



May 2024



The Disciple's Connection

These Are the Days After Easter



As the calendar turns to May, fields, gardens, orchards, and grasses are green and growing here in Lake County [Finally!]. Green is a welcome color of spring, reminding us of the new growth of the season. The green of spring also reminds us of God's promise to bless the earth, cause it to be fruitful, and supply the needs of all His creatures. Seeds are planted in fertile soil, and sun and rain

cause the seed to sprout and grow. We now see evidence of the old saying of spring, "April showers bring May flowers". By the way, do you know what Mayflowers bring? Pilgrims 😊 Never mind, it's a dad joke.

Now that we are beyond Easter, there are 2 special days coming up on the Church calendar: Ascension and Pentecost. On Ascension, 40 days after Easter [May 9 this year], we mark the return of Jesus to the right hand of the Father, not to get away from the world, but to serve as our advocate to the Father. How encouraging to know the Savior of the world is pleading for you at the Father's throne. Good Friday showed us the price Jesus was willing to pay for the salvation of the world. Easter is the proof that the sacrifice is perfect and complete. Ascension is proof that, just as the He came from heaven to be our Savior, so He returned to heaven to rule all things for the sake of His Church—that is for the sake of us—His people.

Pentecost, 50 days after Easter [May 19 this year], reminds us of the promised pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the first apostles. The Spirit empowered them to be renewed servants of Jesus who became bold, effective witnesses of the Gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Pentecost also reminds us of the new birth of faith in us through the marvelous, mysterious working of the Holy Spirit. For most of us, his work began with our Baptism. That new life of Baptism continues as the Holy Spirit works through the Word and Sacraments to strengthen and equip the people of God to effectively manage all God has given us. As God's stewards we have the promise that the Holy Spirit gives us the power to do what we cannot do ourselves

One important principle is God's people are served and serving. That means that we recognize that our Christian life involves a lifestyle powered by the Gospel that shows itself in servanthood in all areas of life. It is only by God's grace that we can serve Him and honor him with our time, talents, and treasures. So often we focus on our treasures, but money is only one part. The Christian life involves our wise management and use of all of life and its' resources for God's purposes

What a blessing and encouragement it is to know and believe Christ died for you, rose for you, ascended and the conqueror of our enemies, and now sends the Holy Spirit to strengthen and encourage us each day. May

THESE ARE THE DAYS AFTER EASTER *continued*

the Spirit enable us to use our time, talent, treasures, and all the other special gifts and blessings in a way that honors our God and blesses our neighbors.

In Christ

Pastor Sundbom

Jesus Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!



Christian Hope Amidst Numerical Decline

By Evan Scamman

At the rebuilding of the temple following the Babylonian captivity, Scripture records that many of the older generation wept aloud (Ezra 3:12). They had seen the first temple and remembered its former glory, now lost forever.

Such is the case for many within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod today. The older saints among us reminisce about a time when there was standing room only on Easter morning. They remember confirmation classes of 30 or more. They speak with fondness tinged with sorrow of how the parish used to hum with activity throughout the week. But no longer. Today, the church building is in disrepair, the old-timers have gone on to heaven, and the younger folks have moved away. Those who remain feel the sense of loss acutely even as they worry about the future of their beloved church.

If any of this strikes a chord within your heart, I would like to offer some words of Christian comfort. In the first place, remember that the church does not, in fact, belong to us. We are members of the body, yes. But our Head is Christ. He is the church's Builder and Maker. You may have labored long in the fields of the Lord, but never forget that they are His fields. He will ensure the harvest. One man plants, another waters, but God alone brings the increase, where and when He pleases. Remember, it's not your business to make the church grow, however much you wish to see your local parish thrive. Instead, your task is to remain faithful to Christ and His Word.

Jesus has promised to build His church, and so He does. The church cannot fail! But this promise does not mean that Grace Lutheran Church in Plainville, Iowa, will continue forever. Nor, for that matter, will The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Congregations have a natural lifespan. Buildings eventually crumble into

CHRISTIAN HOPE AMIDST NUMERICAL DECLINE *continued*

dust. Institutions drift away from their purpose. Where is the First Church of Jerusalem, founded by Christ through the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost? That congregation no longer exists. And yet, the one Church of Christ continues today, stronger and greater than ever before.

