

April, 2025

**MARK: MY WORDS**

 We have noted before the importance of recognizing Easter as a *season* rather than a one-and-done day at the end of Lent and the Three Days. The enormity of the earth-and-history shattering announcement that “He is not here; He is risen” (Luke 24:5) made by the “two men in dazzling clothes” to the women at the tomb requires more than one day to grasp and celebrate its importance. There are *seven* (the Biblical number for completion or perfection) weeks in which to ponder and honor The Living One.

 This year’s readings during the season are split into two distinct emphases. An essay from our worship resource, *Sundays and Seasons* lays out their themes:

The first three weeks of Easter feature vivid encounters with the risen Christ: Mary Magdalene perceiving Christ as the gardener; Thomas and the other disciples beholding Christ’s wounds; the disciples being welcomed to breakfast by Jesus on the lakeshore before Christ’s commission to care for his sheep; and Paul along the Damascus road, hearing Jesus in the voice of those Paul has persecuted…

…Each witness demonstrates some unique insight in seeking and perceiving the Risen One, even as each also experiences some type of elusiveness in Christ’s risen presence…Rather than taking cheap shots at biblical characters for misperceiving Jesus (a critique the gospels themselves do not clearly make), (our texts) may help us enter the wonder of encountering the risen Christ in ways as diverse and complex as Mary, Thomas, Peter, the eleven, and Paul.

After the three weeks of encounters with the risen Jesus, the final four weeks of the Easter season (along with Pentecost) evoke the mystical union of our dwelling in Christ, in the Trinity, and in the beloved community of the church. The gospel lections are drawn from accounts from the Gospel of John from before the cross and resurrection, as Jesus prepares his followers for discipleship beyond encounters with his immediate bodily presence. If the first three weeks of Easter are filled with the drama of discovering and encountering the risen Christ, these final weeks of Easter help us learn to dwell in the resurrection as an enduring way of life.

 Such a rich variety of texts and experiences of the faithful who have gone before us contribute to these weeks being the most joyous time of the church year. After the solemnity of Lent, it will feel good to be able to break out our “Alleluias!” and delve into the rich liturgical and hymnic resources of the Church to bear witness to the Resurrection.

 As you committed to the forty days of Lenten discipline, so may you also resolve to attend and participate in worship and service beyond Easter Day through the Fifty Days of The Resurrection. You, and we, and those we are called to serve will be blessed in that holy work.



 Here are the dates and themes for the remaining services of Holden Evening Prayer:

**Wednesday, April 2** “To Serve All People, Following the Example of Jesus”

**Wednesday, April 9** “To Strive for Justice and Peace in All the Earth”

 **All services will begin at 6:00 p.m.** and will conclude by 6:30 p.m. As always, we hope you will attend these liturgies as part of your Lenten discipline and preparation for Holy Week and Easter.



 On Easter morning we will welcome the following children to the Lord’s Table after going through instruction over these past weeks: Carson and Stella Riesenberg, Richer’ea Waltz, Cam Brooks, and Molly and Benjamin Robbins. They will also help Karen Schacht bake the Communion bread for our Holy Week and Easter services.

 We thank God for their presence among us and look forward to celebrating this important milestone in their faith journey.



**LENT/HOLY WEEK WORSHIP**

 Since Easter is so late this year, it might be helpful to recap our worship services for the end of Lent and Holy Week and Easter. Please note again that this year **there will be only one service on Maundy Thursday @ 10:00 a.m. (followed by the Altar Guild luncheon) and one service on Good Friday @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 5** 4:00 p.m.

The Fifth Saturday in Lent

**Sunday, April 6** 9:00 a.m.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

**Saturday, April 12** 4:00 p.m.

Palm/Passion Saturday

**Sunday, April 13** 9:00 a.m.

Palm/Passion Sunday

**Thursday, April 17** 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Senior Communion

**Friday, April 18** 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae

**Saturday, April 19** 7:00 p.m.

The Vigil of Easter

**Sunday, April 20** 9:00 a.m.

The Resurrection of Our Lord



 Many of you remember long-time former members David and Mindy Meyer. They had moved to Muncie to be near their daughter. Mindy died several years ago and David died at 93 last December. There was a funeral for him in Muncie at that time, but the family wanted to have a memorial service here at St. Paul because of his long membership and his family’s connection to the congregation that went back to its founding.

 They chose to have the service this May 12, which was his birthday. There will be a time of visitation with the family from 12:30-1:15 p.m., pre-service music from 1:15-1:30, and the service will begin at 1:30. A luncheon in the St. Paul Room will follow.



