

THE MESSENGER



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
511 S. Walnut
Strasburg, Illinois 62465
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stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com

APRIL 2026

Dear Friends in Christ:

As we conclude our overview of the Small Catechism, we get to do so with the last of the six chief parts, The Sacrament of the Altar. I have chosen the second part to represent the whole *"What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation?"*

The one thing that the devil hates is certainty. He has been doing this since the beginning with that subtle little question that he asked Eve in the garden, *"Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" (Gen. 3:1)* It was and has been downhill ever since that point for humanity. Which is why the gifts of Jesus are such a comfort to us as believers. We do have so much uncertainty in the world and in our lives that when we come before God in His house and worship together, we can be certain of everything that He says to us, especially when it comes to the supper that He has given. Jesus knew and knows everything that we have and will be going through in our life. That we have been fighting an uphill battle because of our sinful nature all of our lives. Which is why He sat the disciples down before His crucifixion and fulfilled the Law by celebrating His last Passover meal on the earth. Knowing full well that He was going to be the epitome of the lamb that was going to be prepared by the disciples for the meal for all humanity.

Which is why we celebrate the Lord's Supper as often as we do or even more, because it is our Lord's certainty in that world of uncertainty. It is His body and blood, in, with and under the bread and the wine, not because I feel that way, but because He said that it was. If that wasn't enough then He gives us what we needed most and that is the forgiveness of sins. We can read that in Matthew 26:28 *"for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."* There is no uncertainty there, nothing but certainty and comfort for all who believe as truth what Jesus states about as plainly as He can why He is giving the meal and for what purpose. Which is why the Church still celebrates the Lord's Supper or at least should be celebrating the Lord's Supper when it gathers together.

As Dr. Luther says, *"Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation?"* Jesus has taken care of everything. Which means that we are required to do nothing but receive these gifts of His body and blood that He has given to us. Think of it this way, we know that Jesus told His disciples and by extension us that He will never leave us nor forsake us. When we come forward to receive His body and blood it is as close as we are going to get to our Lord this side of heaven. What a comfort that is that through merely believing and receiving, I did that on purpose, forgiveness, life and salvation are ours. Not because we deserve them but because our Savior has deemed that all humanity was and is worth saving, which is why He came in the first place. Knowing that we were not capable of saving ourselves. Thank you Lord, for the comfort and certainty you give us in Your supper.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 – Todd Daniels; Roy & Mary* Reed (22)
- 5 - Stella Petri
- 7 – Danielle Wirth
- 9 – Delbert Foelsing; Troy Uphoff;
Trent Uphoff; Jeanne Wildman
- 10- Ron Boldt
- 12- Bob & Ronda Schlechte (29);
Allison & Bryan Vonderheide (23)
- 13-Hazel Oller
- 14-Darin Storm; Brooks White
- 17-Alicia Kessler; Doug & Amy Stremming(23)
- 18-Jake* & Megan Ray (11)
- 19-August* & Doris Supan (52);
Rosemarie Manhart
- 21-Carol Polk
- 22-Wanda Kessler; Matt Tabbert
- 23-Courtney Koch; Rosalyn Reel
- 24-Rosemary Sporleder;
Kelsey White
- 25-Marcaill Allen
- 26-Kathy Eckstein; Kurt Storm
- 30-Donna Rincker; Troy Salazar Jr.;
Chris & Sue Bowers (38)
Alan* & Courtney Koch (4)



Camp Cilca Information has been received for summer camps at Camp Cilca. Flyers are available in the narthex. Registration is online @ www.CILCA.ORG. The Education Account will pay half of your child's registration. Please talk to Diane Jack for more information.

Dollar for Missions We continue to pray for our Dollars for Missions project through the Central Illinois District of the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. We appreciate the support of all members of St. Paul's! So far in 2026, we collected \$211 for the months of January and February combined. Please do not forget your weekly "Dollar for Missions" in the box provided in the narthex! Let's reach a new bigger goal for the month of March!!



