

APRIL 2024

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
610 15TH ST.
AMES, IA 50010
515-232-5838

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SAINTPAULAMES.ORG
OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, AMES, IA

REV. DR. TODD JENKS, PASTOR

LORI JENKS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
PRESCHOOL- 515-233-1914

A Note from Your Pastor

Friends in the Lord,

Back in the day, I served as an RA at Concordia University in St. Paul (RA is Resident Assistant). One year while serving there, we used the hymn *In Thee Is Gladness* as our theme for the entire academic year at the university. Do you remember how the lyrics of this hymn begin? "In Thee is gladness, amid all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart."

These glad lyrics are especially appropriate this month, as we celebrate the sunshine the Risen Jesus brings us each of the Sundays of the Easter Season. This month, during the Easter season, we continue to bask in the GLADNESS of our celebration of the resurrection, as we celebrate Jesus' victory over death! We share the GLADNESS of the good news that when we depart this life, as our souls rest with Jesus Christ, we await the day that our bodies will also be raised – resurrected and perfected, by Jesus – when Jesus, the champion over death, returns to earth to raise all who rest in their earthly slumber chambers awaiting His return.

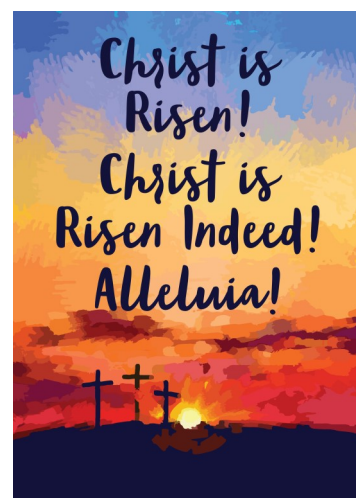
This month, during the Easter season, we continue to share the GLADNESS of

our celebration that Christ won the victory over death for each of us! Easter season is a glad season of celebration that Christ has risen! Easter season also brings us the GLADNESS of the guarantee that we too shall rise, even after we die, to live forever in eternal life with Jesus Christ – because He suffered and died to pay our sin's price, and rose victorious over death for each one of us.

Get ready for GLADNESS this month as we continue our celebration of Jesus' triumphant emergence from the tomb. Get ready for GLADNESS as we rejoice that through Christ, each of us shall, in His perfect time, emerge from the darkness of our own tomb. Rejoice in the GLADNESS that through Jesus, each of us will emerge from the darkness of this life of sin, sorrow, suffering and death, to be in perfect peace in eternal life with Christ forevermore!

Christ Is Risen!
Continue the celebration! Taste the GLADNESS!

Pastor Jenks



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Our Mission is:

- To Know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord,
- To Grow in faith through His Sacraments and Word, and
- To Go share His Gospel with love in our community and world.

Worship Services at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 7

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, April 14

10:00 a.m. Worship Service



Sunday, April 21

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, April 28

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Elder Board News

The Elder Board is requesting donations to cover the cost of a basic security system for the church, preschool and parking area. A four-camera system will be installed by a local vendor for \$5,000+/- . The cameras would document any (e.g. domestic disputes, disruptive incidents, vandalism) problems that could require follow up by law enforcement.

We are seeking volunteers to fill committee leadership positions for the 2024-25 church year. Also, we need a Recording Secretary to document minutes from the Board of Directors as well as our voters meeting. Please contact Steve Johnson or Jim George as volunteers to commit to the chair and vice-chair positions.

Calling all St. Paul members.



The trustees are organizing a spring cleaning event Saturday April 13th (weather reschedule on April 20th). We are asking for help sprucing up the outside, sticks,

leaves, flower beds, etc. We are also going to do some interior cleaning too, vacuum pews, wash windows, and so much more. Thank you all for your past help and we look forward to spring cleaning Saturday April 13th.



Thank you to everyone

who helped make the Easter breakfast a success. It takes lots of helpers in many areas, but everyone chipped in to make things run smooth.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING





Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence

Interview By Lindsay Roach

READER WARNING! I talk about Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence

Did you know that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month? I know this as a past volunteer, both as a volunteer advocate and as an admin volunteer as well, following being sexually assaulted myself in May of 2020. So to say this topic is hard but near to my heart, and that communication truly is at the helm, is a big understatement.

