



Easter: Church Vs. The World

If ever there is a moment or event that can be used to contrast the world with the Church, this is one. What does the world do on & around Easter? What does the Church do on & around Easter? There are places, churches included, that have large community egg hunts. Watch ads on television and somewhere a bunny shows up [or things trying to look like the Cadbury Bunny]. Easter ushers in some new spring fashions. It might provide a chance for family to share a meal. Of what lasting value is any of these things?

Easter is foremost, chiefly about the Gospel, is it not? The death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ is indeed the heart of the Gospel. That is entirely what the Church celebrates on & around Easter. Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia! The cross is empty, He does not hang there any longer. The tomb is empty. He is not there, He is risen just as He said.

Not only will we once again celebrate Easter and the Good News, but we have opportunity to continually tell a world focused on eggs, bunnies, and fashion that Christ died and rose again for all people of the world. Not everyone in the world will want to hear of a suffering Savior. Not all will believe He died to save them from their sins. Many in the world would never see themselves as sinners in need of a Savior. None of this changed the love of the Father. He was willing to sacrifice His one and only Son so the people he created and loved could live with Him forever. He always desires all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

In the world, who do you know can make a difference in your life? I guess the world and the Church are similar in that respect. It is all about who you know. Do you know the One true God? Do you know the Father who loves and who created you? Do you know the Son who willingly, obediently offered his perfect life for your sins, and who rose victoriously to defeat your greatest enemies? Do you know the Holy Spirit who lives and works inside of you daily? Let these days of the Easter season be a reminder to you to celebrate the resurrection all year. Let it be a spark to talk about Gospel. Let it be the reason for the things you do and say. Let the joy of Easter remain all your days.

In Christ

Pastor Sundbom

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:2

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This Is the Night

By Geoff Boyle

The fire flickers in the courtyard near the newly budding redbud and beside an old, steel cross. One of the acolytes tends the flame, another adds a scoop of frankincense to the censor, and the rest stand erect, bearing their torches, waiting for the folks to gather around the newly lit flame. “This is the night.”

We need nights like this — nights that bounce from darkness to light, from death to life, from old to new and perishable to the imperishable. We need mystery and proclamation, the hearing of where we’ve been and the declaration of who we are now and what we shall be. “Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death into life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word and celebrating His Sacraments, we share in His victory over death” ([Lutheran Service Book: Altar Book](#), 531).

The Easter Vigil service is truly unique. There’s nothing quite like it. The drama, the chanting, the candles, the fire — it’s a ritualist’s dream and one of the few services that captures the attention of our teenagers with their screen-induced stupor. Sadly, though, it has largely fallen from custom. What was once the primary service of the whole year now rarely interferes with our busy, Saturday schedules. Dear saints of God, “let our hearts be kindled with the fire of divine love and keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with Him, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end!”

The Service of Light

“Vigil” means “keeping watch” or “staying awake.” Traditionally, an all-night prayer service accompanied a major feast or festival (like Christmas Eve services). Time and eternity hold together in the vigil, connecting the past with what’s to come. In the case of the Easter Vigil, the [Lenten journey to Passiontide and the sacred Triduum](#) culminates in the resurrection of Christ, peered into first while keeping watch at night. And it was at night that the early Christians gathered, “while it was still dark” (John 20:1), full of expectation for Christ’s return. This movement from darkness to light finds cosmic fulfillment in the death and resurrection of Jesus. In Him, the darkness that once filled our heart is now scattered, and the true light raises our hearts to Him. And at the Easter Vigil, the lighting of the [paschal candle](#) from the new flame symbolizes this shift, accompanied by the pastor’s stole, changing from violet to white.

THIS IS THE NIGHT *continued*

Then, the paschal candle leads the procession into the sanctuary, followed by all the faithful bearing their lights. We hear proclaimed three times, “The light of Christ” — symbolically portrayed by the candle’s entrance into the sanctuary of God — to which we joyfully respond, “Thanks be to God.” Thanksgiving and joy fill the sanctuary, a fitting praise for the God who is with us, again, risen from the dead. The *Exsultet* (Easter Proclamation) calls heaven and earth to rejoice at the light come upon them. The ancient darkness has been forever banished and the church of God is clothed in the brightness of His light. This is the night.

But which night? It’s the night of our Lord’s resurrection, to be sure. But that night — the night of all nights — is also the night of the exodus. This is the night when the Lord brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground. This is the night when the type gives way to the reality, the old to the new, the perishable to the imperishable and the mortal to immortality. This is the night when we, too, are risen from the dead, delivered from the bondage of sin and restored to life and immortality. Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is His mercy toward us. To redeem a slave, He gave His Son. He put wickedness to flight and washed away sin and restored innocence to the fallen and joy to the downcast. Dear saints, how blessed is the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ.

