



LCMS Family Ministry

Visit lcms.org/family to find free family devotional and prayer resources to help make devotions and prayer a family habit.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18.

Many Christians give something up during Lent as a reminder that Jesus gave up everything when He came down to earth to die and rise for us. Lent is a time where we remember our sin, repent and focus on Christ's suffering for us. In this time of reflection and repentance, instead of (or in addition to) giving something up, it can also be helpful to add something into our lives. These verses from 1 Thessalonians tell us to “pray without ceasing” and to “give thanks in all circumstances.” One habit that could be helpful to focus on is prayer. As a family, you can start developing this habit by finding times to pray together such as before meals, before bed or whenever works best in your family's routine.

LCMS Stewardship

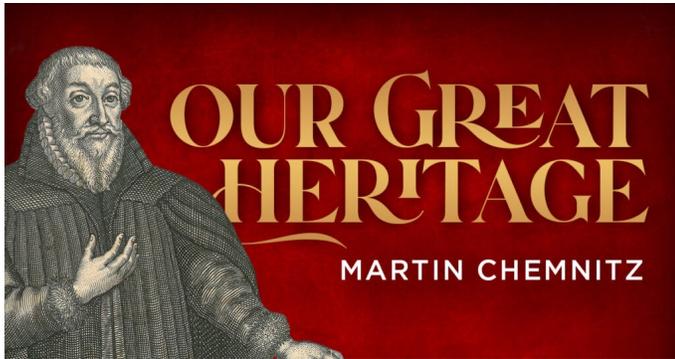
As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use *LSB 785 “We Praise You, O God.”*

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*We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.
We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.*

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!



Our Great Heritage: Martin Chemnitz

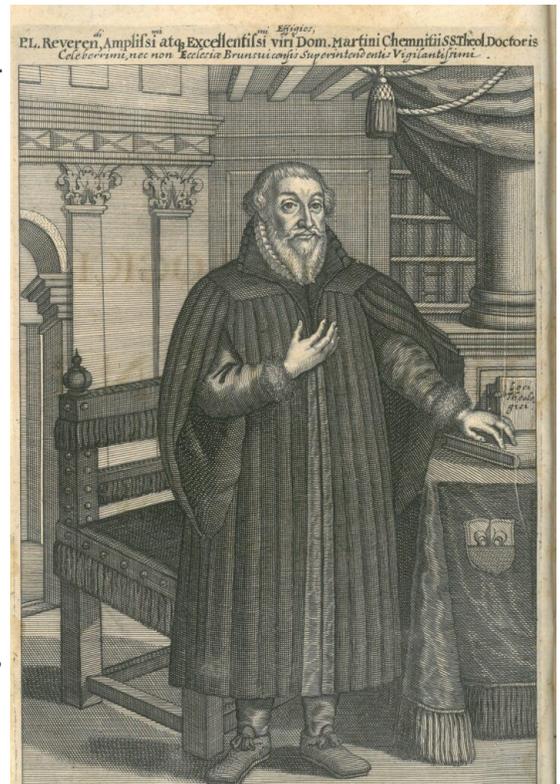
July 10, 2024 / [Articles, Series](#) / By [Molly Lackey](#) / [2 Comments](#) / [Church History, History, Martin Chemnitz, Molly Lackey, Series: History](#)

Martin Chemnitz

A.D. 1522–1586

“The Second Martin,” he helped the early Lutheran church navigate theological controversies and the deaths of its original leaders.

In [this series](#), Lutheran historian Molly Lackey will trace the history of the church, from the time of the apostles through the twentieth century. As the Body of Christ, our history transcends time, country and citizenship: “God’s Word is our great heritage.”



Imagine you’re a schoolboy or girl in a Braunschweig (Brunswick), Germany, in the 1570s. You take a break from geometry and Latin to study your catechism, and your pastor wants to try out a new text by the faculty at the university in Wittenberg, where the sainted Dr. Luther taught. You crack open the new books and start flipping through the pages — and that’s when the trouble starts. One of your classmates asks how Jesus can be in the Sacrament if He ascended into heaven. Your pastor has you read the relevant portion from the catechism, but something feels off. In fact, you’re all a little more confused after reading it than you were to begin with. Someone fetches the classroom German Bible and flips to the Scripture passage cited in the catechism. Your pastor’s brow furrows: the translation given in this new catechism is not the one in Luther’s Bible — in fact, it’s so differently worded that it doesn’t seem to be saying the same thing at all. Your pastor slams the new catechism shut, orders you all to hand your copies back to him, and storms out the door, muttering something about how Superintendent Martin Chemnitz needs to hear about this.