 Many of you so graciously ask about how our sons, Dan and Jacob, are doing in school. They are juniors now, Jacob studying electrical engineering at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute and Dan studying astrophysics and astronomy at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

This summer they will both be engaged in internships in their fields of study: Jacob will be working at Texas Instruments in Dallas doing quality control testing on semiconductors (the area in which he wants to focus after graduation), and Dan was just accepted into a program in astronomy at the University of Wyoming in Laramie to study “metal-poor stars in the Milky Way.”

I don’t understand any of what they are studying; they clearly got their skills in math and science from their mother. We are extraordinarily proud of them and know that they are going to do great things in their fields as they graduate and move into the workforce.



**EASTER PLANTS**

A variety of spring plants will be available to order for decorating St. Paul’s Church on Easter Morning! The varieties and colors available are Lily; Daffodil; Hyacinth in purple, pink, or white; Tulips in yellow, red, white, or pink; Florist Mum (Daisy like form) in pink, white, or yellow; Hydrangeas in pink or purple/blue; and the 10” Hanging Fern Basket.

Cost per plant is as follows:

 Lily - $10.00

 Daffodil - $9.00

 Hyacinth - $9.00 (purple, pink, or white)

 Tulip - $9.00 (yellow, red, white, or pink)

 Florist Mum - $11.00 (pink, white, or yellow)

 Hydrangea - $15.00 (pink or purple/blue)

 Hanging Fern - $15.00

Please specify your choice of plant and your choice of color when applicable.

Orders MUST be placed by Monday morning, March 31.

Your order may be placed ‘In Memory or Honor of a Loved One’. Please call the Church Office, 219-874-7293, or place your order in an envelope and title it ‘Easter Plants.’ REMEMBER, you must specify what type of plant and color, if applicable!! All checks should be made out to St. Paul Church.

 Please plan on picking up your plant after the Easter Morning Service by 11:00 a.m.



Nest Community Shelter posted this thank you on their blog, and we wanted to share it with the entire congregation.

Nest Community Shelter began more than two decades ago as a traveling PADS program, meaning that we moved from church to church across Michigan City. This allowed us to build our program, and for the churches that supported it, it allowed them to live God’s mission to care for those in need. As a program, we were incredibly blessed to have so many dedicated faith partners to host our guests at night. From this firm support, Nest Community Shelter was able to grow to meet the needs of our community, eventually opening a permanent shelter in Michigan City. As we’ve grown and the needs of our community have expanded, we’ve never forgotten the love and support we received in those early years from our faith partners.

Late last year, Nest Community Shelter was bestowed a historic gift from St. Paul’s parish in Michigan City. This generous gift was given to Nest Community Shelter after the sale of the parish school. When asked why the parish of St. Paul’s decided to bless Nest Community Shelter with this gift, St. Paul’s Pastor Mark Reshan said, “When we sold the school, we determined we’d give half away, particularly to those we’d been involved with in the past. We hosted a men and women’s shelter for years. Harry started here. This is where he received the bulk of his training.”

These funds are one of the largest single gifts ever bestowed upon Nest Community Shelter. The funds will be invested in order to ensure that the gift will continue to support Nest Community Shelter’s mission and St. Paul’s parish’s wish that these funds will make a long-lasting gift for those who need it most in our community. “What we want to do is ensure that this gift can be a lasting legacy for the parish of St. Paul’s. We are creating opportunities for these funds to grow so that this gift may live on and empower the lives of our guests for years to come,” said Nest Community Shelter Director Harrison Holtkamp. He continued on to say, “Funding our operations can be complex. Most people don’t realize that the work we do is exceptionally labor intensive in order to ensure a safe site for our guests and the community. In most cases, grants cannot be used to fund staffing. The investment of the gift from St. Paul’s will, in part, ensure that we can shore up adequate staffing costs when other solutions might not be present.”

Nest Community Shelter plans to publicly thank the parish of St. Paul’s for their generous gift by sharing the impact of these funds at a Sunday morning service in the next few months. St. Paul’s parish Treasurer, Karen Fleming, said, “We felt that the shelter has been a part of our mission. At the beginning, we were part of it. We have some ownership there. The shelter operations moved out, but we’re still connected to it. Nest Community Shelter is vitally important to us.” Fleming went on to say, “We want to help Nest Community Shelter be a great success and reduce homelessness and the issues surrounding it.

On behalf of all those at Nest Community Shelter, we want to extend our most heartfelt gratitude to the entire congregation at St. Paul’s parish for this life-changing gift. These funds will have a long-lasting, multi-generational impact on those that we serve, our entire community, and beyond. Furthermore, these gifts will not only allow us to continue to live our mission but, by extension, it will allow us to live the mission that St. Paul’s helped us begin, to serve those in our community in need with dignity, determination, and love.



