



# THE PROCLAIMER

## April, May, & June 2023

*The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church is to hear, share, and proclaim the Word of God.*

### **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:**

***“Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”***

***John 12: 24 (NRSV)***

***“Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”***

***Romans 6:4 (NRSV)***

Dear friends in Christ,

We have just been through the tug and pull of winter as it reaches out toward springtime. The seasons of the year teach us much about the cycle of life and death and renewal of life again. In winter, many plants and trees look dead, and we may wonder if they will ever come back to life again. There is a tug and pull, almost like a tug of war game as winter moves toward spring. We have felt this recently with the extreme temperature changes of this past winter. Eventually however springtime wins the tug of war game. As soon as we see the bluebonnets and other wildflowers blossom, we know that spring is right around the corner.

During Lent we have been journeying spiritually from winter to spring. In fact, the word Lent originally meant the lengthening of daylight and the movement toward springtime. This Lent, on Wednesday evenings at St. Paul, we journeyed to the hills of the holy land during Lent and had wonderful fellowship on Wednesday evenings together. We have contemplated Jesus' journey to the cross for us, to suffer and give his life that we may live new lives in him. We thank all those who provided meals, music, readings, lighting of candles, ushering, and just attending with us. We had spiritually rich times of fellowship together. Now we enter Holy Week and the Easter season of God's springtime and new life!

The above scripture verses express well the meaning of Lent and Easter. A grain of wheat must become dormant and dry and appear quite dead and then enter the earth before it can come to life again and produce bountifully. I remember watching the wheat fields on Kathy's family farm in northwest Ohio as they progressed from the brownish black deadness of

winter cold to the sowing of the wheat grains to a beautiful shade of green to tall, golden amber heads of grain waving in the breeze and sun. What a beautiful sight to behold!

Jesus needed to die in order to conquer death and bring God's new life to us. What a sight the victory of his resurrected presence must have been to those original disciples! By holy baptism we are joined into his death and resurrection. He has taken the sinfulness of the world upon himself so that our lives are renewed each day by his mercy and grace. We are now freed and empowered by the breath of God's Holy Spirit to live our lives to God's glory as we live, love, and serve each day in our church and in the world. What a beautiful sight it is to behold God's people working together in community for the benefit of all!

I love these springtime Easter words in an old book of poetry and readings which I treasure:

*In coming from winter to spring, love suffers. But soon its suffering is turned into blossoms and bursting, grass-green joy, warm air and rainbows. It is young and free and above all alive.*

*Springtime is Easter when love rises from the earth, never again to be broken or destroyed. Love in spring is buttoned and belted, ready and waiting to meet life. It is eager to try new things.*

*If Easter love is hurt, it forgives. If love in spring does any harm, it is quick to set things right again. Spring love is irresistible and radiant. Listen to love in spring as it grows.*

Let's journey together in our Lord's love to the cross and resurrection in Holy Week (and each Sunday of the year throughout the seasons). Holy Week schedule is as follows: Palm Sunday, April 2, at 10:45 AM (with children's procession of palms into the church); Maundy Thursday, April 6, at 6:30 pm; Good Friday, April 7, at 6:30 pm; Easter Sunday, April 9, at 10:45 AM (with Easter egg hunt during Sunday School hour at 9:30 AM).

*Grace & Peace in Christ,*

*Pastor Fred Krebs*

## ATTENTION: PROPERTY COMMITTEE SPONSORED WORK DAY ON APRIL 15

The Property Committee is planning a Church work day on April 15. We have identified a few items that need to be addressed. Please help us plan a productive day by adding any needed maintenance to the sheet that is in the Narthex. Please provide your name if you add an item so that we can contact you to fully understand the scope of what needs to be addressed. Everyone is invited to participate, i.e. young people, middle-aged people and those not so young people! As the saying goes, many hands make quick work!

## SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD ASSEMBLY

THE 2023 SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD ASSEMBLY One Day In Person/Zoom Assembly Learning & Fellowship Event will be held on Saturday, April 22 in Corpus Christi, Seguin or Zoom. The One Day Digital Business Assembly on Zoom will be held on May 6. LeEster Burch and Cindy Bowden will be our St. Paul delegates. Members and Non-voting visitors from congregations are invited to attend in-person or via Facebook or Zoom. For all things assembly, please make sure you visit <https://www.swtsynod.org/pages/assembly>. There will be updates posted online leading up to the assembly and more following the assembly. Contact [info@swtsynod.org](mailto:info@swtsynod.org) with any questions.

The theme is “Mientras Tanto” - meaning “Meanwhile” - is the theme of our Synod Assembly Learning Day this year, from The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 9, “Meanwhile, Saul...” It is the story of Saul’s encounter with God on the road to Damascus and his encounter with Ananias who heals him. It is the story of Saul’s transformation from the tormentor of Christians to the world’s evangelizer. Meanwhile, it is also the story of Ananias’ transformation as he heals the person he once feared. During our Synod Assembly Learning Day, we will dwell in the reality that many stories are occurring at the same time, that God’s presence is in many places and the Spirit is working within many people and communities.

