

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
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April  
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**SAINT PAUL**  
**Lutheran Church LCMS**  
Proclaiming Christ to Wisner and the World!

# April 2023

## New This Month:

Mission of the Month Project

## Worship Times

Saturday Evening at 6:00

Sunday Morning at 10:30

### Inside this issue

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### Special Articles

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- Holy Weeks and Holy Days



Dear Saints of Saint Paul,

Below you will find my newspaper article from March 31, 2023. As we enter Holy Week and the Easter season, with Summer on our heels, I compassionately invite you to reflect on how you can be more frequent in your attendance at Services. I love being your pastor. The Lord loves you and offers to you His holy Word & Sacrament at church for hope, joy, love and forgiveness.

A few weeks ago, the Board of Elders discussed & voted on moving our Saturday evening service to Wednesday. If you like going to Saturday evening service, I realize this may be an unsettling change for you. I ask for your patience and prayers as we try this schedule change for a few months beginning on May 10. I also humbly beg you to see how either Sunday or Wednesday could become your regular time of worship, and how you could encourage others to join you. If you already come to church on Sunday morning, consider how your frequency in attendance could change for the better. If you know someone who doesn't go to church at all, ask them to try Wednesday evening or Sunday. In the fall, we will re-evaluate this change and figure out whether to continue or try another night of the week for an alternate service time to Sunday morning. The reasoning behind this trial is explained in the newspaper article below.

Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest!

-Pastor

### **Holy Weeks and Holy Days**

Next week, the Western Church celebrates Holy Week. The week begins with Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday. While certain prayers and services occur all the days of this week, the ones most often come to mind are Holy or Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, The Vigil of Easter on Saturday, and then the Beginning of the Easter Feast on Sunday. Indeed, it is a Holy Week. It is a week when many Christians attend services more than once. For some, more than once a day. It is during this week when the Church, the people of God gathered by the Holy Spirit around the faithful preaching of God's Word and faithful administration of the Sacraments. Churches are better attended than the average Sunday. The question is why?

Well, because these days are set aside as Holy Days, or in other words, holidays. For now, at least, most children do not have to attend school Good Friday or Easter Monday. Most Christians understand the importance of celebrating resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. There are also worldly things which attract people to church services on Easter like triumphant music, breakfasts, choirs, family tradition, dressing up in nice clothes and the like.

So why are so relatively few people in church the other Sundays of Lent or any other of the 51 remaining Sundays of the year? Saint Paul gives us the answer in Romans 3:23, "For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."(ESV).

## Holy Weeks and Holy Days— Continued

People sin they miss the mark on God's commandments. They fail to have no other gods before the One True God. They fail to keep the Sabbath Day Holy.

We now live in a 24-7 service economy where businesses and entertainment venues are in constant need of staffing on Sunday (because Christians go there and spend money on Sunday). Often the church has failed to respond to this by not offering services at alternate times to worship during the week.

This excludes countless restaurant servers, dishwashers, cashiers, cooks, hotel housekeepers, athletes, coaches, referees, medical, emergency, and police personnel, retail managers, actors, singers, amusement park workers, etc. from the Sunday life of the church. I know. I lived it. I was in foodservice & hotels for 18 years before I went to seminary. Even as a seminarian, I often found myself in church on Monday evenings because I worked a security job overnight on the weekends to make ends meet. Self-employed people will often rationalize and prioritize their work over church attendance on the weekends but make plenty of time for leisurely pursuits in the same time frame. As a pastor, I am no different. The temptation of my pillow and coffee mug often prompt me to say, "Do we have to go?" or "I have so much to do around the house." or "Can we just go to the ramen bar we like so much in Omaha?" After which my wife gives me a reality check and reminds me of my vocations as a child of God, husband, father, and pastor.

As an aside, two businesses come to mind which are not open on Sunday and are very successful: Chick-Fil-A and Hobby Lobby. Your feelings about their politics aside, there is no denying they make tons of money, and have better employee retention than similar businesses which open 7 days a week.

