



# *St. Paul News*

## *April 2023*

## **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

*The Lutheran Church -  
Missouri Synod*

**1050 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Granite Falls, MN 56241**

**Rev. Jonathan Varns  
Pastor**

**860 11th Ave  
Granite Falls, MN 56241  
218-235-8493**

**shepherdofthecross@gmail.com**

**Church office  
320-564-2221**

**stpaulgf@embarqmail.com  
www.stpaulgf.org**

**Chairman  
Brad Christensen  
320-981-0014**

### **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**

The most important factor, the holy grail so to speak, for helping youth remain active in their church as young adults has been as it always has been all along: Parents.

Mothers and fathers who practice what they preach and preach what they practice are far and away the major influence related to adolescents keeping the faith into their 20s, according to findings from a landmark study of youth and religion.

Look at these statistics from the National Study of Youth and Religion (youthandreligion.org). Just 1 percent of teens ages 15 to 17 raised by parents who attached little importance to religion were highly religious in their mid to late 20s. In contrast, 82 percent of children raised by parents who talked about faith at home, attached great importance to their beliefs and were active in their congregations were themselves religiously active as young adults.

In other words, parents making sure to going to church weekly with their children, praying together with their children, and talking about matters of the faith at home, sets children up to be faithful in their adult lives. The connection is "nearly deterministic," said University of Notre Dame Sociologist Christian Smith, lead researcher for the study.

Other factors such as youth ministry or clergy or service projects or religious schools pale in comparison. "No other conceivable causal influence ... comes remotely close to matching the influence of parents on the religious faith and practices of youth," Smith says. "Parents just dominate."

It's ingrained in Creation. Moses said to the people of Israel in Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." Teach and talk often, he says.

Luther also picks up on this. As an introduction to each of the six chief parts of the Small Catechism, Luther writes, "As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household." He also explains further in the explanation to the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment, "In preference to all the other lesser stations of life, God has given special recognition to fatherhood and motherhood. ... He distinguishes father and mother from all other persons on earth, chooses them, and sets them next to Himself. For to honor is a much higher thing than to love, for honor includes not only love but also respect, humility, and awe, directed, one might say, toward a hidden majesty of theirs." Honor is to be directed at parents as though they have a hidden majesty. Why? Children learn how to be a disciple of God from their parents, whether the parents intend to teach it to them or not! God designed it this way!

Parents need to realize that a hands-off approach to religion, one that has been adopted in the last couple of generations, has serious consequences. Declining church attendance and the rise of the "nones" shows this well. "Parents set a kind of glass ceiling of religious commitment, above which their children rarely rise" says Smith.

Cont. on page 4

# 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: April 2nd** at 9:30 am we will observe Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and reverently looked forward to His passion.



**Maundy Thursday: April 6th** at 7 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 7th** at 7 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 9th** we celebrate the joy of the resurrection with a morning of fellowship and worship. An Easter Breakfast will be served between 8:30 - 9:15 am and the menu will be egg bake, rolls, coffee, juice and milk. The Easter Worship Service follows at 9:30 am.



## April Birthdays

- April 1 Shantae Specht
- 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, Barbara Kling, Carol Podratz
- April 22 Tracy Oevermann, Brayden Tjaden
- April 23 Garrett Cobb, Kenton Hustad, Madelynn Staab
- April 24 Kandi Black
- April 25 Mercedes Enter, Michele Hoyer
- April 26 Dane Hildahl, Jim Klassen, Larry Meyer
- April 28 LuAnn Olson
- April 29 Kresley Enninga, Jeff Hoyer, Lanny Hoyer
- April 30 Donald Kirsch, Phyllis Schultz

**Birthday Blessings to you all.**

Please contact the church office if we missed yours.



## LWML News

A "heartfelt thanks" to everyone who donated food and worked for our LWML Hot Dish Supper fund raiser! Many hours were put into the planning, advertising, preparing food, serving and clean up for this event. We truly appreciate the help given by so many members of our congregation...including the men! This was also a Thrivent Action Team Event and we very much appreciate the monetary support from Thrivent! We served 67 and total of \$916 was made at our event.

Thanks to all who contribute to our monthly "Noisy offerings." In February \$43.83 was donated and \$52.73 in March. This money will go toward LWML mission projects.

Upcoming events in April include the following: Monday, April 17th at 6:30 pm in parish hall will be our Quarterly meeting. All women of the congregation are encouraged to join us! Snacks will be provided after the meeting.

Sunday, April 23rd at 1:30 pm is the Spring Rally held at St. John's in Sparta township, Montevideo. The theme is: "Serving Those Who Serve." Bible Verse theme is John 15:13; Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. The speaker will be Marvin Garbe a VA supporter, speaking about the soon to open Veterans Home in Montevideo. There is a \$3 registration fee. We will be car pooling in our church parking lot at 1:00 pm for anyone who would like to attend.

June 22-25 is the 40th Biennial Convention of the LWML and will be held in Milwaukee. Sue Erickson is the Zone delegate. Mary Hammer and Judy Rode will be representing our local society. If anyone would still like to sign up for this National Convention, please call Sue, Mary or Judy and we will give you more information.

