



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran

Church • School • Preschool

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

April 2021 Newsletter

Seeking to proclaim Christ and Him crucified to more people more often.

office: 920-922-1080 www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com

God Loves You!

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

A beloved professor in college was always fond of asking students who were plagued by a certain sin or trouble to read the above words or recite them from memory. Upon completion the question would come, "Pray tell, what world have you come from that this doesn't apply to you?"

His point was simple, the student, you, are loved by God and nowhere is that seen with more clarity than at the Cross of our Savior Jesus. Jesus gives Himself up for you. The Father gives up His Son for you. The depth of that love is as mind blowing as it is all encompassing.

The first four days of April give a front row seat to the horror and beauty of it all. Maundy Thursday with our Savior and His willing service of the disciples, the Supper He leaves for us and our salvation, that garden and betrayal, a service ended with a bare altar to remind us how they fled from Him, how we in our sinfulness do he same.

The Good Friday, how can it be good? Somber, silent, dark, Jesus dies for us and for our sin. Lutheran Theologians since the days of Luther, Christian theologians since the dawn of time have contemplated the sacrifice our sins made necessary and the love of a God who provided it. The Strepitous shook us as much as the imagery of Jesus crucifixion. Ah, but after a Saturday of rest Easter morning burst forth with the realization that the tomb was empty and Jesus had risen, risen indeed and so the word is back "Alleluia!". It rings as bright and colorfully in the ear as the flowers that greet the eyes. Death does not have the final say, anymore than sin our Satan. Heaven truly is ours! We truly are God's children, heirs of the promises of scripture!! This joy permeates everything we do as Christians,

everything we face as Christians. Even if Covid never goes away (please God may it be gone tomorrow), we have hope. Even if the world should splinter into a million factions, the Church remains in the truth of the One who gives it life. We are victorious and God, Yes, GOD LOVES YOU!!!

Dear Christians, those truths will change us. They have too. We will prioritize time with God not because you have too but for the same reason you spend time with a spouse or family member, they love you and you love them. Wherever Jesus is (2 or 3 gathered together), that's where you will want to be for all the same reasons a grandparent yearns to be at their grandchild's events. We will share these truths with others just as we cannot help but tell others of the accomplishments of our children or share those cherished memories over and over again. Brothers and sisters, it has been a long year the changes have come fast and furious. It has been tough for any number of reasons. But there is still hope! We are still loved!! The family is anxious to see you all again.

Fond du Lac in phase three of safe restart!!

What does this mean?

Fond du Lac county has a three-tiered reopening plan based on Covid-19 case numbers, hospitalizations, available equipment, testing capability and contact tracing timetables. Almost all five are once again in the excellent category. Hospitalizations have dropped to almost zero at the writing of this article (Good Lord keep it so!). As we draw ever closer to a time when vaccines are readily available to the general population, the restart plan will cease to exist, leaving only state regulations in place (currently social distancing and masks). We will continue to do our best to follow best practices in the area even as we seek to share Jesus with more people more often.

Happy Birthday

By day not year ... nobody needs to know the year 😊

Chasyn Fritch	4/1	Drew Stettbacher	4/15
Michelle Schmidt	4/1	Anita Gudex	4/15
Don Stellmacher	4/1	Carol Batterman	4/15
Jase Tabbert	4/2	Lorna Perry	4/16
Carson Becker	4/2	Michael Kampman	4/17
Corey Hintz	4/2	Gail Miller	4/17
Janet Hettenhaus	4/2	Gage Eiler	4/18
Barbara Swift	4/2	Reagan Wilkens	4/20
Lane Fritch	4/3	Laura Mathwig	4/20
Ema Burkholder	4/4	Dave Tackett	4/20
Jacob Pickett	4/4	Lori Fink	4/20
Lyle Babler	4/4	Andy Miller	4/22
Mark Stroschine	4/5	Denny Krumbein	4/22
Jane Braford	4/5	Sara Fritch	4/23
Ryan Freiberg	4/6	Ellie Schumacher	4/24
Alexa Bonney	4/6	Amy Wilhelms	4/24
Kathleen Lindsley	4/6	Cindy Christianson	4/24
Roger Pederson	4/6	Verna Kluball	4/24
Brennan Coates	4/7	Peyton Wendt	4/25
Marian Stahmann	4/7	Allison Solid	4/25
Maxwell Nebl	4/8	Debra Heller	4/25
Joyce Tabbert	4/8	Tom Briski	4/25
Helen Reiter	4/8	Adelaide Tonn	4/26
Hannah Preissner	4/9	Kaytlin Sterba	4/26
Madison Zittlow	4/10	Tyler Meyer	4/27
Marcus Christensen	4/10	Brooke Jackson	4/27
Braydon Brylski	4/12	Shannon Tilleman	4/28
Paul Rivera	4/12	Steve Pieper	4/28
Samantha Rivera	4/13	Joyce Snyder	4/28
Candi Pederson	4/13	Cindy Hintz	4/29
KimberLee Roloff	4/14	Cora Barthels	4/30
Rebecca Ciske	4/14	Rachel Sweeney	4/30
Nichol Skelton	4/14	Evelyn Schwefel	4/29

A Birthday is a wonderful opportunity to remember that our times are securely in our Lord's hands.

¹⁴ But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." ¹⁵ My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. ¹⁶ Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love. (Psalm 31:14-16)

Holy Week Worship Opportunities

With Fond du Lac in phase Three of the Safe restart plan. We are comfortable adding another 50 people to the building for worship. So, we will be able to have 200 worshippers in each service throughout Holy Week. That means currently, we plan on ...

*Maundy Thursday (Apr. 1) with Lord's Supper
at 4:00PM & 6:00PM*

*Good Friday (Apr.2) with Lord's Supper
at 1:00PM, 5:00PM & 7:00PM*

NO SATURDAY SERVICE

Easter Sunday (Apr.4) at 6:30AM, 8:00AM & 9:30AM

All Easter services will be the same this year.

The Lord's Supper will not be offered.

We currently also plan on live-streaming the latest service from each day should people continue to wish to remain cautious and at home. Links for sign-ups can be found at www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com.

Confirmation – April 25 at 10:15am

Believe it or not, confirmation is just around the corner. 14 young men and women will be confirming in our April 25th service this year. We are encouraging the majority of the congregation to plan on worshipping in the Saturday (6:30pm) and early Sunday (7:45am) services as we would like our confirmands to be able to invite their families to our late service that week. If you can only make the late service we would still love to have you with us just be advised that it might be a very full service.

Budgetary Update

Thankfully, things are starting to look up, but the challenge remains as we approach the summer months where, historically, attendance and therefore offerings have slumped. As things move back to "normal", we will need to put our hearts and minds to the task of keeping God a priority in our time spent weekly with Him and one another in worship and in the way we show our thanks with the blessings He has given.

We have committed to just under \$17,000 per week with our budget, mortgage, WLA and Mission commitments this year. Other upcoming costs and wish list items remain (new hymnals, piano, updating our video/recording equipment, canopies over exterior gym doors, etc.).

Baskets are at the doors as you enter the church. The "birdhouse" is available for drop-off at all hours. Electronic withdrawal (contact the office) and a giving app (giving plus in the app store) are also available. Thank you for your continued support of the ministry here at St. Paul's.