The assembly offering will go to support the work of Evangelical Mission Endowment Fund. This fund enables emerging missional efforts.



### EASTER EGG HUNT

Children, Pre-k through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt during the Sunday School hour (beginning at 9:30 a.m.) Easter Sunday morning, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Participants are asked to bring six plastic candy-filled eggs and their Easter basket.

### REASONS FOR THE SEASONS

I am so thankful for my family bringing me to the Lutheran faith for so many reasons. I am guided in my faith growth by the beautiful, orderly process that gives life meaning. As I sit here this March weekend and smile at the change from very cold to beautiful sunshine on the same day, my mind turns to the seasons that give life order. As a primary teacher, I

endeavored to help young children understand the change of the 4 seasons by writing small poems that went like this:

Round and round, the seasons go,  
Winter comes...it might snow.  
Spring comes...bluebonnets grow.  
Summer comes...hot and slow.  
Fall comes...leaves will change and blow.

These are simple words and boundaries that predict change in our lives as seasons change. In the Lutheran Church, we are blessed to have order made in worship by change in the spiritual seasons of the church, too. Let’s go back to the Christmas season. We entered the Season of **Advent** with great expectations:

Round and round, church seasons go,  
Waiting for Jesus is how Advent goes.

And then comes **Epiphany**:

Going with the wise men,  
To follow the light of Jesus,  
We will go.

We are now in the season of Lent, a somber time, where the shadow of the cross looms before us: **Lent** comes, to the cross with Jesus we go.

As we look back to the birth of Jesus, we have learned so much.

In Advent as we waited for His coming, we encountered a beautiful season of new birth. In Epiphany, as we welcomed God’s son, we, by studying the wise men, also shared Him with other people. And now, during Lent, we make the painful pilgrimage to the cross of Calvary.

Interspersed between the seasonal markers are the Celebration days like Christmas and Easter to help us find our way on life’s most important journey. We know the end of the long-awaited seasonal stories: **Jesus was born for ALL people and He died on a cross so that His people might live forever! And that is most certainly Good News, my friends!!!**

We have so much to look forward to in our journey with Jesus. Each and every Sunday is a “Little Easter”. How powerful today was: Sunday School where we learn and grow; a meet and greet where we mingle with friends in Christ; and then entering St. Paul to give praise and worship to God’s Son, Jesus Christ! Thanks be to God!! On the calendar, this was the date that our beloved daughter died, but through the love of Christ, our family finds joy and looks so forward to each and every worship experience. And let’s not neglect to mention the next season after Easter, the long season of **Pentecost**, the growing season, a time to live, learn, love, serve, and worship. This is the true meaning of life in Christ: Death will not have its way for we are on the road to Easter.

As I joined the Sunday School Bell Choir with our precious children, Pastor Fred, Javier and Kathy, and some parents, the melody of “The Old Rugged Cross” filled my heart with an unbelievable joy. The story is not over. Let’s walk together through the season of **Lent** in all its painful moments and emerge on **Easter Sunday** to the glorious miracle of what God can do in each of our lives. Come and see what God has done!!!! Thanks be to our Great God!!!!

In His love, Ann Mahnken

**MASON MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE**  
**CYCLE OF PRAYER**

The Mason Ministerial Alliance is asking congregations and faith-based organizations to pray for each other during the year, on a rotating basis monthly. For April 2023, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for Community Kitchen and Food Bank. For May 2023, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for Young Life and Child Welfare Board. For June 2023, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for Art United Methodist Church.

**ST. PAUL CELEBRATES APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 6 Gracie Lehmborg  
John Aycok
- 8 William Grace
- 9 Martha Vacek
- 10 Karol Evans
- 14 Ernest Gierisch  
Melissa Stockbridge
- 19 Nevaeh Martin
- 20 Julie Gillespie
- 22 Cy Nobles
- 23 Kylie Sparks

**ST. PAUL CELEBRATES MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Kathy Criado  
Kirby Groves
- 3 Ryne Todd
- 7 LaVerne Kothmann  
Karla McIntosh
- 8 Reid Alan Yonker
- 10 Tammy Parrish
- 13 Terry Owen
- 18 Michael Fulton
- 20 Pastor Charles Eckert
- 23 Kris Eckert  
Teresa Gierisch
- 27 Bert Mahnken  
Matt Schmidt
- 28 Camille Schmidt
- 30 Rylan Todd