Pastor Whybrew: chebrev@yahoo.com
 Church: stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com
 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 1 6:30-7:30 PM
- Wed. April 8 6:30-7:30 PM
- Wed. April 15 6:30-7:30 PM
- Wed. April 22 6:30-7:30 PM
- Wed. April 29 6:30-7:30PM

Wed. May 6 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

Sun. Apr. 5 Choir Sings-Easter Sunday
Tue . Apr. 14- Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM
Sun. Apr. 26- Choir Sings
Sun Apr. 28- Choir Sings



April Greeters

April 5- N/A
April 12- Dwight Lading
April 19- Darin & Colleen Storm
April 26- Diane Jack



Confirmation Sunday is April 26, 2026
Those being confirmed are:

Max Kull
son of Mark & Rhonda Kull
Izzy Manhart
daughter of Wesley Manhart and Heather Zimmerman

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

May Greeters

May 3- Rick & Susie Allen
May 10- Kay & Howard Dust
May 17- Dennis & Kenna Wirth
May 24- Brandon & Shelby Beltz
May 31- Jim & Phyliss Weiss

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

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Church Council meeting is April 6, 2026 @ 6:30PM

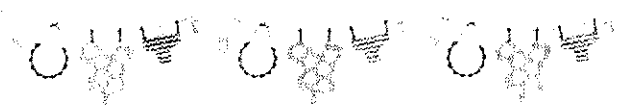
Voter's meeting is April 19, 2026 after church.



Thank you We thank all of you for the personal comments and cards we received for Wayne's birthday and our anniversary. Wayne & Connie Wirth

Thank you The Lutheran Ladies would like to thank everyone who helped with the Mildred Rincker funeral luncheon.





Congratulations Blessings to Luke and Kalei Rincker on the birth of their daughter, Iyla Ann Rincker, born on February 9, 2026. Grandparents are Otto and Lisa Rincker and Julie Buenker and Mike Buenker. God's blessings to Iyla and her family.

Congratulations Congratulations to Blake and Whitney Furr on the birth of their son, Logan Alexander, born on March 4, 2026. Grandparents are Gerry & Dawn Schlechte, Mike & Debbie Furr, and Rick & Glenda Sphar. God's blessings to Logan and his family

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Baptism

Baptism William Carter White and Rylee Madelyn White were baptized on Saturday, March 7, 2026. Their sponsor is Zach Weber. Will and Rylee are the twins of Zachary and Kelsey White. Grandparents are Steve and Sharon Weber.

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Sympathy Please keep the family of Noel Nippe in your thoughts and prayers. Noel passed away on March 5, 2026. Noel is survived by his daughters Shirley Hermann, Mary Tabbert, and Susan Nippe.

Sympathy Please keep the family of Ramona Radloff in your thoughts and prayers. Ramona passed away on Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

Sympathy Please keep the family of Mildred Rincker in your thoughts and prayers. Mildred passed away on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Funeral service will be at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Strasburg, Monday, March 9, 2026 at 11:00 AM. Visitation from 9-11am before the service. Burial will be in the Grace Cemetery, Strasburg. Rev. Kene Whybrew is officiating.



Palm Sunday The Sunday School children will parade in before church on Palm Sunday. Children can meet Autumn McCormick in the choir/cry room off the narthex before church. They will parade in during the first hymn or processional.

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Easter Breakfast: Easter Sunday Celebrate the Risen Savior! Communion Service at 8:30AM followed by continental breakfast at 9:30AM in the social hall. There will be an egg hunt for ages 0-6th grade at 10 AM in the backyard. All are welcome!! Free will donation to benefit the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box ministry.

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April 2-Maundy Thursday-10:30AM Grace 6:30PM St. Paul's

April 3-Good Friday 10:30AM Grace 6:30 PM St. Paul's

April 4- Easter Vigil- 6:30PM @ Grace

April 5- Easter Sunday 8:30AM St. Paul's 10:30AM Grace 5:30PM Grace

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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 or in the gym.

The Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg Report for March 2026

The March 5th meeting for The Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg was called to order by President Linda Doehring at St Paul Lutheran Church at 1pm. Fourteen members were present. Linda thanked today's hostesses Cindy Roley and Vivian Granat.

Roll call and reading of the minutes was conducted by Secretary Tammy Sentel. Treasure's report and collection of dues was conducted by Treasurer Charlene Telgmann. Linda reviewed correspondence from The Family Life Center in Effingham; "Family Life Center News". This covers Effingham, Newton and Shelbyville.

Karen Kull gave a committee report on the hot school lunch the group served on March 2nd at Trinity Lutheran School in Stewardson. The group serve tacos and Jell-O cake. Ladies serving the lunch were Karen Kull, Cindy Roley, Carolyn Bolt, Neva Hagen, Holly Giertz, Muriel Merriman and Lori Pieper. Linda reported that the books would audited after today's meeting by Leigha Moffett and Karen Kull. Holly Giertz gave a report on the February project. Faith Lutheran Church, Shumway's Mission trip to Uganda in August. Holly reported they are looking for volunteers to participate in the trip as well as donations. Charlene Telemann reviewed information she received from Worship Anew's on their grieving and healing boxes.

Under new business, Linda reminded every one of the time change on the 8th. Linda also informed the group that we would be serving a funeral for Mildred Rincker on March 9th at 11am.

The group discussed a monthly project for March. It was decided that a committee would be form to develop a memorial for Rose Schlechte. Kay York, Judy Wittenberg and Carolyn Bolt agreed to serve on the committee.

Linda reviewed upcoming events: March 22nd LYF breakfast from 8am to 10am at St Paul's, April 16th Joy Shop at St Paul's Sigel, April 25th and 26th LWML CID convention at Decatur, IL and April 25th Trinity's Formal Dinner and Auction-cocktail hour at 5:30pm.

New committees: March flower's Connie Wirth for St Paul's and Kathy Yakey for Grace. April 2nd hostesses Leigha Moffett and Kay Dust at St Paul's at 1pm. Linda thanked the retiring February flower committee Marianne Moffett for Grace and Sharon Rincker for St Paul's. Linda again thanked today's hostesses Cindy Roley and Vivian Granat for the lovey Spring decorations and refreshments.

We closed with the Doxology, Lord's Prayer and Table prayer. The group said the memory verse together: "my son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight." Proverbs 3:21. We sang Happy Birthday to Sharon Rincker and Yvonne Pfeiffer and acknowledge the 69th Anniversary of Connie and Wayne Wirth. We adjourned to refreshments and fellowship.

Secretary, Tammy Sentel



Celebrate the Risen Savior!!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Easter Sunday April 5, 2026

Communion service at 8:30 AM

Continental Breakfast at 9:30 AM in the social hall

free will donation to benefit the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box ministry

Egg hunt for ages 0-6th grade 10 AM in the backyard

All are welcome!!!

511 Walnut St Strasburg IL 62465

Call 217-644-2661 with questions

Greetings!

Grace and peace to you. I hope this letter finds you resting in the goodness of the Lord as we settle into another new year.

If you haven't yet heard, I have some wonderful news to share: I'm engaged! The Lord, in His kindness, brought an incredible woman into my life—a true Proverbs 31 woman whose heart for God has been a constant encouragement to me. We met while I was preaching at my home church, and by God's grace, what started as a simple introduction has grown into something beautiful. We're now deep in the joyful (and occasionally chaotic) work of wedding planning.

Our premarital counseling is being led by Paul Flo, the same pastor who first encouraged me to learn Spanish. He'll also be officiating our wedding. He and his wife recently welcomed their second daughter, so we've paused counseling for a short season while they adjust to life with two little ones—but we'll be picking back up soon.