Consider this: You are part of the Church Militant. And what is your job? To be faithful unto death, until you are transferred to the Church Triumphant. For all the hand wringing about numerical decline within our Synod, the Church Triumphant only ever grows! Every time we hold a funeral, the church grows. Even should your little parish bury its last living member and then close its doors forever, the church of God grows!

On December 18, 2022, we held our final service at First Lutheran Church in Greenwich, Conn. For 80 years, the saints had gathered there to hear the words of Christ and receive the Sacraments. For the past 10, First Lutheran had been part of a dual parish; but now the two parishes were about to become one. We stripped the altar, as on Maundy Thursday, removing every sacred object and utensil from the chancel. Then, following the processional cross, the entire congregation, including the sole surviving charter member, processed out, singing, "Built on the Rock the Church shall stand, even when steeples are falling..." We locked the doors with the final stanza. It was profoundly moving. Many were openly weeping — even some who had only been worshiping there for a few years.

Was this closing of our doors a failure? By no means. For 80 years Christ stood among the people of First Lutheran as they gathered around His Words. Hundreds who came through those doors have now been transferred from this vale of tears to join the Church Triumphant. This is no failure. This is mission accomplished! And now the mission of God continues in another place and another time until the last of the saints has been safely ushered home.

Many of our congregations have difficult choices to make in the years ahead. Some will be given a way forward, as was the case in Greenwich, where two struggling congregations merged to form a single, stable parish. Others will have no choice but to close their doors. But this is not cause for panic. It is not reason, as we have sometimes done, to discard our hymnody and liturgy or to employ desperate and cringeworthy gimmicks. Yes, it is understandable to grieve at the closing of a parish; but remember that every church building on earth, however beloved it may be, is a temporary haven. Our true home is in heaven, and our true membership is with the Church Triumphant.

But as long as we remain on earth, **take comfort in this: Where two or three are gathered in His name, there Christ stands among us, as He has promised.** Where the Word of God is preached in truth and purity and where the Sacraments are rightly administered, there is the true church on earth. And no matter how feeble or small she may appear to mortal eyes, the church that our Lord has built stands glorious and terrible throughout the ages.

Photo: LCMS Communications/Erik M. Lunsford



Life Quotes for May

May 5 "The Ascension assures us that Jesus has finished His work of salvation and now rules ALL things in this world for the good of His Kingdom and His Church: that is, you and me! What is Christ's goal that the song highlights? Jesus wants His Body, us, to be with Him where He is in paradise, in heaven." *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 12 "Now we get to receive and enjoy our times and our lives as blessings. And we get to do the same with the gifts and privileges that each of our neighbors embodies, from unborn to elderly and from fertilization to forever. The Lord our God has blessed us for the purpose of life, and He has blessed us for the duration of life. So, let's partake in the blessing of proclaiming God's truth and putting Christ's love into practice, even as the Psalmist himself does!" *Pastor Michael Salemink – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 19 "Go to church together and get God's message into your ears, into your life, into your relationships. And the Spirit who created you and recreates you into the best version of yourself, that self that God has in mind for you, will work in your relationship and make it into one that is life-giving. But married or single, divorced or twice-divorced, widowed, brokenhearted, or thriving, we all live in the echo of Easter: Christ is risen. Indeed. Alleluia. We walk in the power of Pentecost. Alleluia." *Rev. Dr. John Nunes, guest speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 26 "May God send an army of angels to protect the babies in the womb from the laws being enacted in some states that are taking away protections for God's smallest, most vulnerable humans. May hearts be changed with the truths found in Scripture. And may the influence the devil has on our society, with his culture of death, be deposed." *Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Announcements

Outreach Hotdog Lunch and Open House

The Outreach Board will be hosting a combined Open House for both the Church and the Preschool on Saturday, August 17th from 11 am to 2 pm at St. Paul's. This will be an outgrowth of the Free Hot Dog Lunch we held in the past and will be combined with the registration for the Preschool families. More on this in the weeks to come.