So, what to do? First, repent. Be turned away from your sin by the word of the Lord in His Commandments which guide you. If you somehow feel a little mad or guilty after reading this, that means the Law of God has showed you your error. When you are turned from your sin and turned toward Christ and His ways, making worship a priority, you rejoice in His Gospel, which is on full display on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday-Every Sunday! Jesus loves you! He died for you! He fulfilled the righteousness that we are unable to. He gives you his body and blood from the cross to you in the Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. He rose from his three-day rest in the tomb on Easter so that you too will rise again and live eternally with him.

God gives you church services to breathe in His breath of life in his holy word and be renewed and rested for the week ahead. Rejoice! Every Sunday is a mini-Easter. Every Sunday is a holiday. Every week is a Holy Week for the Christian. Because as Saint Paul reminds us that though we sin and fall short we "are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...(Romans 3:24, ESV)." A blessed Holy Week and Easter to you, for Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia, Amen.

# Mission-of-the-Month Project

## April 2023 Project:

### Direct support to the Joint Seminary Fund for tuition.

Excellent seminaries are important to everyone who needs the Gospel. Well-formed pastors, deaconesses, ordained missionaries and theological leaders are vital to our life together as they faithfully and accurately teach the Gospel.

For our entire history as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, well-formed and compassionate pastors have been important because the Gospel, faithfully delivered in Word and sacraments, is essential to each of us.

The LCMS supports two seminaries — Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis — with Sunday-morning worship offerings set aside by congregations for district and national/international work.

- The LCMS national office acknowledges the level of financial subsidy it provides is woefully insufficient to fully operate either seminary, let alone both.
- The LCMS Joint Seminary Fund was established to supplement the Synod subsidy by directly soliciting the church for charitable donations. Gifts to the LCMS Joint Seminary Fund are restricted exclusively to supporting both of our world-class seminaries.
- Our LCMS seminaries have only three sources of operating revenue:
  - Investment income from endowment
  - Tuition paid by students after financial aid is awarded (often in the form of student loans)
  - Financial gifts graciously supplied by God’s people
- The LCMS Joint Seminary Fund helps raise the last type, functioning as a line of defense against passing rising educational costs on to seminary students via higher tuition.

# Mission-of-the-Month Project Continued:



Those who designate gifts and bequests for LCMS Joint Seminary Fund combine vital financial resources, walking together in a way that supplies approximately *\$2 million annually* in supplemental unrestricted funding to help educate our future pastors and other theologically-trained leaders.

Those gifts cover expenses directly in a way that keeps them off each seminarian's tuition bill.

Unless otherwise specified by the donor, a gift to The LCMS Joint Seminary Fund is disbursed to both seminaries as *unrestricted* support. At the discretion of their boards of Regents, these vital funds can be used to cover necessary seminary expenditures, such as:

- Teaching and research (faculty)
- Curriculum and program development
- Facilities maintenance, upgrades and construction
- Student financial aid
- Recruitment of students, faculty and support staff
- Continuing education for our current pastors
- Distance education programs
- Wherever the need is greatest as determined by the seminaries

**SPY**



**youth  
group**  
SCHEDULE

**Youth Group will host Easter Breakfast  
at 7:00AM Easter Sunday.  
Please come and enjoy!  
Free-Will donation excepted.**

## **Easter Week!**

- 6:00 PM—Holy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**
- 11:45 AM—Cross Walk, April 7<sup>th</sup>**
- Noon—Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**
- 6:00 PM—Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**
- 10:00 AM – Easter Breakfast Prep, April 8<sup>th</sup>**
- 6:00 AM—Easter Sunrise, April 9<sup>th</sup>**
- 7:00 AM—SPY Easter Breakfast**
- 8:00 AM—Sunday School, No Adult Class**
- 9:00 AM—Easter Festival, April 9<sup>th</sup>**



## FYI

We Deliver Meals on Wheels on the week of May 1st. Please make sure to sign up and help deliver these meals and maybe even pray with them and for them as you deliver the meals.