The Readings

To understand the fullness of this night — past, present and future — we turn back once more for just a bit. The Lenten posture resumes, purple dons the pastor and the Old Testament stories of salvation fill our ears with hope. These shadows and types have done their work. They’ve prepared the way of the Lord. From creation to the flood, the testing of Abraham to the deliverance at the Red Sea, the prophetic word makes even more sure this night — a night of Jonah’s true expulsion from the fish and Ezekiel’s rattling dry bones, crowned by the story and song of the three young men, delivered from the fiery furnace by one whose appearance is like that of a son of God. The Old Testament preaches Christ the crucified. And it’s these stories — stories of hope amid chaos — that give meaning to our proclamation, even as they acquire their substance from what came many years later. Nevertheless, the fitting response for all of creation to the Old Testament resurrection collage is to bless the Lord, praising Him and magnifying Him forever.

Service of Holy Baptism

But such praise is always embodied. It’s not just an idea or a word, but a life — a baptized life. So, on this holiest of nights, the whole church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead. And what goes for Jesus goes for all those baptized into Him: “Do you not know,” St. Paul says, “that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?” (Rom. 6:3). His death is our death; His resurrection raises us with Him. That’s why Baptism now saves you (1 Peter 3:21), because it assumes you into the life of Christ. And the Easter Vigil is, if nothing else, a baptismal service. Even when there are no catechumens eligible for Baptism, the congregation remembers her own and renews her renunciation of the dev-

THIS IS THE NIGHT *continued*

il, his works and his ways, along with her confession of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Service of Prayer

Dressed in white stole, hinting at the Easter character of the baptismal remembrance, the church then kneels for the litany of the resurrection — a litany recalling all that our Lord has done for us as the Paschal Lamb: destroying death by dying and by rising again, bringing life and immortality to light. Having rehearsed the narrative of that glorious third day and all that followed in its wake, the litany reaches its apex in the Easter acclamation. With words left unuttered for 40 days, they yet ring forth with unmatched joy: “Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!”

Service of the Word

At this point the lights, which had been candlelight alone or dimmed so as just to see what is needed, now come on full force. The bare altar, stripped on Maundy Thursday, now gets vested in gold for the Eucharistic feast. The hymn of praise resounds. And another service begins. The Gospel of our Lord's resurrection is read, while the ancient paschal homily of St. John Chrysostom proclaims the infinite mercy of our God, who is gracious and receives the last even as the first and who has become the firstfruits of all who sleep.

Service of the Sacrament

Finally, the church of God approaches the source and summit of all creation and redemption: the Sacrament of the Altar. Here is fulfilled what was proclaimed. Here the type gives way to reality, the shadow to the substance, the old to the new, and what was perishing to what remains forever. This is the night when heaven stoops to earth, for this is Christ. All that was stripped away for a time now returns — the alleluias and *Gloria Patri* ring out exuberantly. The Holy Communion is the end, the *telos*, but also the beginning, the *arche*. It is where we were always going, and at the same time, where we started.

The Easter Vigil dramatically symbolizes and delivers all that we believe, teach and confess. It is the resurrection. It is Baptism. It is the mystical union and life everlasting. Of course, so is every gathering of the faithful around Jesus. So, why the Easter Vigil? Because it is another opportunity to gather around Jesus and with Jesus. What sets it apart, perhaps, is the symbolic depth of its traditional rubrics. That is, there is a lot to see, taste, touch, smell and hear that all leads to the praise and glory of God and fills us with wonder. And whenever there is a chance to instill wonder and incite the imagination — especially of our children — toward what is true, good and beautiful, that is an opportunity not to be missed.

About The Author

[Geoff Boyle](#)

The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Boyle has served Grace and Trinity Lutheran Churches since 2010. He is undeservingly blessed by his wife, Nicole, and his five children.



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

Life Quotes for April

April 6 “Friend, you have a good word to speak to your neighbor. You have God’s Word of life to share—with your spouse, your children or grandchildren, your co-worker or friend. You can tell them that their life is sacred, a gift of God, and that their life matters to you.” *Rev. Robert Mohns, Lutheran Church–Canada – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

April 13 “Commit to seeking opportunities to be a light to those living in darkness. Do not place that responsibility on the full-time leaders of the Church. This is your mission in life. God has uniquely placed you in the exact situations, locations, and relationships to make the Light of the world visible and concrete. You are the look of Christ’s face. You are the tone of His voice. You are the touch of His hands. You are the physical representation of His light in a dark world (Ephesians 5:8). How bright will you shine this year?” *Paul David Tripp, author and speaker – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

April 20 “Perhaps as our culture seems to be increasingly more challenging, it may help to think of hope as the complete opposite of despair. Hope is not optional for the believer. Our hope is secure because, as we all say again, ‘Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!’” *John Stonestreet – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

April 27 “Knowing that God is always near as our Help moves us to reflect the Savior’s love in helping others. ‘Carry each other’s burdens’ (Galatians 6:2).” *Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



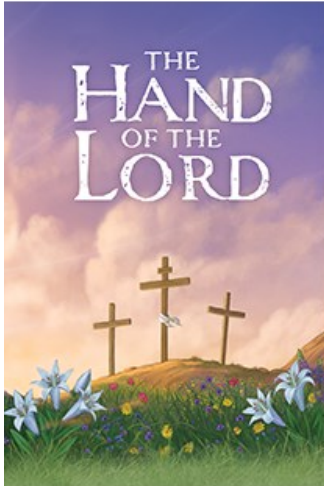
Announcements

2025 Lenten Schedule

The Lenten Season will soon be upon us. Join us on Wednesdays for our midweek Lenten services starting Ash Wednesday, March 5th, at 7:00 pm for the series:

“The Hands of the Lord”

Hands are used to heal, mend, build, teach, comfort, and so much more. Yet, as humans, our hands are sinful and unclean. Christ's hands are the ones that can transform our dirty, sinful hands into beautiful, clean ones for His plans. Spend this Lent exploring God's Word to see how His hands are used in both the New and Old Testaments, from creation to crucifixion and eternal life.



St. Paul's Midweek Lenten Schedule

Midweek 5: Apr 2nd@ 7:00pm – “The Hand of the Lord Who Heals the Sick”
Mt 8:1-4, [5-17], Pastor Kevin Gyunn, Faith Mentor

Midweek 6: Apr 9th@ 7:00pm – “The Hand of the Lord Who Creates and Saves”
Mt 14:22-33, Pastor Paul Sundbom, St. Paul's Painesville

Maundy Thursday: Apr 17th@ 7:00pm – “The Hand of the Lord Who Serves and Feeds Us”
Jn 13:1-17, 31b-35 and 1 Cor 11:23-32, Pastor Paul Sundbom – Communion celebrated

Good Friday: Apr 18th@ 7:00pm – “The Hand of the Lord Who Was Pierced for Us”
Is 52:13-53:12, Pastor Paul Sundbom

Easter Vigil: Apr 19th@ 6:00pm – Pastor Paul Sundbom – Communion celebrated

Easter Sunday: Apr 20th@ 9:30am – “The Hand of the Lord Who Is Risen,”
Ps 16; Lk 24:1-12, Pastor Paul Sundbom – Communion celebrated

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday—Maundy Thursday—Good Friday—Easter Sunday

LWML Spring Rally

The Northeast Zone Spring Rally will be held on Saturday, April 26 at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2154 SOM Center Rd, Mayfield Heights. Coffee and fellowship begins at 9:30 AM followed by the rally at 10:00 AM. The theme for this years rally is “Faith, not sight”. In addition to the yearly business meeting, the rally will include a speaker from the Lutheran Braille Workers of Akron. A sign up sheet for the rally can be found on the Friendship Circle board. Please register by Sunday April 20 and indicate if you will need a ride. The cost is \$6 payable at the door. Billie Lelle will call in the final count of registrants planning to attend from St. Paul’s. More information can be found on the [LWMW Ohio District](#) web site



Northeast Zone
Ohio District

LWML Spring Rally Ingathering

Spring Rally Ingathering: Lutheran Braille Workers of Akron, Our Savior’s Food Pantry Ministry, Mites

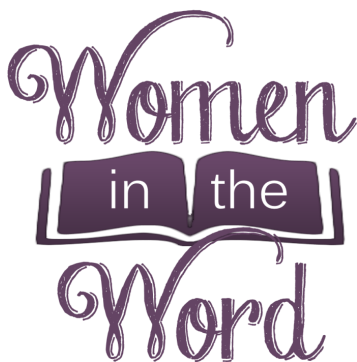
Lutheran Braille Workers of Akron

Monetary gifts

Our Savior’s Food Pantry Ministry

Items

Juice, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Fruit, Soup, Vegetables, Noodles/Rice, Protein—things like beans (not green beans but like black beans, garbanzo), Canned pasta (like spaghetti o’s, ravioli), Mac N’ Cheese, Tuna/Salmon/Chicken—that are in cans, Tomato Sauce, Cereal



Women’s Bible Study Resumes

Women’s Bible Study resumes on April 23 at 6:30.

All women of the congregation are invited to participate as we share God’s Word and uplift one another as Sisters in Christ. The studies come from the LWML Quarterly and all materials are provided.

Please consider this faith strengthening opportunity.

Would you like to try your hand at being a Greeter?



All you have to do is when you come to church, simply stand in the back of the church and shake hands and welcome our members and/or visitors before the worship service begins. It's that easy! Sign up for a week or a month...give it a try...you might like it!!! A sign-up sheet is in the back of the church. Thank you!

April - June 2025 Portals of Prayer Now Available

The April - June Portals of Prayer daily devotions is now available. Copies can be found at the back of the sanctuary by the double doors.



For the Hearing Impaired...

A new Telex SoundMate personal listening system is now available. If you have difficulty hearing or understanding the service or sermon, ask one of the ushers to provide you with an easy-to-use portable receiver to help overcome background noise and poor building acoustics that can make listening difficult.

April Food Bank Items

Zion Food Pantry is requesting, spaghetti Sauce, canned peaches, bar soap and pancake syrup. As always other items are appreciated. For those in need, the Food Bank is open on the last two Tuesdays of the month from 5:30—7:00pm. (April 22 & 29).



April is Blue Ribbon Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention month. Join the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services in making April a **Blue Ribbon Month**. This can be done by tying a blue ribbon on your car, wearing a blue wristband, wearing a blue ribbon pin, telling a friend about child abuse or becoming involved. Additionally, April 10 is Wear Blue to Work Day. Wearing blue to work will show your support for the prevention of child abuse.



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.



From the Preschool

PRESCHOOL



Registration

2025-2026 Preschool Registration

Registration for St. Paul's Preschool 2025-2026 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 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.

April Birthdays

Emma Randa	Apr 03
Charlotte West	Apr 07
Madeline West	Apr 11
Vicki Ulmann	Apr 16
Charlene Sullivan	Apr 17
Gayle Morgan	Apr 18
Riley Javins	Apr 26
Hudson Michalak	Apr 28

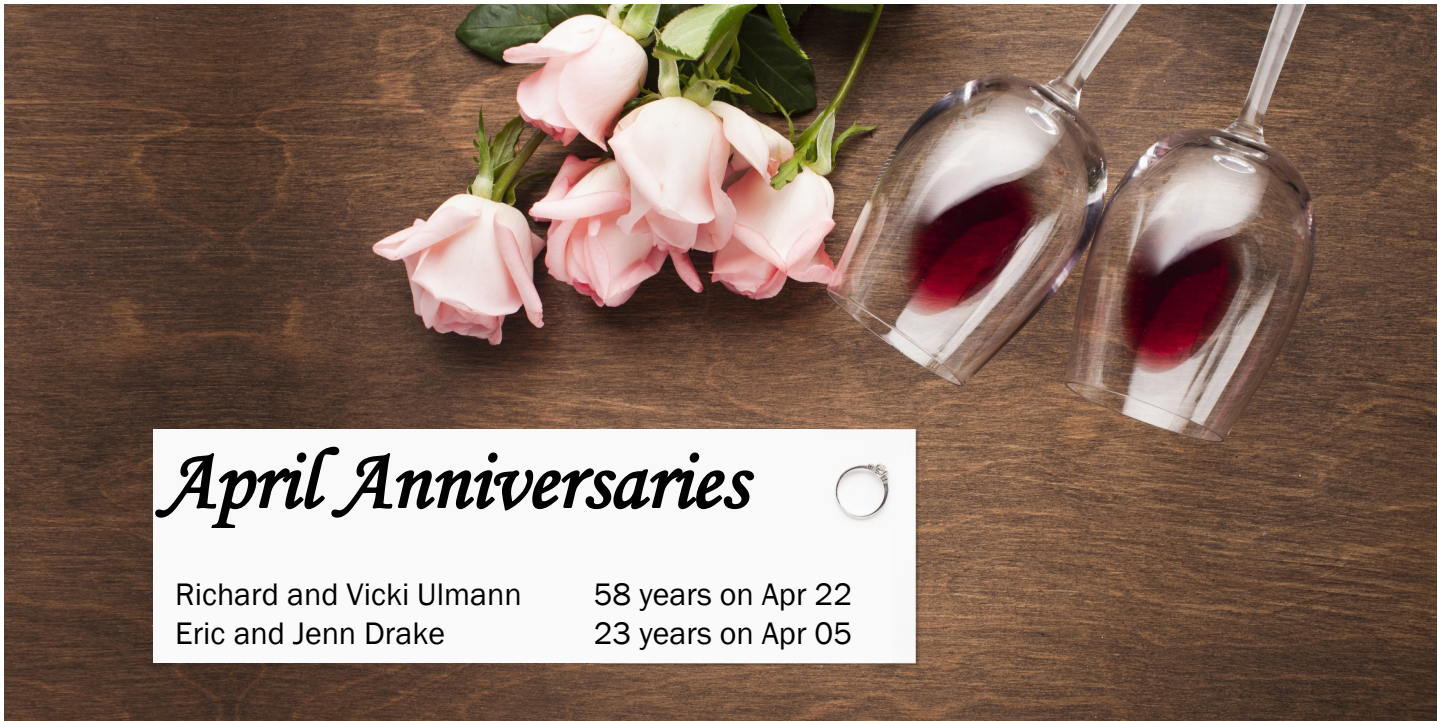


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April Anniversaries



Richard and Vicki Ulmann	58 years on Apr 22
Eric and Jenn Drake	23 years on Apr 05



Those Who Serve: April 2025

ELDERS:

6:00 P Saturday Aaron Lindrose
9:30 A Sunday Rich Szoradi

COUNTERS:

Terry Wakelee, Billie Lelle

LECTORS:

04-05-24	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
04-06-24	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Wakelee
04-12-24	6:00 P	Saturday	Dave Murphy
04-13-24	9:30 A	Palm Sunday	Eric West
04-17-24	7:00 P	Maundy Thursday	TBD
04-18-24	7:00 P	Good Friday	Pastor Sundbom
04-19-24	6:00 P	Easter Vigil	Pastor Sundbom
04-20-24	9:30 A	Easter Sunday	Dennis Concoby
04-26-24	6:00 P	Saturday	Dave Murphy
04-27-24	9:30 A	Sunday	Jack Lelle



Scripture Readings for April

April 5/6

Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:4-14
Luke 20:9-20

April 12/13

Zechariah 9:9-12
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 19:28-40

April 17 [Maundy Thursday]

Exodus 12:1-14
1 Corinthians 11:23-32
John 13:1-17, 31-35

April 18 [Good Friday]

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Luke 22:39-23:56

April 19 [Easter Vigil]

Exodus 14:10-15:1
Ezekiel 36:24-28
Zephaniah 3:12-20
John 20:1-18

April 20 [Easter Day]

Isaiah 65:17-25
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Luke 24:1-12

April 26/27

Acts 5:12-32
Revelation 1:4-18
John 20:19-31





April Word Search—Ohio Native Flowers

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

BEE BALM
SWAMP MALLOW
WOOD POPPY
GOLDENROD
FOAMFLOWER
HONEYSUCKLE
IRONWEED
PINK MANNERS
FRECKLES VIOLET
FALES INDIGO
MAY BREESE
CONE FLOWER
WILD GERANIUM

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/8225733/>

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St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Preschool
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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



Our Shepherd
LUTHERAN SCHOOL
A Great Place To Grow

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>April Birthstones Diamond & Crystal</p>	<p>Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays</p> <p>April Flowers Daisy & Sweet Pea</p>	<p>1 Preschool Spring Break Ends</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Lent 7:00 pm Midweek Worship Service</p>	<p>3 Preschool Chapel</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7 World Health Day</p>	<p>8 9:30 am Circuit Meeting—Holy Cross, Madison</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Lent 7:00 pm Midweek Worship Service</p>	<p>10 National Sibling Day</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> 
<p>13</p> 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> 	<p>16 6:30 pm Elder's Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>MAUNDY <i>Thursday</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Manudy Thursday Worship Service</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>7:00 pm Good Friday Service No Preschool- Easter Break</p>	<p>19</p>   <p><i>Easter Vigil</i></p>
<p>20</p>   <p><i>Easter Sunday</i></p> <p>Easter Sunday</p>	<p>21 Church Office Closed May Newsletter Announcements and Articles Due</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>EARTH DAY</p>	<p>23 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Outreach Meeting Preschool-Classes Resumes</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Arbor Day</p>	<p>26</p> 
<p>27</p> 	<p>28 National Superhero Day</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Denim Day</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px;">  <p>COMMUNION SERVICE</p> <p>WORSHIP SCHEDULE Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am</p> </div>		