



13 Years?!

February 12, 2012. That was Installation Day for me here. I still have a photo from that day in the office. That guy looks different than the one typing these words now. His hair was still pretty dark, a little gray on the sides. He had 3 kids who were not as tall or taller than him. He has a smile that was fitting for an exciting day. The person typing right now is a lot grayer. He looks at, or up to, his kids now. He's smiling for a different reason. He knows these 13 years here in Painesville have changed him for the better

The good news is that those 13 years still don't seem long. I still look at it like, "Really? I've been here 13 years? Doesn't seem like it." Have we been through things together? We sure have; good and difficult. From getting to know each other in the beginning, to working through difficult but necessary personal things, to now seeing growth in attendance. One of the most meaningful things to me was how you stuck with me, came alongside me, during the hard times. It allowed me to be shaped by God into the person I am now. Seems that He knows where we need to be and who needs to be near us all the time.

What does God have in store for the future? I don't know for sure. Sometimes I wish I knew, but that's part of the human experience. And more importantly, that's what faith is. The assurance, the confidence of hoped for things, the conviction, the evidence of things not being seen. St. Paul's is hoping that there will be a smooth, somewhat quick transition to the next shepherd God has lined up. You are convicted that God is in control in the upcoming times of uncertainty. That's ultimately the wisdom to leave with you. This is God's Church. You are God's people, always have been, always will be. Walking by faith is

what is called for in this time. Yes, it does bring with it some worry, anxiety, and trepidation. Don't be afraid to walk confidently by faith, not always by sight. Keep the prayer rising. Be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and the sometimes still, small voice of God. He has given you the great gift of faith, an assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen. He's got this, He's got you. Always has, always will.

In Christ

Pastor Sundbom

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Substitutionary Atonement: We only live because He died

By Joshua Hayes

About a year ago my family decided to raise a few sheep for fun and to teach our kids more about God's creation. Since we live in rural Kansas, this was an easy undertaking, and we figured that it would help our kids gain a practical knowledge of where food comes from.

I was caught off-guard, however, after our first harvest last fall. As we were enjoying a tasty lamb stew, my then three-year-old son looked up from the table and asked, "Why did we have to kill the lamb?" In a rare moment of clarity, I somehow managed to answer: "Because we only live if something else dies for us. All food that we eat died for us so that we can live. That's why we thank God for it." My older children jumped on the obvious connection: "Just like Jesus, the Lamb of God." "Yes," I said, "just like Jesus."

Food from God

You see, food doesn't come from the store. It comes from life in the fields and forests. It doesn't come from us. It comes from God, the author of life: "Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture" (Psalm 100:3, NKJV). The more disconnected we are from the source of the food we eat, the more prone we are to forget to thank God for the plant and animal life He creates so that we may eat it and live.

Not everyone can or needs to raise their own food. For Christians, even more important than remembering the source of our daily bread is remembering the source of our eternal life. After all, we only live because Jesus, the Lamb of God, died for us (John 6:53-54): "So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day'" (John 6:53-54).

Substitutionary atonement

Again, you don't have to raise your own food to know what Christ has done for you on the cross. The Bible teaches that Jesus is our substitute and Savior. In fact, God has taught this from the beginning. When Ad-

SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT: WE ONLY LIVE BECAUSE HE DIED *continued*

am and Eve sinned, God instituted the sacrifices by clothing our first parents with skins (Gen. 3:21). Imagine the horror when Adam and Eve first saw the blood and death that their sin had brought into the world. God killed so that they could live and be clothed.

When Abraham went to sacrifice his son Isaac, God substituted a ram (Gen. 22:13). When the Lord later visited Egypt in judgment, He substituted the blood of the Passover lamb for the lives of His people.

Numbers 8 teaches that all the firstborn belong to God because of this Passover, but that God selected the Levites to substitute for them in serving at the tabernacle. The Levites and priests were responsible for placing the sins of Israel on the sacrificial animals that were brought to the temple. All of this substituting and sacrificing for sin pointed forward to Christ, who took our sins and died once for all so that we can live.

We call this the doctrine of substitutionary (or vicarious) atonement. It means that Jesus died in our place so that we can live. He took our sins, and we are clothed with His righteousness.

Not just a theory

Some people still struggle to understand why Jesus had to die for us. In fact, many liberal theologians reject the Bible's teaching of substitutionary atonement. They dismiss the truth that God had to die in our place for our sins, calling it a "theory." Don't fall for that trick. The cross of Christ is no theory.

