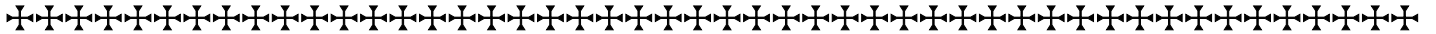




The Voice

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

April 2026



“Caiaphas ... said to them, “You know nothing at all. Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish” (John 11:49-50, ESV).

Jesus had just worked His ultimate miraculous sign: the raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1–44). Not only did Martha and Mary rejoice to have their brother back from the grave, but also “many of the Jews ... believed in him” (John 11:45, ESV). Both Jesus’ ultimate miraculous sign and many of the Jews believing in Him alarmed the religious leaders. In this case, Jesus’ good deed of raising Lazarus would *not* go unpunished.

The Sanhedrin (the Jewish ruling council) was called into emergency session. “We cannot have this Man performing signs like this. ‘Everyone will believe in him’ (John 11:48). What shall we do about it?” Then Caiaphas, the high priest and chairman of the council, spoke up: “You know nothing at all ... it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish” (John 11:49-50, ESV). He was *not* wrong! What Caiaphas uttered out of political expediency also, ironically, expressed God’s eternal plan of salvation.

It was, is, and always will be better that one Man—Jesus—should die *“for the people”*—for you, for your family and friends, for your church and school, for your colleagues in ministry, and for all people the world over. If Jesus did not die for us, we all would have to face the consequences of our own unbelief and countless sins. “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8, ESV). He is “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29b, ESV).

As we finish Lent and head into Holy Week, it is good to ponder this: what Caiaphas meant for political evil God meant for our eternal, spiritual good. The Apostle John gave the Gospel-centered explanation: “[Caiaphas] prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad” (John 11:51b–52, ESV).

Lord Jesus Christ, true God and true man, we thank You ... that You have redeemed us poor and condemned creatures not by any of our works, merit, or worthiness, but by Your holy suffering, death, and shedding of blood ... We pray You, let Your holy, bitter suffering and death not be lost on us, but grant that at all times this may be our comfort, and that we may boast in it ...” (Treasury of Daily Prayer, p. 1313)

In Christ’s service,
Rev. Randy K. Asburry
Second Vice President, Missouri District

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:8b



Serving This Month

April 2nd

Maundy Thursday & Confirmation 7pm
Pastor Gary Stolle
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: God's Faithful Servant

April 5th

Pastor Gary Stolle
Lay Reader: Sherrelynn Martin
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: God's Faithful Servant

April 12th

Pastor Wayne Persich
Lay Reader: Fred Reifsteck
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: God's Faithful Servant
Elder: God's Faithful Servant

April 19th

Pastor Wayne Persich
Lay Reader: Kirsten Englund
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: God's Faithful Servant

April 26th

Pastor Gary Stolle
Lay Reader: Aaron Kirchhoff
Organist: Doris Foley
Acolyte: April Causey
Elder: God's Faithful Servant

Altar Guild for April 2026

Sharon Bahl & Kris Rosenberg



April Birthdays 2-Ron Heyer; 10-Lillian Weinreich; 26-Bonnie Knox; 29-Barbara Gumm

April Wedding Anniversaries: 3-Ron and [Wanda] Heyer; 25-[Brett] & Candy Teeter; 26-Larry & Lillian Weinreich. If anyone has been missed let the office know.

The Lord bless you, and keep you; The Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26



In the Word-Will God always be faithful?

[The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works] (Psalm 145:13b).

Of the Word-We live in a world that is not always faithful. Spouses are unfaithful, children are rebellious, families are torn apart. Human love that was pledged does not last.

But God is different. He comes to us and says, "I am always here. I will never leave your side." *The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works* (Psalm 145:13b).

God never finds someone He loves more nor does He run off and leave us alone. *Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations;* (Psalm 119:89–90a).

God's Word is eternal ... it will last forever. He has been faithful to those who came before us and will be faithful to those who come after us. His words and promises are unchanging. God is aware of the heartbreaks life brings. He knows when we have challenges in our health or work or family. To lighten our burdens He calls us to come to Jesus for the help He promises.

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Corinthians 1:9). No matter what we face in life, we can depend on God. He is faithful.

Walking with my Lord-Faithful God, I am grateful that I can depend on You at all times and in all circumstances. Forgive me for the times when I have been unfaithful to You and to others. Help me to remember that Your faithfulness is forever. Send Your Holy Spirit to strengthen me. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mustard Seed: Begin with God. Authors: Marcia Gomulka, Deaconess Betty Knapp, Myrna Lou Meyer. 6/28 ©2007, revised 2024 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. www.lwml.org All quoted Scripture is from the ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®) Copyright© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.





St. Paul's Lutheran Church LCMS

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Maundy Thursday and Confirmation of Layla Ford 7pm	3 Good Friday At Ascension 6:30pm or Messiah 6:30pm	4
5 Easter Sunday Worship Service w/communion 9am Cake for Layla following Worship	6	7	8	9	10	11 LWML Society Meeting 9am
12 Worship Service w/communion 9am	13	14 Prayer Shawl 12:30pm	15	16 Church Council 7pm	17	18
19 Worship Service 9am	20	21	22	23	24	25 Fellowship Hall in use for Life Plan Plus Workshop 8am-1pm
26 Worship Service w/communion 9am Voters Meeting 10:15am	27	28 Prayer Shawl 12:30pm	29	30		



*Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD,
 "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."*

Psalms 16:1-2