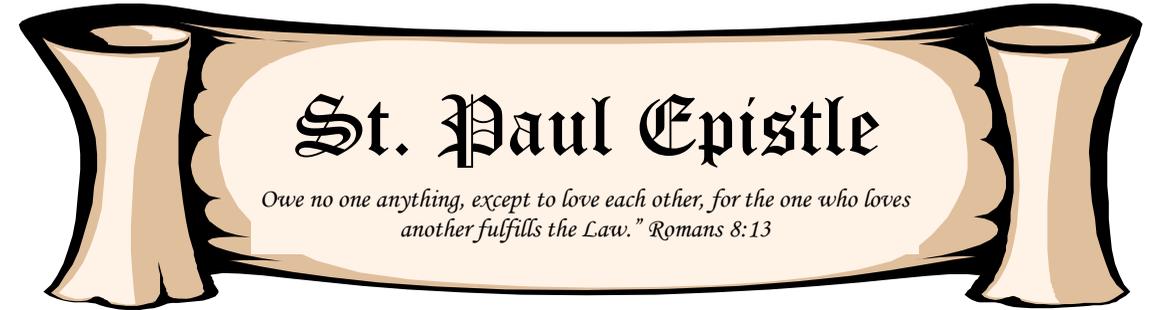




St. Paul Lutheran Church
1417 11th Street, P.O. Box 126
Wichita Falls, TX 76307



St. Paul Epistle

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another fulfills the Law." Romans 8:13

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Volume 3

APRIL 2021

Issue 4

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Pastor's Meditation

Dear Family at St. Paul,

What a fantastic Lent we've had! What a fantastic Holy Week we had. What a fantastic Easter we will celebrate! Some of these things haven't even happened yet, Pastor, how can you say that it will all be great? Well, I'm glad you asked! All I know is that this year's Lent, Holy Week, and Easter are all going to be fantastic because it beats the heck out of last year's Lent, Holy Week, and Easter because they essentially didn't happen due to COVID. This year, however, is an altogether different story.

It seems to me that with vaccinations being administered, stimulus checks being delivered, and businesses re-opening to full capacity, that we are well on our way to getting back to our lives we once knew....St. Paul included! We have started using the common cup in the Lord's Supper again, and removed our roped off pews and social distancing colored markers on the center aisle. It's wonderful to get back to life without boundaries and in full trust in our Lord and His good gifts!

We began last month with our Italian Bistro fellowship dinner and auction and it was a huge success! We were able to raise quite a bit of money from the auction to be given away to 2 seminarians, and also some money has been set aside for the north campus development in the future.

We also started a new multi-generational Bible study called Bible

(Continued on page 2)

Our Weekly Divine Service Schedule

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class
10:15 a.m. Divine Service
(Holy Communion offered every Sunday at St. Paul)

Divine Service



Pastor's Meditation Cont.,

101 and we have had as many as 30 in Bible study since we started. What an amazing thing to see! I love seeing moms and dads and their children studying the Bible together. This is what God smiles at when He sees this happening in our busy world today. We have concluded our book study on *Has American Christianity Failed* in the Monday night Bible class, and we will be starting on the book of Genesis on Monday, April 19.

Another couple of exciting events that happened as of late was the Holy Baptism of Joyce Townes (Feb. 21) and the confirmation of her sisters Irene & Esther Townes on Palm Sunday, March 28. It's wonderful to see the blessings of God happening in the lives of our young people! God is good!

At this point Vacation Bible School is a go for sometime this summer (TBD). (Volunteers needed, hint...hint...)

Kevin Copeland and I will be attending the Texas District Convention this summer June 10-12 in San Marcos, TX. I have been asked to serve on Floor Committee #2 dealing with Governance and Administration. I have also been nominated for election to the Board for Mission Administration in the Texas District. So, we will see what the outcome of that will be this June!

It's nice to see the gradual progression of life and how through it all, even after a year of isolation and quarantine and social distancing, we are getting our lives back. We are also seeing an increase in the number of visitors to St. Paul over the last couple of months. Hopefully, God will continue to send more young people looking for solid truth in this world in which we live today.

My prayer for St. Paul is the same as it has been for the last 2 ½ years, that God would see fit to smile on St. Paul once more and grant growth, most importantly spiritually, and also physically as well. Will you help me in praying for this as we have now come out of a difficult year and can now recover the momentum that we were experiencing before March of last year. May God grant it to us for Christ's sake and to Him be all glory, honor, and praise!