6th Annual Trunk-or-Treat

Our 6th Annual Trunk or Treat will be held Sunday, October 20th from 2 pm to 4 pm also at St. Paul's.

This event continues to grow each year and is a great opportunity to provide a fun afternoon for the children and their families.

Lake County Captains Game

St. Paul's along with Zion and Faith in Mentor will be attending the Captains game on Friday, June 14th. First pitch is 7 pm along with post game fireworks. Cost is \$30/person which includes game ticket and a pregame picnic of breaded chicken breast, hamburgers, mac & cheese, cookies and drinks from 6 to 7:30 pm. Sign-up sheet is posted on the double doors at the back of the sanctuary. Payment is cash or check ONLY. Checks must be made out to St. Paul's. Sign up and payment deadline is June 1st. All payments should be put in Dale Kerber's mail box.





LWML Ohio District Mite Report Update

The LWML Ohio District ended its fiscal biennium (April, 2022 - March, 2024) on March 31. A total of \$165,467.06 was given to God's glory to support the mission work of the LWML. While this amount fell short of the budgeted \$190,000 - it should be noted that all district grants were paid in full. A new mission budget and mission grants will be voted on at the June district convention. May God bless your prayerful mite giving.

Our Shepherd Annual Golf Classic

The annual golf outing fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, June 29, 2024. Registration forms and information should be available at your church, at the school and on the school website - www.oslpainesville.org, if you would like to golf in the event. If you are not a golfer we invite congregation members to be a sponsor or make any monetary donation to offset the cost of outing (marked envelopes have been provided). This is the only major fundraiser of the year for Our Shepherd. We are raising money for updated wifi and chromebooks for the school. We thank you for your prayers and support. For questions or more information email jdrake@oslpainesville.org.



Local Summer VBS Programs

Zion Lutheran Church, Painesville—June 17—21. Theme: God's Living Water. To register go to <https://www.zionpainesville.com/vbs-volunteer-sign-up.html>.

Faith Lutheran Church, Mentor—July 29—August 3. To register go to <https://www.faithmentor.org/>



April Meeting Notes

- 1) Pastor's Report: Pastor reported making 14 calls, 2 shut-in visits, preformed 2 baptisms, and there will be 1 confirmation on May 11/12. He noted attendance for Lent and Easter services were up this year, and floated the idea of some noon Lenten services.
- 2) President's report: Dennis reported he is still tracking down 1 old insurance policy. LWML will have our grant request on the ballot at June Convention but has lowered the figure from \$2500 to 2000, and has suggested we send in photos of the church as part of a power point presentation (Kelly Hines has put this together-THANKS). He also reported Spectrum has added a \$5/month fee to our 2 business lines and business internet (now \$174.97/month, and AT&T has increased our FAX and primary security lines by \$3/month.
- 3) Vice President's report: Eric reported he has posted council positions & duties for May's Annual Meeting and will seek nominees.
- 4) Treasurer's Report: Russ reported our financial position remains strong.
- 5) Education Report: Erin reported Sunday school & Adult Bible study continues to meet and attendance remains steady at 22.
- 6) Preschool report: Star reported that a District team will visit the Preschool May 20-22 as part of NLSA accreditation, and that enrollment for 2024-25 has begun. Amy is working on details(size, fencing, equipment wanted) for Learning Center.
- 7) Elders' report: Dale presented copy a revised letter for delinquent members that council members approved.
- 8) Stewardship report: Kristi reported 19 shawls were presented to Little Girls' Wishes & Butterfly Kisses and were greatly appreciated.
- 9) Financial Secretary report: Jenn said she post a notice for needed counters in the bulletin as several months need helpers.
- 10) Outreach Report: Ken reported a successful Easter Breakfast and thanked all who helped (nearly 40 attended), candy-filled eggs were provided for Preschool's Easter Egg Hunt on March 21, Open House will be Aug. 17 to coincide with Preschool registration, and a THANK YOU to Star & Kelly for work on improving website and brochures and flyers. Trunk-or-Treat will be Oct. 20.
- 11) Buildings & Grounds report: Craig reported 2 broken windows have been replaced, several light bulbs replaced, several minor toilet issues addressed, mowers inspected and tuned up, replaced battery in Room 3/4 thermostat, and ongoing issues at parsonage continue. He received quotes for installation of a backflow preventer and expansion tanks for water supply to church and parsonage. After discussion, Eric made a motion to accept bid from Mr. Plumber to do installation work for \$1147. Ken 2nd. Motion

APRIL MEETING NOTES continued

passed. Spring Clean-up planned for Saturday, May 4.