It is one thing to have a theory about where food comes from. We all understand theoretically where food comes from. People eat chicken day even if they have never seen one before. It is another thing to raise an animal and take its life for yours. Then the connection of one life being substituted for another quickly becomes more than theoretical. We realize our great need for life. When Christians see the cross, we know where our salvation comes from. Without sacrifice, we cannot go on living, even as "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Heb. 9:22).

And so, when we ponder the mystery of the cross upon which the Lamb was slain on that Good Friday so long ago, we should ask that simple question. We should ask, "Why did God have to kill His Son? Why did the Lamb have to die?" Answer: To substitute for me. My sins put Him there. In order to live, I need a substitute. Indeed, to live eternally, I need an eternal substitute: "He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption" (Heb. 9:12).

Photo: LCMS Communications/Erik M. Lunsford

About The Author

[Joshua Hayes](#)

The Rev. Joshua Hayes serves as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Palmer, Kansas.

Hayes, Joshua., (2023, April 4). Substitutionary Atonement: We only live because He died. *The Lutheran Witness-Articles*.
<https://witness.lcms.org/2023/substitutionary-atonement-we-only-live-because-he-died/>



LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

Life Quotes for May

May 4 “By the washing of water, John made God’s divine intentions clear. Jesus was our brother indeed, on a heavenly mission to rescue and purify us from all sin. Dear Lord, keep us patient as we wait for You. Amen.” *Rev. Paul Koelpin, Martin Luther College – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 11 “As Christians, we know that God’s commitment to upholding life started long ago—before photos—before the beginning of time even. From His ordered creation of the world to His ordered creation of you in your mother’s womb, God’s work has always been life-affirming. Grafted into His family through Baptism, we have become children of God and inheritors of eternal life.” *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 18 “Live abundantly, friends, graduates, loved ones, and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ! Know who you are and to whom you belong.” *Deaconess Janet Nicol, Word of Hope – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 25 “We rightly honor our dead who are near to us in time, realizing this is but a passing phase of memory, that in another already-determined Time, all the graves shall be opened, and all shall rise to meet the Judge of the Living and the Dead, whose Kingdom shall have no end. Memory eternal.” *James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Announcements

Lunch for Pastor on Sunday May 4th, 12:30 pm.



Please join us for lunch and fellowship as we show our gratitude to Pastor Paul Sundbom for the 13 years he led our services. We also wish him well as he accepted the call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Wausau, WI to be their Associate Pastor. His last day with us will be on May 18th, the same day as the church's annual meeting. On the 18th there will also be cake and punch to celebrate Pastor's new calling.

For the May 4th lunch, pasta and pizza will be provided. You are welcome to bring a side dish or dessert to share. On Sunday April 27th a signup sheet will be at the back of the sanctuary so we can see what everyone is bringing.

Annual Congregational Meeting Open Positions

Please reserve time on May 18 at 10:45am to attend the St. Paul's Annual Congregational Meeting. Also, please prayerfully consider running for a position on the Church Council. The following positions are up for election this May:

- President
- Contribution Secretary
- Building & Grounds Chairperson
- Vice-President
- Outreach Chairperson
- 3-Preschool board members.



We also need for someone to accept the preschool board's appointment for Treasurer. Karen Kruger is planning to retire in June of 2026. Complete job descriptions are available for your review with no obligation. If you would like to be a nominee or would like more information, contact Eric Drake, Dennis Concoby or any of the current Council members. It would be a blessing if we could have multiple nominees for each of the positions and then we could have a real election.

Pastoral Call Committee



Another Opportunity to Serve

With Pastor Sundbom accepting a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Wisconsin, we now must begin our own call process to discern God's will for St. Paul's in selecting our next Pastor. There are several steps in this process that must be completed before we can even issue a call. Our bylaws state that we can have up to

eleven members appointed as a call committee. If you feel led to participate in this crucial mission, please contact Dale Kerver or Dennis Concoby as soon as possible.

Women's Bible Study



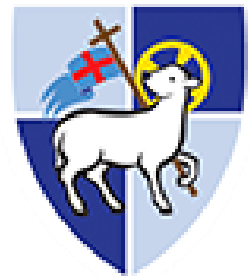
The Lutheran Women In Mission (LWML) Bible study will wrap up for the summer on May 28, 2025. The last 2 sessions of the season are **Wednesday May 7 and May 28 at 6:30pm**. All women of the congregation are invited to join us as we study God's Word. The Bible studies are found in the Spring 2025 issue of the LWML Quarterly (copies are available on the table by the Friendship Circle board). Bring a Bible and join in fellow-

ship with your sisters in Christ. Any questions, contact Erin Cardina at e.l.cardina@gmail.com.

