

# MARCH 2024 St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Connection

106 S. Maple St. PO Box 357 North Freedom, WI 53951

## Message from the Pastor



### Holy Week

*The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" (John 12:12,13)*

This month, the last full week of March is also the last week of Lent, called "Holy Week." On this week we observe Jesus in the last few days of his life, his death, and his burial.

The gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John devote a lot of time in their books to this week. 18% of the gospel of Luke, 25% of Matthew, 31% of Mark and 32% of John cover events of Holy Week, from Jesus' entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, through the Sabbath day while Jesus lay in his tomb.

It's for good reason that we have more worship services during Holy Week than any other week of the year. This will be the week to see the great extent of our Lord Jesus' love for us. Here's what to expect when you come:

Palm Sunday, March 24: Palm branches on and by the altar remind us of how the crowd spread palm branches on the path of the Mount of Olives as Jesus rode on a donkey toward Jerusalem. Hymns like "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna," lead us to sing with the crowd to our coming King. May we remember that Jesus is our King—but first he had to humble himself and die to save us from our sins.

Maundy Thursday, March 28: The elements of unleavened bread and grape wine are present before us, part of the last supper Jesus had with his disciples. With these elements Jesus declared he was giving us his body and blood, a new testament given to us for the forgiveness of our sins. Communicants will receive this as a blessing at our 6:30 p.m. service.

On March 28 we will also continue the Lenten series "God on Trial" with the theme "Respite."

Good Friday, March 29: It was about 3 p.m. when Jesus died on the cross. We will have a somber Good Friday service at that hour. You will notice the altar stripped of paraments, signifying God's Son being forsaken by his Father, and dying to save us all. We will conclude the Lenten series "God on Trial" with the theme "Evidence."

We encourage you all to come and worship our Savior during Holy Week. *"Come to Calvary's holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall; here a pure and healing fountain flows to you, to me, to all, in a full, perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died."* (CW #394 v. 1)

### **Sunday Worship Themes in March:**

Sunday, March 3: 3rd Sunday in Lent. Law and Gospel (8:30 am communion)

March 10: 4th Sunday in Lent. Saved by Grace through Faith.

March 17: 5th Sunday in Lent. The Savior's Time to Be Glorified. (Communion, 7:30 & 10)

March 24: Palm Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent. The Savior Comes to His Battle Site.

March 31: Easter Sunday. Read about our Easter services on the next page!

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**GOD ON TRIAL**

**2024 LENT SERIES**

**Remaining Schedule**

Service time: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays

Feb. 28 "Truth" Pastor Dave Karow of Rock Springs

Mar. 6 "Sympathy" Pastor Tim Kuske of Baraboo

Mar. 13 "Accusations" Pastor Steve Neyhart of Reedsburg

Mar. 20 "Restraint" Pastor Conrad Prell of Hill Point/Lime Ridge

Mar. 28, Maundy Thursday "Respite" 6:30 p.m. service with communion

Mar. 29, Good Friday "Evidence" 3 p.m. service.

Treats will be served after each Wednesday Lent service.

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**March 31**

7 a.m. Sunrise Service

8 a.m. Easter breakfast

10 a.m. Easter Sunday service

We will have a sign-up to bring food for the Easter breakfast and for Easter lilies for the altar. Come and share the joy: "Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!"



**VOTE on March 3rd**



On Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be voting on the carpet for the fellowship hall, after we've narrowed it down to two. Come to church and vote on what you'd like to see in our fellowship hall!

**BAKE SALE: March 3<sup>rd</sup>**



Our Ladies' Aid annual spring bake sale will be March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please bring priced and packaged items to church on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The church will be open from 8 am to 7 pm.



**Bible Study on Revelation**

**Sundays at St. Paul's**

We'll meet after fellowship hour on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday and in between the services on March 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. Join us for a look at this fascinating book of the Bible that has a lot to tell us about our world today!

**Game Night: March 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm**

Bring a snack to pass, a beverage and a game and join us for an evening of fun and fellowship! Bring a friend too!

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## CHURCH COUNCIL

Your church council will be meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 8:35 a.m. Congregational meetings have been set for April 7, July 7, October 6, and January 13 for this year. The congregation will meet immediately after the service and before our fellowship hour.