In Christ's Love, +

Pastor Cody
Psalm 84:10



 **Like us on Facebook**

For staying up-to-date on all church activities, tune into our St. Paul Facebook page. Plus, while you're there, you get to look at all the cool pictures of our church activities!

www.facebook.com/stpaulwf

St. Paul Lutheran continues to “live-stream” our worship service and Monday night Bible Study on Facebook. If you are unable to attend and would like to watch the service via Facebook, you can watch it on Pastor Cody's Facebook page— Rick Cody at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100008279618948>

Easter Lilies

April 4, 2021

Given to the praise and glory of God by:

*Ken & Kathy Schkade
In Memory of Our Parents
August & Margaret Schkade*

*Walter & Hilda Grueber

*Hank & Judy Hancock
In Honor of All of our Church Family

*Leanne Roten
In Memory of
Hank and Barbara Roten

*Randal D. Schoppa
In Memory of
Schoppa Family
&*

*Streit Family

*Ben & Darla English
In Memory of Darla's Mom, Norma Flick
and Ben's Dad, Robert English.
In Honor of our beloved church family, and
our parents: Jesse Flick and Bobby and Sanda
Mitchell

*Fina Anderson
In Honor of Children and Grandchildren*

*Lois Kramer
In Memory of A.F. Kramer, Clayton Kra-
mer and Amy Kramer

*Nina Keethler
Bo & Glenda Hardi
In Commemoration of Jesus Resurrection

*Peggy Dauffenbach
In Honor of St. Paul Lutheran Church*

*Jennifer Olsen
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Wede
(Parents of Jennifer Olsen)
Mr Milton Olsen (Husband of Donna Ol-
sen, Father of Mark Olsen)
Mr. Ronald Olsen (Son of Donna Olsen,
Brother of Mark Olsen)

*Lisa Schur
In Memory of
Schur Family & Priesmeyer Family

*Deanna Schroeder
To the Glory of God*

FUN AND GAMES

Our next fun and games date will be **Sunday, April 18th at 4:00PM.** Come out and join us for dominoes and cards. Bring your favorite snack to share and bring a friend along with you! See y'all there!



Please continue to fill your
Mite Boxes!

The LWML needs your
continued love and
support to meet our
Mission Goals.





Thank you...

To everyone that supported our Italian Bistro Gala! We had a wonderful time having good food and great fellowship. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the auction and a special thanks to everyone who purchased items or made a donation. We raised a total of \$1804.00 that night and had an additional donation of \$100. We split the proceeds which are going to the North Campus project and to support Seminary Students.

A special thanks to Pastor Cody, Michelle Cody, Darla English, Leanne Roten, and Judy Hancock for preparing our meal and serving us. Thank you to Delores Palmatary for providing our wonderful desserts! Thank you to all who helped set up and decorate tables and the Fellowship Hall. Thank you Larry Martinez for providing our entertainment!

Bible Trivia...How Good Are You?

1. What was the eighth plague on the Egyptians?

- A. death of first born
- B. fire
- C. frogs
- D. locusts

2. What was the tenth plague against the Egyptians?

- A. flies
- B. there isn't ten plagues
- C. locusts
- D. death of the first born

3. Who was Eve's first child?

- A. Seth
- B. Cain
- C. Enoch
- D. Abel

4. What was Cain's profession ?

- A. tailor
- B. shepherd
- C. tiller
- D. hunter

5. Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their _____, and went forth to meet the bridegroom."

- A. lamps
- B. jewelry
- C. perfume
- D. skirts

6. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth _____, good will toward men">

- A. peace
- B. grace
- C. power
- D. righteousness

7. What DOESN'T the Lord tell Cain when Cain is angry?

- A. That if Cain is righteous, the Lord will accept him
- B. That if Cain is not righteous, he will fall to sin
- C. The Lord tells Cain both of the above

8. After Cain murders Abel, what is the first thing the Lord asks Cain?

- A. Why didst thou do this thing?
- B. Who killed thy brother?
- C. Where is Abel thy brother?
- D. What hast thou done?

(Answers on page 12)

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter article – April 2021**

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood.

As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word. By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack.

