

STPAULNOW

April 2024

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
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StPaulNow.org



For everything there is a season

Ecclesiastes 3:1

from Pr. Steve

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Worship Services streamed live (Sundays, 10:00 AM); videos are posted at stpaulnow.org and on Facebook, usually by mid afternoon on Sundays.

I hope you had a very nice Easter. I thought I did, for a few hours. I was thankful for a fruitful Lenten season culminating in two fairly well attended Easter services. I went around all day Sunday and most of Monday thinking I had done a good job in my Easter sermons. I thought I was bold, but not arrogant, smooth but not contrived. I was confident in what I was teaching, had a good mastery of the story of Peter's fall from grace and eventual restoration as presented in detail in St. John's gospel.

The only thing that worried me was whether my congregation could appreciate such fine preaching. I noticed several people in the early service with a sort of neither-here-nor-there look on their faces. I figured it was just that they weren't quite awake yet. Then in the late service I noticed more of those looks, and some others I couldn't interpret. But the Force was strong with me—I was patient and loving toward these people. Even if they couldn't fully appreciate what I was giving them, they were growing and would eventually be able. I congratulated myself on being a really good pastor, and not nearly as ugly as I could be at this age.

Then late Monday afternoon I had a chance to view the video recording of the late service and watched in disbelief as I repeatedly referred to the scripture reading from Mark 16 as coming from St. John's gospel. And I did it in both services. (Don't bother looking for my humiliation in the online video—I've drastically edited it. It's choppy, but the basic message of our Lord's grace toward Peter, and us, comes through.)

My hope is that my error was not so obtrusive as to keep God's message from coming through for our members and friends who were in the services. That message in the resurrection of Jesus is that God seeks us when we fall, just as he sought Peter; that he will never leave or forsake us; that there is no darkness that can overcome his life and light.

And please stop sending get well wishes. I'm okay.

SD

more than conquerors through him who loved us

*I am sure that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor rulers,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in
Christ Jesus our Lord.*

—St. Paul, Romans 8

Holy Communion every Sunday in Eastertide

Church Council has instituted a policy of celebrating Holy Communion every Sunday from Easter through Pentecost (May 19 this year), thereafter celebrating the sacrament on the first Sunday each month for the rest of this year.



**Saturday, April 20
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Volunteers are needed to tidy up landscaping and do some inside cleaning.

Coffee & doughnuts provided, of course.

April Birthdays

3 Greta Kanagy	12 Dick Brown	27 Carol Holsinger
5 Jay Sands	Sharon Hall	28 Lynn Goodman
10 Lindsay Miracle	13 Bob McClenathan	Mark Niendam
11 Kaden Skaggs	17 Heather Goodman	30 Marilyn Davis
Isabella Smith	24 Violet Mullins	

Please let us know if we miss anyone.

March Council meeting

Regular meeting, March 12, 6:30 PM

Present: Marie Christiano (Chairman), Thomas Bathke (Vice Chairman), Terry Roberts (Treasurer), Pastor Steve Dennis, Mary Kay Disterdick, Patty Kirk. Excused: Sondra Carey, Kenneth Smith

Council took the following actions:

- Approved the February reports of the Treasurer and Secretary, and received the Pastor's report for February.
- Scheduled a general work day at the church for Saturday, April 20, from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.
- Discussed, at length, the issue of how cameras are used to stream and record church services. One Council member has been approached by a member of the congregation who has concerns about a new camera that faces the congregation. Council decided to have that facing camera turned off until the issue can be discussed more fully with the concerned member. The issue will be considered again at the April Council meeting with a view to establishing a policy for streaming and recording that will address the concerns expressed and the needs of the people who view our streamed and recorded services.

Treasurer's Report for February 2024

FUNDS	BALANCE 1/31/2024	INCOME February	EXPENSES February	BALANCE 2/29/2024
General Fund	\$15,838.14	\$13,852.01	\$12,872.24	\$16,817.91
Committed Funds				
Benevolence Fund	\$5,847.76	\$ 320.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,167.76
Richard Renz Fund	\$ 3,173.46	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,173.46
Funeral Fund	\$ 650.94	\$ 340.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 990.94
Christian Education Fund	\$ 402.46	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 402.46
Memorial Fund	\$ 7,124.31	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,124.31
Building Fund	\$50,936.52	\$ 2,901.00	\$ 0.00	\$53,837.52
Total Committed Funds	\$68,135.45	\$ 3,561.00	\$ 0.00	\$71,696.45
Total Funds (General + Committed)	\$83,973.59	\$17,413.01	\$12,872.24	\$88,514.36

Kids Easter party and egg hunt

The morning started with rain showers, but they soon subsided and the fun began. An early surprise was the arrival of a young sheep and a newborn goat.

Pastor Steve officially opened the morning's activities with prayer and a sing-along, complete with all the motions.

As has been the case in the past, a multitude of activities was available. The problem for the children is always, "Where do I start? Do I wanna color eggs, make an easter basket, sweep the Peeps, try my luck at knocking over the Easter bunny, blow bubbles, or put my sticker book to use"?

A highlight of the morning (for both the kids and adults) was a flannel board presentation depicting the life of Jesus, starting with his birth through his ascension into heaven. Judy Graham, in her usual inimitable teacher style, explained each phase of Jesus' life as the children helped by placing the appropriate figures on the flannel board.

The egg hunt and a lunch of meat balls, apple sauce, peanut butter san'wiches, veggies, cookies, cupcakes, and drinks brought a fun-filled (and educational) morning to a close.

