

**APRIL 2024 St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Connection**  
**106 S. Maple St. PO Box 357 North Freedom, WI 53951**

***Message from the Pastor***



**Easter**

*After this, Jesus showed himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. (John 21:1 EHV)*

“Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!”

Everybody knows that Easter Sunday is March 31<sup>st</sup> this year. Stores have advertised it already in February. Calendars have it marked. And churches are full, or at least fuller than usual, when Easter Sunday arrives. Even members who don't come much will show up on Easter.

The Easter season begins March 31<sup>st</sup>, but it doesn't end on that Sunday! The Easter season continues for another six Sundays, this year going to May 12<sup>th</sup>. Just as Jesus continued to appear to his disciples and other believers over a 40-day period, like the time he came in John 21, so Easter is not a “one-and-done” celebration for us Christians. We're eager to come back to church, each Sunday, to be reminded, “Yes, Jesus still lives, our risen Lord!”

Christ's resurrection is worth celebrating all this month of April. As Paul told the Christians in Corinth, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins” (1 Cor. 15:17). If Christ didn't rise, that means his death didn't actually take away our sins, and we wouldn't get to live after death either. “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Cor. 15:20). Because Jesus has been raised, our faith lives, and we can look forward to our own resurrection on the Last Day!

When you come to St. Paul's for Sunday services this month, you'll hear more of what this Easter message means for our daily lives. Here's what to expect when you come:

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, April 7: Jesus lives to give us peace—just as he did when he appeared to his disciples, both the first Easter and the following Sunday. Don't doubt; believe! Worship time: 8:30 a.m., with communion.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, April 14: Jesus lives to continue his message. The disciples were sent as apostles to proclaim repentance and forgiveness. Jesus lives now to carry out his message through us today. Worship times: 7:30 and 10 a.m.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, April 21: Jesus lives as our Good Shepherd. How much he still cares for us! Listen to his voice and follow him! Worship times: 7:30 and 10 a.m. Communion will be served.

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, April 28: Jesus lives as the Vine. We are like branches in a grape vine or tomato plant; thanks to Jesus we also live and can bear fruit—fruits of faith, good works. Worship times: 7:30 and 10 a.m.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

*--Pastor Timothy Blauert*

***April Devotions***

Daily devotions will be emailed to members each day. Printed copies will be available weekly each Sunday for those who don't have email. If you would like to get your devotions by email but haven't been getting them, please contact Pastor Blauert, 507-279-8560.

Devotions in April will cover New Testament texts that talk about Christ's resurrection and its importance for our daily lives.

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**EASTER SUNDAY, March 31**

7 a.m. Sunrise Service

8 a.m. Easter breakfast

10 a.m. Easter Sunday service

Thank you to those who signed up to bring food items for the breakfast, and are bringing Easter lilies and flowers for the altar area.



**Bible Study Opportunities!**

**Revelation: The Distant Triumph Song**

**Sunday morning Bible Class**

This month we'll meet after fellowship time on April 7th and in between the services on April 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<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!

**Monday Evening: "Bible Basics"**

Has it been a few years since catechism instruction and you'd like to get a "refresher" on some basic Bible teachings? Do you have a friend or neighbor who's interested in learning about Jesus? We are offering "Bible Basics" on Monday evenings this spring and early summer for you! Please contact Pastor Blauert if you're interested and he'll get the class started.

**Congregational Meeting: April 7**

We invite all members to stay after the 8:30 service for a congregation meeting to review how things are going at church and discuss plans for the spring and summer. All members, men and women, are encouraged to attend and participate!

Your church council will meet the following Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in between the services.

**Game Night: Mon., April 15, 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!



**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.



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## LWMS news

### (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)

St. Paul's will be collecting for our LWMS mission offering through April 7th. You may contribute in the jar in the fellowship hall.



### Scenic South Central Circuit Spring Rally

Host: St. John's Lutheran Church  
624 East Street, Baraboo

Date: Saturday, April 20, 2024

Registration & Fellowship: 9:00 AM

Opening Devotion: 9:30 AM

Guest speaker: Ryan Halter, Kingdom Prep  
Lutheran High School

Projects: HM: Vicars in Mission Settings  
WM: Ecuador

*Join us as we share the Gospel and support mission work through God's unceasing blessings.*

### LADIES' AID UPDATE

Our next Ladies' Aid meeting will be Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. All ladies of the church are invited to grow in faith, serve the Lord and encourage one another.

All ladies and Pastor B. are invited to a luncheon at St. John's, Hillpoint on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Let us know by April 21<sup>st</sup> if you'd like to attend.

Thank you to the Ladies' Aid for getting the Easter baskets put together, and thank you, members, for your contributions!