**ST. PAUL CELEBRATES JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

- 5 Lathan Atchison
- 6 Kathleen Smith  
Rachel Schmidt
- 7 Teddy Ray Doyal
- 8 Glenn Nebgen
- 9 Gretchen Qualls
- 10 Cynthia Bauer  
Elizabeth Rose Schmidt
- 11 Ashley Morrow  
Holland Terrell
- 16 Shane Schmidt
- 18 Lynn Ake
- 20 Janet Schmidt
- 21 Anissa Habecker  
Audrey Schmidt
- 22 Mackenzie Carter
- 25 Alana Gaile Evans
- 26 Josh Brooks  
Judith Barton
- 30 Kathy Krebs

If your birthday or a family member's birthday is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please let Deb Probst know @ 325-597-2832 or [dcprobst@hotmail.com](mailto:dcprobst@hotmail.com). Thank you for helping us with this project.



Congratulations to our senior graduates  
Avery Brooks & Cason Jacoby.

Congratulations to our eighth grade graduates  
Rodee Brooks, Reece Evans, Grant Nobles,  
Camille Schmidt, & Hudson Terrell.



*GRADUATION is a time for REFLECTION  
on the labors of the PAST,  
the accomplishments of the PRESENT,  
and the possibilities of the FUTURE.*

**COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

- Delegates to the Digital Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly were discussed. It will be held on April 22 in Corpus Christi, Seguin or Zoom and on May 6 by Zoom.
- Donations will be collected for the SWT Synod Assembly offering. This year the synod has designated the offering to the Evangelical Mission Endowment Fund.
- Fish Fry Trailer Reserved for August 27<sup>th</sup> for the annual fish fry fundraiser.
- Upcoming QuickBooks annual renewal for an estimated \$2,098 was reported.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Beginning May 1, St Paul Lutheran Office hours will be Monday - Wednesday with the times remaining the same, 8:30 - 4:00 and lunch hour from 12:00-1:00. For emergencies please contact Pastor at 512-947-6442 or Jeff Owen at 347-7535.

**PROCLAIMER PUBLICATION**

Beginning in April, the Proclaimer will be published 4 times each year in January, April, July and October.

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to all those who have stepped forward to help with various tasks at St. Paul!! I have the opportunity to take on some additional employment while allowing me the ability to continue to serve this incredible congregation and church family. Since arriving in 2019, many have told me about this church's generosity and willingness to work together as a family. I have seen this in action time and time again. It has been inspiring to see you honor one another in service and to reach out in ministry to those who can't be as physically involved as they would like to be. Blessings to each of you as we continue to serve our Savior together.

~Heather McFarland

## MONTHLY CALENDAR

The monthly calendar is available upon request by print or email. You may also view our calendar on our website or church app. Please notify the office for more information, [stpaulmason@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmason@gmail.com) or 347-5582.

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

Congregational Giving: \$11,844.75

Expenditures: \$20,430.25

## STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY FOR APRIL

**Lay Reader:** Julie Gillespie

**Communion Assistants:** Harold Albers & Joe Keller

**Council Rep. on Duty:** Bob Vacek

**Bell Ringers:** Mark Lehmborg & Mike Goff

**Speaker System:** Bob Vacek and Mark Lehmborg

**Ushers:** Jerry Bearden, Del Roy Reichenau,  
Walt Reichenau, & Mark Lehmborg

**Property Person on Duty:** Gene Geistweidt

### Acolytes

(4/2) Hudson Terrell

(4/6-Maundy Thurs.)

(4/7-Good Friday)

(4/9-Easter)

Crucifer:

Bible Bearer:

(4/16)

(4/23)

(4/30) Reece Evans

### Altar Guild:

Flower Chairman: Nancy Brown

Parament Chairman: Debbie Nebgen

Communion Chairman: Sherry Schmidt

### Women's Bible Study:

**Morning Bible Study** (First Wed. of Month at 10am)

**Bible Study Leader:** Bridget Langdale

**Hostess:** Cindy Bowden & Cynthia Bauer

**Location:** Fellowship Hall

**Evening Bible Study** (5 PM – Third Tues. of Month)

**Location:** Fellowship Hall

**Memorials:** Church Office 347-5582 or

Linda Geistweidt 347-6236

*We wish to thank those who have so graciously contributed their time and talents toward the ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church.*

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rev. Fred Krebs

Pastor

Mrs. Heather McFarland

Church Administrator

Mrs. Ann Mahnken

Youth Coordinator

### Church Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

(325)347-5582 (Office) (325)347-8420 (Fax)

Email: [stpaulmason@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmason@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stpaulmason.com](http://www.stpaulmason.com)

## STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY FOR MAY

**Lay Reader:** Helen Habecker

**Communion Assistants:** Rachel Schmidt &  
Janet Schmidt

**Council Rep. on Duty:** Mark Lehmborg

**Bell Ringers:** Mark Lehmborg & Mike Goff

**Speaker System:** Bob Vacek and Mark Lehmborg

**Ushers:** Paulette Keller, T McIntosh,  
Mike Goff, and Bert Mahnken

**Property Person on Duty:** Harold Albers

### Acolytes

(5/7)

