

APRIL A.D. 2018

# THE EPISTLE

The monthly newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church & Little Lambs Preschool, Garner, Iowa,

## "The Mayberry of the Midwest"

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation whose focus is "Living and Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ".

### From Pastor's desk -

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this letter we are preparing for Holy Week and the Passion of our Lord. It is on April 1<sup>st</sup> that we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead! Of course, April 1<sup>st</sup> is best known as April's Fools Day, a day in which people do their best to fool others.

It is no big secret that more and more people consider Christians to be the biggest fools of all. They are viewed as stupid, ignorant, weak people who believe in God. I am firmly convinced that the religion of Macro Evolution that has been firmly embraced and sanctioned by the state for several decades now is doing a fine job of indoctrinating the minds of the future. It should be no surprise that many look at believing in God as foolish! The Devil is always working overtime to turn people's attention away from God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Easter is a time in which we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead! It shows us that Jesus is the Christ, what He said is true and He is coming back to judge the living and the dead!

I am reminded of a story about an Englishman by the name of Frank Morison who was not a Christian and very proud of it. He went to Palestine with the intent to research the

resurrection account in order to disprove it, for then the whole structure of Christianity would come toppling down. He researched the evidence and the more he learned, the more interesting it became. When the dust settled he concluded that the resurrection account was too difficult to disprove and converted to Christianity.

It is true the whole Christian faith hinges on Jesus rising from the dead - a fact that propelled all the Apostles except John to give up their lives rather than deny it.

**Christ is Risen!!**  
**He Is Risen indeed!!**  
**Alleluia!!**

Rev. Scott A. Kozisek



**From Paige's desk -**

Greetings in the name of Christ!

**Happy Easter!**

**Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

It is hard to believe that Lent is over and that Easter is here! So excited for what Christ has done for you and me!

As we all know, Easter is a time of celebrating. Pastor Kozisek does this by throwing Easter Eggs at us on Sundays. Those Easter eggs are filled with such a sweet treat - CHOCOLATE and CREAM - a sweet treat we can enjoy. Thankfully, Pastor normally gives us a heads up!

Similarly, life throws situations at us that are out of our control. Sometimes we do not even see where the trouble is coming from. But no matter what storms come our way and what we face, God is on our side.

As Christ hung on the cross for us, He was so worried that He sweat blood. He asked His Father if it was possible not die for us, but we know that Christ did die for us because of His great love for you and me. I give thanks this Easter Season for what Christ continues to do for my life, both the good and the bad. I give thanks for the gifts that Christ gives me every day. Keep your heads up because you never know when an Easter Egg could fly your way!

I was able to visit Derek in Bismarck in March. He is really enjoying his new firefighter job in Bismarck and is doing well. I will be traveling to Grand Forks in April for our next Bridal Shower with his side of the family. As far as wedding planning, we are starting to wrap up details. We are getting excited as time passes closer to our wedding day! Please continue to pray for us as we continue to plan our wedding.

In Christ,

Paige Fitzsimons, DCE

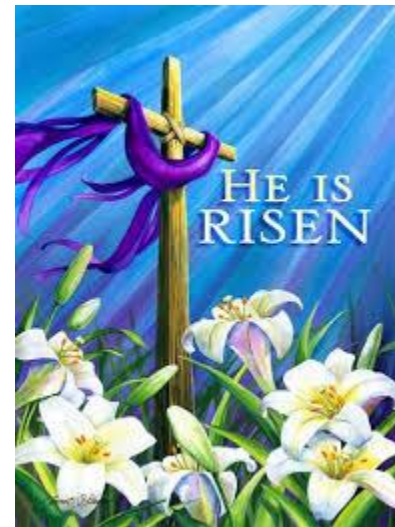
**Contact Us**

Rev. Scott A. Kozisek  
Friday is Pastor's day off.

DCE Paige M. Fitzsimons  
Thursday is Paige's day off.