A common counterpoint is: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” Our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace, and His fatherly divine goodness, and mercy. But those Bible passages do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (From <https://blogs.lcms.org/>)

Adult Education

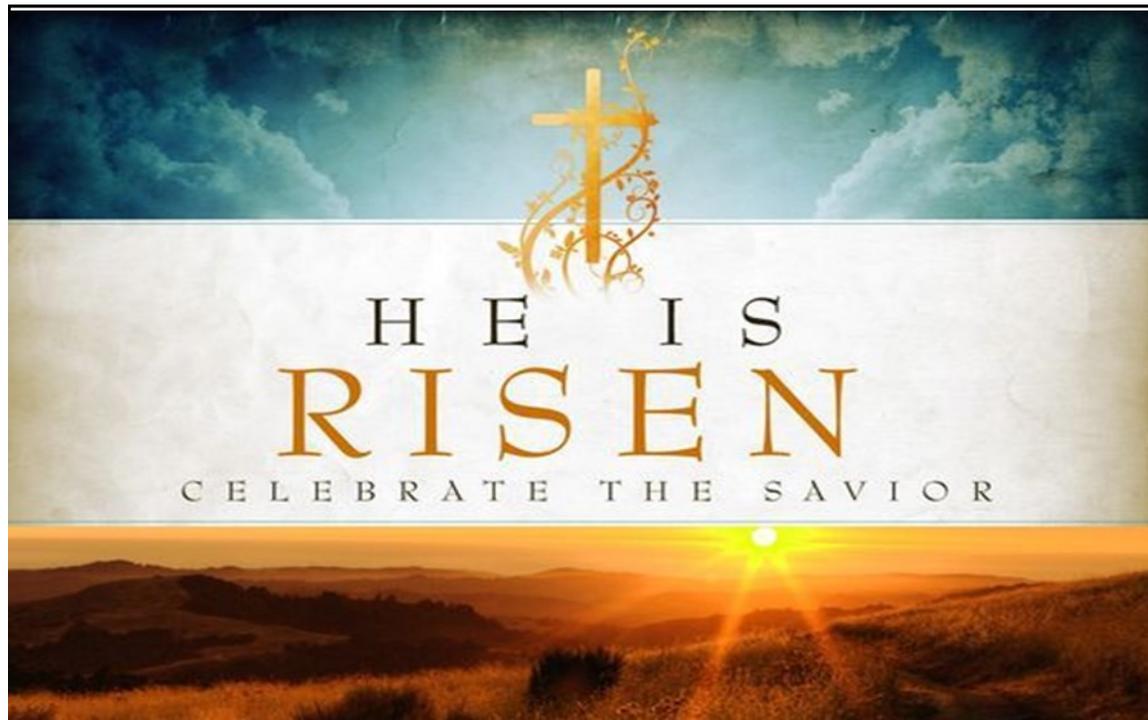
The Adult Bible Class meets every Sunday morning before Divine Service. Our goal is to have 40 people in Adult Bible Study. We want to come together and study God’s Word, and reap the benefits that God promises to those who remain in His Word (John 8:31-32). **We are now doing a Multi-Generational Bible Study for all ages called “Bible 101– Getting Back to Basics”.** I think that you will find this class interesting and thought-provoking. Please plan on joining us each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Because of the continued interest in the **Adult Catechism Classes**, Pastor Cody is teaching **Continuous Adult Catechism Instruction** to study together what it is that Lutherans believe, teach, and confess. This class meets weekly on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. Those wanting to become members of St. Paul can join the class at any time, and once through the series of lessons, they can be confirmed into communicant membership of the church. If you are interested in taking this class, please come out and join us! On April 19, we will begin a new study of the zBook of Genesis! We will start at the very beginning as it is a very good place to start! Come join us..... You’ll love it!



Sunday school for all ages starts at 9:00AM each Sunday morning. The Scriptures are clear, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and **when he is old, he will not depart from it.**” (Prov. 22:6). Come out and bring the kids to “Bible 101– Getting back to Basics”. Help demonstrating to them, good Bible Study habits as the spiritual leaders of your homes! See y’all there!



Join us for Easter Services on Sunday, April 4, 2021! We will have a Sunrise Service and a Festival of Hymns Service with Easter breakfast between the services.

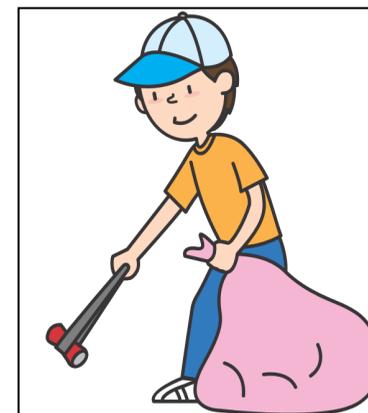
Sunrise Service

April 4, 2021..... 6:30AM at the Church

Breakfast served 8:00-9:30 AM

Festival of Hymns Service

April 4, 2021.....10:15AM (at the Church)



Things are finally getting back to normal!