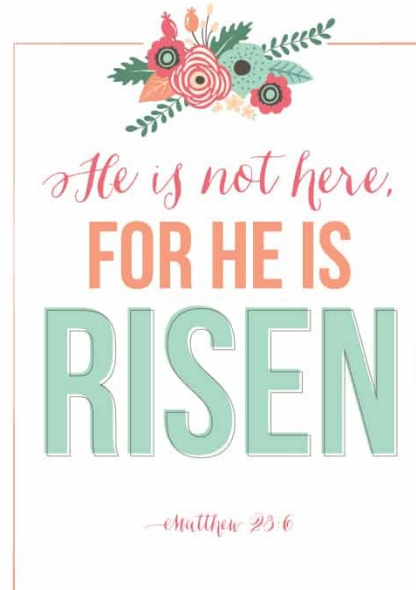
## Remember Our Homebound

### Wisner Care Center

Bob Albers; John & Judy Borgelt;  
Bernice Grothe; Lillian Heller;  
Rose Kindschuh; Lois Schmidt;  
Jim VonSeggern;

### At Home:

Fred & Joan Groninger;  
Donna Heller; Betty Jacobsen;



## Anniversaries:

Ryan & Hannah Callies—April 2nd Nancy & Jim Polacek—April 7th  
Gregg & Michelle Moeller—April 11th John & Judy Borgelt—April 12th  
Fred & Joan Groninger JR—April 15 Dillon & Ruth Bloedorn—April 17th  
Keary & Julie Raabe—April 20th Michael & Natalie Callies—April 24th  
Adam & Tiffani Ott—April 26th Doug & Sandy Stigge—April 28th

**Home Budget  
Weekly Needs:  
\$3,723.32**

**Mission Out-  
reach Weekly  
Needs: \$403.85**

# Stewardship CAMPAIGN

| <u>March 5</u>                   |                   | <u>March 12</u>                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| General Envelopes                | \$4,553.00        | General Envelopes                | \$1993.00         |
| Mission Envelopes                | \$525.00          | Mission Envelopes                | \$410.00          |
| Mission of the Month             | \$175.00          | Mission of the Month             | \$155.00          |
| Annual Project                   | \$0.00            | Annual Project                   | \$0.00            |
| Bible Class                      | <u>\$24.50</u>    | Bible Class                      | <u>\$21.50</u>    |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>\$5,277.50</b> | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>\$2,579.50</b> |
| <b>Church Attendance:</b><br>154 |                   | <b>Church Attendance:</b><br>128 |                   |
|                                  |                   |                                  |                   |
| <u>March 19</u>                  |                   | <u>March 26</u>                  |                   |
| General Envelopes                | \$1,860.00        | General Envelopes                | \$3,008.75        |
| Mission Envelopes                | \$185.00          | Mission Envelopes                | \$155.00          |
| Mission of the Month             | \$95.00           | Annual Project                   | \$548.00          |
| Annual Project                   | \$0.00            | Mission of the Month             | \$50.00           |
| Bible Class                      | <u>\$40.00</u>    | Bible Class                      | <u>\$33.75</u>    |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>\$2,180.00</b> | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>\$3,795.50</b> |
|                                  |                   |                                  |                   |
| <b>Church Attendance:</b><br>144 |                   | <b>Church Attendance:</b><br>146 |                   |



# Stewardship CAMPAIGN

## Continued Wednesday Lenten Services

| <u>March 1st</u>          |                   | <u>March 8th</u>          |                 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| General Envelopes         | \$800.00          | General Envelopes         | \$400.00        |
| Mission Envelopes         | \$500.00          | Mission of the Month      | \$356.00        |
| Annual Project            | <u>\$25.00</u>    | Mission Envelopes         | <u>\$25.00</u>  |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$1,325.00</b> | <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$781.00</b> |
| <b>Church Attendance:</b> |                   | <b>Church Attendance:</b> |                 |
| 70                        |                   | 77                        |                 |
|                           |                   |                           |                 |
| <u>March 15th</u>         |                   | <u>March 22nd</u>         |                 |
| General Envelopes         | \$45.00           | General Envelopes         | \$0.00          |
| Mission Envelopes         | \$152.00          | Mission Envelopes         | \$190.00        |
| Mission of the Month      | \$0.00            | Mission of the Month      | \$0.00          |
| Annual Project            | <u>\$25.00</u>    | Annual Project            | <u>\$0.00</u>   |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$222.00</b>   | <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$190.00</b> |
|                           |                   |                           |                 |
| <b>Church Attendance:</b> |                   | <b>Church Attendance:</b> |                 |
| 66                        |                   | 68                        |                 |

