

St. Paul's Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Box 726, Garrison, ND 58540

April/May 2022

Volume 40- Number 2



During Holy Week and the Easter Season we remember some of the most important events in the life of Jesus. We have some special worship times to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

-Palm Sunday is April 10th. During worship our Sunday School students are going to carry palms and perform. LYO youth will usher/greet and help with worship along with serving caramel rolls as a fundraiser during fellowship, following the worship service.

-Our Maundy Thursday worship is April 14th at 7:15 p.m. We will celebrate Holy Communion and remember Jesus' Last Supper with the disciples. Third grade students will be receiving their First Communion. The choir will add a song to worship. There is the stripping of the altar during worship.

-Good Friday worship is April 15th at 7:15 p.m. Good Friday is the day we remember that Jesus died on the cross for us. It is a very moving service of Jesus' last seven words on the cross. The choir will also sing.

-Easter is April 17th: From 8:00-9:15 a.m. our LYO are serving an Easter Breakfast of eggs and ham and muffins. Our Easter Communion Worship is at 9:45 a.m. to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. The choir will be providing special music and we are excited to welcome Bishop Craig Schweitzer as our worship leader on Easter morning. Please note that there is only one service on Easter.



Join us as we remember the amazing gift we receive from Jesus!



Greetings friends! It's unbelievable that April is upon us and so is Easter! As I write, it is also nice to have some spring weather. But I am not going to cross my fingers yet. The Farmer's Almanac is predicting more snow in April! We certainly can use it since we are still in a drought. Speaking of droughts, I'm not sure about you, but I occasionally encounter drought situations in my faith and spiritual life. We may have to rely on the weather to give us water, but that is not the case when it comes to God. We can always rely on God in Christ Jesus to refresh us with His love and ever flowing forgiveness, especially, during times of drought in our faith. If you are struggling, please remember there are many resources at St. Paul that can help you in your journey, whether it is going well or in a season of drought. There are many sisters and brothers in Christ who would be available to visit with you and help you.

Blessings as we move into the Easter season! There will be multiple worship service times to choose from and celebrate what Christ did for us through His life, death and most importantly, His resurrection. My "door" is always open for you to visit. Blessings!
Peace,

Rev. Janis Sloka, III, Interim Pastor

New Members & Reaffirmation of Council

We are blessed to welcome 5 new families into our St. Paul Family: Michael, Katie, Mason & Chandler Hanson; Ben, Marquise, Finley & Connor Hudgen; Chris, Barbara, Aiden, Eli & Annalise Ferguson; Joshua & Janna, Avery & Renna Pastir; and Nick & Natasha Thompson.

We also reaffirmed our council members and welcomed our new members: Traci Ruhland & Leeann Wimer.

All Church BBQ

Celebrating an end to the programming year! Thanks to so many people helping to make this year a success!! We will be serving pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs and salads for all. Free will offering. It will be held on **Wednesday, May 4th at 6:30 p.m.** at St. Paul's. Bring your favorite yard game.



First Communion

As Lutherans we receive and celebrate two sacraments: Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. In preparation for children receiving their First Communion, instruction for third grade students and others who have not taken instruction, was on March 13, and will conclude with a celebratory meal for the students and their families on Maundy Thursday (April 14) at 6:00 p.m. Students will then receive their First Communion during the 7:15 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship service. Those taking First Communion are Camden Diffely, Aiden Ferguson, Eli Ferguson, Finley Hudgen, Robbie Maki, Jersie Olson, Peyton Rime, and Avery Sprenger.

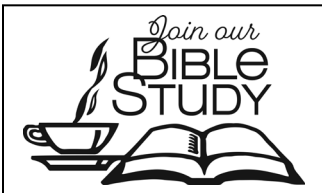
From Easter Lilies to Easter Little Lunches

As we move through Lent, drawing ever nearer to the baptismal waters of Easter, we invite you to consider giving memorials and/or honorariums toward “Easter Little Lunches.” In lieu of Easter Lilies, funds raised will cover the cost of one Easter bouquet with the remainder of the funds benefiting our local Little Lunches Backpack Program. This program provides a weekend supply of nutritious food for children when school lunch and breakfast is unavailable on a weekend or school holiday.



To give toward the “Easter Little Lunches” please place a completed form (on table in church entry), along with your contribution in an envelope and place it in the offering plate or send it to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Those remembered and honored will be named in the Easter Sunday bulletin. The deadline is April 10th.

Bible Studies



The Men’s Tuesday morning and the Wednesday morning Bible Studies look at the Gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. Both studies meet at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome!

The Adult Bible Study “Twelve Women of the Bible”, led by Holly, is meeting April 24th, May 1st and May 15th at 7pm.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Spring Supper a success. A special thanks to Tod & Tonya Graeber, Vicki & Bill Fure and Lu Graeber for donating the pork. Another special thank you to Deb and Mike Youngs for chairing the supper.

Thank you, Lenten Mentors!

Our 7th-9th grade confirmation students have started journeying through the season of Lent accompanied by faith mentors. These mentors share in worship with our confirmands and engage in questions and conversation about God. Having trustworthy adults give their time to help our youth wonder about their lives of faith is such a gift. Thank you so much to all the mentors who served in this important role!



Honoring Our Graduating Seniors

We will be honoring our graduating seniors during worship and fellowship on Sunday, May 8th. Those graduates are: Mackenzie Fuller, Clay Kolden, Ty Iglehart and Madison Myers.

Congratulations graduates!! We wish them God's blessing on their graduation day, and we pray that God will guide them in the years to come.



St. Paul's Social Action Committee offers senior scholarships towards their higher education. The committee tries to give \$500 scholarships to those students who have been active participants in our worship and/or youth activities. We serve free-will soup and sandwich lunches each year and receive a month of fellowship to raise money for the scholarships. For anyone wanting to help by sponsoring a full or partial scholarship; you can donate by placing an envelope marked "scholarship" in the offering plate or by giving the money directly to Loree Jeffers. As always the Social Action Committee appreciates your support! Loree or Holly would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Camp Supplies Needed

We are again celebrating May as “Mother the Camp” month to help support Camp of the Cross Ministries. We will have a table set up in the Narthex to receive donations. There will be a poster listing supplies needed for the upcoming spring and summer camps. If you do not wish to go shopping but would like to contribute, there will be a box on the table in which to deposit checks or cash. CCM can then purchase items most needed. Your donations are greatly appreciated!!

Mission Action Donation Request

Each year our congregation sends items to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to various parts of the world. Your generosity has allowed us to send Baby Care Kits, Personal Care Kits, and School Kits. It is time to collect funds to enable us to continue this mission. You may use the enclosed envelope which can be dropped in the collection basket or left at the church. Personal Care kits and quilts will be shipped in mid-May. Your donations will help us to fill the School Kits and Baby Care Kits that will be sent in October. Please make *checks payable to Bernie Ellwein*. Thank you.



Western ND Synod Assembly – 3-5 June 2022 at the Grand Hotel in Minot

The Synod Assembly is the annual gathering of all 162 ELCA congregations in WND for worship, education, celebration, and to do the business of this synod. Please talk with Pastor Janis if you would be interested in representing our congregation as one of our voting members.

This year’s theme: “*Everyday, Everywhere Jesus*”.
“*And remember, I am with you always.*” Matthew 28:20b

Change of Addresses or Phone Numbers

A reminder to let us know if your mailing or emailing address or phone number changes. We want to keep you up to date on the activities of St. Paul’s.

Upcoming Youth Happenings:

During April/May:

- Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meets on Wednesday at 12:00pm at the high school. Any students in grades 7-12 are welcome. If you have questions, ask Holly.
- Messy Easter second event is April 9th from 3-5pm. We will be doing crafts and activities to learn about the Events of Holy Week.
- Sunday School will perform an Easter program on Palm Sunday. It's always fun to see the Sunday School as part of our worship!
- LYO will serve caramel rolls & coffee for fellowship on Palm Sunday. Thank you to Heidi Smith & Shelly Fuller for helping organize this fundraiser for our Youth.
- LYO will serve a breakfast fundraiser on Easter, April 17th, from 8-9:15am. Thank you to Chad Betz & Tod Graeber for helping organize this event and to all who are donating muffins for this!! We appreciate your involvement and support of our youth.

Jesus is Risen! Alleluia!

April:

- 6th- Sonshine Friends (K-2nd) 3-4:30pm
- 9th – Messy Easter (Part 2) 3-5pm
- 10th- LYO Caramel Rolls Fundraiser following worship
- 10th – Palm Sunday Children's Program during worship
- 10th – CCM Eggstravaganza w/ St. Paul (K-6th) 3-5pm
- 13th – Sonshine Friends (3-6th) 3-4:30pm
- 14th – 1st Communion celebration @ Maundy Thurs. service
- 17th – LYO Easter Breakfast 8-9:15am
- 20th – Sonshine Friends (K-2nd) 3-4:30pm
- 20th – Parish Ed meeting 5:45pm
- 24th – 6-8th Grade Youth Meet-up 11am
- 27th – Sonshine Friends (3-6th) 3-4:30pm
- 27th – Confirmation Supper & Class for 7th Gr. 5:30-6:50pm
- 27th – Confirmation Class for 8-9th Gr. 7-8pm
- 29th – You're Designed to Shine (6-7th Gr.) Bible Study 6pm

May:

- 1st – Rummage Sale Committee Meeting at 11am
- 4th – Sonshine Friends (K-2nd) End of year Party 3-4:30pm
- 4th – All Church BBQ 6:30pm
- 6th – You're Designed to Shine (6-7th Gr.) Bible Study-6pm
- 8th - Honor our Graduates
- 10th – *Deadline for VBS pre-registration*
- 11th – Sonshine Friends (3-6th) End of Year Party 3-4:30pm

- 11th – Baccalaureate at 7pm
- 13th- You're Designed to Shine (6-7th Gr.) Bible Study-6pm
- 15th – 9-12th LOL Youth Meet-up at 11am
- 22nd - Last day of Sunday School – Fun Day
- 22nd- 6-8th LOL Youth Meet-up at 11am
- 31st – June 4th Vacation Bible School | Food Truck Party

Past Youth Happenings:

During February/March~

- K-6th Grade Sonshine Friends met most weeks during Feb/Mar. continuing our “Good Stewards Together” program.
- 8-9th Grade Confirmation met in February to learn about Martin Luther and Reformation
- 6-8th Grade Youth Meet-up met Feb. 13th & Mar. 27th for discussion
- 9-12th Grade Youth Meet-up met Feb. 27th for discussion
- 6-7th Grade “You’re Designed to Shine” Bible Study met Feb. 6th, Feb. 25th, Mar. 4th & Mar. 25th.
- Mar. 6th Rummage Sale committee met to set the date for this year’s Rummage Sale – June 10-11.
- Mar. 6th: Several of our youth of all ages helped in various positions during our Spring Supper.
- Mar. 9th: Parish Ed meeting discussed VBS & Sunday School
- Mar. 12th: Messy Easter (Part 1) celebrated the Easter season. We had 15 people join us to learn more about Lent through activities, games, crafts and, of course, snacks!
- Mar. 17th: 6-12th helped at the Pantry as a service project.

Vacation Bible School

Save the dates: “Food Truck Party” dates are May 31st to June 4th. The time will be 5:30-8:30 p.m. on May 31 – June 3rd. On June 4th the Bible School students will be going out to Camp of the Cross from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Please pre-register your children by May 10th, so that we have enough supplies for everyone. Come join the fun!!!

VBS needs small containers w/lids for a craft project this year. Ideal size would be frosting containers or small coffee cans. Donations can be placed in Holly’s office.

Church Rummage Sale

LYO youth will be holding their annual church rummage sale June **10, 4-7 p.m. & June 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**. A lunch will also be for sale. This is a big fundraiser for them and they will appreciate any “treasures” that you wish to donate.

A little bit different again this year: we will only be **collecting** items for the week before the sale. You can start *bringing items* to the church the *afternoon of June 5 - 9*.

The fellowship hall will be set up for you to put your items where they will be for the sale.



We will have a person there each day to

organize as we go. Please place your items on the marked table or room as you bring them. Sorry... *We cannot accept TV's, computers, chemicals, paint/varnish or food items!*



Church Council met on March 24.

Church supper profit was around \$3000.00, the council voted to have this applied to St. Paul's parsonage mortgage principle.

They made the decision to have one Easter worship service at 9:45 a.m. on April 17th.

The youth breakfast fundraiser will be from 8:00-9:15 a.m. on April 17th.

Next Council meeting will be April 21.

February Financials:

Income (offering)	\$10,520.26
Expenses	<u>\$14,915.94</u>
Difference	(\$4,395.68)

Year to Date Income	\$23,643.24
Year to Date Expenses	<u>\$31,644.23</u>
Year to Date Difference	(\$8,009.99)

Council's plans going forward...

The council has set communion Sundays and assigned regular worship team leaders for each of the months through August. The team leaders are Lisa Haugen, Mike Youngs, Lisa Maki and Pastor Janis. St. Paul's summer *communion Sundays* will be the *first Sunday of June, July and August at the worship service at Camp of the Cross*. We can carpool on the first Sunday of the summer months to go to camp.

Church Hours

The church will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. most Mondays through Fridays. When you need it opened for other activities and do not have a key, let any of us in the office know, so that we can have it open for you.

No Streaming Services This Summer

We will take a break on streaming the worship service this summer. The "Four Ministers" will continue to post services on their Face Book page and Pastor Janis will share it to St. Paul's Face Book page.

EASTER BLESSINGS



*"I want to know Christ
and the power of his
resurrection."*