

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School
818 Franklin Square
Michigan City, IN 46360

the Good News

Church: 874-7293

School: 874-7409

Email: stpaul Lutheran@stpaulmichigancity.com

Web site: www.stpaulmichigancity.com

April, 2021

MARK: MY WORDS

It is the same whether you check your favorite calendar, Google it, or take your cue from signs, sales, and decorations in stores: “Easter—April 4.” After the solemnity and sacrifice of the Forty Days of Lent, it is no wonder that we look with eager anticipation toward the celebration of The Resurrection.

Yet, in the Church, that viewpoint is incomplete. April 4 this year marks our celebration of Jesus’ rising on that first Easter morning, but that observance is not a “one and done.” The *season* of Easter continues for fifty days (surpassing the forty days of Lent) because the joy and depth of the meaning of the Resurrection is too great to limit to one Sunday.

A “preview essay” on the season of Easter from our Augsburg Publishing House *Sundays and Seasons* worship planning guide offers some helpful insights into understanding why the Church extends the Days of Easter and what we can expect to hear from the texts in those weeks. I shall quote somewhat extensively from the helpful essay.

“The Easter season starts out with dwelling on the resurrection appearances, and then moves back in the gospels to Jesus’ farewell speeches while simultaneously moving forward in the book of Acts as the gospel spreads. Each week we are called not only to look for the risen Christ’s presence deeper and deeper in our own lives, but also to ponder where the Spirit of the risen Christ might be pushing us deeper into the world.

We are on a long hiatus from the Gospel of Mark. Most of the gospel readings for this season are from John, and the second readings from 1 John offer us an opportunity to sink even deeper into the vocabulary and syntax of Johannine grace ...”

“...Fortunately, the readings from Acts give us lots of rich images of what resurrection love and freedom look like: a community sharing all that it has (Easter 2); healing offered to a lame man (Easter 3 and 4); the scriptures opened up to an outsider (Easter 5); good news proclaimed to the Gentiles (Easter 6); and even electing a new church leader (Easter 7). The risen body of Christ, the church, has concrete work to do in embodying the good news that Christ is alive and present.

The time after Pentecost will offer us plenty of opportunity to sink back into the story of Jesus and his earthly ministry, but in the Easter season, the ministry of Christ is the ministry of the church. The bodies that proclaim the resurrection are our bodies—baptized, fed at the table, and sent out to embrace a changing world ...”

“A changing world.” Even “normally” that is a great understatement. As we slowly move out of the cataclysmic effects of the pandemic and the foundationally altering changes forced upon us by it we face a “world” that has “changed” beyond any possible imagining before this. The challenges that the Church—and our congregation—face are certainly daunting, frightening, and overwhelming.

Our hope and strength are found only in the promise that even the greatest threat to our lives and existence—death—has been overcome by the Risen Jesus. This year’s Easter Gospel from Mark ends seemingly in defeat as the terrified women run from the empty tomb apparently disobeying the angel’s command to tell the disciples that Jesus has been raised and has gone ahead of them into the Galilee where they will see Him.

“The Galilee” in Mark is where Jesus conducted the majority of His ministry, where He encountered and healed the sick and possessed and fed the hungry and welcomed the outcast. Our whole world right now seems like “the Galilee.”

But as the late Lutheran Biblical scholar Donald Juel was fond of saying, “Jesus is now on the loose” in that world of hurt and suffering, hunger, poverty, sickness, and death. And that means He is present and empowering us to be His Body—to be the Church—bearing witness in new and previously unimagined ways to His presence.

The season of Easter is just a small beginning of grasping that promise and power.



SYNOD CHRISM MASS

In the past, the Synod has arranged for a series of Chrism Masses for rostered clergy right before (and sometimes during) Holy Week. The last several years have included members of the Episcopal Dioceses with whom we are in full communion. The purpose of these Masses was two-fold: it offered the opportunity for pastors/priests to renew their ordination vows and re-commit themselves to their vocational service, and the bishop(s) blessed oil for use in Baptisms and services of healing.

