



St. Paul News

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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April

2025

Which Easter Service should I attend? By Pastor Neil Wehmas

It is Palm Sunday, and you begin to look at the schedule of services for the week to come. There are the Daily Chapel services from 12:15-12:45pm each day. There is the Maundy Thursday service, with first Communion for our 7th graders at 6:30pm. There is the Good Friday service at 6:30pm as well. Hopefully, you have decided to attend all of these services. But what about Easter weekend?

None of the three services are the same, and it is most certainly acceptable practice to attend all three of them. However, what if you find yourself only able to attend one service on April 19th & 20th. Which one should you choose? Here is a brief summary of what to expect from each service.

Easter Vigil (Saturday, March 19th @5:00pm)

The Easter Vigil is the oldest of Easter traditions, dating back to the first century and first generation of Christianity.

The word "Vigil" literally means "to keep watch". This is what we are doing. We are keeping watch or waiting for the celebration of Easter. The service is usually over an hour, reflective of Jesus' words to his disciples in the Garden when he asked "Could you not keep watch one hour?". It is a night for disciplining the heart and mind to keep watch and focus upon God's means of grace and prayer.

The service begins with the blessing of a new Paschal Candle and a service of light, as we process into the sanctuary in complete darkness.

The service includes several scripture readings from the Old Testament focusing upon God's deliverance in the Old Testament. It includes many opportunities for prayer. There is a strong focus upon the sacraments. This year, we will be having two baptisms and celebrating the Lord's Supper. It is in these celebrations that God reaches down and delivers us from sin, death, and the devil.

Midway through the service, the phrase "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!" first breaks out, the bells ring out for joy, the crosses are unveiled, and the church is illuminated. The sermon for the day is traditionally the Paschal Homily as written by St. John Chrysostom. The sermon takes about 5 minutes to read.

Easter Sunrise (Sunday, March 20th @6:30am)

During the 18th century the practice of the Easter Sunrise service came into popularity as a replacement for the Easter Vigil. Sometimes the service looks almost identical to the Easter Vigil. However, another tradition emerged over the years.

As many churches have cemeteries on their property, a tradition began of starting the service with a variation of the graveside liturgy, while in the center of the cemetery. The Liturgy would conclude with a processional singing of “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”.

At St. Paul Lutheran Church, here in Ida Grove, we will begin with graveside liturgy, just outside of the sanctuary. The sanctuary will be pitch black (other than lights for our organist). The lights will turn on at a key point, and we will process in the joy of the resurrection.

Resurrection Celebration (Sunday, March 20th @9:00am)

This is a service of exceeding joy. Much of the service is very similar to a typical Sunday service, but many elements are swapped out for an Easter themed element. Processionals, an over-abundance of the word “Alleluia”, and beautiful music are the marks of this service.

CONCLUSION

Whether you go to all three, a pair of the services, or only one, the joy of the resurrection and Christ’s deliverance of you from death will ring out clearly. However, know that should you attend all of the services that week, each service shall build upon one another. From the Lenten service on April 6th to Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to the trio of Easter Services, each service will build upon the other as we focus upon the unknown love of our Savior upon the cross and the over-abundant joy of the Resurrection. God’s blessings to you this Lenten and Easter Season.



misprint on the calendar

9:00AM Worship :

April Acolytes are listed on the calendar

COMMUNION ANNOUNCEMENT we will now be adding Holy Communion on the 5th Sunday of a month – which just happens to start this month in March, so it is not a

About our Communion Practice

To our visitors and guests: In accordance with the apostolic command and in unity with the unbroken practice of the Church, St. Paul Lutheran practices Closed Communion. If you are not a member of a congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we kindly ask you to refrain from communing. We do so not to offend you, but because the Scriptures clearly teach that those communing together be unified in their confession of the Faith. In this Sacrament we are not only joined to Christ our Head who is present in His body and blood but are also knit together with one another as His Body, in which there should be no division of belief. Should you have questions or concerns about this Biblical and historic doctrine, please speak with our pastor. If this is your first time communing at St. Paul Lutheran Church, please speak with our pastor before the service. If certain factors prohibit you from partaking in regular wine, a non-alcoholic option is available in the center circle of each tray. **If not communing but desiring to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest when Pastor approaches.**

OFFERING BOXES In order to help with the overall flow and length of the worship service, we will be collecting the offering via the offering boxes in the Narthex. The main wooden offering box will still be available on the Welcome Center, there will be boxes available by each door that enters the Sanctuary.