New Look for OSLS Newsletter!

There is a new look for Our Shepherd's newsletter, the Shepherd's Staff. As you open the link, you may notice a few changes – the format has been updated to make it even more user-friendly and visually engaging. Our Shepherd hopes you enjoy the new look and find it helpful! You can read the latest version here

<https://www.oslpainesville.org/osl/news/shepherdstaff.php>



Chicken Parmesan Fundraiser Dinner



You are invited to a Chicken Parmesan dinner at Bethel Lutheran Church, 32410 Willowick Drive, Willowick, Saturday, May 3rd at 6:00pm. This fundraiser is being held to offer financial and emotional support for the congregation's Vice President, Steve Risher, who recently underwent open heart surgery. He has been out of work for an extended period and is on an unpaid leave of absence. 100 tickets will be available. The cost is \$20.00 per adult. The adult meal includes chicken parmesan, pasta with sauce, salad, bread & butter, assorted desserts and beverages. Children under 12 are \$10.00 and the meal does not include the chicken parmesan. To purchase tickets, please call Georgann Beaumont at 216-299-9465.



April Meeting Notes

Reports

Pastor's Report. (Pastor)

1. Shut-in visits = 4; Contacts = 21
2. District convention update – credentialing and registration complete. Assessment will be \$2.05 per communicant member.

President's Report. (Dennis Concoby)

1. Prices for AT&T and Spectrum increased. Total cost is \$245/mo.
2. Kujala's home was taken off the market for a bit and some improvements were made. It will go back on the market 3/28.
3. No volunteers for video ministry. Recommend tabling it for now. Perhaps look for a video camera for special occasions.
4. May congregational meeting. Will need to fill open council positions and we also need to fill preschool treasurer position. See New Business.
5. Electricity usage commiserates with previous year.

Vice President's Report. (Eric Drake)

Treasurer's Report. (Russ Walton)

1. Financials were provided for February 2025.
2. Collections are up \$4,000 over last year. Overall expenses are slightly higher. Maintenance, copier and snow removal are lower. Overall we are positive \$3,647.

Education Report. (Jenn Drake)

1. Attendance is steady in the classes

Preschool Report. (Starshine Graziadei)

1. 10 new families. 34 students for 2025-2026.
2. Many families mentioned the outdoor classroom.
3. Next meeting in late April.
4. Working through NLSA action items.

Elder's Report. (Dale Kerver)

1. All elders have taken training to lead worship service.

Stewardship Report. (Diane Wayner)

1. Bowling was a success.
 2. Greeter sign up posted.
 3. Planning putt-putt event for summer.
 4. Friday lunches continue, 8-14 people attend.
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APTIL MEETING NOTES continued

Financial Secretary's Report. (Terry Wakelee)

1. Looking for counters for the summer months.

Outreach Report. (Ken Chaffe)

1. Next meeting April 23
2. Not planning to continue in role next year.
3. Will continue to support Open House and Trunk or Treat events.
4. Advertising options to be discussed in new business.

Building & Grounds Report. (Craig McConnell)

1. Some lights and a faucet replaced

Contribution Secretary's Report. (Billie Lelle)

1. March contributions are higher than in previous years; however, much of the increase is due to 3 events: money came in to correct an erroneous payment (refund from CPH out to CHP), receipts from the February bowling event, and a refund from AEP Energy.
2. Bible Buddy giving reported to Pastor and Karen Krueger, Preschool Treasurer.

Old Business

1. Alarm system phone line issues-no reported issues this month.
2. Parsonage fence repairs pending.
3. Sale of Ed Kujala's house. See President's report.
4. Potential for Armor Security taking over our Fire/Safety monitoring & Service. See New Business.
5. WEB analytics usage – Will work on new church site and getting a new host
6. Video recording of services-no volunteers. See President's report. Topic tabled.

New Business

1. Outreach proposal for billboards. Discussed billboard options, as well as online newsletters and in-person opportunities (such as Party in the Park). Tabled discussion until next meeting.
2. There is no line item in the 2024-2025 budget for Outreach. Look into adding to next year's budget.
3. Change of supplier for fire and security system. Received proposal from Visual Armor. There is a potential savings of \$60/month if the fax line can be disconnected. This would no longer be necessary for the security system. Star will talk to the Preschool board and staff to determine if the fax line is needed for preschool purposes. Gilmour contract ends in June. Tabled discussion until next meeting.
4. Elections/Results of Time and Talents survey. Council members will review survey results and look for members that showed interest in serving on council.