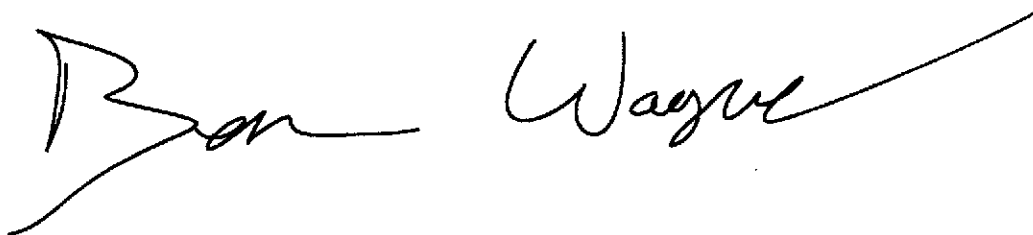
For those who have asked about ways to bless us as we prepare for marriage, we've set up a wedding website with our registry. If you feel led to contribute in that way, you can find it here: <https://www.theknot.com/us/aubrey-baumann-and-benjamin-wagner-may-2026/registry>. Please know that your prayers and encouragement are the greatest gift of all.

On the academic front, the Lord has been faithful. I'm doing well in all of my classes this semester—straight A's, by His grace. The class I've been enjoying most is probably my Greek lab with Dr. Armbrust. He's one of the funniest men I've ever met, and he absolutely loves his pet turtle—I believe its name is Ted, though don't hold me to that. It's a joy to study Scripture in its original language under someone who makes even verb parsing feel like an adventure.

This semester, I've also been learning the value of delegation in my role as spiritual life chair. Last semester, I tried to do everything myself—and it showed. This time around, I've been enlisting close friends to plan events around areas they're passionate about while I handle the logistics like reservations and budgets. Ministry really is better as a team effort, and I'm grateful for the community the Lord has placed around me.

Thank you, as always, for your faithful prayers and support. Your partnership in this season of preparation—both for ministry and for marriage—is a gift I don't take for granted. May the Lord bless you richly.

With gratitude and joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ben Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the text.

Joshua, Rachel & Callan Gerken

Tuesday, April 29, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. is the Candidate Call Service at the seminary. On my first day of Summer Greek four years ago, it felt like I would never make this date, and now it is less than 50 days away. As my final quarter begins, I am excited about my classes not just because they are my final four, but also because they seem fitting as I will be studying the Psalms, Theologia Lord's Supper, Pastor Theology 2, Iraeneus and the Early Church, and lastly, I get to audit Law and Gospel Preaching. The Psalms are such a huge part of Scripture and are to be prayed each day. The Lord's Supper is the central point of our worship service and was Christ's last will and testament to the disciples to be done in remembrance of Him. This class on Pastoral Theology builds on how we are to serve as Pastors those in our congregations, such as Christ Himself, who took the very nature of a servant; we are to do the same. Iraeneus is probably not a name you are familiar with, yet he played a huge role in keeping the early church focused on God's Word and Christ. Finally, I get to audit Law and Gospel Preaching, which means I can sit in on the class and learn without getting a grade. Law and Gospel Preaching will help me become a better preacher by focusing on how a sermon must have Law and Gospel that apply to the people. Wherever Rahel, Callan, and I end up serving, we are thankful for all of the relationships we have made while here at Seminary, the opportunities given to us here, such as playing basketball, the Seminary Wives Association, and all of the great classes. While there is some anxiety about not knowing where God will place us, we fully trust in His plan for us and just as he guided me the first day of Summer Greek, I know he will guide us to where I am to serve and where my family will call home.

This Lenten Season, I am preaching mid-week services at St. John Lutheran Church & School in Napoleon, Ohio. Here is an excerpt from the last sermon I preached that focused on Christ, our Compassionate Savior, based on Luke 7:11-17. These are the last two paragraphs of it.

It is hard for us to realize this because compassion is lacking in the world today. If there is any compassion at all, it depends on the situation, the person, how much patience we have, and whether they have made the same mistake before. Our compassion, the world's compassion, depends. Christ's compassion, our Savior's compassion, does not depend on anything because that is WHO HE IS.