WE ARE BRINGING BACK “ASK THE PASTOR” which he will answer your questions on the 4th Sunday of the month, see box on black table in the narthex by Sanctuary glass windows, to submit your questions.



COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS for COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS for April: Breakfast items: Pancake mix, syrup, cereal, cereal bars, peanut butter, jelly, etc.. Place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex or hallway. Any items are appreciated as well, as they can always use donations. The Community Basket is open on Thursdays (except 3rd Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM. ****They can always use toilet paper, laundry soap, shampoo & conditioner, canned vegetables, canned fruits & canned soups. Mobile Food Pantry will be at the Shed in Kiron on Thursday, April 17 from 4:30-5:30PM.** Its helpful to bring a laundry basket or container for your food items. Volunteers to help carry are always appreciated.

The Whole Story is our Congregation as a group reading the Bible in a year. Suggested Apps below if that is how you like to read **the daily Bible readings and included in this newsletter, on the back of the March Calendar and a print out of the month of March daily readings will be on the Welcome Center,**

When you post on your personal Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Snapchat Use the #thewholestory25 and #stpaulidagrove

GRAB YOUR FLAT JESUS, they are still available in the Narthex.

We first put Flat Jesus out in December for Christmas Eve and we have encouraged everyone to take and share with family and friends and to date we have ordered over 550 Flat Jesus' !!



FLAT JESUS We encourage everyone (all ages) to take a Flat Jesus and carry Flat Jesus with you, keep him in your car, or at work, etc.. We also encourage you to share Flat Jesus with someone you know, grand kids, other adults. We also encourage you to have Flat Jesus with you as you read through the Bible.

Take him with you any time you're out having lunch, dinner, driving, etc..If you would like to take a picture of him by your Bible, Tablet, computer or at your lunch table, dinner table, or car, etc..Send in your pictures we would love to post them or share them on the screens, with our announcement slides stpaulidagrove@gmail.com



2025 Lenten Midweek Worship Service Schedule

Wednesday, April 2nd @6:30pm

What is a dead faith?

Wednesday, April 9th @6:30pm

More than Silver or Gold

There will be Daily Chapel Services, No Chapel on Tues. April 8 or on Fridays

April 7th, 9th & 10th @12:15-12:45pm

April 14th-April 17th @12:15-12:45pm

April 21st -24th @ 12:15-12:45pm



JR High and SR High Youth Fundraiser

Will be serving the Easter Breakfast serving at 7:30AM

On Easter Sunday, April 20

Please sign up if you know you plan to attend, so we can approximately know how many to plan for, BUT you can certainly come the day of the breakfast in case your plans have changed

Christ's Passion

Holy Week

Palm Sunday: April 1st @9am & 5pm

Maundy Thursday: April 1st @6:30pm

Good Friday: April 1st @6:30pm

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

There will be Holy Communion on:
 Maundy Thursday, which will also include 1st Communion of the 7th Grade Catechism class
 Easter Vigil
 Easter Sunday

Christ's Passion

Holy Week

Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 19th @5:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 20th @6:30 & 9:00am

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



Cross Explorations & Catechism Classes

3rd – 5th Grades

Class Time is 4:00-5:00PM

They can walk up after right after school

There will be snack time

If they need to stay til 5:15PM to wait for a sibling,
 an adult will be present with them

6th, 7th & 8th Grades

Class Time is 4:00-5:15PM

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, there will be no 8th grade class
Regular classes for 3rd – 7th grades**

OUR LAST DAY OF WEDNESDAY CLASSES will be April 9 for grades 3rd – 7th

Early Out in April is on Wednesday, April 9

Class will be at 1:30PM. Which is also our last day of class

Jr High Youth “The MidWay” will combine with the last day of class and their monthly youth “night” and will go to Ida Bowl from the school, parents will pick up from the Ida Bowl between 3:45 and 4:00PM

Grades 3rd – 5th will still come to the church for a little class time, some games and a special snack time

FIRST COMMUNION for the 7th Grade Class is during the Maundy Thursday Worship Service on April 17

8th GRADE will have practice for Faith Sharing on Wednesday, April 23 (during normal class time at 4:00PM)

8th GRADE CATECHISM FAITH SHARING will be on Wednesday, April 30th, at 6:00PM

REMINDER OUR WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY FOR WEDNESDAY

CLASSES: If school is dismissed early or cancelled it automatically cancels Midweek classes for grades 3rd - 8th grades

Also watch our Facebook page for those announcements as well St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ida Grove, Iowa LCMS



SUNDAY 10:15AM-11:15AM

4yr old Preschool – 2nd Grade in Nursery upstairs
3rd & 4th Grade in same classroom as last year on lower level

5th & 6th Grade in same classroom as last year on lower level

7th & 8th Grades are to attend Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

9th -12th Grades in Youth Room

UPCOMING REMINDERS: Sunday School kids will be singing at Golden Horizons Assisted Living during Sunday School on April 6th.