- 12) Contribution Secretary Report: Billie reported March's offerings (5 weeks, Lent & aster) were \$19,817 vs. \$15,043.50 in 2023 (4 weeks & Lent), and the number of weekly contributors averaged 32 this year vs. 26 in 2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Alarm System: Dennis and Craig reported fixes to wiring improved issues.
- 2) Pastor reported that District office will meet this month to review By-Law and Constitution changes.
- 3) Safety/Security Team: Dennis and Eric reported progress on survey items. Dennis noted additional fire extinguishers were needed. Team is looking unto providing security kits (flash lights, sashes, walkie-talkie), and purchasing security cameras for outside entry areas.
- 4) Business credit card & Amazon business accounts: Star is meeting with PNC & Fifth Third banks about business cards; no updates on Amazon card.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Altar candles: Battery-operated candles have been purchased to replace small altar candles to compare their costs and ease of refilling existing candles.
- 2) Additional fire extinguishers: Dennis recommended the purchase of one 5lb. and two 2.5lb. He contacted Gene Ptacek & Son for pricing (\$329) and Amazon (1/2 as much). After discussion, Eric made a motion to purchase 3 fire extinguishers from Amazon at cost not to exceed \$150, Craig 2nd. Motion passed.
- 3) Preschool hallway painting: Ken proposed sprucing up Preschool entry hallway. Ken, Terry, and Amy will look into details.
- 4) Annual Meeting: Sunday, May 19 @ 10:45am. Reports, election of officers, and approving budget.
- 5) Church Picnic: Sunday, August 11, 12-4pm @ Townline Park, North Perry.
- 6) Jenn reported OSLS has hired a teacher to fill a vacancy, and is still searching for a principal.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 1 @ 6:30pm.





From the Preschool

NSLA School Accreditation Visit

The NSLA (National Lutheran School Accreditation) visit is complete. After the three-day review, St. Paul's is recommended for accreditation! The preschool received a 94.33%. They are one of four free standing preschools in Ohio that maintains its accreditation. The preschool will be making an action plan to implement the recommended changes.



St. Paul's Preschool Job Opportunity

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

St. Paul's Preschool is accepting resumes for anyone interested in working in our preschool program. We are interviewing candidates for assistant teachers. The opportunity is part time and preschool experience is preferred but not required. If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact our Preschool Director, Amy Marizek at preschool@splcpainesville.org or (440)354-3000.

2024-2025 Preschool Registration

Registration for St. Paul's Preschool 2024-2025 is now open. If you are interested in your child attending St. Paul's Preschool in the fall please pick up a registration form located at the back of the sanctuary next to the double doors. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Marizek at 440-354-3000. If you know someone who has a preschool aged child please pass a registration form on to them.



May Birthdays

Jensen Rossi	May 4	Frank McVan	May 19
Keith Krueger	May 5	Pat Shutic	May 19v
Laura Vosicky	May 7	Eric Drake	May 21
Matthew West	May 8	Audrey Stegh	May 25
Diane Wayner	May 9	Heather Bennington	May 29
Laura Harris	May 17	Dave Murphy	May 29
Scott Shaw	May 17	Jeff Salminen	May 31
Kaylee Szoradi	May 17		



May Anniversaries

Craig and Kristi McConnell	34 years on May 19
Dale and Judith Kerver	48 years on May 22

Altar Flowers

Is there a date or event you would like to celebrate or a special someone you would like to honor or remember. Donating altar flowers is a great way to do that! All you have to do is sign up next to the appropriate weekend on the altar chart, add the occasion or person and who the flowers are from. Be sure to print clearly. The Altar Flower Chart is posted on the double doors at the back of the sanctuary. Altar flowers are \$40.00. The cash or check can be placed in an envelope labeled “Altar Flowers” with the date of the weekend and placed in the collection plate.



