



THE PROCLAIMER

April, May, & June 2024

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

REMEMBERING JESUS

As I sit here on this cloudy morning with the sound of thunder in the background, I think of the power spiritually of the days leading up to Easter, the time of Lent, and what we do in the days of April and May and even into the summer months as people of God. Each Wednesday night since February 21st, we have been powerfully led by Justin McFarland into Meditations from the Field to see clearly, as does the farmer, what God would have us to do in the Lenten Season. As a Gospel Acclamation we have sung, "Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom." We ask to be remembered as we prepare the field of our hearts for planting through working the soil by plowing, spreading seeds, weeding, and pruning so we can harvest fruit that lasts. My simple words cannot really explain how life-changing these Wednesday nights have been without responding to the Gospel Acclamation with these words to the church:

Remember Jesus, every day, every season, every moment that God grants us. How are some ways we can do this?

1. Experience the passion of Jesus through Holy Week. Watch the procession of palms on Palm Sunday as Jesus rode triumphantly through the streets of Jerusalem. Remember Jesus through hosannas and the waving of palm branches. Worship begins at 10:45.

2. Come back on Maundy Thursday to kneel at the altar as the day closes and receive the bread and wine on the day that Jesus gave us this gift of love. Remember Jesus as He is betrayed, left to pray in anguish alone, and is arrested.

3. Come back on Friday evening into the darkness of Good Friday to remember Jesus as He died on the cross so that we might live. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services begin at 6:30.

4. Finally, after a week of remembering Jesus in welcome, communion, and agony, come back at 10:45 on Easter Sunday for Resurrection worship as we raise our ALLELUIAS once more! We have 2 first Communion students that will receive the gift of the Lord's Supper for the first time. Come and pray for Elizabeth Whitworth and T Martin Parrish as their trust in God reaches a new plateau. May we do this with joy and enthusiasm due in part to the lessons learned from the Meditations in the Field and during Holy Week.

How do we live Easter Ever After in the beauty of springtime? We do this by remembering the One who has remembered us.

Jesus gave His life for YOU. What an awesome thing to do! Rose again! Made all things new. Thank You, God, for Jesus! In John 11:25, Jesus said to us the same words He said to Martha when she was grieving the death of her brother, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live." Let's show we believe by worshiping, loving, and serving.

We know the worship calendar after Easter as we remember Jesus. I want to add a few more special, spiritual events for our church family.

May 5th: Graduate breakfast will be held to remember our Senior and 8th grade graduates: Ryne Todd, Cy Nobles, Jackson, Lehmborg, Jack Gillespie, Anden King, T Martin Parrish, Kinley Wenzel, and Kinsley Atchison.

May 19th: Pentecost Sunday-Confirmation Day for Anden King, T Martin Parrish, Kinley Wenzel, and Kinsley Atchison. Let's pray for all of these special young people to always Remember Jesus. There will be a special church meal, with details to follow, on the Day of Confirmation. In closing, Let's always, REMEMBER JESUS!

Each of you is a blessing!
In Christ's 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 2024, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for Community Kitchen and Food Bank. For May 2024, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for Young Life and Child Welfare Board. For June 2024, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for Art United Methodist Church.

SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD ASSEMBLY

THE 2024 SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD ASSEMBLY In Person Assembly will be held on Saturday, May 3-5 in Corpus Christi. LeEster Burch and Cindy Bowden will be our St. Paul delegates. Members and Non-voting visitors from congregations are invited to attend. For all things assembly, please make sure you visit www.swtsynod.org/assembly. There will be updates posted online leading up to the assembly and more following the assembly.

The theme is “Called and Sent”, part of God’s vision for our synod.

This is the third year that we have dwelt in a text from the book of Acts. This year, we go back to the beginning of Acts 1:3-8, where Jesus, before he ascends to the Father, tells the disciples that they will receive power from the Holy Spirit, and that they will be God’s witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Like those first disciples, we too have been called by God and sent out into the world to join in God’s mission.

Our offering this year will be for Lutheran Disaster Response. This ministry plays a key role in our being sent into the world; responding to all kinds of needs.

SPECIAL CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Special Called Congregational Meeting has been postponed to incorporate the approval of the Call Committee. It will be held on April 14th immediately following the worship service. The Congregation Council is recommending to the congregation two items for approval.

The first project for approval is updating, replacing, and installing door locks for the entire property to remain compliant with property insurance guidelines. The work by Hyder and Son Safe & Lock will be \$5,850.00. The funds for this project will be taken from the Special Funds: Memorial Fund (for the sanctuary only) and then from the Building Fund: Keep St. Paul Beautiful and Memorial/Interest Funds respectively and as needed.

