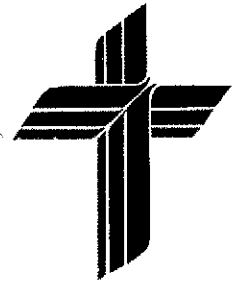


THE MESSENGER

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
511 S. Walnut
Strasburg, Illinois 62465
(217) 644-2661
stpaulcms@consolidated.net



APRIL 2024

Dear Friends in Christ:

What do Communism, Fascism, and the Bible have in common? Absolutely nothing!!! Sorry, I couldn't resist, I was just seeing who was paying attention as they started to read. In all seriousness though there are many who throughout the time of the church have tried to shoehorn many errant beliefs and philosophies into Christianity and pass them of as either the real thing or at least something new and improved. The problem being that you always end up with something much worse than the original. The faith of the Church, that Jesus came died and rose for all of sinful man to save us from our sins, does not need any additional information or help from us, those sinful humans that Jesus died and rose for. Jude reminds us of this in Jude 3 **"Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."** The idea that God's Word, given by the power of the Holy Spirit who led the Prophets and the Apostles to proclaim the truth of the Gospel, is more effective when we "spice" it up is none other than a lie of the devil and a distraction to the Church. The mindset that God is giving new revelation to His Church today, and we better be aware and open to it, basically means that when these so-called modern prophets and others speak, we should be adding it to the back of our Bible, for they declare "thus says the Lord." The problem with this is the word of God says something completely different. Paul writing in 1 Corinthians 4:6 **"I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another."** Or as John writes in 2 John 9 **"Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son."** See, when someone has a new and improved version or addition to the word of the Lord than they are as Paul says, "puffed up," because they supposedly have this better and greater information for the Church than anyone else that the Holy Spirit has worked through. That is why we have these verses and others that remind us that when people talk about "dead orthodoxy", or "antiqued doctrine" and that we need the "fresh, new movement of the Spirit," we are never to give them the benefit of the doubt but rather we are to take verses like these to heart, 1 John 4:1 **"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world."** As well as Acts 17:11 **"Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so."** It's as if God knew what man was going to do with His Word. Hopefully not a need for a spoiler alert but, He did, He's God, and we are not. As some people say today, we need to stay in our lane.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Whybrew

APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 - Robert & Yvonne Pfeiffer (63)
- 3 - Todd Daniels; Roy & Mary* Reed (20)
- 5 - Stella Petri
- 7 - Danielle Wirth; Chris Kessler
- 9 - Delbert Foelsing; Troy Uphoff;
Jeanne Wildman
- 10- Ron Boldt
- 12- Bob & Ronda Schlechte (27);
Allison & Bryan Vonderheide (21)
- 14-Darin Storm; Brooks White
- 17-Alicia Kessler; Doug & Amy Stremming(21)
- 18-Jake* & Megan Ray (9)
- 19-August* & Doris Supan (50);
Rosemarie Manhart
- 21-Carol Polk
- 22-Wanda Kessler; Matt Tabbert
- 23-Courtney Koch; Rosalyn Reel
- 24-Mary Rincker; Rosemary Sporleder;
Kelsey White
- 25-Marcail Allen
- 26-Kathy Eckstein; Kurt Storm
- 30-Donna Rincker; Troy Salazar Jr.;
Richard Stremming;
Chris & Sue Bowers (36)
Alan* & Courtney Koch (2)



LYF Check out our restocked card selection in the nursery/choir room at St. Paul's! Birthday, anniversary, Easter, confirmation, graduation, baptism, sympathy, and more!

Pancake Breakfast Join us for a LYF Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 7th at St. Paul's. We will be serving a delicious meal of pancakes, smoked sausage and scrambled eggs from 8-10AM. Dine in and carry out! We appreciate your continued support!

LOCAL LINKS

Pastor Whybrew: chebrev@yahoo.com
 Church: stpaulcms@consolidated.net
 Website: stpaul-strasburg.com
 YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Strasburg Illinois
 Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

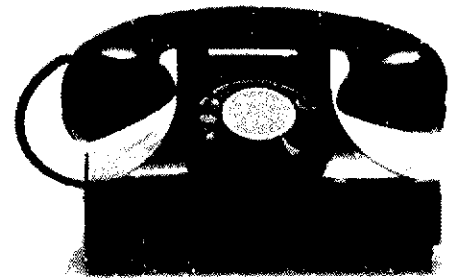
Articles for Newsletter & Guide

Information for the Guide needs to be in the office by 8:00AM on **Wednesday morning**. Articles for the Newsletter should be in the office by the **15th** of the month.



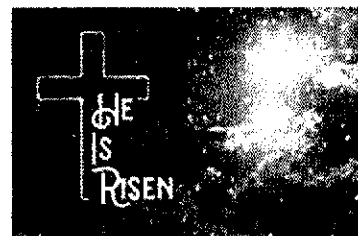
Weekday School Kids Schedule

- Wed. April 3 6:30-7:30 PM
- Wed. April 10 6:30-7:30 PM
- Wed. April 17 6:30-7:30 PM
- Wed. April 24 6:30-7:30 PM
- Wed. May 1 6:30-7:30 PM WDS Picnic**



PAUSE FOR PEACE

As your day draws to a close, spend a few moments with God, reflecting on His love and care for you throughout the day. Just dial 644-3124 to hear His message.





Music Notes

Wed. Apr. 10 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
 Sun. Apr. 21- Choir Sings
 Wed. Apr. 24- Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
 Sun. Apr. 28- Choir Sings-Confirmation

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Confirmation Sunday is April 28, 2024
 Those being confirmed are:

Eddie Wittenberg
 daughter of Barry & Courtney Wittenberg
Karly Wetherell
 daughter of Luke & Lauren Wetherell

The Oral Exam, public profession of faith prepared for by long and careful instruction, will be at TBA.



Welcome to Worship

April Greeters

April 7- Barb Ohnesorge
 April 14- Gary Wirth
 April 21- Gary & Karen Kull
 April 28- Pastor & Doreen

May Greeters

May 5- Darin & Colleen Storm
 May 12- Diane Jack
 May 19- Rick & Susie Allen
 May 26- Kay & Howard Dust

*** If you would like to be a greeter, please contact the church office 217.644.2661.

+++++



Easter Breakfast: Everyone is invited to attend a continental breakfast on Easter Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

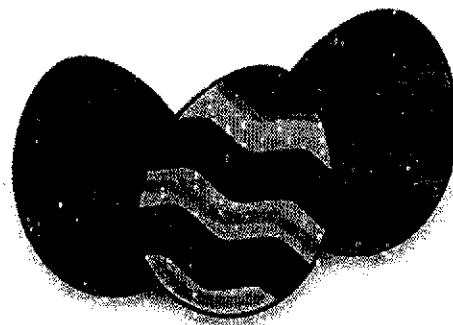


Easter Egg Hunt The Sunday School is going to have an Easter Egg hunt at 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday. All children from 0-6th grade are invited to participate. It will either be held outside the back door of the school or in the gym, depending upon the weather.



Church Council meeting is April 1 @ 6:30PM

Voter's meeting is April 28 @ 9:30 AM





**Trinity Lutheran School
Formal Dinner & Live Auction**

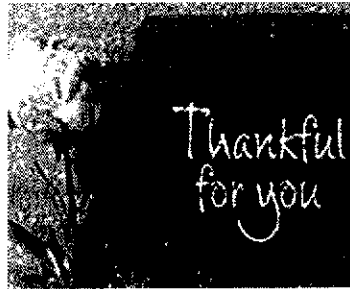
On Friday evening, May 10, Trinity Lutheran School will be hosting its annual formal dinner and live auction at the Stewardson Community Building beginning at 6 p.m. We would love for you to help us celebrate another successful school year, and join us as we look forward to the next. This year's proceeds will go toward new gym improvements and educational expenses for the school.

The menu includes chicken bearnaise, pork ribeye, baked potato, carrots, green beans, and tossed salad. Back by popular demand, we will be having a dessert dash with cakes, cheesecakes, pies, and more! Tickets are \$50/individual and are available for purchase in the school office until Friday, May 3.

To make this fundraiser a success, we rely on donations from church members, the community, and local businesses for auction items. We are collecting donations for our live auction in the spring and our silent auction in the fall. We greatly appreciate all donations, big or small! For those who would prefer to make a financial donation instead, we will gladly use your monetary donation to put auction packages together.

For questions or to make arrangements to pick up your donated items, please get in touch with Ammon Probst at 309.255.2898 or Steph Thompson at 217.273.8306. Cash donations can also be delivered or mailed directly to the school. To organize all of the auction items, we encourage you to arrange pick up or delivery of your items by Friday, April 26.

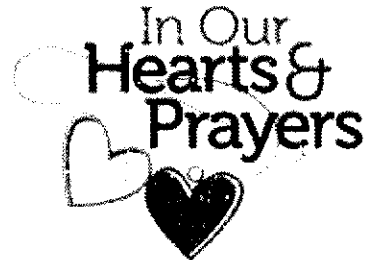
If you have questions, please call the school office at 217.682.3881. Join us for fun, fellowship, and fundraising!



Thank you Thank you to Kay Dust for supplying delicious treats for Weekday School students and teachers in March!

Thank you Stew-Stras Post Prom would like to thank St. Paul's for letting them use the church for Basket Binga! We really appreciated it!

+++++



Sympathy Please keep the family of Melba Storm in your thoughts and prayers. Melba passed away Friday, March 8, 2024. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church with Rev. Kene Whybrew officiating. Burial was in Cochran Grove Cemetery, Windsor, IL.

+++++



Baptism Melissa June McCoy, daughter of Matthew & Ellen McCoy was baptized at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Arlington, VA on February 25, 2024. Sponsors are Eli Dollarhide, Emily Cole, and Paul and Julie Maness. Grandparents are Travis and Laura Dollarhide. God's blessings to June and her parents.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations To Coach Courtney Wittenberg and the Stew-Stras 8th Grade Volleyball Team for winning their Sectional and making it to the State Tournament. Special congratulations to players Edie Wittenberg and Karly Wetherell for the great job they did all year helping their team finish with a 23-3 record. Also congrats to 7th grade player Lorelei McCormick and the teams official scorekeeper, Autumn McCormick.

Jacob Gracey I will once again be managing the yard work for the church and parsonage. My plan is to mow and trim each week on Friday or Saturday, weather permitting. However, I also want to make sure all of the mowing and trimming needs are being met outside of that planned schedule should it be necessary. So, if there is an event being held at the church and you feel that I need to come and trim or mow earlier than planned, please feel free to call or text me at 217.273.9452. Thank you! – Jacob Gracey

Congratulations To both Troy and Trent Uphoff for earning State and National Recognition in the Dekalb 2023 National Corn Growers Association National Corn Yield Contest. Troy won a first-place state award and second place national award. Trent earned a first-place state award and third place national award. Congrats to both guys for their excellent work!

Congratulations To Jonathan Schultz and Madison Orr, who were married on Saturday, February 17, 2024, by Pastor Brown at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hersher, IL. Parents of the couple are Gary & Johnna Schultz and Bill & Sherri Orr. God's blessings to the new couple

Cinda Held For anyone that would like to send a card to Cinda, her address is :

OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center
1400 W Park ST. RM#4424
Urban, IL 61801

Dear friends in Christ,
As always, thank you so much for your continued generous financial support and prayers.
I have just begun my Spring quarter at the seminary. This quarter is full of enjoyable and intensive courses. I am taking: my first of three homiletics courses, where I begin to learn how to preach God's Word faithfully; my first of two pastoral theology courses, where we learn how to care for Christ's flock in a pastoral way according to God's Word; my third of four Church history courses, where we are learning about Church history from the Reformation until around the founding of the LCMS; and my first of two missions courses, where we discuss the need for mission within and without the United States and how we can go about supporting that work. It will be a very busy, yet very rewarding quarter. I look forward to spending Easter weekend in Dieterich with my family, while I attend and assist with services at my home congregation and meditate upon our Lord's death, His rest in the tomb, and His glorious resurrection! Have a blessed Easter! Please continue to keep me and the whole seminary in your prayers as we begin the final quarter of this school year!
Yours in Christ,
Hunter Kinnison

Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg Minutes – March 7, 2024

The Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg met in St. Paul's Social Hall on March 7, 2024. Pastor Whybrew opened the meeting with a devotion, "God is rich in mercy! Every day is a gift from God." Pastor then led us in prayer.

President Muriel Merriman called the meeting to order. Fourteen members answered roll call. The February 1st minutes were read by Kay Dust and approved. Our members sent many cards and made visits to members of our congregations. The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

A donation from the Grace Men's Club was given to our Ladies Aid as they have disbanded. Thank you for your contribution to us.

We received a thank you card from Maude Hartman.

A lunch was served, for the students, at Trinity school for about 100 on March 5th by Karen, Cindy, Linda and Muriel.

Shelbyville Family Life Center Walk is April 13th. We will contribute to the walk.

Members were requested to think of interesting projects that we can work on in the coming months.

The upcoming events are: Joy Shop, April 16th at St. Paul's, Wheeler. LWML-CID, April 26-27 at Rock Island. Zone Officers Meeting July, no date, at St Paul's, Strasburg. Fall Rally, September 18th at Sigel.

Six members plan to attend the Joy Workshop at Wheeler in April. If you would like to attend the LWML CID meeting, please let Muriel know.

The April Flower committees will be Tynia Kessler from Grace and Muriel Merriman from St. Paul's. Muriel thanked the retiring committees of Cindy and Kenna for flowers and our March hostesses Cindy and absent, Vivian. The hostesses for April will be Kay Dust and Leigha Moffett.

Our verse for the day was "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matt. 22:37.

We closed with the Doxology, Lord's Prayer and Table Prayer. Birthday Blessings were sung to Sharon Rincker and Yvonne Pfeiffer. Happy Anniversary to Wayne and Connie Wirth.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4th, 1:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Social Hall. Reminder: April is Mite Collection. We would love to have you join us. Please note the meeting in July will be July 3rd.

Vivian Granat, Secretary

LWML INGATHERING for EL Shaddai Home

Please have these items at the church by Sun., April 14th.

Baby Items

Bibs
Diaper rash cream
Pacifiers
Wash/shampoo, lotion
Socks, onesies, hats
Hooded towels, wash cloths
Blankets
Baby books
Wipes
Diapers-size NB,1,2,3,4,5,6
Infant sleepers
Sippy cups

Mother's Items

deodorant
body wash
shampoo
lotion
toothpaste
sanitary pads
grocery gift cards
dish detergent
laundry detergent
all-purpose cleaner
paper towels
batteries size C,D,
Pasta, rice
Canned vegetables

El Shaddai is a residential maternity home, located in Effingham, for pregnant girls And mothers and their babies. Some may be in a crisis situation. Our support helps Moms and their babies stay in this home.

The LWML is having an Ingathering, where the theme is "Love them Both." They are taking donations for the El Shaddai Home in Effingham. If you would like to help, please have donations in the narthex by Sunday, April 14.

CRADLE ROLL

April 2024

This series of monthly Cradle Roll articles since November 2023 have covered the **Twelve Steps for Parents in Pain** by Lee Ezell. These twelve coping strategies are given to help parents improve their parenting skills with the goal of enhancing the parent-child relationship by seeking and relying on God's divine help, and following through with any changes needed.

Step Eleven. Seek a closer relationship with God, and ask Him to reveal His will to you. As you draw closer to Him, try to model a more godly life for your children, bearing in mind that they have to make their own spiritual choices. Don't allow their rejection of your religious culture or even your Christian values separate you from them as friends. Remember, as the Scripture says, "Love covers a multitude of sins."

(This last sentence applies primarily to older children)

Step Twelve. Reach out to other parents in the spirit of mutual support and compassion. Building a strong support system will enable you to weather storms of your own, as well as provide a strong arm to others who may be in pain. And with step twelve in mind, let's remember the beautiful prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, praying it for ourselves as we consider our children and the deep love we hold in our hearts for them.

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace!

Where there is hatred—let me sow love

Where there is injury—pardon

Where there is doubt—faith

Where there is despair—hope

Where there is darkness—light

Where there is sadness—joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

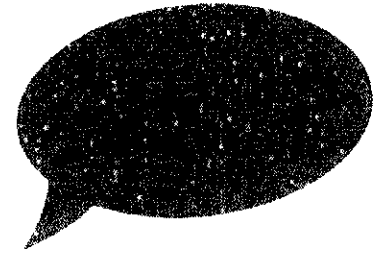
To be Consoled—as to console
To be understood—as to understand
To be loved—as to love
For it is in giving—that we receive
It is in pardoning—that we are pardoned
It is in dying—that we are born to eternal life.

Over the past six months the Twelve Steps for Parents in Pain by Lee Ezell have been shared. Hopefully, these have been helpful to parents of children birth to three years of age...and to anyone of any age who has read them. They gave suggestions for coping with fatigue, frustration and failure in daily life. Relying on apGod totally for all needs and living out our Christian values has been emphasized. May these suggestions not only help parents survive the rigors of parenthood, but survive successfully and enjoy the journey.

JOIN US FOR THE

LYF

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST
FUNDRAISER**



JOIN US FOR
Easter
SUNDAY

He is risen!

MARCH 31, 2024

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
511 WALNUT STREET
STRASBURG, IL 62465**

Communion Service	8:30 AM
Breakfast, served in the social hall	9:30 AM
Egg Hunt, ages 0-6th grade	10:00 AM

All are welcome!