 As this is being written, we are moving toward Palm Saturday/Sunday and the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter morning. Although there are two less services again this year than in the past, there is still an enormous amount of work that goes into preparing for all those worship services. Like the services around Christmas, we just assume (and expect) that the worship space will be decorated beautifully, the music will be uplifting and inspiring, and that the services will run smoothly and flawlessly.

 All of that takes place because of the efforts of our many volunteers who selflessly give of their time, effort, and energy to make our worship special. At the risk of overlooking someone, here is a list of those who participated in preparations and our worship during Holy Week:

Deacons/Ushers Craig Hunt, Bob Kiser, Rich Fleming, Tim Crozier

Assisting Ministers Donna Knoll, Sarah Payne, Trish Sprague, Sue Koziel

Lectors for the Easter Vigil Donna Knoll, Trish Sprague, Susan Bagby

Lectors for Palm Saturday/Sunday/ Trish Sprague, Sue Koziel, Sarah Payne, Doug Kienitz,

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Donna Knoll

Palm Sunday Altar Guild Melinda Nagle, Karen Steinborn, Virginia Murray

Maundy Thursday/Easter Vigil Sandy Galinowski, Bernadette Krueger, Karen Peters

Altar Guild

Easter Altar Guild Norma Milzarek, Marsha Logan, Julie Brooks

Video Paul Brooks, Mike Bockover, Pam Soule

Musicians Dr. George Karst, Maggie Martin, John Carington,

 The Senior Choir, New Song Praise Band

Flowers and decorations Sue Koziel, Karen & Kerry Steinborn, Terry Wolter

Bulletins Libby Pollock

 As always, we owe them a huge debt of gratitude for all their faithful and hard work. Even if this edition arrives after Easter, please make sure you thank these people when you see them for enriching our worship during the most holy time of the year.



**MONTHLY MISSION**

 For our April Monthly Mission, we will be collecting money to support different projects in various elementary schools in Michigan City through Donors Choose. Donors Choose provides a list of teacher-led classroom projects that need funding. Flexible seating, bubbling fish tubes, classroom supplies, TinkerTar guitars, and a kid wash for field day are some of the options we can provide to our elementary schools. Please consider donating to help fund our local teachers' classroom projects! Checks can be written to St. Paul and can be marked for MCAS and placed in the offering plate. Noisy coin offering will also support the mission of the month. To see a full list of projects, visit [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org/) and search for Michigan City.



**IN MEMORY OF VENIA WENDT**

**General Fund** from Virginia Murray, Douglas & Connie Schultz, Melodie & Kim Ackerson,

Charles & Linda Hardesty, Patricia & Julian Janasiak, Carol Robinson, Mary Kominiarek



**FEBRUARY & MARCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

In February, the Finance Team reported they would be meeting with NuToy soon to make final arrangements for the new playground to be installed in the early spring.

In March, Pastor Reshan reported that Bishop Timothy Graham will be with us in March, 2026, for the 150th Anniversary celebration. The new playground will be delivered and installed April 25-28. The spring Congregational Meeting will be May 18.

As always, full copies of the minutes are available in the narthex.



 **April Birthdays April Anniversaries**

 1 Steve Baker 2 David & Nancy Zummak

 Marjory Bockover 8 Gary & Nan Larson

 Jana Thomas 16 Jacob & Monica Tannehill

 3 Sarah McNabb 22 Tim & Stacie Crozier

 5 Connie Burgess 24 Stephen & Lauretta Hapke

 7 Kathryn Glanz

 10 Jeffrey Albertson

 13 Drew Robbin

 15 Richard T. Cains

 Nancy Hawkins

 16 Karen Kiser

 17 Megan VanGemeren

 19 Diane Sunde

 20 Jeffrey Furness

 Melania Roberson

 23 Jean Kleinschmidt

 25 Mary Protas

 26 Karen Fleming

 Tim Crozier

 28 Virginia Murray

 Ryan Krueger

 29 Jason Howard

 30 Sharon Hutchcraft

 Sheryl Lubke



**Long-Term Prayer List**

Laura Dovey Russ Fischer Jess Kalvaitis

Christine Kiser Bethany Manning Shirley McCarty

Jan Paholski Grace Romine Danielle Schnell

Martha Schroeder Jeanie Boatman Shepple Joyce Stark

Kathy Stein Mark Tannehill Kathy Thielman

Brian Wiseman



 Monday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

 Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

 Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

 Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

 Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

**St. Paul Lutheran Church Staff**

 Pastor Rev. Mark Reshan

 Secretary Libby Pollock

 Accompanists Jary Tannehill, Mark Tannehill, Jacob Tannehill

 Custodian Mark Kloess

Thank$ for $haring

Last month we raised $156 at the Holly’s Give Back. Thanks to all who participated.

This month, we will see you at Galveston on Thursday, April 3.  Here are two coupons—one for you and one for a friend.

 