Church Office  
Hours ~ M-F 8-12 & 1-4  
641-923-2261  
[stpauloffice@commnet.net](mailto:stpauloffice@commnet.net)  
Fax: 641-923-2190

**Statistics**



The following figures represent the activity of St. Paul congregation from February 25 through March 21.  
**Sunday Worship Attendance**

	Worship	Communed
February 25	90	
March 04	131	102
March 11	129	105
March 18	143	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>207</b>

**Average Sunday Worship Attendance: 123**

**Wednesday & Other Worship Attendance**

	Worship	Communed
February 28	68	
March 07	66	49
March 14	66	
March 21	56	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Ave. Wednesday Worship Attendance: 64</b>		

**April Servants**

**Committees**

**Altar** Janan Griggs, Connie Rosendahl  
**Banner** Eileen Madsen  
**Flower** Janan Griggs

**Ushers**

Brad Bakken                      Ivan Dodd  
 Keith Christians                Bryan Frayne

**Acolytes**

<b>April 01</b>	Jailyn Krein, Seneca Echelberger
<b>April 08</b>	Sam Wood, Trever Gardner
<b>April 15</b>	Aleah Brown, Reed Cataldo
<b>April 22</b>	Ryan Darg, Emma Goll
<b>April 29</b>	Trevor Graham, Morgan Krein

**Acolytes: Please remember,** you are responsible for acolyting for the entire week to which you are assigned, from Sunday through the next Saturday. If you are unable to acolyte when you are scheduled, please find a substitute and notify the church office to advise who will take your place by the Thursday prior to your scheduled date. (phone 641-923-2261 or email [stpauloffice@comm1net.net](mailto:stpauloffice@comm1net.net))

**March Courtesy Driver**

Fred & Lisa Schroeder  
 641-587-2386

**Mission Team**

Interested in planning mission opportunities?  
 Contact Barb Kozisek at 812-525-9464

**Military & Students**

Please provide contact information: address, email & phone numbers to the Church Office. 641-923-2261 or [stpauloffice@comm1net.net](mailto:stpauloffice@comm1net.net)

**Thank you for serving  
 and ALL that you do!!!**

**Bible Study  
 Opportunities**

**Adult Bible Studies on Sundays  
 @ 10:15am  
 Kozisek (Fellowship Hall)  
 Hayes (Basement Fellowship Hall)**

**"The Truth Project"  
 Wednesday evenings @ 5:45pm**

## March Meetings & Events

Sunday, April 01

6:30am Easter Sunrise Worship & Communion

4:00pm Concord Care Service

Monday, April 02

9:00am Hope Circle

Tuesday, April 03

1:30pm Prairie View Service

Wednesday, April 04

4:00pm Junior Youth

5:15pm Christian Ed Meal

5:45pm Christian Ed Classes  
plus \*The Family Project\*

6:00pm Bell Choir practice

7:00pm Wednesday Worship/Communion

7:00pm Senior Choir practice

Thursday, April 05

6:00pm Trustees

Sunday, April 08

9:00am Worship / Communion

Monday, April 09

7:00pm Rebekah Circle

Tuesday, April 10

Pastor's Conference

9:00am Quilting

5:45pm Preschool Team

Wednesday, April 11

4:00pm Junior Youth

5:15pm Christian Ed Meal

5:45pm Christian Ed Classes  
plus \*The Family Project\*

6:00pm Bell Choir practice

7:00pm Wednesday Worship/Communion

Thursday, April 12

7:30am Concord Prayer Breakfast

5:30pm Deacons

6:30pm Church Council

Sunday, April 15

9:00am Sunday Worship

7:00pm FCA @ Garner E-Free

Wednesday, April 18

10:00am LWML Board Meeting

4:00pm Junior Youth

5:15pm Christian Ed Meal

5:45pm Christian Ed Classes  
plus \*The Family Project\*

7:00pm Wednesday Worship

7:00pm Senior Choir practice

Thursday, April 19

1:45pm Concord Bingo (Hope Circle)

LWML Spring NE Zone Rally

Friday, April 20 – Sunday, April 22

Minneapolis Youth Mission Trip

Sunday, April 22

9:00 am Worship

10:15am 2018 Confirmand Reception

Monday, April 23

Deadline for May 2018 Newsletter & Calendar

Wednesday, April 25

Last day of Christian Education

4:00pm Junior Youth

5:15pm Christian Ed Meal

5:45pm Christian Ed Classes  
plus \*The Family Project\*

7:00pm Wednesday Worship

7:00pm Senior Choir practice

Saturday, April 28

5:00-7:00pm TNT

Sunday, April 29

9:00 am Worship / Examination, Confirmation  
& First Communion



## April Anniversaries



Dan & Deb Clites	04/08/1989	29 years
Ellery & Darlene Wood	04/08/1956	62 years
Swede & Joy Englin	04/13/1946	72 years
John & Pam VanGerpen	04/25/1970	48 years
Ken & Donna Weiland	04/29/1978	40 years