There will be NO Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 20

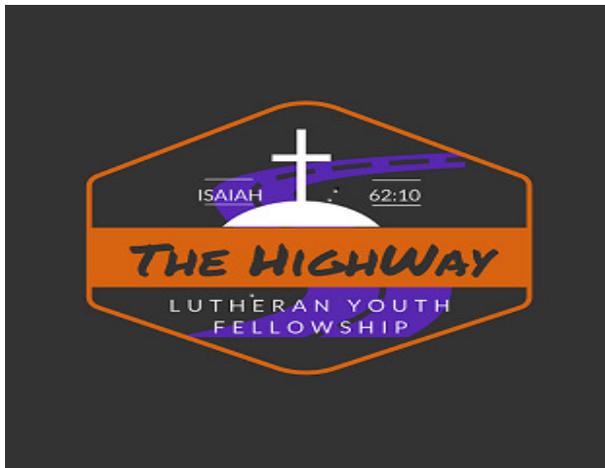
And our LAST Sunday School will be Sunday, April 27

JR High and SR High Youth Pancake Breakfast



**No breakfast in April by youth
Watch for the reschedule date coming soon,
it will be our last breakfast til fall!**

**FREE WILL OFFERING FUNDRAISER FOR ALL YOUTH ACTIVITIES,
YEARLY GATHERINGS, HIGHER THINGS AND NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING**



**The HighWay Sr High Youth (9th-12th)
Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7PM**



**The MidWay Jr High Youth (6th-8th)
Meets 2nd Wednesday of month 5:15-6:15PM**

SENIOR RECOGNITION will be on Sunday, May 4, 2025, we will recognize our 2025 graduates during the Worship Service at 9:00AM and during the fellowship hour.



APRIL Birthdays

April 1 Harold Greenwald
 April 2 Benton Phillips
 April 5 Melissa Lockwood
 April 6 Jayden Schiernbeck
 April 6 Laurie Krayenhagen
 April Lichtenberg
 April 8 Kathy Edsen
 Valerie Krager
 April 9 Duane Ernst
 Jolene Jepsen
 Aidin Johnson
 Brandi Sharkey
 April 11 Melonie Petersen
 April 12 Lisa Christiansen
 Jennifer Conover
 Chase Devitt
 April 13 Shirley Johnson
 April 15 Leon Edsen
 Kristi German
 Jamie Miller-West
 Janet Rehse
 April 16 Roger Walter

April 17 Halle Montgomery
 Tom Senhen
 April 18 Verdean Kruse
 April 19 Lennox Schable
 April 20 Kyla Arbegast
 Carson Sharkey
 Hayden Zimmerman
 April 21 Nathan Ehrig
 David Petersen
 April 22 Marc Kjar
 Patty Renfro
 April 23 Zanet Thies
 April 25 R J Bumann
 Danny Knop
 Jaxton Sweeden
 April 26 Orion Schable
 April 27 Janice Grap
 Aaron Kearns
 April 29 Zachariah Johnson
 April 30 Rick Wonder



APRIL Anniversaries

April 4 Keith & Christine Krager
 April 13 Todd & Jennifer Conover
 April 17 Todd & Jolene Jepsen

April 20 Marc & Ann Knudsen
 April 25 Curtis & Erin Marth



Easter Insights

Did you know the word *Easter* never appears in the Bible? It may be a variant of the name Eostre, a pagan fertility goddess who symbolized rebirth and spring. *Eostre* stems from the Proto-Germanic word for *dawn*, which Christians connect to Jesus' victory over darkness. The ancient tradition of Easter baskets also has ties to Eostre, whose symbol was a rabbit. Christians likely adapted the practice of bringing eggs and seeds as an offering to Eostre. Some Orthodox Christians continue a tradition of having a priest bless baskets of Easter food on Holy Saturday. Items usually hold special symbolism, such as Paska bread, cured meats, colored eggs, salt, horseradish and lamb-shaped butter.