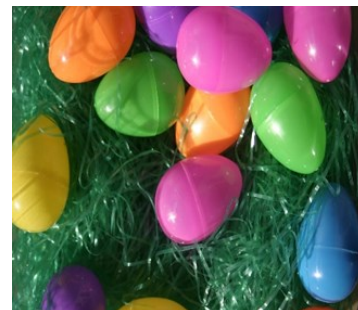
Next meeting: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 @ 6:30pm



From the Preschool

Preschool Easter Thank You

St. Paul's Preschool would like to thank the outreach committee for all of the eggs for our egg hunt. The children loved hiding eggs and finding eggs. Thank you for providing such a special treat to all the children in our program. We appreciate all of your continued support.



PRESCHOOL



Registration

2025-2026 Preschool Registration

Registration for the 2025-2026 at St. Paul's Preschool is now open and classes are getting full. If you are interested in your child attending St. Paul's Preschool in the fall please pick up a registration form located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. 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

Keith Krueger	May 05	Kaylee Szoradi	May 17
Laura Vosicky	May 07	Frank McVan	May 19
Matthew West	May 08	Eric Drake	May 21
Diane Wayner	May 09	Dave Murphy	May 29
Laura Harris	May 17	Jeff Salminen	May 31
Scott Shaw	May 17		



May Anniversaries

Craig and Kristi McConnell	35 years on May 19
Dale and Judy Kerver	49 years on May 22
Steve and Sue Snodgrass	53 years on May 27



Altar Flowers



A great way to remember any occasion is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart is located on the double doors at the back of the Sanctuary. Just sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Clearly print the occasion being remembered, who the flowers are for and who they're from. Altar flowers are \$40.00. Please place the monies in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" with the date of the weekend and put it in the collection plate.



Those Who Serve: May 2025

ELDERS:

6:00 P Saturday Dale Kerver
9:30 A Sunday Craig McConnell

COUNTERS:

Tom Cardina

LECTORS:

05-03-25	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
05-04-25	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Wakelee
05-10-25	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
05-11-25	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell
05-17-25	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
05-18-25	9:30 A	Sunday	Jenn Drake
05-04-25	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
05-25-25	9:30 A	Sunday	Jack Lelle
05-31-25	6:00 P	Saturday	Dave Murphy
06-01-25	9:30 A	Sunday	Eric West



Scripture Readings for May

May 3/4

Acts 9:1-22
Revelation 5:1-14
John 21:1-19

May 10/11

Acts 20:17-35
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-33

May 24/25

Acts 16:9-15
Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27
John 16:23-33

May 17/18

Acts 11:1-18
Revelation 21:1-7
John 16:12-22

May 31/Jun 1

Acts 1:1-26
Revelation 22:1-20
John 17:20-26





May Word Search—Ohio Flowering Trees

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

MAGNOLIA
IVORY SILK LILAC
BOXELDER
LIMELIGHT
ELBERTA PEACH
SERVICEBERRY
SASSAFRAS
OHIO BUCKEYE
PAWPAW
KWANZA CHERRY
SHADEBUSH
BLACK CHERRY
APPLE
HAWTHORN
DOGWOOD
TULIP POPLAR

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/8305018/>

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

"I was glad when they said to me 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'" Psalm 122:1

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



St. Paul's Preschool



A Great Place To Grow

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>COMMUNION SERVICE</p>		<p>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</p> <p>Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am</p>		<p>1</p>  <p><i>May Day</i></p>	2	3 Kentucky Derby
May Birthstone Emerald	May Flowers Lily of the Valley & Hawthorn		<p>Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays</p>			
4 Star Wars Day	5 	6	7 6:30 pm Council Meeting	8 Preschool Chapel 6:30 pm Preschool Mom and Me	9	10 
11 	12	13 9:30 am Circuit Meeting	14 6:30 pm Elder's Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	15 Preschool-Last Day & Closing Program	16 May Newsletter Articles and Announcements Due	17 
18 	19	20 National Dog Rescue Day	21	22	23 World Turtle Day	24
25	26  Church Office Closed	27	28 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	29  Ascension of Our Lord	30	31