**God's blessings to you!!**

## April Birthdays



**A very "Happy Birthday" to members of St. Paul who celebrate their birthday in April!**

1 Barickman, Matthew	18 Lamb, Luke
1 Eichmann, Cassandra	20 Larkin, Ashley
1 Lamb, Grant	21 Bachman, Janice
2 Kozisek, Victoria	21 Smith, Bailey
5 Gray-Gutierrez, Audrey	23 Mego, Braden
5 Voortmann, Carlene	24 Englin, Joyce
6 Bierle, Amanda	25 Barnett, Mary
11 Schleusner, Laura	25 Luppen, Alyssa
13 Lang, Ruth	26 Frank, Chloe
15 Phinney, Brandon	26 Hollatz, Sharon
16 Hughes, Andrea	27 Thiedeman, Brenda
16 Meyering, Sherman	28 Echelberger, Hayden
17 Gerdes, Cullen	28 Lackore, Anne
18 Hayes, Jaci	29 Christians, Keith

**NOTE: If your birthday is not listed, or there is an error in the listing, please call the church office so we may correct our records. If you do not want your birth date published, please inform the church office at 923-2261.**

## Little Lambs Preschool



The month of March has been a very exciting for the preschool.

Our students are continuing to work on their letters and numbers and enjoy having Chapel Time with Pastor. We held our Dr. Seuss-themed Family Fun Night. We had a great turn out from our families; it was fun to see both the students and their families having fun at the event. The students really enjoyed our guest reader who shared a Dr. Seuss book with everyone. We had parent/teacher conferences with our families this month and the parents really enjoyed seeing their child's progress over the last few months.

Things will slow down a bit in April. The students will be learning their letters V, W, X, and Y. They will also be reviewing the numbers that they have learned this past year.

During Chapel Time the students will be learning that Jesus is the Promised Savior, On the Road at Easter, Jesus Returns to Heaven, Jesus' Ascension, God Gives the Gift of the Holy Spirit, Blessed at Pentecost, and God Answers Prayers, Rhonda and Peter's Surprise. To end out our month we will be doing a clean-up project for Earth Day with both the preschool classes.

Thank you to everyone who helped during and clean-up after our Family Fun Night. We would also like to thank all the families that attended the fun night - you made the event very fun for everyone!

God's blessings

Ms. Alesha, Ms. Donna, and Ms. Mary

**TNT**  
**20's, 30's & 40's**



Saturday, April 28  
5:00-7:00pm  
Watch the bulletin for details!

**8 Days of Hope (8DOH)**



As of press time our group is still working hard in Houston, serving those impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they finish out their week and during their journey back to Garner. Those serving as the hands and feet of Jesus include:

DZire Castillo	Jay Larkin
Rosie Demro	Carson Madsen
Paige Fitzsimons	Mike Madsen
Brenda Formanek	Steve Madsen
Bruce Jolivette	

We look forward to a full report upon their return!

**Iowa District West**  
**"The Messenger"**

The Messenger-April 2018 edition is available online. Log on to the link below to download news and information from Iowa District West.

<http://idwlcms.org/gotodownloadfile.php?file=1173>

**DISTRICT NEWS**

\* Planting Together \*

Education, Youth, and Family Life—Rhonda Mohr

Business Manager News—Roger Curtis

LCEF—Carole White

Financial Peace University & Structured for Mission Workshop—Rev. Mark Gerken

IOWAY—Ellie Menz

Mission Central—Gary Thies & Rev. Brent Smith

Amigos en Cristo, Denison—Rev. Willie Grills

Hispanic Outreach in Siouxland—Rev. Henry Witte

The Lamplighter—Rev. Henry Witte

**MINISTRY PARTNERS**

Camp Okoboji

Lutheran Family Service

**ALSO INCLUDED**

ISU Fraternity Scholarship

Kapfer Symposium on Preaching

Operation Barnabas

Peak Challenge 2018

**CALLS RECEIVED**

Rev. Gary Gauthier, Lake Park, to Zion, Wabash, IN

Rev. David Lyons, Schaller, to Christ, Elbow Lake, MN/Zion, Hoffman, MN

**CALLS ACCEPTED**

Rev. Mark Kleckner, Bedford, MA, to Mt. Olive, Des Moines.