Last year the event was simply canceled. This year, Bishop Gafkjen had hoped to offer several Zoom meetings that would include a liturgy of lament, prayer for healing, and a renewal of vows. Those did not work out as planned, so in its place there was a live-streamed Joint Service for the Renewal of Baptism Vows and Reaffirmation of Ordination Vows on Thursday, March 25.

Since we have not been meeting in person for much of the last year, we have not needed to use our supply of oil for Baptisms or healing rites; so our supply is in good shape. Hopefully, next year we will be able to meet again for the Chrism Masses, although personally I hope that they are not scheduled during Holy Week!



Although this was published last month and in bulletin announcements, it seemed good to repeat our schedule for the most important worship services of the year. Each of them will be live streamed/broadcast on our church and school Facebook page and later posted to our YouTube channel (“Michael Bockover”). Palm Sunday and Easter will also be broadcast later those mornings on WEFM (95.9) at 11:00 a.m. and on the cable access channel 99. Please mark your calendars to be with us for these liturgies:

March 28—9:00 a.m. Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Procession with Palms; the Passion according to St. Mark

April 1—7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday

Foot Washing; Stripping of the Altar

April 2—12:00-3:00 p.m. Good Friday

Tre Ore worship on “The Seven Last Words of Christ”

First Word	12:05	<i>Father, Forgive Them</i> (Luke 23:34) Pastor Dale Zylstra, Christ Lutheran, Hammond
Second Word	12:30	<i>I Am Thirsty</i> (John 19:28-29) Pastor Mark Reshan
Third Word	12:55	<i>Woman, Here is Your Son</i> (John 19:25-27) Pastor Nancy Nichols, First United Methodist
Fourth Word	1:20	<i>My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?</i> (Mark 15:33-34) Pastor Mark Kloess, St. Paul Lutheran
Fifth Word	1:45	<i>Today You Will Be With Me in Paradise</i> (Luke 23:39-43) Pastor Ericka Parkinson-Kilbourne, First Presbyterian Church
Sixth Word	2:10	<i>It is Finished</i> (John 19:30) Pastor Pamela Thiede, Calumet Episcopal Ministry Partnership, Lake County
Seventh Word	2:35	<i>Father, into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit</i> (Luke 23:44-49) Pastor Charlene Arrington-Moore, Bethel AME

April 2--7:00 p.m. Good Friday

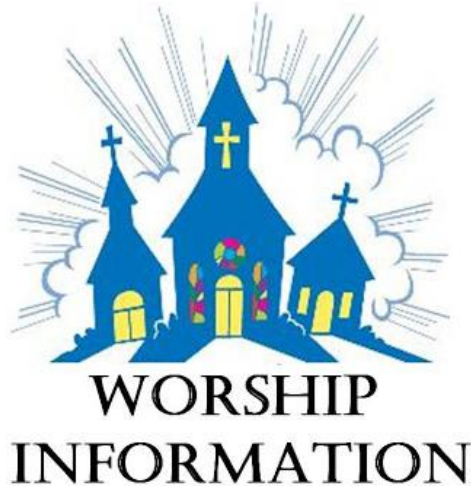
Service of the Word; the Passion according to St. John

April 3—7:00 p.m. Holy Saturday

The Great Vigil of Easter; the lighting of the new fire

April 4—9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday

The Resurrection according to St. Mark



IN-PERSON WORSHIP

In my home visits for Communion and in conversation with many others, the natural question that arose was, “When will we resume in-person worship?” My response was always, “We hope to gather again in late spring/early summer.”

The Church Council has not yet made a decision about when to begin our Saturday/Sunday liturgies. On the one hand, it is encouraging to see that the number of positive cases in our county continues to decline and that a good number of our members have had at least one vaccine shot and many have had both.

On the other hand, we know that, even with those protections, we cannot become lax in our efforts to stay well and healthy. The wearing of masks and keeping social distance will probably still be necessary, at least at the beginning of our time together again. We already know we will continue to face challenges in getting volunteers for ushers, deacons, Altar Guild, and other service-related aspects of our worship.

We, also, will want to find ways to encourage people to come back this time who did not return when we resumed worship last fall. Between the two services, we averaged only 15-20 people per service; and there were times when there were less than a dozen worshipers. If we are once again going to invest all the time and effort into securing volunteers, cleaning and disinfecting the worship space, and adjusting our worship practices to meet safety protocols, we will need greater support, presence, and participation by the congregation.

The Church Council will have met on the last Thursday of March to discuss plans for gathering again. This will be published before that meeting, so we will make sure to get information to the congregation via a letter and/or announcement in the days following. Thank you for your patience and understanding as together we journey through this “pandemic wilderness,” in the words of our Bishop, toward a better day of worship, prayer, praise, and sacramental sharing.

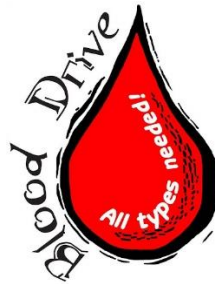


Pastor Reshan will be taking some time off after Easter to recuperate after all the Lenten/Holy Week services. If a pastoral emergency arises, you may still reach him on his cell phone at 630-450-1894.



THE END OF SCRIP

St. Paul Church Council has voted to discontinue the Scrip program. Prior to the pandemic the profit was very minimal. The cost of shipment for the Scrip is very expensive, which cuts into the profits; and maintaining the inventory is very time consuming. We will continue to sell the existing Scrip inventory and encourage our members to help us deplete our inventory stock. At some future date, we will decide how to disperse the remaining inventory. We thank all of the members who have supported the Scrip program throughout the years.



Red Cross Blood Drive

St. Paul again will partner with the Red Cross for a blood drive on Thursday, April 29, from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in our redecorated St. Paul room. Please register on the Red Cross website. We will be following all of the Covid 19 guidelines that are in place at that time. **Please consider participating in this blood drive. There is a real need.**



New St. Paul School Roof

Last year, 2020, we sought bids to put a new roof on the school. The roof had been patched in several places, and we knew that it had to be replaced. The bids divided the project into five sections. This was our attempt to divide up the cost. Last spring, which ended up to be early summer, we were able to put new roofing on the three smallest sections. We were able to pay for it with member giving, memorial giving, dividends from our investments, discounts from the contractor, and \$10,000 from the school. No loans!

This month, March 2021, we roofed the last two sections. It is now finished, and the school has a completely new roof. Once again, we were able to pay for this work with member giving, memorial giving, dividends from our investments, discounts from the contractor, and \$10,000 from the school. No loans!

A new school roof without taking a loan is a big deal. Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen.



Do You Shop on Amazon?

St. Paul Lutheran Church is now on Amazon Smile. 0.5% of all eligible purchases will be returned to St. Paul. Help us spread the word! Link your Amazon account through the following link—<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1239301>. When prompted, sign into your account to make sure you are choosing St. Paul for Amazon Smile. There's no extra charge to your purchases.



April Birthdays

- 1 Steve Baker
Marjory Bockover
Jana Thomas
- 2 Lyle Peters
- 3 Sarah McNabb
- 5 Connie Burgess
- 7 Kathryn Glanz
- 13 Drew Robbins
- 15 Richard T. Cains
Nancy Hawkins
Lucille Tryon
- 16 Karen Kiser
- 17 Megan VanGemeran
- 19 Diane Sune
- 20 Jeffrey Furness
- 23 Jean Kleinschmidt
- 25 Marie Protas
- 26 Tim Crozier
- 28 Ryan Krueger
Virginia Murray
- 29 Jason Howard
- 30 Sharon Hutchcraft
Sheryl Lubke
Bill Wilson

April Anniversaries

- 2 Allen & JoAnn Kring
- 22 Stacie & Timothy Crozier



Easter Flowers have been given:

In memory of Robert John Murray, Bob & Joyce Uebler, Robert W. & Gertrude Murray, and Kathryn Murray from Virginia Murray

In memory of Kathryn Herbert, Victor Herbert, and Dennis Knaup from Mary Knaup

In memory of loved ones from Bob & Karen Kiser

In memory of son Donald from Fred & Carol Weiss

In memory of Henry "Sonny" Robbins from wife, Sandra Robbins

In honor of Richard & Suzanne Cains, and in memory of Palmer & Ruth Thompson and loved ones from Don & Beth Thompson

In memory of Ollie & Josephine Olson and Edward & Solveig Claussen
from Ed & Audrey Claussen

In loving memory of our Dad, Sonny Robbins from Amy & Mike Maesch

In memory of loved ones from Marge & Mike Bockover

In memory of husband, Clint Powell, and daughter, Connie Hollis, from Maxine Powell

In memory of our son, Michael, and Diane's Mom, Marie Webber
from Norman & Diane Egilske

In memory of Elsie Reed from Janice White

In memory of Ollie & Gladys Thomas; Charlie's sisters, Helen, Ruby, & Donna; Otto & Etta Meyer; Orville & Lera Meyer; Gerald & Ruth Weiler; and Gordon & Marguerite from Charles & Jana Thomas

In honor of parents, Charlene & Walter Hoard from Lenore Hoard

In memory of loved ones from Chuck & Sherry Payne

In memory of my husband, Joseph from Susan Koziel

In memory of Jason's Mom, Christine Leslie, and Carey's Dad, John Foldenauer
From Jason & Carey Howard



IN MEMORY OF RICHARD DETTMAN

General Fund by Virginia Murray, Susan Bagby

IN MEMORY OF BOB SHEBEL

General Fund by Tom & Pat Kessler; Wesley & Barbara Rogers; Glen Rosenbaum; John & Anne Shebel Powell; James & Carolyn Gazdick; Mike & Marjory Bockover; Arlo & Elva Kunnemann; James & Valerie Minich; Mark & Amy Shebel; Mark & Penny Busse; Robert & Valeri Eilers; Don & Stella, Lucy, Scott, & Janine Park; James & Judy Baugh; Ken & Carol Hanft; Matthew & Mary Shebel; Wesley & Barbara Rogers

**IN MEMORY OF BOB SHEBEL &
IN HONOR OF LOU ANN (ROSENBAUM) SHEBEL**

General Fund by the 1956 Class of Hanna High School

IN MEMORY OF BETTY LUBKE

General Fund by Lyle & Mary Peters

IN MEMORY OF KATHRYN MURRAY

General Fund by Lyle & Mary Peters

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD FISCHER

General Fund by Susan Bagby

IN HONOR OF PASTOR DALE ZYLSTRA'S ORDINATION

General Fund by Lyle & Mary Peters



PRAYER CHAIN

The members of the Prayer Chain at St. Paul have made a commitment to pray for any and all who request their prayers. Let us pray for you! To activate the Prayer Chain, contact one of the members on the list below and tell her of your need. You may give as much information as you wish. Your request will be kept in strict confidence.

Prayer request forms are also available in the pew racks during worship. These forms include prayer categories such as Healing, Comfort, Guidance, etc. Simply fill out the form (please include the date of your request) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to a deacon. The form will be forwarded to a Prayer Chain member. When using the e-mail addresses, please note "Prayer Chain Request" on the subject line. If the subject line is not filled in, the e-mail will not be opened

Vivian Zellers	872-8780	vteach2006@sbcglobal.net
Carrie Ziesmer	872-6541	carrie124@comcast.net



Long-Term Prayer List

Robert Atwood
Jim Gleason
Jess Kalvaitis
Duane Ormsby
Jean Thomas

Sherry Brotsky
Andy Hipskind
Ryan Krueger
Bert Pauluhn
Linda Utley

Laura Eilers-Straight
Terry Hygema
Tom & Larry Leuth
Nora Schultz
Chris Weninger



OFFICE HOURS

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 & School Staff

Pastor	Mark Reshan
Organist	John Rimmel
Accompanists	Jary Tannehill, Mark Tannehill, Jacob Tannehill
Office Secretary	Libby Pollock
Custodian	Mark Kloess
School Principal	Christy Smith
School Office Secretary	Tracey McCay

Thank\$ for \$haring

The Galveston Give-Back in February raised \$180. Thank you for participating!

See you at Holly’s this month! Remember to cut out this coupon, because it is required for the Give-Back bucks. You can use this for dine in or carry out.