Communication was a key theme of my interview with Kristina Griego, Interim co-executive director of ACCESS (the assault care center extending shelter and support, which came about in the 1980's, as there was a need for those fleeing assault and domestic violence situations). Kristina has been in the field since 2010. She says that as early as 3 or 4 years old she had her own children describing how visits went, knowing where doctors were okay to touch and when they needed to ask permission, and being aware of general terms they could understand, anatomically correct terms for body parts, that I will not mention here, as this is already a difficult topic for a church newsletter article.

I then asked Kristina about how ACCESS defines sexual assault, which is defined as: any nonconsensual sexual activity, and how they define domestic violence: any relationship, of a domestic nature/same home, that can be physical, sexual, financial, mental, emotional, or psychological.

I then asked Kristina, are there red flags that anyone, in particular in a church setting, should be looking for? She states that depending on age group, for sexual assault young children or older children exhibit clues such as bedwetting, at an uncharacteristic age for that to be happening, or overactive sexualization of everything. For domestic violence there aren't any red flags that are visual, besides bruises, unless it's happening in front of you. However, watch for manipulation and gaslighting that can be listened for, and for threats of what is to come.

Now that we have the problem and red flags clearly defined, the next question I had was, "How do we engage in PREVENTION?!" Kristina says communication is the number one thing you can do to prevent either sexual assault or domestic violence, and that everyone, even young children, need to know that monsters are everyday people you know who do things of this nature. In addition, sexual assault is a planned act. Kristina also states that even in a healthy relationship, such as her own, her kids have a safe word, so that if their parents get too disgruntled for their liking, they say that word, and their parents move it to the next room. This builds a healthy, respectful household, all by communication and listening.

How can you get involved in helping those who are coping with these types of painful acts against them? Volunteer. Yes, become a volunteer advocate. Parents stay involved, kids always watch out for yourselves, and kids are always watching you. Keep no secrets between you. I then asked about stats. Did you know that every 68 seconds someone is sexually assaulted? But Kristina states that this stat and any others she could give me are based only on what gets reported! The sad reality is that the occurrence rate is likely even higher. But it is that ability to choose that helps give power back to the victim, or to the survivor, in this case. In her final comments, Kristina stated that people need to listen, and communicate as well. Thank you all for listening to me, and let's listen together to help bring a stop to tragic advantage-taking actions.



Evangelism



Our MAPS Sunday is April 28. MAPS = Missionary Aid and Prayer Support.

The shopping list at the market this year are these missionaries and needy groups:

- ◆ Lutheran Bible Translators, Rev Grulke
- ◆ Mission Central — Always supporting new missionaries
- ◆ Dr. Stephen Oliver Family LCMS in Taiwan
- ◆ Benjamin and Rebecca Helga Missionaries in Czech Republic
- ◆ New missionary to Asia, due to the sensitive nature of the mission, the names are withheld. (Mission Central)
- ◆ Orphan Grain Train
- ◆ Support for Displaced Ukranians (through LCMS)

Please come and enjoy the displays and learn about how we support our MISSIONS!



Education and Youth

Board of Education Needs Members

Do you care about the Christian Education that our children receive? We need a few more members on the Board of Education. We meet during Kingdom Workers on the first Monday of each month, but if you can't make all the meetings that is ok. If you would like to know more, contact Nancy Carper at 641-210-9298.

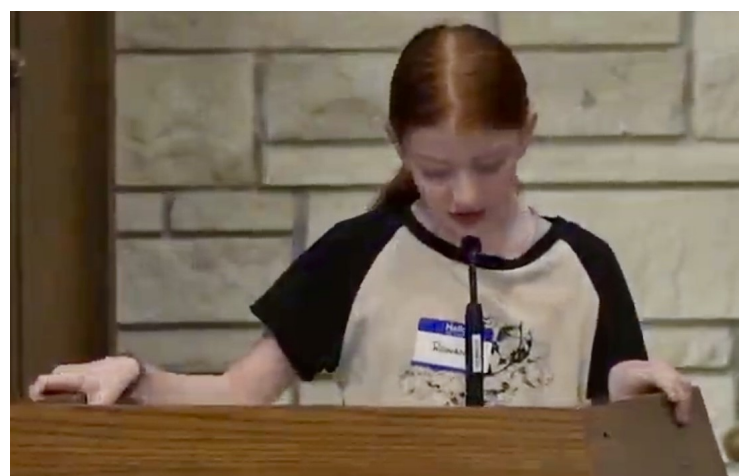


Education and Youth

Youth Sunday Highlights

On February 25th the 3rd-12th grade youth lead the entire church service. The theme was “Stand Up! Even If You Stand Out!” It was based on Romans 12:2. These young members did a great job as readers, doing the children’s message, playing in the music ensemble, giving personal testimonials, presenting the message, ushering and greeting.

They appreciate the support and prayers of the congregation. Not many churches in our district have a dedicated Sunday for youth to be of service this way. We are truly blessed to be able to let them grow in faith and service in this way. (Ensemble picture on next page.)



Although the early bird registration has past, you can still register for Summer Camp at Camp Okoboji!

Summer youth camp schedules are:

Kid’s Camp: grades K-2nd grade with an adult: May 31-June 2. Cost: \$140 adult, \$90 child.

Cub Week 1: grades 3-5. June 23-27. Cost \$310 (shorter week)

Jr High Week: grades 6-8. July 7-13. Cost \$375

Cub Week 2: grades 3-5. July 14-20. Cost \$375

Youth Week: grades 9-12. July 21-27. Cost \$375

For more information about Camp go to campokoboji.org. If you need financial assistance, or have questions, contact Carla Murphy.



Education and Youth

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our NYG youth at the Lenten Spaghetti Dinner! We had a great turnout and ran out of spaghetti, so an extra thank you to those who had to wait while we made more!



Mark your calendars for upcoming LYF dates:

- * **Wednesday, April 10** from 6-7:30p: 3-8th grade LYF dinner and activity (TBA) in the Fellowship Hall.
- * On the last night of Midweek classes, the Board of Youth will hand out ice cream treats to all 3-8th graders since there's no LYF activities during the summer.
- * **Sunday, April 21** from 1-3pm High School LYF activity (TBA - either Perfect Games or Pizza Ranch) Look for emails and more information soon.

Women's Ministry

2023–2025 Mission Grant 7 — \$96,500.- Upheld by God's Hand Mental Health Training and Outreach

There is a need and opportunity for Lutheran outreach to people struggling with mental illnesses and disorders. However, it is challenging for pastors, church workers and lay leaders because they do not have enough training to provide effective and appropriate care. LCMS Life Ministry received an LWML Mission Grant of \$96,500 to help meet the cost of developing materials for training church workers as they minister to those suffering from mental illnesses.



Upheld by God's Hand — Mental Health Outreach

Millions of people in the United States and around the world are suffering with mental illnesses and disorders. There is a tremendous need and opportunity for Lutheran outreach to both the people struggling with mental issues and their family members, so they may receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ. However, pastors, church workers, and lay leaders are challenged in dealing with these problems because they do not have enough training to provide effective and appropriate care. Public health researchers have conducted studies that indicate people with mental illnesses or disorders are more likely to approach a pastor or professional church worker than a medical doctor or counselor. A mental illness or mental disorder has a downward spiral effect in families that may include behavioral malfunctions, addictions, marital problems leading to divorce, loss of job, incarceration, and suicide. Training and outreach for mental illnesses and disorders are effective in assisting more people to get the help that they need. The LCMS Task Force for Mental Illness, Health, and Wellness collaborating with expert LCMS contributors, with the help of grant funds, will develop materials, resources, and training programs. LCMS Life Ministry will coordinate the production of materials and rollout the training.

Women's Ministry

LWML Mite Update: NEW MISSION GOAL

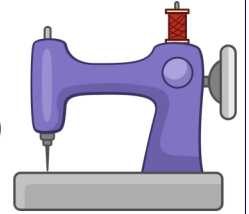
**2023-2025 National Mission goal:
\$2,350,000.00**



We normally collect mites for missions on the 1st Sunday of each month.

Place your Mites in the large Mite Box in the narthex. For more information about LWML go to www.lwml.org.

FAMILY SERVICE ~ Quilters will meet April 11 from 10 to 2 pm and April 25 from 10 to noon for Quilting. Our Family Service meeting will be March 28 at 1:00 pm. Bring a sack lunch and join us for the fun!



Are you a Thrivent member? Our Family Service Quilters need a few more people who would be willing to apply for the Thrivent Action Cards to purchase supplies for the quilters. It is very easy and someone will help you if you have not done it before. Please contact the office if you are willing to apply for a card. Thank you!

“Book to Know to Help You Grow”



BOOK CLUB

Our book list for the next year is below. Our book club is open to all members of the congregation. Just read the book and show up for the discussion. Questions? Contact Connie Lastine at 515-292-4992. **At our May meeting we will be choosing books for the next year so please send your suggestions to Connie Lastine.**

Our next book, for May 9 will be “The Witness Wore Red: The 19th Wife Who Brought Polygamous Cult Leaders to Justice” Barnes & Nobel says: Rebecca Musser grew up in fear, concealing her family's polygamous lifestyle from the "dangerous" outside world. Covered head-to-toe in strict, modest clothing, she received a rigorous education at Alta Academy, the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' school headed by Warren Jeffs. Always seeking to be an obedient Priesthood girl, in her teens she became the nineteenth wife of her people's prophet: 85-year-old Rulon Jeffs, Warren's father. Finally sickened by the abuse she suffered and saw around her, she pulled off a daring escape and sought to build a new life and family.

The church, however, had a way of pulling her back in-and by 2007, Rebecca had no choice but to take the witness stand against the new prophet of the FLDS in order to protect her little sisters and other young girls from being forced to marry at shockingly young ages. The following year, Rebecca and the rest of the world watched as a team of Texas Rangers raided the Yearning for Zion Ranch, a stronghold of the FLDS. Rebecca's subsequent testimony would reveal the horrific secrets taking place behind closed doors of the temple, sending their leaders to prison for years, and Warren Jeffs for life.

The Witness Wore Red is a gripping account of one woman's struggle to escape the perverse embrace of religious fanaticism and sexual slavery, and a courageous story of hope and transformation.

Date	Location	Book
May 9, 2024, 7 pm	Northcrest Fireside Room	“The Witness Wore Red: The 19th Wife Who Brought Polygamous Cult Leaders to Justice” by Rebecca Musser

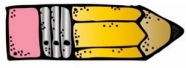
April 2024 Sunday Service Roster

Thank you for serving!

	April 7 10:00 am	April 14 10:00 am	April 21 10:00 am	April 28 10:00 am
Organist	LaDonna Osborn	LaDonna Osborn	Praise Team	LaDonna Osborn
Elders	Jim George	Jim George	Keith Folkmann	Keith Folkmann
Lectors	Nancy Carper	Jake Vogel	Michelle Vogel	Tanny Latuska
Acolytes	Drew Boyko		Elias Buttery	
Ushers	Sandy George, Reiny Friedrich, Jake Vogel, Tom Henriksen	Jim & Sandy George, Reiny Friedrich, Jake Vogel	Jim & Sandy George, Reiny Friedrich, Jake Vogel	Jim & Sandy George, Reiny Friedrich, Jake Vogel
Greeters	Glenn & Nancy Carper, Roger & Cheryl Ott	Glenn & Nancy Carper, Roger & Cheryl Ott	Glenn & Nancy Carper, Roger & Cheryl Ott	Glenn & Nancy Carper, Roger & Cheryl Ott
Valet Parker	Paul Knop	Brent Peterson	Jim George	Tom Peter
Offering Counters	→			
Altar Guild				
Power Point	Tate Esser	Amy Carver	Julie Coy	Cindy Baas
Sound Board	Angie Esser	Shaun Carver	Glenn Crosswait	
Camera	Matt Carver	Eric Phipps	Harry Mundt	Tom Baas



St. Paul Lutheran Preschool April 2024 News



PARENT-TEACHER Conference



Last month the preschool held its second Parent-Teacher conferences of the school year before Spring Break. What a joy it is to share with each parent the exciting growth each child has made while attending preschool at St. Paul. Each child has gained personal, social, and academic skills that will help them with their life-long journey of learning. Each child has also gained the good news that Jesus loves them and is with them always.

St. Paul Lutheran Preschoolers this past month enjoyed learning about the Easter story during chapel, Jesus Time, classroom activities, and at their Easter Parties. Pastor Jenks and the classroom teachers shared the good news that after Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins, on the third day, He rose from the grave! Each preschooler learned how God loves them so much that God gave His only son, Jesus to forgive our sins. What a joy for our preschool students to know they are forgiven for their sins and have an everlasting home with God! “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” Psalm 118:1



Preschool registration is now open for the next school year. Please invite neighbors, friends, and relatives to register their preschool-aged children at St. Paul to have their children enjoy learning and growing in a faith-based early childhood program. Preschool tours are available by setting up an tour at (515) 233-1914.

“Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone.” Zechariah 10:1