The second item for approval is the St. Paul Call Committee.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all

in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16

The Evangelism Team Members would like to invite you to **SHINE YOUR LIGHT** for our St. Paul Lutheran Church and our Mason Community by participating in some of our “Church Activities”! We are searching for:

1. **Two (2) GREETERS** for each month of the year
*** 1 at the Narthex (Main entrance) and 1 at the Back Exit door
We need a bright smile and warm, friendly welcome!
Ushers will hand bulletins out and greet people as well!

2. **PEOPLE** to share their time at **OUR THRIFT SHOP** on Saturday mornings (9 AM – 11 AM).
***There are some shoes, purses, lingerie and bedding as well as lots of nice clothing for all ages.
(some still have tags on them, never been worn)
***Bring some friends to shop.

3. **PEOPLE** to take items to **THE HAVEN SHELTER** in Brady

4. **FLOWER CHART** –
*** There is a **SIGN-UP SHEET** in the Narthex for the month of April.
Sign your name and phone number. Call Church Office on Monday of the week you are placing the flowers to tell Heather the date and your wording for the bulletin. (325-347-5582)
There is a poster for the year behind the door in the Narthex also.
You can sign up for the Altar or the Reception Table in the Sanctuary.
If you order flowers from Raci Hernandez at Wildflowers, she will deliver them Saturday evening .

***Flowers are an enhancement to our worship space. A flower’s beauty and scent comforts us in celebrating special occasions such as anniversaries and birthdays or in remembering loved ones who have passed. The use of flowers for the adornment of the ALTAR ties the beauty of GOD’S HANDIWORK to the creations and works of beauty that mankind offers in return to GOD.
Any questions call Judy Lehmberg. (325-347-2409)

Submitted from the Evangelism Committee
of St. Paul Lutheran Church

ST. PAUL CELEBRATES APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Gracie Lehmberg
- 8 William Grace
- 9 Martha Vacek
- 10 Karol Evans
- 14 Ernest Gierisch
Melissa Stockbridge
- 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 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
- 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. Thank you for helping us with this project.



Congratulations to our senior graduates
Ryne Todd, Jackson Lehmborg, Cy Nobles, & Jack
Gillispie.

Congratulations to our eighth grade graduates
Kinsley Atchison, Kinley Wenzel, & Anden King.



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 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly were selected : Cindy Bowden & LeEster Burch. It will be held on May 3-5 in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- Donations will be collected for the SWT Synod Assembly offering. This year the synod has designated the offering to the Lutheran Disaster Response.
- Fish Fry Trailer Reserved for August 25th for the annual fish fry fundraiser.
- Upcoming QuickBooks annual renewal for an estimated \$1,600.00 was reported.

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 or 347-5582.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER

Congregational Giving: \$17,621.15
Expenditures: \$19,335.81

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY

Congregational Giving: \$43,986.46
Expenditures: \$15,921.48

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

Congregational Giving: \$15,451.30
Expenditures: \$17,001.64

YEAR TO DATE – FIRST QUARTER MINISTRY

PLAN CONTRIBUTION GOAL: \$53,810.75

YEAR TO DATE – ESTIMATED FIRST QUARTER
MINISTRY PLAN CONTRIBUTIONS: \$ 73,192.76

STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY
FOR APRIL

- Lay Reader:** Jenna Jacoby
- Communion Assistants:** Harold Albers & Joe Keller
- Council Rep. on Duty:** Walt Reichenau
- 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
- 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: Cynthia Bauer
Hostess: Cindy Bowden
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
Website: www.stpaulmason.com

STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY FOR MAY

Lay Reader: Jerry Bearden
Communion Assistants: Rachel Schmidt & Janet Schmidt
Council Rep. on Duty: T McIntosh
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
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: Alberta Birk
Hostess: Nancy Brown
Location: Nancy's home, carpool from church at 9:30
Memorials: Church Office 347-5582 or Linda Geistweidt 347-6236

STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY FOR JUNE

Lay Reader: TBA
Communion Assistants: Jenna Jacoby
Council Rep. on Duty: Cindy Bowden
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
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
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 a joke about the first-grade teacher who asks, "Where do apples come from?" Little Sydney speaks up: "From the supermarket!"

We laugh, but the truth is, many of us forget that our food comes only from life, through the plants and animals that God alone created.

As stewards and disciples, we can develop a deep appreciation for all that God provides us, particularly our food. With every mouthful, we can 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:

- At mealtime grace, thank God not only for food, but also for the cycles of seedtime, growth and harvest. Thank God for life-nourishing soil, water and air.
- While eating, think about how and from where the plants are grown or animals raised? How do they get to your kitchen?
- As a church or family, celebrate Earth Day (April 22) by learning about food production and our food supply, and how environmental problems affect it.
- Celebrate Earth Day by planting a garden.
- Learn about nutrition -- what foods are the best and worst for us. Promote healthy eating.
- Learn about food waste and take steps to reduce it in your home.
- At church, celebrate creation or seedtime.

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

Copyright © 2024, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org.