## Vital Statistics

### Attendance and Offering Report - March 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attend</u>	<u>Comm</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Wed, Mar 1	28	---	\$220.00
Sun, Mar 5	Cancelled		
Wed, Mar 8	35	---	\$1,231.00
Sun, Mar 12	47	45	\$4,886.00
Wed, Mar 15	24	---	\$265.00
Sun, Mar 19	55	52	\$2,300.00
Wed, Mar 22	28	---	\$200.00
Sun, Mar 26	54	48	\$3,100.00
Wed, Mar 29	N/A		

(2023 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,542.22)

## Daily Bible Readings For April

<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning Study</u>	<u>Evening Study</u>
Apr 1	Judg. 6,7	Luke 8:1-21
Apr 2	Judg. 8,9	Luke 8:22-56
Apr 3	Judg. 10,11	Luke 9:1-36
Apr 4	Judg. 12-14	Luke 9:37-62
Apr 5	Judg. 15-17	Luke 10:1-24
Apr 6	Judg. 18,19	Luke 10:25-42
Apr 7	Judg. 20,21	Luke 11:1-28
Apr 8	Ruth 1-4	Luke 11:29-54
Apr 9	I Sam. 1-3	Luke 12:1-34
Apr 10	I Sam. 4-6	Luke 12:35-59
Apr 11	I Sam. 7-9	Luke 13:1-21
Apr 12	I Sam. 10-12	Luke 13:22-35
Apr 13	I Sam. 13,14	Luke 14:1-24
Apr 14	I Sam. 15,16	Luke 14:25-35
Apr 15	I Sam. 17,18	Luke 15:1-10
Apr 16	I Sam. 19-21	Luke 15:11-32
Apr 17	I Sam. 22-24	Luke 16:1-18
Apr 18	I Sam. 25,26	Luke 16:19-31
Apr 19	I Sam. 27-29	Luke 17:1-19
Apr 20	I Sam. 30,31	Luke 17:20-37
Apr 21	II Sam. 1-3	Luke 18:1-17
Apr 22	II Sam. 4-6	Luke 18:18-43
Apr 23	II Sam. 7-9	Luke 19:1-28
Apr 24	II Sam. 10-12	Luke 19:29-48
Apr 25	II Sam. 13,14	Luke 20:1-26
Apr 26	II Sam. 15,16	Luke 20:27-47
Apr 27	II Sam. 17,18	Luke 21:1-19
Apr 28	II Sam. 19,20	Luke 21:20-38
Apr 29	II Sam. 21,22	Luke 22:1-30
Apr 30	II Sam. 23,24	Luke 22:31-53

### Financials as of 3-27-2023

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$34,246.13
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$44,103.12</u>
Difference	(\$9,856.99)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$49,409.35
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$44,103.12</u>
Difference	(\$5,306.23)

**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.

## Group 3

### Serving for April

Baker, Lisa  
Brown, Mike and Anne  
Cuklanz, Larry and Nancy  
Duenwald, Karley  
Freitag, Avis  
Gabbert, Carol  
Galow, DuWayne and Karen  
Hegna, Rolland and RaeAnn  
Hewitt, Loretta  
Hildahl, Linda  
Hoff, Jason and Molly  
Ims, Dorothy  
Iverson, Pam  
Johnson, Jennifer  
Just, Wes and Norma  
Kelly, Mary  
Kvam, Curtis  
Nelson, Carol  
Olson, LuAnn  
Peterson, LeRoy and Jan  
Quintal, Teresa  
Reinke, Gerald and Darlene  
Rigge, Vernon and Anita  
Rush, Barb  
Schmidt, Deven and Jill  
Schmidt, Douglas Jr. and  
Darla  
Steffen, Boyd  
Streich, Eugene  
Streich, Linda  
Trotter, Donnie and Jodi  
Ulven, Lorna  
Van Sickle, Eric and Jane  
Winters, Kelly

## Group 4

### Serving the May

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  
Rude, Odell and Carol  
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

## This and That

The Quarterly Voter's Meeting was held after the service on March 19th and the highlights from meeting are as follows.

- Election was held for the open council positions. Congratulations to Tom Edman who accepted the trustee position and thanks to Dan Ennigna for his time he served as a trustee. Remaining open positions are vice-chair and elder. If anyone wants to step in for these positions, please contact either Larry C. or Brad C. These jobs according to Larry C, do not take lots of time.
- A new AED has been received and a 15 minute training DVD will be shown after a Sunday's service. The date will be published in the bulletin when decided on.
- On September 9th from 9-12 a Paper Shredder truck will be in our church parking lot compliments of Thrivent (Mark Jensen). Paper along with staples, rubber bands, and folders (NO paper clips) will get ground-up in the shredder and bags, boxes, and totes will be returned to you.
- We will be celebrating our 125th Anniversary next year and if you would like to be on the planning committee please contact Sue Erickson, Judy Rode or Lu-Ann Olson.

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

## Lutheran Island Camp



Check all the various camps that are available for kids ages 8-14. Booklets are available in the narthex and online at [www.islandcamp.org/](http://www.islandcamp.org/) summer. Don't forget that the LWML has financial assistance available.

cont. from page 1

It is clear that we cannot diminish the importance of parents' influence upon their children in regard to the Christian faith. It is obvious that what is needed in today's church is not more programs where children are segregated away from their parents in the church. But rather, what is needed is parents attending church weekly with their children, praying together with their children, parents talking with their children about matters of faith.

It's still Lent, the season where we focus on our sinful and need for repentance, but anytime is always a good time to repent and believe the Gospel. Bring your whole family to church, get involved, and receive the Lord's Word and Sacraments, and do so week after week.

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns