

“St. Paul Courier” *The monthly newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church*

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April 2025

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

Easter 2025

Remembering is fundamental in our lives and in our faith lives. Remembering helps us learn and grow as people of God.

When it comes to faith, remembering is vital. Many of the psalms recount the times and ways God delivered, rescued and cared for the people during their early years with God. The Psalms witness to God’s faithfulness, forgiveness and care for people generation after generation. Other scripture passages and stories tell of God’s ongoing love for a people who, to say the least, were wayward and stubborn. Scripture verses like “God is merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love” (Psalm 103:8) provided people comfort and hope generation after generation. These words about God’s character still continue to provide us with comfort and hope today and will into the future.

The week Jesus entered Jerusalem, ate the Last Supper with the disciples, prayed in the garden, was arrested and sentenced to death by crucifixion is important for us to remember. A week to the day after entering Jerusalem Jesus was raised to new life in the Easter resurrection. There was much drama and passion that unfolded that week.

Remembering the words and the actions of Jesus, the disciples, the religious and government authorities call our attention to realities of life and faith. The good, the bad and the ugly. We are reminded to what extent people will reach to rid themselves of what they perceive as a threat to their way of life or what they perceive is the right way for people to live. We are seeing that dramatically unfold in our nation and world today.

For us to remember that God so loves people, all people - betrayers, crucifiers, deniers, thieves (to name a few) that God is willing to forgive and promise new life is central to our faith. We may not have been any of those people then, but we might be those people today in one form or another. If God loved those people, then maybe God will love us today. The good news is that God does!

There is good reason why we in the church read and re-read the stories of scripture, the stories of Jesus, especially the ones leading us to the last week of Jesus’s life and the Easter resurrection. It helps us remember the promises and the truths of God that can be forgotten or lost in the busy fast paced information overload lives we live today.

Holy Week & Easter (April 13th – 20th this year) is a time to remember the importance of: “Hosanna to the Lord” “Take and eat this is my body given for you” “Father forgive them” “Do not be afraid ... Jesus is not here; he has been raised from the dead.” Holy Week & Easter is for remembering that God is merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. This means forgiveness and new life, peace and hope, love and salvation for us and for the world.

Thank be to God!

Pastor Chris

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Sue Bockey as our church secretary. Sue is retired from the Dept. of Justice/FBI in 2022 with over 20 years of federal service. Sue is the widow of Barry Bockey who was a Strasburg native. Sue lives here in Strasburg. She will be starting Feb. 18 and will be training with Carol and Pastor Chris.

We welcome Sue to our St. Paul team.

Holy Week Services
April 17 – Maundy Thursday: 7pm
April 18 – Good Friday: 7pm

EASTER SUNDAY
Worship services with Holy Communion at 9am and 11am

Easter Sunrise Service-Strasburg Presbyterian Church

AARP Tax-Aide: in St Paul's fellowship hall each Mondays thru April 14, 9am – 1pm.
Free in-person tax preparation service to anyone of any age – especially if you are 50 or older or can't afford paid tax preparation. Call 1-703-592-6549 to make an appointment.

Words of Appreciation

Dear members of St Paul,

There's so many people I would like thank but know that I have limited space, and I couldn't begin to list all of them.

Thank you all for the 26+ years at St Paul. I have learned and grown so much with this congregation and feel that you are my second family.

St Paul has been through some hard times and some very good times those hills and valleys and I believe God walked with us through all of them.

God has blessed St Paul with so many wonderful Pastors, Supply Pastors, Interim Pastors, and congregational leaders and members that is just too many to mention all of them. Every one of you have gifts to share and you do a beautiful job at it. Your Director of Music Sue Correll, and Pastor Chris or two of the best! They will lead you all in the direction that God will have you go.

I want to give special things to the pastors and interim pastors whom I have worked with through the years. Our partnerships and friendships were invaluable. I know that God sent the right person at the right time to St Paul.

I have fond memories of many of the spiritual leaders and close friendships of those who are no longer us. I miss them dearly and will remember them always.

I want to express my appreciation for the retirement reception recently. Many thanks to Hospitality members and the congregational members who attended, and to those who expressed their apologies for not being about the come.

I have been overwhelmed by the many hugs, kind words, cards and emails with words of appreciation. My heart is full.

I know God has great things in store for St Paul.

May he bless you richly!

Love to all, Carol Smith

COMMUNITY OUTREACHES

Strasburg Compassion Cupboard: *No glass containers, please.*

Items requested during April: *romen noodles and toilet paper.*

--Monetary donations: *cash that is clearly marked, or checks payable to "Strasburg Compassion Cupboard" can be mailed to the Annex or dropped through the Annex mail slot.*

The Blessing Box: Items most needed/used: Canned tuna, chicken and/or salmon, Spam, peanut butter, toiletries, personal hygiene items, hearty/chunky soups, canned baked beans, canned fruit, chili (with or w/o beans), baby wipes and diapers are most needed/used. -- Please NO dried beans.

Please donated these items whenever and as often as you can. This box is being well-used.

* Please place items in the Blessing Box on the Annex back porch, or bring them by the Annex during business hours. The church secretary monitors the Blessing Box as needed.

Lukes Backpacks: *Individual/single serving, non-perishable items are appreciated. Suggested Items: mac & cheese, soups, canned fruit, snacks, granola bars, etc.*

--Monetary donations: *cash that is clearly marked, or checks to Shen. Valley Lutheran Ministries, earmarked 'Luke's Backpacks' can be mailed to the Annex or dropped through the Annex mail slot.*

**** Non-perishable items can be dropped off at church where drop boxes are provided in the Narthex, or at the Annex during office hours (Mon-Thurs, 9am-3pm)**

Bible & Christian Reading Box: Please donate new or gently used Christian reading.

* Please place items in their respective box on the Annex back porch, or bring them by the Annex during business hours. The church secretary monitors & stocks the Bible/Christian Reading box as needed.

FYI:

**5th Sundy-Special Offering-Sleep
in Heavenly Peace**

Birthdays in April

Heather	Smith	April 03
Fay	Sonner	April 04
Bobbi	Poling	April 04
Betty	Clem	April 05
Berlin	Brill	April 05
Donna	Leeth	April 05
Walter	Stokes	April 06
Clay	Arthur	April 06
Steven	Racey	April 08
Sarah	Clem	April 10
Virginia	Berry	April 11
Steven	Shaner	April 11
Benjamin	Caricofe	April 12
Steven	Pieper	April 14
Hailey	Robinson	April 15
Donna	Smith	April 18
Clara	Robinson	April 18
Maya	Laserna	April 18
Carolyn	McKiernan	April 23
Byron	Brill	April 24
April	Diehl	April 24
Sophia	Kaser	April 26
Cole	Stickley	April 26
David	Smith	April 28
Trenten	Pangle	April 28
James	Robinson	April 28
Joel	Kline	April 29

Yoga Classes offered at St Paul Lutheran Church

➤ A gentle flow yoga class:

Thursdays 10:00-10:45am in the fellowship hall.

\$5 per person per session.

Bring a yoga mat & medium weight blanket.

Chair Yoga (free) offered Thursdays, 11-11:30am in the Good Shepherd Room

*Questions about either yoga class? Contact Carol Smith (540-335-9245; mcismith@icloud.com)

An additional yoga class is being considered for Tuesday evenings to accommodate those can't attend class on Thursday mornings or those working folk who may want to take a class after work. We would set the class to be at a time before eating supper ... maybe approx. 5pm, 5:30, or 6pm.

*If you're interested in a beginner/gentle yoga class on Tuesday evening or if you have questions - please contact Carol Smith directly (540-335-9245; mcismith@icloud.com).

Cost would be \$5/person/session.

St Paul's Lenten Meals

St Paul will have Lenten Meals on Wednesdays, March 26 and Wed., April 2, April 9.

The menu for those Wednesday Lenten Meals will be soups, breads and desserts.

*There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you are willing and able to help with an item or 2.

The Annual Report of the Congregation of St Paul Lutheran Church

will be available by the end of
March.

This report will be sent to you via
email, then copies will be made
available to pick up at church.

Men's Community Prayer Breakfast

Sat, April 12, 8am

hosted by **St Paul Lutheran
Church**

*Held 8am on the 2nd Saturday of
each month.
Host church is on a rotation basis.*

St Paul members will take up a special collection for the **2025 Strasburg High School (SHS) Sportsmanship & Faith Award** (as we have done for MANY years).

The recipient is chosen by the SHS coaches.

There will be a collection basket in the back of the sanctuary on April 6 and 13 to receive your donations toward this very nice award !

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR APRIL 2025

If you are unable to be at church on the Sunday(s) for which you are scheduled, please find a replacement, then let the church office know.

If you are on this schedule, please mark your calendar accordingly.

<i>Services begin at 9:30am</i>	April 6	April 13 Palm Sunday	April 27	April 17 Maundy Thurs 7:00pm	April 18 Good Friday 7:00pm
Assisting Minister	Joan Farrell	Joan Farrell	Samantha Crisman	Randy Painter	Mary Redmon
Ushers	Kevin Smith Bill Carper	Kevin Smith Bill Carper			--
Table Steward	Linda Williams	Tammy Kibler	Tammy Kibler	Bonnie Giese	--
Communion Assistant	Jay Winkfield	Randy Painter	Jay Winkfield	Debbie Winkfield	--
Communion Tray	Cindy Embrey	Kennedy Emrich	Bryleigh Bowman		--
Communion Bread	Susan Anderson	Kim Painter	Sherand Smith	Kim Painter	--
Altar Guild	April Diehl	April Diehl		April Diehl	
Steeple Bell Ringer	Bill Carper	Bill Carper	Debbie Winkfield		--
Coffee Bar					

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Mary Redmon	Samantha Crisman
Ushers		
Table Steward	Bonnie Giese	Linda Williams
Communion Assistant	Jay Winkfield	Sarah Clem
Communion Tray	Lillia Bauserman	Abby Bright
Communion Bread	Judy Grubbs	Lauren Bateman
Altar Guild	April Diehl	April Diehl
Steeple Bell Ringer	Debbie Winkfield	

St Paul Scholarship application
Available April 1 - April 30, 2025

Deadline to submit completed applications: 9am, Wed, April 30.

Completed scholarship applications received after the aforementioned deadline will not be considered.

Faith Formation for April
(Mark your calendar!)

Faith Formation (children in PreK-Grade 5)

Meet in the good Shepard room following the service on Sunday mornings for 10-15 minutes of music time with Ms. Sue.

After that, grades K-5th will go upstairs for class until about 11:25

If you have any questions of if you'd like to help in any way with Faith formation, please contact Cheri Morris (cherry12883@yahoo.com)

April 13 Palm Sunday Easter egg Hunt – no faith formation

It's that time of year again! Grab your Easter Baskets, buckets or Bags! Children of all ages are invited to a Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday right after service.

April 20 Easter Sunday - no faith formation

Easter Egg Hunt is here again! We need your help adults to fill the Easter eggs. There is a box in the narthex where you can grab a bag of eggs to fill. Please have them back filled by April 6th! Thank you!

Hey children it is time to hunt for those colorful eggs!

Get ready, set, GO! Grab your Easter baskets, buckets or bags! Children of all ages are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 13th, right after service. Come join the fun! Can't wait to see everyone there!

If you have any questions please contact Cheri Morris.

Also brunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall after the service on Palm Sunday, April 13th. Donations of breakfast casseroles and breakfast pastries would be appreciated. Hospitality will provide beverages.

In April, the WILD women will do their first service project. On Saturday, April 12, at 10:00am they will assemble baskets for the shut-in members of the church. Many hands make a light load, so please feel free to join us. You will not need to bring anything, just yourself and helping hands. 😊

Faith Formation for Adults

April 6: "Why We Do What We Do (In Worship)" – Clay Arthur

April 13: Palm Sunday Brunch (No class)

April 20: Easter Sunday (No class)

April 27: Chosen Season 4

Spark Studios VBS Dates

Wednesday, June 25th-Friday, June 27th

This is the typical week we have VBS

Seems to be a "sweet spot" for getting a larger number of kids to participate

Changing from Thursday-Saturday to Wednesday-Friday to get greater participation before the weekend

Ounce of Prevention

The first step toward change is awareness.

April is Autism Awareness Month.

Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) refers to a wide range of conditions that are characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and non-verbal communication.

There is not one type of autism, there are many and they look different just as we all look different. Research suggests that ASD develops from a combination of genetic influences and environmental influences. There are three levels of autism. They all have different amounts of support that is needed.

Autism Speaks is dedicated to creating a world that is inclusive for all individuals. Their Link is below. They have great information about Autism and how to help and how to know if you test a child or adult.

[World Autism Month | Autism Speaks](#)

Fraud schemes are increasingly targeting Shenandoah County residents, with local law enforcement estimating that \$30,000 to \$40,000 is stolen each week from county residents.

Add in the scams that go unreported to law enforcement and that number could be as high as \$100,000 weekly.

“The most important thing I can tell any citizen in our county right now is to call the police. This is a police matter. These scams are a police matter,” Shenandoah County Commonwealth’s Attorney Elizabeth Cooper said. “As a commonwealth attorney, I can tell you this is a significant safety concern for the citizens of this county.”

The financial losses from scams are substantial but difficult to recover. Strasburg Police Department Investigator George Poe described a case in which an elderly woman was targeted by scammers posing as a law enforcement agency. They convinced her that the IRS had a case against her, and she could pay her way out by traveling to Charlottesville. When she expressed reluctance to drive, they offered to reimburse her Uber.

“She’s an older lady who lives alone, but they made her stay on the phone with them the entire Uber ride there,” Poe said. “They made her stay on the line for the entire interaction with the bank folks and the entire Uber ride back. They gave her a script for when the bank asked her why she was taking the money out. They told her what to tell them.”

The woman withdrew tens of thousands of dollars, all of which was lost, including the money spent on the Uber ride.

Cooper pointed out that the IRS does not act in this manner.

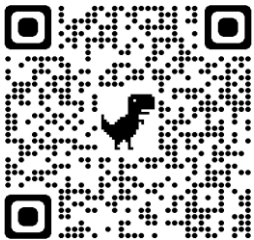
“The IRS does not move quickly, and they don’t call. They send mail,” she said.

Even when scammers are identified, the money is often irretrievable. Woodstock Police Department Investigator Travis Pence recalled a case in which money was wired directly to Hong Kong, and there was no way to trace or recover the funds.

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- If you are interested in serving in any of this worship support positions, please contact Pastor Chris, or if you want to learn more about them, please contact the pastor. Your service is much appreciated.

St Paul QR Codes: *Always make sure when you scan QR codes that the link is where you were expecting it to go.....if it isn’t – don’t click on it !!*

St Paul’s website



St Paul’s Giving/ ‘Breeze’ link:



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - APRIL 2025

** indicates more information on this item is found within this newsletter.*

--Events are typically as follows (except where noted):

- Sundays: 9:30am Worship Services with Holy Communion
10:45am Children's Choir, Faith Formation (FF) and Life-Long Learners (LLL)
- Tuesdays, 9:30am: Crafters and Card making groups / fellowship hall
- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 9:30am Mission Quilters / fellowship hall
- Tuesday mornings: Sue Correll – music at the Child Care Center
- Wednesday mornings: Pastor Flohr visits with children at the Child Care Center.
- Wednesdays (1ST, 3rd and 5th) 5:30pm: Community meals at St Paul
- Wednesdays: 6pm St Paul Singers rehearsals & 7pm St Paul Ringers rehearsals
- Thursdays: *10-10:45am Gentle Flow/beginners Yoga; 11-11:30am Chair Yoga
- Thursday Bible Studies: 11:30am Lunch (bring your lunch): Noon-1pm Bible Study.
- ~15th of each month: Deadline to submit information for the upcoming newsletter.
- Last Thursday of each month: 10am Pastor Flohr to The Maynard for a Communion Service.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		April 1 Crafters & card makers *Scholarship applications available from the church office	April 2 5:30pm Community Meal 5:30 pm Ringers Rehearsal 6:30 Service 7:00 Rehearsal	April 3 *Yoga classes	April 4	April 5
April 6 *FF *LLL *Donations: Sportsmanship & Faith Award	April 7 *AARP Tax day	April 8 Crafters, card makers & Quilters.	April 9 5:30pm Lenten meal 5:30pm Ringers 6:30pm Service 7pm Rehearsal	April 10 9am Finance Mtg *Yoga classes	April 11	April 12
April 13 *FF *LLL *Donations: Sportsmanship & Faith Award	April 14 *AARP Tax day	April 15 Crafters & card makers 7pm Council meeting	April 16 5:30pm Comm meal / St Paul 5:30pm Ringers 6:30pm Service 7pm Rehearsal *Blood Pressure	April 17 Maundy Thursday *Yoga classes *7pm Service	April 18 Good Friday *7pm service	April 19
20 Easter Sunday *FF *LLL	21	22 Crafters & card makers & Quilters	23 No rehearsals Community Meal / Methodist Ch.	24 *Yoga classes 11:30 Lunch Noon Bible Study	25	26 10am WILD
27 *FF *LLL *Blood Pressure check	28	29	30 *Scholarship application deadline 6pm Ringers 7pm Singers			