Rev. Duane Miesner, Kingsley, to Cylinder/Lone Rock.

**TRANSFERRED IN**

Rev. James Tews, EM, Council Bluffs, from  
Indiana District, 3-6-2018.

## COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

### CALLS RECEIVED

Mackenzie Doraska, Mt. Olive, Des Moines, to  
King of Kings, Roseville, MN.

Sarah Popp, San Antonio, TX, to Iowa Great  
Lakes, Spencer.

### CALLS DECLINED

Tyler Kopp, Candidate, Jefferson City, MO, to  
Zion-St. John, Paullina

Rachel Pfothenauer, Iowa Great Lakes, Spencer,  
to Zion, Denison

### Calendar of Events

April 7...LLL Men's Network Breakfast & Bible  
Study, Grace-Le Mars

April 14...Structured for Mission Workshop,  
District Office-Fort Dodge

April 17...Kapfer Symposium on Preaching, St.  
Paul-Fort Dodge

April 23...Ministry Safety and Security Seminar,  
Zion-Manning

## Youth News



### *Just a gentle reminder for Holy Week ...*

Set up for Easter breakfast will be 6:00 pm on  
Maundy Thursday, March 29.

April 1 – Easter Breakfast: we are asking Youth  
and Parents to arrive at 6:00 am and serve  
between services that morning.

## April Youth News

Thank you to St. Paul Congregation for joining  
us for our Easter Breakfast!

Our youth attended the annual Lock-In at  
Trinity Algona on March 16-17; we had a great  
turn out. Our youth are getting ready for prom  
and our April 20-22 Youth Mission Trip to  
Minneapolis! We are excited to see what God  
has planned for us in the Twin Cities!

April is the last month of Christian Education!  
This year truly flew by for us! The last night of  
meals and classes will be April 25; the  
confirmands will also have their pictures taken  
that evening.

The LWML is hosting a cake reception on  
Sunday, April 22, in honor of the Confirmands  
and EVERYONE is invited to join us after the  
service to show your support

On Sunday, April 29, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Confirmation Class will be questioned and  
confirmed. They will also receive their first  
communion.

***Thank you for your continual  
support and dedication to our  
Youth at St. Paul.***

**LWML**



**Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission**

**Monday, April 02**

**9:00am Hope Circle**

**Hostess: Sheila Sperr;**

**Devotion: Bonnie Cataldo; Topic: Susie Kozisek**

**Monday, April 09**

**7:00pm Rebekah Circle**

**Hostess: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Devotion: Ruth Zill; Topic: Sharon Hollatz**

**Wednesday, April 18**

**10:00am LWML Board Meeting**

**Thursday, April 19**

**10:00am LWML Board Meeting &**

**Zone Rally Set-up**

**1:45pm Concord Care Bingo (Hope Circle)**

**Workers: Ruth Lang, Janice Meyer**

**Cookies: Sandy Block, Connie Rosendahl**

**Thursday, April 19**

**LWML Spring NE Zone Rally @ St. Paul –Garner**

**Speaker: Sheila Willms, “Dream India”**

**4:30pm Registration & Zone Officers Meeting**

**5:00pm Rally Business Meeting**

**followed by Supper**

**Offering for Emmanuel School, Orissa, India**

**Sunday, April 22**

**10:15am Confirmation Reception**

**Thursday, June 21**

**11:00am-1:00pm LWML Salad Luncheon**

**LWML Highlights**

The LWML Board met on March 15, 2018, with six members present. Bev Cataldo led the devotion from Portals of Prayer, Philippians 3:2-11, “Righteousness”.

The February Secretaries report was read & approved. The Treasurer’s report for February was reviewed and approved. The books were audited by Elaine Olson and Linda Grote and found to be in order.

Owen’s Mission has been a mission project of Hope Circle. Sandy Block noted that “Owen’s Mission” has met their goal. Donations may still be given to “Lutherans For Life”.

The LWML Day of Prayer was held on Monday, March 12, with 17 in attendance.