(5/14)

(5/21)

(5/28)

### Altar Guild:

Flower Chairman: Paulette Keller

Parament Chairman: Kassi Reichenau

Communion Chairman: Helen Habecker

### Women's Bible Study:

**Morning Bible Study** (First Wed. of Month at 10am)

**Bible Study Leader:** TBA

**Hostess:** TBA

**Location:** TBA

**Evening Bible Study** (5 PM – Third Tues. of Month)

**Location:** Fellowship Hall

**Memorials:** Church Office 347-5582 or

Linda Geistweidt 347-6236

## STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY FOR JUNE

**Lay Reader:** TBA

**Communion Assistants:** Kathy Krebs and  
Jenna Jacoby

**Council Rep. on Duty:** Jeff Owen

**Bell Ringers:** Mark Lehmborg & Mike Goff

**Speaker System:** Bob Vacek and Mark Lehmborg

**Ushers:** Jeff Owen, Austen King,  
Judy Lehmborg, and Nancy Brown

**Property Person on Duty:** Bert Mahnken

### Acolytes

(6/4)

(6/11)

(6/18)

(6/25)

### Altar Guild:

Flower Chairman: Sherie Clarkson

Parament Chairman: Connie Smith

Communion Chairman: Bonnie Schmidt

### Women's Bible Study:

**Morning Bible Study** (First Wed. of Month at 10am)

**Bible Study Leader:** TBA

**Hostess:** TBA

**Location:** TBA

**Evening Bible Study** (5 PM – Third Tues. of Month)

**Location:** Fellowship Hall

**Memorials:** Church Office 347-5582 or

Linda Geistweidt 347-6236

## **THANK GOD FOR OUR FOOD**

*God said [to Adam and Eve], ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.’-Genesis 1:29*

There’s an old joke about the first-grade teacher who asks her class, “Where do apples come from?” Little Ian speaks up: “From the supermarket!”

We laugh, but the sad truth is that many of us are so far removed from farms that we forget that our food – every bite – comes from life, life that God alone created. Yes, farmers sow seeds and care for the plants and trees, but it’s God’s miracle of life that makes them grow.

As stewards and disciples, we desire to cultivate in ourselves and our communities a deep appreciation for all God provides us, particularly what we need to live. With every mouthful at every meal we thank God for our daily bread, and for the soil, air and water that sustains life.

Easter and springtime are perfect occasions to celebrate God’s miracle of life that gives us fruit, vegetables, grains, meat, fish and dairy foods. Here are some ideas:

- Mealtime grace, thank God not only for food, but also for the cycles of seedtime, growth and harvest; for life-nourishing soil, water and air.
- While eating, discuss the origins of the variety of food on your plate. How and where are the plants grown? How do they get to your kitchen?
- As a church or family, celebrate Earth Day (Saturday, April 22) by learning about food production and how climate change, pollution and economics impact our food.
- Celebrate Earth Day by planting a garden in your yard or community garden on church grounds.
- Learn about nutrition -- what foods are the best and worst for us, and why. Promote healthy eating.
- Learn about food waste in our culture and take steps to reduce it in your home.
- At church, reserve a Sunday for a service highlighting creation and food. Maybe “Blessing of the Seeds,” or the ancient “Rogation Sunday” ritual.

We live in a culture where food is all around us all the time. As steward-disciples, we want to be sure not to take even a mouthful for granted.

**--Rob Blezard**

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## **STEWARDS OF OUR ELDERS’ WISDOM**

*“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” –Exodus 20:12*

This month and next, as our culture celebrates Mothers Day and Fathers Day, God’s people can make the occasions much more substantive than just greeting cards, gifts, and dinners for a few select relatives.

Instead, we can lift up the knowledge, wisdom and perspective that we possess from not only the mother and father figures in our own circles, but all the older men and women who have enriched our communities with their lives and experiences.

The wisdom of the past has helped people of every age to navigate the challenges of their times. Many communities in the world honor, respect, and value as “elders” their oldest members. It’s something we surely can use in 21<sup>st</sup> century North America. Ours is a time of unprecedented change – both in the sweep of change and in the speed at which things are changing.

Our older members can give us perspective and patience and wisdom. Here are some ideas:

- Engage elders about issues facing you, your congregation and community. Listen deeply. Take notes.
- Enter into their thought world: How do they frame issues? What are their underlying assumptions? What sources help inform and inspire them?
- Compare their approaches to seeing the world and navigating challenges with your own. What is helpful? What can assist you?

Learning from our elder mother and father figures may be the best way to not only honor them, but also help us find our own way in life.

**--Rob Blezard**

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