# April 2023

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue       | Wed   | Thu   | Fri                      | Sat                          |
|---|--|-----------|---|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|
|   |  |           |   |   |                          | <b>1</b>                     |
| <b>2</b><br>△ Alea Rasmussen<br>△ Jacob Biggerstaff | <b>3</b><br>Ryan Callies   | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>                 | <b>8</b>                     |
| <b>9</b><br>△ Arvilla Cornett<br>△ Gladys Huettmann | <b>10</b><br>△ Karley Biggerstaff<br>△ Jayne Heermann<br>△ Lyle Roth | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br>Leon Brand                         | <b>13</b><br>△ James Bloedorn<br>△ Danette Springer | <b>14</b>                | <b>15</b>                    |
| <b>16</b><br>Kala Becker                            | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b>                                       | <b>20</b><br>Jerrett Schantz                        | <b>21</b>                | <b>22</b><br>Connor Bloedorn |
| <b>23</b>   |  | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b><br>△ Tim Schweers<br>△ Bonnie Herrick | <b>27</b><br>Kim Thies                              | <b>28</b><br>Mike Schrad | <b>29</b><br>Irene Buse      |
| <b>30</b><br>△ Alice Brand<br>△ Lindsey Richtig     |  |           |   |   |                          |                              |

# April 2023

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue       | Wed   | Thu   | Fri   | Sat   |
|---|--|-----------|---|---|---|---|
|   |  |           |   |   |   | <b>1</b><br>6:00pm<br>Palm<br>Sunday                            |
| <b>2</b><br>9:15am<br>Bible Class<br>10:30am<br>Palm Sunday   | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br>6:00pm<br>Maundy<br>Thursday<br>Worship | <b>7</b><br>11:45am<br>Cross Walk<br>12:00&6:00<br>Good Friday<br>Worship | <b>8</b><br><b>Great<br/>Vigil of<br/>Easter No<br/>Worship</b> |
| <b>9</b><br>6:00am<br>Easter Sunrise<br>7:00pm<br>SPY Breakfast<br>8:00am<br>Sunday School<br>9:00am<br>Easter Festival | <b>10</b><br>Office<br>Closed<br>1:00pm<br>Quilting<br>Club<br>7:00pm<br>Elders<br>Meeting | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br>10:00am<br>Bible Class<br>4:00pm<br>Midweek      | <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b><br>2:00-<br>4:00pm<br>Orphan<br>Grain Train<br>Workday          | <b>15</b><br>6:00pm<br>Worship                                  |
| <b>16</b><br>9:15am<br>Bible Class<br>10:30am<br>Worship<br>1:00pm<br>Voter's<br>Meeting                                | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b><br>10:00am<br>Bible Class<br>4:00pm<br>Midweek      | <b>20</b>   | <b>21</b>   | <b>22</b><br>6:00pm<br>Worship                                  |
| <b>23</b><br>9:15am<br>Bible Class<br>10:30am<br>Worship  | <b>24</b><br>1:00pm<br>Busy Fingers<br>Quilting<br>Club                                    | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b><br>10:00am<br>Bible Class<br>4:00pm<br>Last Midweek | <b>27</b><br>1:30pm<br>DOR                          | <b>28</b>   | <b>29</b><br>6:00pm<br>Worship                                  |
| <b>30</b><br>9:15am<br>Bible Class<br>10:30am<br>Worship  |  |           |   |   |   |   |

**St Paul Lutheran Church**

We invite you to join us for  
Worship every weekend;  
and Bible Study throughout the week.

Our Address is: 509 13th Street  
Po Box 797  
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## **Things to Remember**

### **Worship Times**

**6:00** Saturday Evenings

**10:30** Sunday Mornings

### **Bible Study Times**

**9:15** Sunday Mornings Preschool—Adults

**10:00** Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Class



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## **COMING NEXT MONTH**

- \* New Mission of the Month
- \* End of First Quarter Financial Report
- \* New Wednesday Evening Services for the Summer.