The Spring Northeast LWML Zone Rally will be April 19<sup>th</sup> here at St Paul. The speaker will be Sheila Wilms. She will speak about her trip to India. The offering that evening will be sent to “Dream India:Emmanuel School”, where Sheila visited last December 2017.

A Confirmation Reception is being planned for April 22, the Sunday before Confirmation. It is for the confirmands and their parents, grandparents and other family members. The reception will follow the church service.

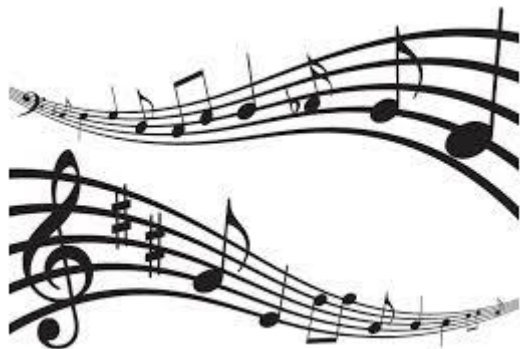
LWML is also planning to remember the graduating seniors with a book, “God’s Word For Life”. These will be presented to the seniors at a church service before graduation. Date not yet determined.

Next Board Mtg. will be April 18, 2018, at 10:00am.

Janan Griggs, Secretary



## St. Paul Music Ministry



The Music Department of St. Paul is busy preparing music for Holy Week. Palm Sunday, March 25, will feature the children, Bell Choir, Senior Choir and trumpet soloist enhancing our worship service.

St. Paul Senior Choir will be singing for our Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, March 29, at 7:00pm.

On the evening of Good Friday, March 30, at 7:30pm the Music Department of St. Paul has the unique opportunity to present a Tenebrae Service, Service of Darkness. The tradition began in 1965 with Mrs. L.G. Leonard and Jim Helvick. This year will be the 54th presentation of the retelling of the events of Holy Week with the use of music, narration, lighting and the extinguishing of candles to lead us from the joyous crowds of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the Passion of Good Friday. The service will be recorded for delayed broadcast on KLOW-FM 107.3 radio station in Forest City about 9:00pm on Good Friday evening.

Bev Cataldo  
Director of Music

## Music Notes

### BELL CHOIR:

Wednesday, March 28 @ 6:15 pm practice  
Friday, March 30 @ 6:30 pm practice  
Friday, March 30 @ 7:30 pm Tenebrae Service  
Wednesday, April 04 @ 6:00 pm practice  
Wednesday, April 11 @ 6:00 pm practice  
Sunday, April 15 @ 9:00 am play for service

### SENIOR CHOIR:

Wednesday, March 28 @ 6:45 pm practice  
Thursday, March 29 @ 7:00 pm sing for service  
Friday, March 30 @ 7:00 pm practice  
Friday, March 30 @ 7:30 pm Tenebrae Service  
Sunday, April 1 @ 6:30 am sing for service  
Wednesday, April 04 @ 7:00 pm practice  
Sunday, April 08 @ 9:00 am sing for service  
Wednesday, April 18 @ 7:00 pm practice  
Wednesday, April 25 @ 7:00 pm practice  
Sunday, April 29 @ 9:00 am sing for service

### TENEBRAE PERSONNEL:

(Sound Engineer, Pastor Kozisek and 3 readers)  
Wednesday, March 28 @ 7:15pm

### PRAISE CHOIR:

Sunday, April 22 @ 8:40 am practice  
Sunday, April 22 @ 9:00 am sing for service



**This is the day that the Lord has made;  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**From Iowa District President Rev. Dr. Steven Turner**

***Thank you for your partnership!*** Just as a congregation is dependent on the financial gifts of their members, so Iowa District West is dependent on the gifts we receive from our partner congregations. Last year you provided just over \$1.5 million to help us support Christ's mission. Those funds enabled us to support 5 missionary partners in IDW, support over 30 congregations with mission grants, provide workshops and resources in a variety of areas, support the work of the LCMS, and work with you as you carry out Christ's mission in your community. As a result, hundreds of individuals came to faith just in IDW, thousands were strengthened in their faith, and a new congregation was planted (The Gate, Ankeny)! Thank you again and may God richly bless our partnership in 2018. *Pres. Steve Turner and the staff of IDW*