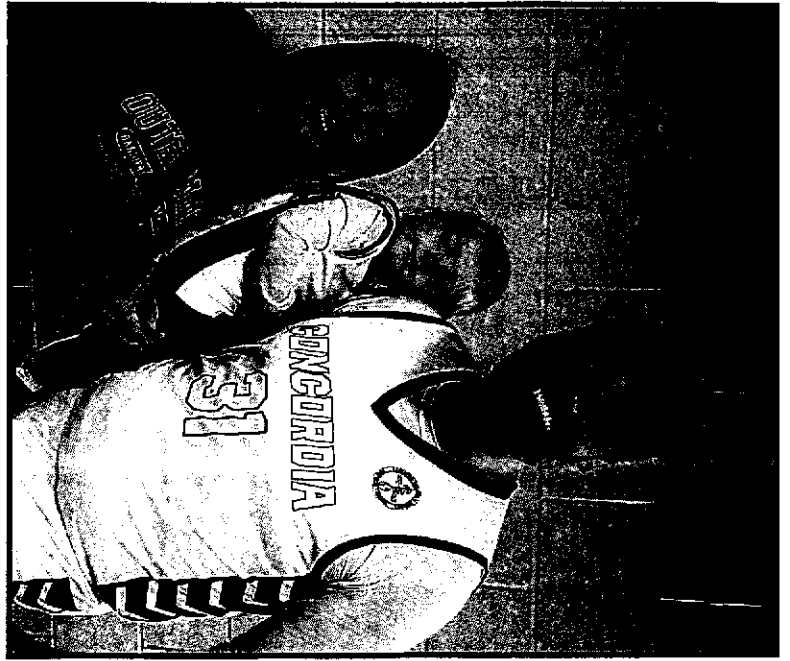
A compassionate Savior who took on our sin, who took on death for us. His compassion didn't end on the cross; it was at its zenith, its highest; on the cross, we see our Compassionate Savior at work for me, at work for you, and the world. Compassion is who Christ is and always will be. Amen.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support during this time of seminary study. Your generosity truly means more to us than words can express. Seminary is a blessing and a challenge, and we are deeply grateful that you have chosen to walk alongside us in this journey.

Your prayers have strengthened and encouraged us, and your financial support has enabled us to continue focusing on studies and preparation for pastoral ministry. We could not have come this far without the kindness and faithfulness like yours.

It is a humbling reminder that the work of preparing servants for Christ's Church is not done alone, but together as the body of Christ. Thank you again, and we are so thankful again.

Please know that we keep you in our prayers and give thanks to God for your generosity. Thank you again for your support, and may God grant you His continued blessings and peace.



You're invited to a Black & White Masquerade on Saturday, April 25th, 2026.

Trinity Lutheran School will be hosting its annual formal dinner and live auction at the Stewardson Community Building beginning with appetizers and cocktails at 5:30 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. A portion of this year's proceeds will go toward outdoor equipment & storage, as well as, to support the ongoing expenses associated with school growth.

The menu includes chicken cordon bleu, bacon wrapped tenderloin, caesar salad, bacon wrapped green beans, and au gratin potatoes. The dessert dash is back once again this year with many delicious options! Tickets are \$65/individual and are available for purchase in the school office until April 20th. Dressing for the theme is not required but encouraged with prizes being awarded to Best in Show!

NEW – This year your ticket will have a number with it and you will automatically be entered into a reverse raffle with the FINAL ticket drawn winning \$500. Need not be present to win!

In order 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 now for both our live auction in the spring and our silent auction in the fall. We greatly appreciate all donations! For those that 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 contact Michelle Goen at 217.343.9921. Cash donations can also be delivered or mailed directly to the school. In order to organize all of the auction items, we encourage you to arrange pick up or delivery of your items by Friday, April 17th.

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