The Stewardship Committee has planned to have **trash pick-up** along FM 1954 on **Saturday April 24th**. Everyone will meet at the **Family Center** at **9:00 AM** for coffee and donuts. Everyone is invited to participate in this project!

The *St. Paul Epistle* is published monthly by:

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www.stpaulwftx.org † Email: stpaulwf@att.net

The Rev. Rick Cody.....Pastor

Cell Phone: 832-745-3314 †

Email: revcody11@gmail.com

Kathy Schkade

Darla English.....Organist

Lisa Schur Parish Office Worker

January 16, 2021 All Board and Committee Planning Meeting Takeaways & Goals

Increase Bible Study and Worship Attendance

- A. Multi-generational Study...Bible Knowledge 101— **Began February 28, 2021**
- B. Weekly Divine Services with the Lord's Supper— **Ongoing**
- C. Advent & Lent noon & 7pm services— **Completed**
- D. Possible Seder Supper—**Did not schedule**
- E. Continued 7pm & 11pm Christmas Eve Candlemas services

Continue/Increase our Social Ministry Outreach/Presence in and to the community

- A. Faith Mission— **Ongoing**
- B. Rathgeber House— **Ongoing**
- C. Interfaith Ministries— **Ongoing**
- D. Give it Away— **Funds started**
- E. Courtyard Gardens—**Ongoing**
- F. First Responders
- G. City Lights Parade

Resume Fellowship Opportunities

- A. Valentine Gala— **Cancelled due to weather, held Italia Birsto Gala 3/6/2021**
- B. Church Camp Out
- C. Confirmation Questioning invitation for entire congregation & reception/dinner—**3/26/2021**
- D. Vacation Bible School
- E. North Campus worship/sing along
- F. Church meals and special occasion meals
- G. Card showers for all occasions and special birthdays and anniversaries (Virginia Hendricks is celebrating 90 this year, Hank Hancock is turning 80)
- H. Easter Egg Hunt— **3/27/2021**

Trustee/Maintenance/Building improvements

- A. Elevator improvements and repairs— **Ongoing**
- B. Windows replaced in the education wing and music room of the church— **Funds started**
- C. Floor at Church Camp (cracking and buckling)
Maintenance things that just come up

Improved Communication to all members

- A. Following constitution for certain meetings, i.e. council meetings, voters' meetings, etc.
- B. Spread sheets showing who has what forms of communications (Cell phone, landline, email etc noting what preferred form of communication for members)
- C. Phone calls, emails, newsletters, minor prophet
- D. Attempt, if possible, to give at least a 2 week notice on any given changes

***Red indicates the current status of listed project

Please Pray

Please continue to pray on a daily basis for:

- ✦ Pastor, Michelle Cody
- ✦ Kathy & Kenneth Schkade
- ✦ Lisa Schur, Parish Office Worker
- ✦ The leadership of our church, all boards and committee members.
- ✦ The mission of Paul Lutheran Church.
- ✦ All those sick or suffering in our church family.
- ✦ Church unity.
- ✦ Our nation and governmental leaders.

Prayers of God's People

FOR - THOSE WITH CANCER:

Jeanette Evans, Janie Khlum, Dennis Keethler, Hank Roten, Lee Shores, Kay Castleberry, Guin Huneycutt, Chad Brown, Staci Myles, Sally Handrick, David Marshall, Janice Hatcher, Lisa Hawes, and Tina Martinez.



PHYSICAL AND OTHER CONCERNS:

Betty Corder, Brantley French, Duncan Hibbard, Ronnie Newman, Kellen Osborne, Mark Lehman, Tyler Sherrod, Ellen Fisher, Richard Schroeder, Jane Schroeder, Jesse Flick, David Baker, Virginia Martinez, Janice Wiechman, Loretta Garcia, Sammy Henderson, Dean Miller, Susan Scott, Katey Lewis, and Sarah Beth Popp.

HOMEBOUND/SHUT-IN MEMBERS: Dorothy Kutzler (Royal Estates), Virginia Hendricks (Rolling Meadows), Lois Kramer (Rolling Meadows), Annie Cooper (Presbyterian Manor), and Jesse Flick

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL: Whitney Brown (Air Force), Eli Buckmaster (Marine Corps), Brian Clayton (Army), Kate Ridinger Dozier (Navy), Zachary Wied (National Guard), Jaydon Martinez (Navy), Trent Meisel (USAF), Richard Townes (Army), and Tim Rosenthal (Air Force).