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### St. John's Lutheran School, Baraboo

1) School Lunch Administrator. Eight hours of Food Safety Training is required. Six hours a day, Monday—Friday during school year. For more information please call 608-355-3860 and ask for Karyn.

2) Early Childhood Ministry 3K Teacher. Email Johanna Fischer, [jfischer@stjohnsbaraboo.org](mailto:jfischer@stjohnsbaraboo.org), or call the school if you're interested or have questions.

### Save the Date....

Thursday, May 9: Ascension Day service at St. John's in Baraboo. 6:30 p.m. service. Watch for details in April bulletins!

### WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) news:

“Women's Ministry is here to nurture and encourage and equip women to faithfully use their gifts to serve God's kingdom,” says Rachel Halldorson, a member of the Women's Ministry Executive Committee. “We do that in a variety of ways, including our webinars.”

In 2023, Women's Ministry held two webinars, one on prayer and another on fostering faith in the next generation. They are holding another webinar for May 2 on the topic of mental health. For more information, read about their ministry in Forward in Christ, April issue, p. 26, or go to [wels.net/women](http://wels.net/women).



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## *A Message from your Church Council...*

### **“You Can Help our MLC Student”**

Martin Luther College (MLC) provides valuable ministerial training for our synod. MLC is concerned about the educational debt load MLC graduates have and are now offering a Congregational Partner Grant Program to help students with their tuition cost.

For the 2024-25 academic year, MLC will match up to \$1,450 from a congregation that supports a member attending MLC. St. Paul's has one member, Faith Blauert, attending MLC who is eligible to participate for these matching funds.

St. Paul's Church Council has decided to participate in the Congregational Partner Grant Program by allowing members to make personal gifts to a new budget line item created for the program. We will have a special jar in the fellowship area for gifts; in addition, you can make a separate offering gift and direct it to St. Paul's Congregational Partner Grant Program.

The specific details for St. Paul's participation:

- MLC will match St. Paul's contribution dollar-for-dollar **up to \$1,450** for Faith.
- Congregational grants will be applied to the fall semester and MLC matching funds will be applied to the spring semester. MLC will return congregational funds for any student that withdraws prior to completing 60% of the fall semester.
- St. Paul's must submit the application and funding by July 15, 2024, in order for Faith to receive the matching funds.
- Only undergraduate students that are members of our church during the 2024-25 school year are eligible for the matching funds.

Thank you for being willing to be a part of helping Faith and helping our synod!

## **Church in Use on April 6<sup>th</sup>**

On Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, the Midcontinent Railway Museum will be having a board meeting and gathering from noon to 4 p.m. at St. Paul's. Please take note of that if you need to stop at church that day.

## **VACATION**

Pastor Blauert and Kristine will be on vacation from April 29 through May 5. If you need pastoral help during that time, contact one of the other WELS pastors in the area (Pastors Kuske and Ertl of St. John's, Baraboo, or Pastor Karow of St. John's, Rock Springs). Pastor Tim Kuske will be having the service on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

## ***OUR GIFTS to the LORD Feb. 25—Mar. 24***

|                        | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Offering</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Sun., Feb. 25: 7:30 am | 34                | \$1,086         |
| 10 am                  | 20                | \$795           |
| Wed., Feb. 28: 6:30 pm | 25                | \$463           |
| Sun., Mar. 3: 8:30 am  | 46                | \$1,889         |
| Sun., Mar. 10: 7:30 am | 30                | \$1,310         |
| 10 am                  | 20                | \$595           |
| Wed., Mar. 13: 6:30 pm | 24                | \$453           |
| Sun., Mar. 17: 7:30 am | 22                | \$743           |
| 10 am                  | 17                | \$400           |
| Wed., Mar. 20: 6:30 pm | 19                | \$347           |
| Sun., Mar. 24: 7:30 am | 36                | \$765           |
| 10 am                  | 16                | \$500           |

Ave. attendance: 8:30 am (combined), 46; 7:30 am, 30; 10 am, 18; 6:30 pm (Lent), 23.



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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**

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:**

Mark & Elaine Shimniok – April 5, 2003

Eric & Tricia Klingenmeyer – April 16, 1994

Andy & Melissa Shimniok – April 21, 2012

John & Sue Bell – April 23, 1977

Scott & Tonya Klemm – April 24, 1993

Arvin & Linda Faivre – April 30, 1969



### **Happy Birthday to:**

Allison Ahrensmeyer – April 9

Susan Grossenbacher – April 10

Linda Wiese – April 15

Linda Gray – April 16

Logan Hammermeister – April 20

Roy Schneider – April 21

Kristine Blauert – April 29

Linda Faivre – April 29

Eric Klingenmeyer – April 30