Those Who Serve: May 2024

ELDERS:

6:00 P Saturday Dale Kerver
9:30 A Sunday Rich Szoradi

COUNTERS:

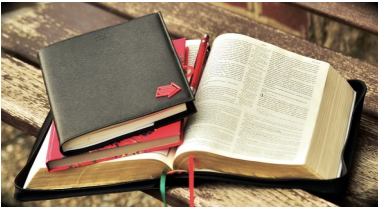
Tom Cardina, Craig McConnell.
Kristy McConnell

LECTORS:

05-04-24	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
05-05-24	9:30 A	Sunday	Eric West
05-11-24	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
05-12-24	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Wakelee
05-18-24	6:00 P	Saturday	Dave Murphy
05-19-24	9:30 A	Sunday	Jennifer Drake
05-25-24	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
05-26-24	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell

SIGN UP IN MAY TO GREET
YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLES.

Sign-up sheet located on the
double doors at the back of the
Sanctuary.



Scripture Readings for May

May 4/5

Acts 10:34-48
1 John 5:1-8
John 15:9-17

May 11/12

Acts 1:1-26
1 John 5:9-15
John 17:11-19

May 18/19 [Pentecost]

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4-15

May 25/26 [Trinity]

Isaiah 6:1-8
Acts 2:14, 22-36
John 3:1-17

May Word Search-It Happens in May

I	L	A	D	Y	B	U	G	D	C	E	R	R	T
G	M	P	M	U	I	N	A	R	E	G	G	E	R
N	O	A	P	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	E	A
I	T	N	E	A	L	Y	P	P	I	L	M	N	E
L	H	S	O	K	S	U	B	T	G	E	C	A	H
L	E	Y	N	L	W	Q	N	U	M	S	I	A	G
I	R	A	Y	S	A	A	U	O	C	R	E	N	N
T	S	A	A	L	L	O	R	E	E	K	U	L	I
O	D	L	B	P	A	I	N	T	E	I	E	N	D
T	A	I	Q	S	A	A	S	E	I	M	I	Y	E
O	Y	R	E	L	L	I	P	R	E	T	A	C	E
R	N	R	D	O	W	N	R	N	D	N	D	M	L
T	O	A	B	L	O	S	S	O	M	S	R	G	B
I	Y	C	A	L	I	L	O	I	I	B	G	O	M

BLEEDING HEART
PEONY
LILAC
BUCKEYE
SUNSHINE
WISTERIA
PLANTING
MOTHERS DAY
BLOSSOMS
ROTOTILLING
LADYBUG
CATERPILLER
PANSY
PASQUE
MEMORIAL DAY
GERANIUM

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6967634/>

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Preschool

250 Bowhall Road Painesville, OH 44077

(440)354-3000 | www.splcpainesville.org | office@splcpainesville.org

Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor
Matt Chaffe, Organist
Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

Worship Services

Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:30 am

Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 10:45 am
Children 10:45 am

St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director
preschool@splcpainesville.org
www.stpaulspainesville.com

Also Supporting



May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>  COMMUNION SERVICE </div> <div> WORSHIP SCHEDULE Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am </div>			1 6:30 pm Council Meeting	2 6:30 pm Preschool—Mom and Me	3	4
May Birthstone Emerald	May Flower Lily of the Valley					
5 	6	7 Preschool Chapel 1:00 Confirmation Class	8 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	9  6:30 pm Outreach Meeting	10	11 
12 	13	14 9:30 am Circuit Meeting	15 6:30 pm Elder's Meeting 6:30 pm Safety Committee	16 Last Day of Preschool and Closing Program	17 June Newsletter Articles and Announcements Due	18
19  10:30 am Congregational Meeting	20	21	22 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	23	24	25 
26 	27 Church Office Closed 	28	29	30	31 1:00 pm Food and Fellowship Lunch	<div>Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm</div> <div>Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays</div>