From timid student to astute theologian

Martin Chemnitz, born in 1522, was a shy and nervous child with great scholastic ability, teaching himself Latin and taking meticulous notes. His personality sometimes put him at odds with his family, as his proclivity to academics also meant he was a lackluster clothmaker (the family trade) who struggled to hold down more typical jobs. Chemnitz enrolled in the university in Wittenberg in 1545, while Luther was still

OUR GREAT HERITAGE: MARTIN CHEMNITZ *continued*

alive and in the classroom, but he did not pay much attention to the Good Doctor because he was studying math and astrology. (Yes, you read that correctly, *astrology*; kings and princes often commissioned star charts and astrological interpretations for guidance in making important decisions, believing texts like Psalm 19:1 — “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork” — to indicate that God’s plan was discernible from interpreting the position of the stars and planets.)

Chemnitz went on to become a court librarian and tutor from 1550 to 1553, during which time he undertook an extensive self-study of theology using the books at his disposal. Chemnitz was especially interested in the early church fathers and how his own Lutheran faith retained these historic interpretations of Scripture. He returned to Wittenberg, initially for continued studies but then as faculty, and then was ordained in 1554 in order to serve as co-adjutor for the Lutheran church in Braunschweig (Brunswick), eventually becoming superintendent (more or less the “president” of all the Lutheran churches in the area) in 1567, a position he remained in until his death in 1586.

Martin Chemnitz was an exceptionally prolific writer of theological texts. While Luther was bombastic, with a flourishing pen and a flair for dramatic, polemic rhetoric that resonated with the people, Chemnitz was measured, precise and formal, with an astute sense of language that would clear up confusion and settle disagreements. This was very important for the Lutheran church at the time: with both Luther and Philip Melancthon (Luther’s best friend, colleague, and author of the Augsburg Confession) dead, the fledgling church body was beginning to enter freefall.

Defending Lutheran doctrine through controversy

In Martin Luther’s later life, he found himself at odds not only with the Roman Catholic Church from which he was excommunicated, but also with other Protestants, individuals who were implementing reforms, changes and in some cases outright innovations to the faith. Luther was generally antagonistic towards these other reformers because they threw out historic teachings like the efficacy of Baptism, the importance of liturgical worship and the real, bodily presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper. However, some Lutherans, including Philipp Melancthon, were hopeful of reaching an agreement with these other Protestants, especially with John Calvin and his followers. Their motive was understandable: The political ramifications of a myriad of little Protestant groups were not favorable, seen clearly in the carnage wrought by the various wars of religion in this period, and later the Thirty Years’ War.

However, other Lutherans, including Martin Chemnitz, were wary of placing unity before doctrinal clarity. Certain publications coming from the faculty in Wittenberg sparked controversy for appearing to be overly conciliatory to other Protestants. A children’s catechism in 1574, for example, utilized a Calvinist Bible translation to talk about Christ’s ascension which implied that Christ might not be physically present in the Lord’s Supper.

Martin Chemnitz and his like-minded colleagues worked to respond to these attempts to muddy the waters between Lutherans and Calvinists. But the powder keg really exploded when an intercepted letter revealed a plot to manipulate the Saxon Elector Augustus into increased openness to Calvinism — by tricking his wife into reading Calvinist literature. This unearthed scheme led to the imprisonment of many of the Wittenberg faculty. It also led to the adoption of the Formula of Concord, authored primarily by Martin

OUR GREAT HERITAGE: MARTIN CHEMNITZ *continued*

Chemnitz and fellow pastor Jakob Andreae. The Formula was intended to be a definitive statement outlining Lutheran doctrine, paying special attention to controversies among Protestants which could not be fully answered by earlier documents like the Augsburg Confession. Chemnitz and his circle also went on to compile the Book of Concord, bringing together their Formula along with nine other documents to create the authoritative, and still binding, statement on Lutheran belief.

By the early 1600s, Martin Chemnitz was known by the moniker “The Second Martin.” Though not as bombastic, charismatic or funny as Luther, Chemnitz helped the early Lutheran church navigate some of its first theological controversies, crises which could have resulted in the dissolution of the Lutherans into generic and sacrament-less syncretism. With his unique gifts – gifts that were not always appreciated by others – Martin Chemnitz provided the doctrinal clarity necessary to ensure that the theological heritage of Luther could be passed on to us today.

Editor’s Note: The next installment of [this series](#), on the great Lutheran composer J.S. Bach, will be posted two weeks from today. Check back then or [follow us on social media](#) to catch it!

Image: “Portrait of Martin Chemnitz,” Ludger Tom Ring the Younger, 1569.

Molly Lackey is a wife, writer, and the social media and special projects assistant at Concordia Historical Institute.

Lackey, Molly., (2024, July 10). Our Great Heritage: Martin Chemnitz. *The Lutheran Witness-Articles, Series.-History*
<https://witness.lcms.org/2024/martin-chemnitz/>





LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

Life Quotes for March

March 2 “God sent His Son to save us, not because we asked, but because He loves us. God wants you to call on Him, not because He needs the information, and not just because He wants to rescue you from distress. He wants to rescue you for a new life, for a life of trusting that He wants to hear from you, of living with His Word inside you, a life responding with God’s love to others in their distress, even before they call.” *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, The Lutheran Hour – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

March 9 “Brothers and sisters, in Christ you are God’s masterpiece. You were created for a purpose. You are the hands and feet of Christ demonstrating His love in a world that desperately needs it. Live out that purpose in the strength that comes from Him and wait joyfully for the day where we get to see His finished product.” *Rev. Adam Osier, Dean, Free Lutheran Bible College, Plymouth, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

March 16 On St. Joseph: “Though Mary’s husband did not beget Jesus from his own body, he did father him in the fashion of a foster, adoptive, or step-parent. For this reason, he has received the title of Guardian of Our Lord. His service to God and family not only figures prominently in the Gospel of Jesus Christ but also exemplifies the holy vocation of fatherhood and testifies to the sanctity of marriage, parenting, adoption, and every human life.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

March 23 “Think of how important we as human beings must be in the eyes of God, if He—as the almighty creator and Lord of the entire universe—was willing to take on human flesh and become one of us. God loves the human race so much He decided to become our brother.” *Thomas P. Nass, CELC President – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

March 30 “Our Lord dwelt among us for quite some time without anyone seeing or meeting Him. Yet in this span, He consecrated and sanctified every human life from its very beginning at the moment of fertilization. And He demonstrated that neither age nor appearance nor ability—nor any lack thereof—improves or impairs anyone’s worth. God creates, redeems, and calls each one as His own to start with.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

Announcements



2026 Midweek Lenten Series "A Place at the Table for You"

This Lent, we will gather for a season to reflect on the places of the Passion. We will read through the entire passion account as told by Luke, a small portion each week, and you won't be surprised at the story.

It's a simple story and you've been to these places before. The upper room, the garden of Gethsemane, the halls of Pontius Pilate, the hills of Golgotha, these are the places we remember when we meditate on our Lord's passion. Yet when Jesus enters a place, he never leaves it as he finds it. The most troubling places in our lives become the most amazing places of God's grace when Jesus visits them.

We will see tonight and every night that no matter where we are in our lives, God is still coming and claiming us as his children. God is still coming, preparing a place at his table for you.

Midweek 2 – March 4, 2026 – “The Upper Room: A Place of Hope”
Luke 22:14-38, Jack Lelle

Midweek 3 – March 11, 2026 – “The Courtyard: A Place of Renewal”
Luke 22:54-62, Pastor Kurt Ziemann

Midweek 4 – March 18, 2026 – “The Betrayal: A Place of Eternal Love”
Luke 22:47-53, Jack Lelle

Midweek 5 – March 25, 2026 – “The Trial: A Place of God's Will”
Luke 22: 63 – 23:25, Jack Lelle

Maundy Thursday – April 2, 2026 – “The Last Supper: A Place of Forgiveness”
Luke 22:14-23, Pastor Tom Moyer

Good Friday – April 3, 2026 – “Golgotha: A Place of Simple Love”
Luke 23:44-49, Pastor Tom Moyer

Easter Vigil – April 4, 2026 – Pastor Tom Moyer

Easter – April 5, 2026 – “The Empty Tomb: A Place of Remembering”
Luke 24:1-12, Pastor Tom Moyer

Easter Flowers

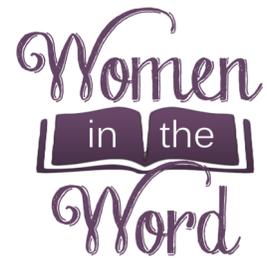


Orders are now being taken for Easter flowers. Flowers available this year are Lilies, Hyacinthus, Tulips, Daffodils, Mini Daffodils, Hydrangeas, Pansies and Mum's. Please see the order form on the double doors at the back of the sanctuary for prices and color selections.

All orders need to be placed and paid in advance by March 22nd

Women's Bible Study

There will be no Women's Bible Study during the Lenten season.
Keep watch for the dates after Easter.



NOISY MITE WEEKEND!!!



Noisy Mite Weekend will be March 14-15. This is our last chance to support the current missions. For information on the various missions the LWML is supporting, go to www.LWMLOhio.org. We raised over \$500 in October, let's match or exceed that this weekend. Reminder, you can write a check for mites as well. Make checks payable to Friendship Circle.

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.



March Food Bank Items

Zion Food Pantry is requesting maple syrup. As always other items are appreciated. For those in need, the Food Bank is open on the last two Tuesdays of the March from 5:30–7:00pm. (March 24 & 31).



Die sieben letzten Worte unseres Erlösers am Kreuze

“The Seven Last Words of Our Savior on the Cross” by composer Franz Joseph Haydn will be presented at Zion Lutheran Church, Painesville on March 13 at 7:00 pm. The expressive movements capture the spiritual weight and human tenderness of Jesus’ last words. Interwoven with brief sermons, this work invites listeners into a contemplative journey where scripture and music open space for reflection and awe. The event is offered freely to all; those who wish may contribute through a freewill donation. Performers: Dana Plank & Maria Vinas, Violin; Cirginia Ashley, Viola; Marla Gigliotti, Cello; Rev. Dr. Kurt Ziemann, Sermons.

Members of our sister congregations are welcome to join the fun of serving at this great event either on Friday March 27th from 4-8 for set-up or on Saturday, March 28th from 9-2 for the Sale! Contact Lisa Reed for more information 440-391-8968.

Rummage & Bake Sale

On Saturday, March 28th 2026 from 9-2, Zion Lutheran Church, 508 Mentor Ave., Painesville will be holding a rummage sale and bake sale. There will be two huge rooms overflowing with: housewares, toys, baby items, clothing, books, hardware, seasonal decorations, shoes, boots, handbags, linens, coats, jewelry and great unique finds! Bake Sale with homemade goodies!



Members of our sister congregations are welcome to join the fun of serving at this great event either on Friday March 27th from 4-8 for set-up or on Saturday, March 28th from 9-2 for the Sale! Contact Lisa Reed for more information 440-391-8968.



February Meeting Minutes

Reports

President's Report. (Terry Wakelee)

1. Service was cancelled on January 25 due to weather. As a result, it was noticed that about 15 members were not on the call list; this has been addressed.
2. Parsonage work continues, organized cleanup will be 2/7 from 9a-12p.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES continued

3. Pastor returned the call. Call committee met and will recommend extending a call to the pastor that was previously recommended. Call meeting to be held Feb. 15 after Sunday worship service.
4. Ash Wednesday service is 2/18 at 7p. Midweek and Holy week services to follow through Easter.
5. Annual Congregational Meeting will be 5/17. Topics to include budget and new council members.

Vice President's Report. (Ed Hines) – no report

Treasurer's Report. (Russ Walton)

1. Reports provided as of December 2025. Offerings are down. Expenses are also down, mostly due to lower pastoral costs. One big expense was snowplowing, but the cost will be lower January-March.

Education Report. (Eric Drake)

1. Average attendance: 5 at adult 8:30 am, 7 at adult 10:45 am, 8 at Sunday school

Preschool Report. (Starshine Graziadei)

1. Scholastic book sale will be Feb. 20-27. Preschool and Church members are invited to attend.
2. Received several inquiries about signing up for next school year.
3. There will be a small tuition increase in all classes.

Elder's Report. (Dale Kerver)

1. Pulpit supply for Q2 is in progress.
2. All members have been assigned elders
3. Elders have been assigned to Lenten services

Stewardship Report. (Diane Wayner)

1. Will have another Bible challenge in February.
2. Hosting a light dinner before Ash Wednesday service.

Financial Secretary's Report. (Jenn Drake)

1. Will look for 3rd counting team leader

Outreach Report. (Kelly Hines)

1. Crochet with Christ – 37 shawls completed – next meeting 2/5
2. Chili cookoff will be held 2/15
3. Easter eggs will be provided for preschool

Building & Grounds Report. (Dennis Concoby)

1. Installed refrigerator
2. Office computer to be installed
3. Upcoming: scrape and paint garage doors

Contribution Secretary's Report. (Tom Cardina)

1. Offering total has decreased, but the number of contributors has increased.

Old Business

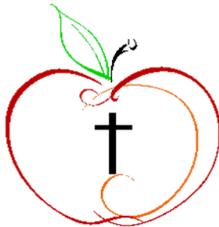
1. Potential candidate for the preschool treasurer (appointed position)
2. Parsonage fence repairs. On hold.
3. Call Committee update – See president's report
4. Replacement of church office computer – pending
5. Sanctuary carpet replacement – team to look into this

New Business

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES continued

1. Determine date of next council meeting due to Lenten services. Complete.
2. Thrivent Choice dollars for preschool – Terry will look into adding St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool to list.
3. Congregational Nominations for Synod President and Vice-Presidents – Terry and Erin will address submitting the ballot.

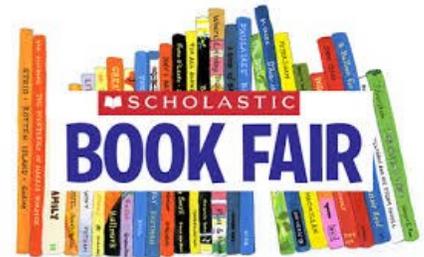
Next meeting: Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 pm



From the Preschool

A Great Big Thank You!

St. Paul's Preschool would like to thank the congregation for the generosity they showed during our recent book fair. The support you have shown over the years is heartwarming and a blessing. The teachers also want to say thank you for the books that were purchased for them. Because of your support the preschool was able to receive new materials for the school. Again thank you for your support.



PRESCHOOL



Registration

2026-2027 Preschool Registration

Registration for St. Paul's Preschool 2026-2027 school year is now open. Registration forms which are located at the back of the sanctuary next to the double doors. Classes will be filled as registration forms are received. 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.

March Birthdays

Graham Michalak	Mar 1
John Galayda	Mar 2
Debbi Davis	Mar 6
Laurie Srebernak	Mar 26
Rich Szoradi	Mar 29
Sandy Heckler	Mar 29



March Anniversaries



Frank and Laura Vosicky III 27 years on Mar 27

February 2026 Baptisms

Parker Burzanko February 14



Those Who Serve: March 2026

ELDERS:

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

COUNTERS:

Terry Wakelee

LECTORS:

02-28-26	6:00 P	Saturday	Dave Murphy
03-01-26	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell
03-07-26	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
03-08-26	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Wakelee
03-14-26	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
03-15-26	9:30 A	Sunday	Dennis Concoby
03-21-26	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
03-22-26	9:30 A	Sunday	Jennifer Drake
03-28-26	6:00 P	Saturday	Dave Murphy
03-29-26	9:30 A	Sunday	Eric West



Scripture Readings for March

Feb 28/Mar 1
 Genesis 3:1-21
 Romans 4:1-8, 13-17
 John 3:1-17

March 7/8
 Exodus 17:1-7
 Romans 5:1-8
 John 4:5-30, 39-42

March 14/15
 Isaiah 42:14-21
 Ephesians 5:8-14
 John 9:1-41

March 21/22
 Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Romans 8:1-11
 John 11:1-45

March 28/29 [Palm Sunday]
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Philippians 2:5-11
 John 12:20-43



March Word Search—Easter

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

REJOICE
EGG HUNT
SPRING
STONE
MAUNDY THURSDAY
LENT
RESURRECTION
PALM SUNDAY
TOMB
CRUCIFIX
PILATE
LAST SUPPER
BETRAYAL
JELLY BEANS
HOSANNA
RISEN
CHOCOLATE
GOOD FRIDAY
JUDAS
ASHES

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/9463835/>

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St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Preschool
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"I was glad when they said to me 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'" Psalm 122:1

Staff

Matt Chaffe, Organist
Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

Worship Services

Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:30 am

Sunday Bible Study

Children 10:45 am

St. Paul's Preschool

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

Also Supporting



March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 Women's History Month National Nutrition Month	2 Read Across America Day	3 Preschool Chapel	4  7:00 pm Lenten Service	5 6:30 pm Preschool Dad's Night	6	7	
8 	9 National Napping Day	10 6:30 pm Council Meeting	11  7:00 pm Lenten Service	12	13	14  Pi Day	
15 	16	17 	18  7:00 pm Lenten Service	19 Preschool Easter Parties	20  April Newsletter Articles and Announcements Due	21	
22	23 Preschool Spring and Easter Break Begins	24	25  7:00 pm Lenten Service	26	27	28 	
29 	30	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">  COMMUNION SERVICE March Birthstones Aquamarine, Bloodstone & Jade </div>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> WORSHIP SCHEDULE Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays </div>
			March Birthstones Aquamarine, Bloodstone & Jade	March Flower Daffodil			