is not in the tomb because death could not hold Him. He is risen—truly, bodily, gloriously alive.

This changes everything. It means your sin is not left unforgiven. Christ carried it to the cross and left it in the grave. It means your fears do not determine your future. The risen Lord stands ahead of you. It means death itself is no longer a locked door, but a doorway into everlasting life with Him.

Luther often emphasized that the resurrection is God's public declaration that the sacrifice of Christ has been accepted. The cross says, "It is finished." Easter morning answers, "Yes, it is true."

That is why the empty tomb is not merely a fact to remember. It is a promise to live by. When guilt whispers, "You are still the same person," Easter answers, "Christ is risen for you." When grief says, "Nothing will ever change," Easter answers, "Death has been defeated." When the future feels uncertain, Easter answers, "The risen Christ goes before you."

As the hymn joyfully sings: "Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!"

This April, whatever emptiness you may feel, remember the one emptiness that changes all the rest: the tomb is empty. Christ is risen! And because He lives, you live in His forgiveness, grace, and the sure promise of the resurrection.

Blessed Easter!

*Pastor David Tilney*

Vacancy Pastor

# Items of Interest

## Holy Week and Easter Services

Please attend our Holy Week and Easter Service. This is the most sacred and important time of the year for Christians, and we encourage all of you to take advantage of the wonderful variety of worship opportunities that will be available to you. Don't forget to bring your family and friends to share in the majesty and mystery of this special week!

**Palm Sunday** was held on March 29th where we observed Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and reverently looked forward to His passion.

**Maundy Thursday: April 2nd** at 5 pm we will reflect on our Lord's institution of His life-giving Supper. In recognition of this most Holy and blessed gift Maundy Thursday Communion Service will be celebrated.

**Good Friday: April 3rd** at 5 pm the service will reflect on the depth of our sin and Jesus' infinite love for us, a love that led Him to the Cross to be the sacrifice that freed us from sin, death, and the devil.

**Easter Sunday: April 5th** we celebrate the joy of the resurrection with a morning of fellowship and worship. Coffee Time will be at 9:30 am serving muffins and coffee. The Easter Worship Service follows at 11 am.



## 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 Anderson
April 14	Sarah Van Sickle, Jordan Zens
April 15	Carrie Cunningham
April 16	Riley Hoff, Emily Johnson, Charlie Putnam
April 18	Kris Cobb
April 20	Austin Canatsey, Barb Kling, Carol Podratz
April 21	Jackie Janiszewski
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	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  
are available in the narthex.

# LWML News

The mites for March was \$21.37. The noisy offering are the 3rd Sunday of the month and that Sunday in March was canceled. Thanks for your continued support for LWML missions!

Thanks to everyone who helped prepare and serve the Lenten supper meals. We generally had around 25 attend the suppers and enjoyed good food and conversation! Thanks to Thrivent Action Team for helping provide the \$\$\$ for buying most of the food as well!

~~April 5th we will be hosting the Easter breakfast from 10-10:45 am before church services. Come to the Parish Hall and enjoy a variety of egg bakes, muffins, fruit, juice and coffee! This is also a Thrivent Action Team event!~~

Sunday, April 19th, is the Spring Rally at St. Paul's in Montevideo. Registration begins at 1:30 with a \$5 registration fee. There will be devotions, a skit performed by our own LWML ladies and our guest speaker will be Jenn Johnson. She will be speaking on her project called "Kelsi's Hope." Jenn organizes bags that contain items that dialysis patients can use while they are having dialysis several times a week. The in-gathering for the Rally are items that Jenn can put in these bags like travel size lotion, hand sanitizer and Kleenex. If you would like to donate any of those items, there is a collection box in the coatroom. Lunch will also be served that day. A flyer is posted on our bulletin board for more details. We will be carpooling and leaving our church parking lot by 1 pm that day.

Monday, April 20th at 2 pm will be our quarterly meeting for the LWML in the church Parish Hall. One topic for discussion will be organizing our annual Summertime Pie Social. Come and enjoy an afternoon of a short Bible study, meeting and snacks with our LWML ladies!

June 22-24 is the MN North District Convention in Waite Park. Judy Rode and Mary Hammer plan to be our delegates for this convention. You are not required to attend all 3 days to go to this event. If you would like to go for "just the day", please contact Sue Erickson to ride along with her.

August 7-9 is a special event at Lutheran Island Camp just for LWML ladies. Christina Walther is the guest speaker. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Judy Rode or Sue Erickson.

**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

## Group 2

### Serving for April

Anderson, Bryan and Renae  
Berends, Randy and Tamra  
Beyer, Brian, and Laura  
Cobb, Kris and Holly  
Enninga, Dan and Kathy  
Guertin, Sarah  
Hammer, Brett  
Hammer, Mary  
Hempel, Terry and Rosemary  
Hinz, Paul and Diane  
Jeseritz, Randy  
Johnson, Ted and Kathy  
Kirschbaum, Janet  
Korthuis, John and Kathy  
Lindstrom, Nick and Hailey  
Luepke, Otto and Theresa  
Miller, Eugene  
Myers, Troy and Jenna  
Nokleby, Dorothy  
Podratz, Ken and Carol  
Redepenning, Tony and Amy  
Rigge, Jim and Cindy  
Rigge, Michael  
Sherman, Leslie and Renee  
Sietsema, Barb  
Stengel, Allen and Pat  
Streich, Chris  
Streich, LouAnn  
Wegner, James and Eileen  
Zempel, Meredith  
Zempel, Nicole



# Summer Camp

It's never too early to make your reservation at the Lutheran Island Camp for the summer. There are brochures available in the narthex or check them out at [islandcamp.org](http://islandcamp.org). Don't forget that the LWML has financial assistance available.



# Thanks

Did you know??? Next time you stop at either FM Bank or Citizens Bank thank them for so graciously supplying our church with paper napkins for the past years that we use on a weekly basis!

# Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report for March

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Mar 1	56	\$3,150.00
Thu, Mar 5	36	\$381.00
Sun, Mar 8	132	\$2,933.00
Thu, Mar 12	31	\$805.00
Sun, Mar 15	canceled	
Thu, Mar 19	31	\$413.00
Sun, Mar 22	73	\$2,740.00
Thu, Mar 26	34	\$568.00
Sun, Mar 29	62	\$2,525.00

(2026 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,336.00)

# Financials as of 3-29-2026

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$35,746.84
Year to Date Budgeted Income	\$43,364.73
Difference	(\$7,617.89)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$35,183.57
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	\$43,364.73
Difference	\$8,181.16

# Daily Bible Readings For April

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