**The 2023 Annual Report** is at church. Please pick up your copy if you haven't received one or had it emailed to you. The report has information from what happened in 2023 and does not include the election of 2024 church council officers. (See p. 4 for our officers.)

## JOIN THE CHOIR!



We'd like to get a choir together to sing for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and/or Easter. If you'd like to join us, please talk to Pastor Blauert or Susan Grossenbacher, our choir director.



## ALTAR GUILD

The altar guild sign-up sheet for 2024 is on the table in the fellowship hall. This is a great way to help with worship at St. Paul's. Please speak with Rose Vertein if you are interested and have questions. Thank you!



## CARDS

Mary Klemm is our Sunshine Lady for St. Paul's. If anyone is sick or needs a card of encouragement, please contact her.

## LWMS news:

St. Paul's will be collecting for our LWMS mission offering through March 31<sup>st</sup>. You may contribute in the jar in the fellowship hall.

The next rally will be at St. John's, Baraboo, on Saturday, April 20, starting at 9 a.m.

## WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) news:

Two special conferences this summer include WELS Women's Ministry Conference, July 28-30 at Ingleside Hotel, Pewaukee, Wisconsin, and the National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts, July 30—Aug. 2 at Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin. To register go to:

[welswmconference.net](http://welswmconference.net)

[welsworshipconference.net](http://welsworshipconference.net)

## OUR GIFTS to the LORD Jan. 28—Feb. 21

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun., Jan. 28: 7:30 am	32	\$985
10 am	22	\$460
Sun., Feb. 4: 8:30 am	43	\$2,005
Sun., Feb. 11: 7:30 am	34	\$1,730
10 am	21	\$331
Wed., Feb. 14: 6:30 pm	34	\$570
Sun., Feb. 18: 7:30 am	30	\$960
10 am	9	\$370
Wed. Feb. 21: 6:30 pm	21	\$418

Ave. attendance: 8:30 am (combined), 43; 7:30 am, 32; 10 am, 17; 6:30 pm (Lent), 27.5.

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## INFORMATION ABOUT ST. PAUL'S:

**Pastor:** Rev. Timothy Blauert.

**Church secretary:** Elaine Shimniok.

**Contact us:** Church office: 608-522-4493.

Pastor's cell phone: 507-279-8560.

**Email:** [stpaulsnf@hotmail.com](mailto:stpaulsnf@hotmail.com) or

[tkblauert@outlook.com](mailto:tkblauert@outlook.com).

**Website address:** [www.stpaulslutheran-nf.org](http://www.stpaulslutheran-nf.org)

**Worship times:** Sundays 7:30 and 10 a.m.

First Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

**Sunday School:** Sundays at 8:45 a.m., or after the service on the first Sunday of the month.

**Sunday School teachers:** Lynn Zimmerman and Corisa Schneider.

**Adult Bible study:** Sundays at 8:45 a.m. or after the service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month;

**Bible information class** is being held on an individual basis for anyone interested.

### **Church Council**

President: Jim Dohner

Vice-president: Dave Zimmerman

Secretary: Paul Fuller

Treasurer: Mark Shimniok

Financial secretary: Jeremy Zimmerman

Head usher: Roy Schneider

### **Ladies' Aid**

President: Elaine Shimniok

Secretary: Lynn Zimmerman

Treasurer: Elaine Shimniok

Sunshine Lady: Mary Klemm

LWMS Reporter: Linda Ennis

### **Church organists**

Susan Grossenbacher; Lorene Belter

**Church Custodian** Vonnie Leifer

**Please remember our shut-in members with your prayers and visits**

Linda Ennis (at home)

Donna Krayner

Gary Meske (at home)

Ellie Schultz (at home)

Please let Pastor know if you are sick, in the hospital, or are having any other difficulties. He'll be glad to visit and have a devotion and pray with you! Contact information for him is in the left column of this page.

### **Happy Anniversary to:**



(No anniversaries in March)

### **Happy Birthday to:**



Tim Rathman – March 5

Faith Henke –March 8

Elenora Schultz –March 14

Regalle Rathman –March 15

Isaac Blauert –March 18

John Bell –March 21

Doug Klein –March 21

Curt Klemm –March 22

Adam Hehenberger –March 25

Axtyn Shimniok –March 30