LWML
Lutheran Women *in Mission*

Tabitha Joy met on March 18 and put together Easter goodie bags for the residents of Courtyard Gardens. We filled bags with food items, candy, and an Easter Bracelet. The goodie bags were delivered on March 31st.

The **LWML Ladies Group** will meet on **Thursday, April 15**, at 9:30AM. All ladies interested are very welcome to join them!



Our **Women's Bible Study** will meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month of April at 9:30AM. They invite all women interested to come for some thought-provoking Bible study and great fellowship!

The **Red River Zone Lutheran Women's Missionary League** will be meeting on April 17th at 9:00 AM at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Vernon Texas.

Thank You

We wish to thank those who served last month:

Organist: Kathy Schkade

Elders: Kenneth Schkade, William Parker, Kevin Copeland

Sound man: Eugene Kruger, Randal Schoppa

Altar Guild: Judy Hancock & Delores Palmatary (setup) Judy Hancock, Delores Palmatary (take-down) (And all members!)

Greeters: Ruth Rathgeber, Del Tech, Penny Becker, and all greeters

Ushers: Randal Schoppa, Eugene Kruger, ...and all who volunteer on Sundays

All Church Council members

All Board and Committee members

Treasurer: Nina Keethler

Church Sexton: Randal Schoppa

The immediate needs of Faith Mission are as follows:

Underwear – all sizes

Cleaning wipes

Copy paper,

Anti-Fungal foot spray/cream

Over the Counter (individual wrapped) medicine –

Tums, ibuprofen, Advil, allergy, etc.



– WICHITA FALLS –
FAITH MISSION
EVERY STORY MATTERS



Lee Cole to the Elevator Fund by Hank & Judy Hancock

Dr. Jackie Parker and Margaret McRoberts to the Window Fund by William Parker.

Thank you to Dr. Quentin Kramer for his very generous gift of money towards the education wing window fund.



TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1. locusts
2. Death of first born
3. Circumcision
4. Cain
5. Tiller
6. lamps
7. peace
8. The Lord tells Cain both of the above
9. Where is Abel thy brother?

If you or someone you know needs a ride to Divine Service or any other church activity, please call the church office at (940) 322-6112 and we will see what we can do to arrange that for you.



Dear Religious Leaders,

My name is Elliot Bonner and I am the Director of Veterans Services at the Helen Farabee Centers. My mission is to assist and refer Veterans and their family members to resources that they may not be aware of in our community. Faith-based Organizations like yours are melting pots for the military community and I am asking if you come across any Veteran seeking assistance for any reason please refer them to me so I can access their needs and see what resources or services are available to them. I have enclosed a brochure for you to read and if you should have any questions please feel free to contact me. My contact information is below and let's help some Veterans. If you know anyone that would like to volunteer with the Military Veteran Peer Network (MVPN) let me know. We can always use some good people to assist and help our Veterans.

Thank you,

Elliot Bonner

Certified Veterans Coordinator

(940)397-3315

Brochure is located on the bulletin board by church office.



Easter Breakfast

Easter Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall after the Sunrise Service at 8:00-9:30 AM.

Egg Casseroles, sweet rolls, coffee, juice, and milk will be served.

Days to Celebrate in April

Birthdays
1st Troy Lewis, Virginia Martinez
4th Bobby Scarber
5th Debra Truette
9th Keith Kruger
13th Nina Keethler
17th Matt Dozier
22nd Richard Townes
29th Sherry Wright



Happy Birthday

He is Risen

People serving at church during April

Elders

William Parker
Kenneth Schkade
Kevin Copeland

Ushers

Randal Schoppa
Eugene Krueger

Altar Attendants

Set Up: Judy Hancock,
Delores Palmatary
Take Down: Judy Hancock,
Delores Palmatary

Greeters

Apr. 4 –Del Tech, Penny Becker
Apr. 11 - Leanne Roten & Michelle Cody
Apr. 18– Delores Palmatary & Ruth
Rathgeber
Apr. 25 - Pam Marten & Nancy Martinez

Readers

Apr. 4—Ken Schkade
Apr. 11—Kevin Copeland
Apr. 18—Eugene Krueger
Apr. 25– Kenneth Theimer